

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

September 2019

**SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday October 6th
at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos
(Driving instructions on page 7)**

Monterey International



Orazio, Mike, Dave and Steve

Monterey International features Mike Marotta on accordion, Dave Dally on violin and Steve Hanson on string base. This very well-known group plays favorite songs from all over the world. Mike Marotta and Dave Dally are the core of the group that is often expanded to include singers, bass, percussion and others. Mike Marotta Jr., a Monterey native, is the third generation of Marottas to entertain Peninsula audiences. For over 45 years he has performed all styles of popular music on accordion and piano with the Marotta Band.

Dave Dally is an accomplished professional violinist who lives in Carmel Valley and leads the Monterey String Quartet. Dave has played at our Club with the Denier brothers, Joe Domitrowich and others. He can often be found Thursday nights performing at Lugano's Swiss Bistro, The Barnyard at Carmel Valley, just off Hwy 1.

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 the 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.

Erasmus 'Orazio' Aiello comes from Palermo, Sicily. He has been discovered by musicians eager to share his gift of singing traditional Italian songs and opera with wider audiences. During the day he practices while baking bread at his famous Palermo Bakery.

There will be a Jam Band session in Oktober(!) Also an Open Mic session. Please book a slot with Pam, and play a tune or two.



Bill Tapogna—President's Message
President and Master of Ceremonies

Hi, All: Well, summer is about done for (although the temperatures don't seem to know that!) Fall is about upon us, and we surely kicked it off in grand style during our September meeting. WOW!! What a program! And special thanks are due to **Pam Kawashima, our program director, for setting it up! THANKS, PAM!**

Georgia Sutherland is doing the write-up this month, which she does in her own very professional and entertaining manner! **Mary-Barbara Zorio** covered for the beginning of the afternoon before Georgia arrived. Thank you **Mb** too—a fine team job. I really enjoying reading the accounts of the program in the Newsletter—I relive the afternoon again.

I must add that THIS program, especially "the Cantones," but also all the "Pre-Program" entertainers were were **wonderful!** Larry Denier told me that the first half of our program featured some really great musicians! High praise, indeed.



Pam



Georgia

Our SVAS enjoys the membership of several talented and very active entertainers, playing both as individuals and in groups. I would like to focus on three of those groups. They are very active, and bring delightful entertainment to many venues in the communities in "Silicon Valley" (aka "Valley of Heart's Delight"!).



The Sunday Seven in full Bavarian kit

Bob Stanfield's "Sunday Seven" Band: Features Bob, Bill Tapogna, Vic Corsiglia and Scott Williamson on accordion, Scott Barta and Barbara Corsiglia on guitars, Gloria Tapogna on Recorder and Scott Stanfield on percussion. "S-7" plays several venues in the community, and is especially active in Los Altos on the First Friday evening of each month. Do come and "check us out!"

Ken Caple's "Happy Days Band": features Ken, Hubert Kallabis, Bill Tapogna, Tseli Wu, Colette Ogata, Marcia Coullahan, Marybarbara Zorio and (sometimes Lou Buonomo, when he's not in Texas!) playing an extensive variety of accordions, Gloria Tapogna on recorder and percussion, and Sharon Teeter on violin. Ken's group plays at several venues in the community.



A recent happy day for the Happy Days Band

"Vic and friends" includes Vic Corsiglia (as leader and organizer), on accordion and mandolin AND the singer at all these performances, and on a rotational basis, Don Savant, Bill Tapogna and Scott Williamson on accordion, Barbara Corsiglia on guitar, Gloria Tapogna on recorder and percussion, and Lyle Gillison on sax and clarinet. "Vic and friends" play monthly at the various "Live Oak Senior Day Care" facilities and several invitational events.

So you see, the accordion community is alive and well, and quite active. If you entertain in the community, either solo or in a group, please let us know so that we can feature you in the SVAS community as well (as we have done with Pam Tom, and Paul Abersold.)

A final word of thanks to Gloria Tapogna. She single-handedly managed the admissions desk and, for much of the time, the raffle tickets. Well done and thanks, Gloria!

We look forward to seeing you all in October for Monterey International and another great afternoon of music and friendship.

That's all, Folks! Bill Tapogna

ACCORDION FESTIVALS:

Its still not too late to plan a trip to The **Las Vegas International Accordion Convention!** This will be held on Oct 14—17. It's the 20th Anniversary Convention this year! Tickets, hotel information, etc. can be found at <http://www.accordionstars.com/Home.aspx> , or by calling 801.486.1695. <http://www.accordionfactory.com/Accordions/Concerto.aspx>

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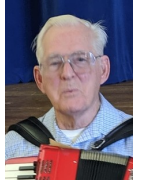
The Raffle.



