

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

October 2019

**SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday November 3rd  
at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos**

*(Check your clocks: Daylight Savings Time just ended!)*



Harriet, Steve and Peter

*The Peter Di Bono Trio*—has been serenading Bay Area audiences for over 25 years. Venues range from an elegant wedding on Nob Hill, to a forest picnic in Carmel Valley. The music covers a very wide spectrum from Broadway to Bach, and back. The trio was selected to perform at the gala dinner celebrating the 50 year anniversary of the introduction of the song, “I Left My Heart In San Francisco”. The performance took place in The Venetian Room of The Fairmont Hotel where Tony Bennet, who was in attendance, introduced the iconic piece 50 years before.

Violinist, Harriet Newhart is equally comfortable playing Mozart, Mancini, or marches. Classically trained on piano and violin at The San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Harriet brings such warm vitality to her music that she has been a favorite of San Francisco audi-

ences and musicians for her entire career.

Bass player Steve Hanson was raised on a family farm in Minnesota, and as soon as he was of age, joined the United States Navy. He was soon accepted into the Navy Band playing horn. Steve has played his bass as well as the tuba and trombone all over the world. In 1973, while part of the US Navy Band, he was out in the Pacific for Skylab III's return to earth. Two years later, his brass ensemble performed at the Vatican for canonization of the first American saint. Closer to home, Steve spent several years in New York, playing with Puerto Rican salsa groups, at Italian festivals and other ethnic events. One of his groups, a Chinese funeral band, appeared in the film, *The Year of the Dragon*. He also played tuba in Woody Allen's Dixieland group. Steve's bass playing style and all around musicality keeps him one of the busiest musicians in the entire Bay Area.

Peter Di Bono has played nearly every type of music, and in every setting imaginable. Performances include musical theater and guest soloist with Bay Area symphony orchestras. A winner of many musical competitions, Peter won the then version of America's Got Talent while in high school as well as The Bank Of America Award for music. His many musical styles include classical, jazz, Italian, French, German – “You name it, I do it!”. Peter has an active teaching practice with over 20 students, and is on faculty with The Community Music Center in San Francisco.

**No Jam Band session in November, but there will be Open Mic from 1:30 to 2pm.  
Please book a slot with Pam, and play a tune or two.**



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*Report of the September Meeting—Marybarbara Zorio.*

Did you “leaf” your worries behind you to join in the fun and festivities at Sunday’s SVAS meeting? Autumn is a season of exhilarating beauty and with cooler temperatures rolling in, saying “goodbye to summer” and “hello to fall” was not a hard thing to do as we kicked off our fall season of meetings at Christ Episcopal Church. Only a few turns off Rte 280 I followed the picturesque tree-lined, backroads of Los Altos to Christ Episcopal Church where there’s always plenty of parking as well as ramps to serve those of us who need them.



As the audience began to gather, **Scott Stanfield, Bob Stanfield and Ed Massalo** kicked off our first meeting of the fall season with a medley of favorite accordion tunes.



Thanks to maestro, **Bill Topogna**’s fine organizational skills, SVAS’s own **JAM Band** offered up one hour chock filled with enthusiastic accordion favorites! You can’t beat *Beer Barrel Polka* or *Tavern in the Town* for inviting some old fashioned hand clapping, foot tapping audience participation. The band was strung out over a wide area making photos difficult. But, this reporter with her bright green accordion was front and center in the right half band. **Mike Marotta** and **Dave Dally**, violinist extraordinaire, also joined in, as did **Norma Zonay-Parsons, Rudy Pivk** and **Sue Douglas** who all played from among the audience. It was quite an occasion!



Fall is also the perfect time to start making hot cocoa and lighting fires in the fire-place. **Sue Douglas** treated us to a lovely waltz and then livened the tempo with her rendition of *Julida Polka* - both performed from memory! Following Sue was **Reno di Bono**, aka “The Italian Accordionist”, whose sensitive light touch and flying fingers gave us such favorites as *Under Paris Skies* and *The Theme from the Godfather*. Closing out the individual performances of the meeting was Salinas’s own **Wayne Lavengood** who demonstrated the expert use of bellows control. Wayne played his acoustic accordion, a Giuliani, vs the Roland Electronic accordion he sometimes plays. From a jazzy interpretation of *Don’t Blame Me*, to the reflective *What Kind of Fool Am I* it was a treat to hear him.



According to our president, Bill Topogna, he found our next surprise performer wandering around the church parking. She “just happened” to have brought her accordion with her. How fortunate for us! **Diane Salmon** is an accomplished musician and is a student of Mike Marotta. She performed solo and then treated us to an unexpected bonus when she performed again in duet with Mike. The blending of two instrumental voices is a magical thing, whether performing in harmony, unison or as call and response. This talented duet concluded their performance with a complex tango that brought the audience to its feet. Thank you, Diane! You can wander around our parking lot whenever you’d like!



It was during the break that I noticed two items. First was Mike’s beautiful red Petosa accordion on display. And second, we were a “standing room only” audience. The SRO crowd headed to the treat table, hosted by **Scott Stanfield** where there was a bountiful harvest of fall-inspired treats. Thanks to **Gloria Topogna** for providing the coveted and ever-popular raffle items.

Bill announced a change in the SVAS Board: **Bob Stanfield** will step down as SVAS treasurer. **Rosemary Miceli** is taking on that responsibility, assisted by **Bernie Coullahan**.



Dave, Mike, Steve and Orazio

This is a season to be thankful and we were indeed thankful to be entertained by our four featured super-talented musicians that comprise **Monterey International**, **Mike Marrotta, Jr.** on accordion, **Dave Dally** on violin, **Steve Hanson** on bass and Sicilian tenor, **Erasmus “Orazio” Aiello**. This talented group started their set with an Oktoberfest all time favorite, *Liechtensteiner Polka* and it was non-stop, high-energy that followed. Considering that the group had entertained six straight hours the day before on Cannery Row, their performance was amazing. Highlights of the performance was Orazio’s lump-in-my-throat interpretation of *You Raise Me Up*. Not to be stuck in the past, the ensemble performed *Time to Say Goodbye* and ABBA’s *Dancing Queen*. They became even more current with *Theme from Game of Thrones*, the popular HBO series. *Funiculi, Funiculà*, a Neapolitan song composed in 1880 by Luigi Denza to commemorate the opening of the first funicular railway on Mount Vesuvius rounded out MI’s wonderful set.

Autumn reminds me to celebrate the primal power that is forever making all things new in me, in us, and in the natural world. I love the bounty that autumn provides for us and this month’s meeting was no exception. Fall is the start of frequent family gathering and we ARE a family when we gather at Christ Episcopal Church the first Sunday of each month!

A last note: formerly, leather lederhosen were worn by Bavarian men for hard physical work; they were more durable than fabric garments. Today, they are mostly worn as leisure-wear. Lederhosen and dirndl attire is common at Oktoberfest events around the world. This fashion statement was definitely evident at our October meeting!



Bavarian for the day: Bob, Gloria, Bill, Scott S, Scott W and Pam

**The raffle**

Bill and Gloria once again provided a great selection of prizes. It SEEMS that members really go for wine as a raffle prize. Bottles of wine definitely disappear quickly in the “winner has first choice of the remaining items” scenario. Some attendees bought multiple lucky tickets, as there were a couple of repeat winners. Thanks to all the prize winners and everyone else who bought tickets. The proceeds help to keep us afloat.

Misha won the box of Godiva Chocolates. Dick, who often runs the raffle, finally won a bottle of wine. Wayne also chose a bottle of Chardonnay to take back to Salinas. Arsie and Ed won a bottle of red and a nut selection. Norma chose a Chardonnay, after carefully considering all the wines. Pam chose a Pinot Noir (for Frances, her mum). Now all the wines were gone. Irene won a glass ornament and took home a nut selection. Norah (a fine accordion player herself) took an accordion CD entitled Shine. And Casey won the last remaining prize – a nut selection.



Did you miss a meeting performance? You can view some on YouTube. To view Pam’s Videos from past meetings: Go to youtube.com, type in “accordionpam” in the search field (next to the magnifying glass.)

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***Coming Events at SVAS:***

***November 3: Doors open at 1:00pm for setup.***

1:30—1:55 Open mic—call Pam  
 2:00—2:50 Happy Days band  
 2:55—3:20 Break and raffle  
 3:25—4:30 Peter Di Bono Trio

***Dec 1:*** Murl Sanders

***Jan 5:*** TBD

***Feb:2*** TBD

**SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers**

**PRESIDENT:** BILL TAPOGNA,  
408 984-5290

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**TREASURER:** ROSEMARY MICELI,  
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♫ **Who's Playing???** ♫

**William DeMichelis** - Music with an accent, 408-375-0001. Or contact William at [accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net](mailto:accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net)

**Reno DiBono** - Teaches accordion lessons at Cupertino Senior Center every Tuesday at 1:30pm.

**Joe Domitrowich/AlpinersUSA** - see [www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com) or [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or call 408-255-1259

**Happy Days Band** - Schedule Concerts with Ken Caple (408) 892-2760

**Ernie Beran** - Plays at the Tyrolean Inn Restaurant in Ben Lomond, CA every Saturday 6:00-9:00 pm

**Sunday 7 Band** - Plays every first Friday of the month in Los Altos in front of Le Boulanger bakery on Main and Second in the down town area. Schedule Concerts with Bob Stanfield (650) 888-3701

**Mike Zampiceni** - Plays at O Sole Mio restaurant, Millbrae, 6:00-8:30 on Sundays. Also from April - Oct at the Tee Nee Thai restaurant, San Jose, on Friday nights.