Bill and Gloria once again provided a great selection of prizes. It SEEMS that members really go for wine as a raffle prize as all of those disappear quickly in the "winner has first choice of the remaining items" scenario. Some attendees bought several lucky tickets, so there were a number of repeat winners. Paul won the pick-of-the-crop first bottle of wine. Chris Valarde and his dad Manual both chose wine. Even Misha chose a bottle of rosé. George preferred the chardonnay. Sandra chose the last red "Yellow Tail." By Rosemary's turn, the wine was gone – she chose a bag of nuts. Mai chose the small tub of nuts, and Gloria had the large box of chocolates. Thanks to all the prize winners and everyone else who bought tickets. The proceeds help to keep us afloat..

This month's reporter duties were shared by Marybarbara Zorio and Georgia Sutherland. Marybarbara started things off with her laptop computer, recording the first hour and half in real time, until Georgia was able to be there to take over the old fashioned way (notes on paper.) Marybarbara counted 62 in the audience at about 2 pm.

Garland Cheatham started us off with those old-timey favorites that he does so well on his bright red Roland electronic accordion. Even though there were not many early-birds in attendance, we were a lively lot singing along to our favorites like *Lady of Spain*, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, *Liechtensteiner*, *Football Hero* and other polkas. It didn't take **Sue Douglas** long to join Garland both literally and figuratively as they broke into a lively *Side-by-Side*.



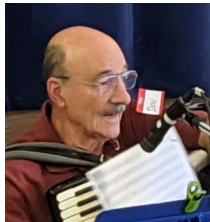
Garland



Sue and Scott S.

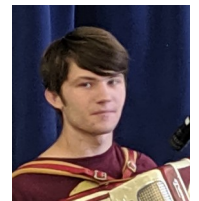
The floor was then Sue's alone as our feet began tapping to a medley of Mexican songs including *Chiapanecas*, *La Paloma* and *Cielito Lindo*. Scott Stanfield accompanied Sue with not one but two tambourines! Wrapping up (wait for it!) Sue took us *Happy Wander-ing* with *Julida* in *The Good Old Summertime!*

Seemingly effortless and skillful bass work is a hallmark of **Ed Massalo's** playing and he didn't disappoint as the audience welcomed him to the stage. *Anema e Core*, *Mala Femina*, *La Vie en Rose* all demonstrated his skill. At our August meeting, Ed played *Toscano*, and it was so well received that he was asked to return for an encore - this time with **Don Savant**. What a team! Ed also described how Carl Fontina, the composer of *Toscano*, made a very successful career as an accordion player and musician in Hollywood.

Don and Ed, after finishing *Toscano*

Don Savant's unique style always entertains and Sunday's performance was no exception. Don played a prayerful tribute to the late Lynn Ewing, who passed away three weeks ago: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*. Don challenged us: in which movie was *Rainbow Connection*, and who sang it? Nobody got it! In the Muppets Movie, Kermit the Frog sings for Miss Piggy. Don always injects his own unique and jazzy twist into all his music. *That's All*, a 1952 song written by Alan Brandt with music by Bob Haymes was first recorded, by Nat King Cole in 1953.

Up next, was our youngest member, **Misha Studenkov**, who, believe it or not, has only been playing accordion for less than one year. He attended this year's Cotati Festival and brought back several interesting pieces from that event, AND a short write-up about the Festival. You can read it below. He enthralled us with *Polar Bear*, a Norwegian polka. Wow! What amazing flying finger work! Figaro's *Largo Al Factotum* from The Barber of Seville opera was an amazing display of skill, talent and passion! Bravo, Misha!



Misha



Lou & Colette

What is it about duet songs that make them so appealing? Perhaps it is as simple as the fact that blending two instrumental voices is a magical thing, whether performing in harmony, unison or as call and response. The talented duet of **Colette Ogata** and **Lou Jacklich** performed amazing arrangements of *Perfidia* and *Tico Tico*. The best duets, such as the performances of Jack and Collette move us in ways that other music may not. Thank you! When Colette took a break, Lou continued solo with an wonderful, rousing medley from Fiddler on the Roof.

Continued from page 4

The oh-so-popular SVAS Italian trio of **Vic and Barbara Corsiglia** and **Don Savant**, were front and center representing the music of southern Europe. They treated us to instrumental and vocal stories of romance, adventure, and travel. Grazie mille!

Bob Stanfield, Scott Stanfield and **Scott Williamson** let us know that today, September 9, 2019, is International Grandparents Day. They began their set with appropriately . . . *Grandfather's Waltz*. The three play in a Norwegian ensemble that often entertains at our meetings.



Tseli and Reno

Our next performers were **Reno DiBono** and **Tseli Wu**. Tseli attends Reno's accordion classes at the Cupertino Senior Center, and Reno encouraged her to join our club and come play for us. She handled the melody on two numbers while Reno smiled encouragement, then joined her and played accompaniment to an Argentine tango *El Choclo*, and a polka. We understand that Tseli has joined Ken Caple's Happy Days group, and we look forward to hearing her again in the not too distant future.

After the break and raffle (see pg 3) our featured performers, **The Cantones**, took the stage. (Actually, they took the floor. Although this room has a stage, it is nice that the performers are close and personal for the audience to enjoy.)

Larry and Richard Denier on the accordions and **Dave Dally** on the violin and trumpet were wearing their colorful red Swiss shirts, and stayed true to that theme by playing songs from Switzerland and nearby countries like France, Italy, Germany and Sweden. Most of the seventeen numbers they performed were new to this reporter, and so I didn't get the names. However, they were so enjoyable that I would be happy to hear them over and over again until they did become familiar.



The Cantones, with Larry Dernier, Dave Dally and Rich Dernier

The first was a Swiss song, lively and rhythmical. It made me want to get up and dance a quick waltz. Dave's violin was predominant with the melody, with interesting accompaniment on the accordions. The second number was also from Switzerland, and was a tune that they first heard on YouTube, featuring a clarinet. They replaced the clarinet with violin for this rousing polka style song. The small accordion produced a lot of bass sound as well.

The French song, *Charade* came next, written by Henry Mancini for the movie starring Cary Grant. This song is in waltz style, and featured all the instruments trading the melody back and forth. It was followed by an Italian song that featured a very effective plucking of the violin strings on the melody line. The overall impression of this group is that they are very competent musicians.

They introduced the next song, a polka, by saying that they had looked for one that was not often heard. I believe this number was called *Frankie's Polka* and of course it was very enjoyable. About this time your reporter became aware of the fine-tuning of the sound from the use of foot pedals that were controlling the electronic set-up. Both accordions were wired into the speakers, and there were several microphones and foot pedals, all connected to a control box. It was very impressive, and working well to present the wonderful sound of this trio. Speaking of technology, there was not a piece of paper in sight. All three played from computer tablets mounted on stands. What an efficient way to have music scores on hand without having to shuffle papers!

The next number was a French waltz, and then they told the story of having been performing somewhere when a woman approached them with a little piece of paper and insisted that they play it. The little piece of paper only had a melody line on it, but somehow they managed. It turned out that they liked the piece, did a little research, found and arranged it, and now perform it regularly. It includes a nice trade off of the melody line between the accordions and violin.

(Meeting report, continued on page 7)

ACCORDION TEACHERS:

Ernie Beran: Aptos, 831.238.4961
reeds@baymoon.com
 Gary Breitbard: Palo Alto
 650.493.0693, gary@breitbard.com
 Peter Di Bono: San Francisco,
 415.699.8674
 Reno DiBono: Lessons at Cupertino Senior Center every Tuesday, 1:30pm
 Lou Jacklich: San Lorenzo,
 510.317.9510
 Marian Kelly: Cupertino,
 650.954.3711
 Pamela Tom: Davis,
accordionpam@gmail.com
 Mike Zampiceni: Sunnyvale and Hayward, 408.569.2579
Mikezamp.com

Coming Events at SVAS:

October 6: Doors open at 1:00pm for setup.

1:30—2:30 Jam Session
 2:30—3:00 Open mic—call Pam
 3:00—3:25 Break and raffle
 3:30—4:30 Mike Marotta, Dave Dally, Monterey International