**Gloria Gazave and Paul Aebersold**, "Il Duetto Musica" - Contact Gloria at 415.845.0772, or email [mazurkaman@yahoo.com](mailto:mazurkaman@yahoo.com).

**Pam Tom**—Plays at Farmers Market, Davis, every Sat. For private events, contact [accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto:accordionpam@gmail.com)

**ACCORDION CLUB MEETING SCHEDULES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR)** meets on the third Monday of every other month Herman & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma CA 94952. Contact: (707) 795-4060.

**Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)** *is in the process of dissolving. The individual chapters will continue as separate clubs.*

**The Napa Valley Chapter** meets the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM, Runway Restaurant, 2044 Airport Rd, Napa, CA 94558. Contact George Bachich for more information, (707) 738-5276.

**The Humboldt Club** meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 PM., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551.

**The Sacramento Club** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Elks Lodge No.6,6446 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA.

**Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM, Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon, CA 95320. Contact Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603.

**Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)** meets on the first Wednesday of the month 6:30 PM 6365 Douglas Blvd., Lutheran Church Social Hall, Granite Bay, CA 95746.

**San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC)** meets on the third Sunday of the month 2:00 PM . Chetcuti Community Room, Civic Center Plaza, 450 Poplar Ave., Milbrae, CA 94030 ; Contact Lynn Ewing 650-453-3391.

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)** meets on the first Sunday of the month, Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

### *Driving directions to Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024*

From Hwy 280, San Jose area: North on Hwy 280, exit at El Monte Road, East (toward the Bay, away from the hills) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> signal, turn right on University Ave, (if you get to the Foothill Expressway, you have gone one block too far) approx. ¼ mile to end of University, turn right, go about 100 feet, turn left on Border Road. In one block you will see the Christ Episcopal Church sign, turn right into the driveway and go to the top of the hill for parking.

From Hwy 280, San Mateo and other northern locations, take 280 south to El Monte Road and go east away from the hills and toward the bay. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> signal, turn right on University Ave, drive approx.. ¼ mile to end, turn right, go 100 feet, turn left onto Border Road. In one block, you will see the Christ Episcopal Church sign, turn right into the driveway and to top of hill for parking.

### *Around the accordion world*

- Bob Stanfield and the Sunday Seven band were mentioned in the Daily Post on Fri, Oct 4. In the section titled “Talk of the Town,” a short item mentioned that 14 bands would be playing around downtown Los Altos that evening. (It’s the same on every first Friday of the month, and few special events like the upcoming Holiday Stroll on Nov 8th.) There is a photo of a smiling Bob, and a sign announcing the Sunday Seven band, and just off the picture on the left is a Dallahpe accordion but the player is unknown to us!



- A blast from the past! El Verano is a small community near the town of Sonoma. Joe Smiel Jr. leads a 5 piece Polka band that played in an Oktoberfest celebration there this year. As a kid, Joe Jr. remembers going to Little Switzerland (now known as El Verano) with his dad, Joe Sr. The elder Smiel grew up in a company owned house in a coal mining town in Pennsylvania. It was a home steeped in polka. A child prodigy in all things musical, Joe Sr. started a very successful polka band when he moved out to the Bay Area in 1946. He became a recognized virtuoso soloist on the Austrian Button Box accordion. He pioneered advanced teaching techniques and methodologies that have been adopted by German and Austrian teachers. Plus, he played the squeeze box on a Bob Hope tour.

<https://www.sonomanews.com/entertainment/music/10152133-181/polka-and-more-celebrating-oktoberfest?sba=AAS>

- How it should be done? First Lutheran Church of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin held its first polka services recently. As you will undoubtedly remember(?), the state dance in Wisconsin is .... the Polka. The Goodtime Dutchmen band performs around a dozen polka church services each year and is not the only polka group booking religious events. The polkas are mainly hymns and religious themes set to polka music, so no scandals are involved.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2019/10/13/polka-church-beaver-dam-congregation-offers-polka-service/3902418002/>

- In the isle of Shetland at the north end of Scotland, there is an annual Accordion and Fiddle Festival. It is indoors, of course. But the count was 600 dancers, and 6 bands. The bands came from the other Hebrides islands, the Scottish mainland, Ireland and the Faroe Isles, which are Norwegian. The photo is from the Shetland Times.

<https://www.shetlandtimes.co.uk/2019/10/13/big-crowd-turns-out-for-grand-dance-at-clickimin>



NEWSLETTER OF THE

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

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**Silicon Valley Accordion Society meets first Sunday of each month, at  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024.  
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