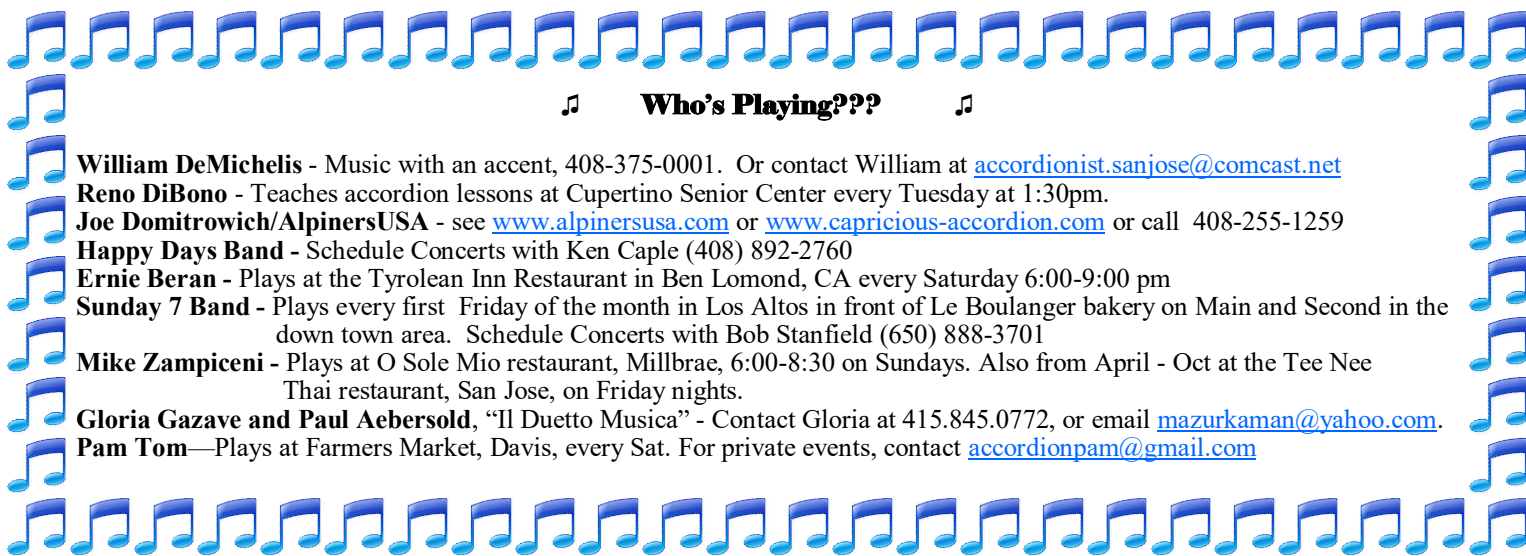
Nov 3: Peter Di Bono Trio

Dec 1: Murl Sanders

Jan 5: TBD

SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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 650 888-3701
PROGRAM SCHEDULE: PAM KAWASHIMA
pamk@svasociety.org
WEBMASTER: PAM KAWASHIMA
pamk@svasociety.org
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♪ **Who's Playing???** ♪

William DeMichelis - Music with an accent, 408-375-0001. Or contact William at 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 or 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.
Pam Tom—Plays at Farmers Market, Davis, every Sat. For private events, contact 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.

Meeting report, continued from page 5

They were about half way through their program at this point, and the good music continued to entertain us with a speedy polka, and then a couple of numbers in which Dave Dally set aside the violin and played a trumpet instead. The first of these was a French number entitled *Petit Fleur* (small flower). The second was a number that they picked up from a group called Jazz Men T that performed in Berkeley in the 1970s.

Back to the violin for a couple of numbers from Switzerland. The first was a lively tune, and the second was a waltz. There were several couples who had gotten up to dance in the back of the room, and the trio appreciated that. In addition to playing the violin and trumpet, Dave Dally did most of the emcee work.

The concluding numbers were a German march (yes, *Under the Double Eagle* was familiar), a Swedish song (they are always looking for new “stuff”), and another, possibly German, song that was played in a minor key and featured more plucking of the violin strings. During this number, I spotted Vic Corsiglia walking around the room in rhythm with the music! The finale of the performance was a medley of two familiar polkas: *Woop De Do* (with the trumpet) and *Pennsylvania Polka*. What a great group and a very enjoyable performance!

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 3rd 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 3rd 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

- Misha Studenkov (who played for us this month—see page 4) visited Cotati this year for his first time. Here is his account.

The Cotati Festival was a truly unique experience! I enjoyed listening to the performers and trying out different accordions. I was very surprised that among the performers were two accordion world champions, Pietro Adragna and Cory Pesaturo! They are masters of the instrument and put on a very fun show for everyone in the audience. (Ed note: here are photos of these two famous players, from their websites)



Pietro
Adragna



Cory
Pesaturo

- Siyuan Donnelly was the winner of the junior accordionist event organized by Sheri Mignano at the Cotati Festival this year. It would be great if Siyuan could play his selection in another appearance at SVAS!
- Something to emulate? In Peebles, Scotland, in early September, there was a busking competition/event on the main street! Peebles is the county town for the nearby area, with a population about the same as Scott's Valley. <https://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/17887722.buskers-blast-high-street/>
- A delightful account of a traveler who stumbled into tango dancing and wonderful accordion playing on the street in Buenos Aires, and a beautiful video (starting around 7 mins into the video,) is at <https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/destinations/south-america/115516416/where-to-see-argentinian-tango-at-its-finest>
- A new coffee-table book: *Accordion Stories from the Heart*. Gets a good review in: <https://menafn.com/1098793877/Kirkus-Review-Of-Accordion-Stories-From-The-Heart-Proclaims-Book-Offers-Richly-Impressionistic-Stories-That-Are-Vivid-Surprisingly-Involving>

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.)

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

P.O. Box 1513
LOS ALTOS, CA
94023

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE 🎵



**Silicon Valley Accordion Society meets first Sunday of each month, at
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024.
Doors open at 1:00. \$5 for members, \$ 10 for non members, 16 years and under free.**

- **JOIN THE CLUB**
- **Annual Memberships: Regular \$ 35, Gold \$ 125, Platinum \$ 200**