

NEWSLETTER OF THE

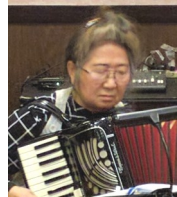
# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

April 2019

The May 5th meeting will be the annual Spring Fling event, featuring YOU. Please sign up to play.



*A selection of shots from last year!*



***JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND FUN,***

***Performances will be by members as solos, and in groups.***

***In addition, we will have a "massed accordions" event to celebrate World Accordion Day. Read about this near bottom of page 7, and PLEASE bring your accordion.***

The whole afternoon will be open play for solos and groups, singers, dancers .... Sign up for a slot with Barbara Corsiglia (vic3458@pacbell.net)  
And we will have a massed accordions event to celebrate World Accordion Day!

*Bill Tapogna - President's Message*



Bill Tapogna

Hi, Folks!

Spring has sprung! We can enjoy the beautiful weather without feeling guilty about the weather being nice but in a persisting drought. I sincerely hope that you will be able to take the time to enjoy it!

Please join me in wishing a really special **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HUBERT KALLABIS (93!) AND RAY ALDANA (90!)**. We wish you good health and many enjoyable years to come!



Hubert and Ray



Lou and Karen with granddaughter

Vice-President **Lou and Karen Buonomo** are moving (actually, have moved) to Texas to be near their daughter and her family, and to be able to enjoy participating in their grand-daughter's activities as she grows up. Lou and Karen have been really active in SVAS and we will miss them tremendously. Lou says that he will continue to be a part of **Ken Caple's "Happy Days Band,"** so we shall see him (and hopefully Karen) periodically.

Our May meeting is rapidly approaching. This is traditionally the time of year when we enjoy our "Spring Fling." In the past we have been able to enjoy a catered meal from Harry's Hofbrau, but most unfortunately those days, like the Hofbrau, are gone. But we will continue with our long-standing program of "In-House" entertainment. We will welcome all of our members who would like to play a few tunes (or more, as time allows). So YOU will be our "Featured Performers" for this month! **Barbara Corsiglia** has once again agreed to be the coordinator for this special event. If you haven't signed up to play yet, not to worry! Bring your accordion and sign up to play as soon as you arrive. And, if you would care to bring some snacks or goodies, PLEASE (!) FEEL FREE TO DO SO! They will be greatly appreciated!

A special thanks to **Jo Pellegrini and the "Aurora Mandolin Orchestra"** for their great presentation at our April meeting. This is a special treat, and Ms. Pellegrini introduced us to a variety of types of mandolins, as well as a guitarist, a bass player, and of course accordionist Patricia Brown (an SVAS member), who did a great job on her *Weltmeister* accordion! Thanks to you all!

**Marybarbara Zorio** did the write-up of the meeting (which she does so well!) for this program, so I'll leave it to her to provide coverage of the entire program. Marybarbara actually stepped in for Sue Douglas who was sick. Get well soon Sue!



Marybarbara

Our continued thanks to **Bob Stanfield** for arranging the use of his church's facilities, and to **Bob's son Scott** for taking such meticulous care of the "goodies" tables!

Please stay safe and well! That's All, Folks!

Bill Tapogna



Scott Stanfield

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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**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 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.

Continued from page 7, "Around the Accordion World"

- There is a small shopping center with a Whole Foods and a Peets near Hillsdale. Recently an accordion player was serenading shoppers with a very expressive digital accordion. Alex is a wonderful player with a huge repertoire. He lives in Fremont, and visits randomly to raise money for music school.



Report on the April 7th Meeting, Marybarbara Zorio

It's official! The seemingly endless California draught is over thanks to the generous and much needed rainfall we've experienced these past few months. Welcome to the cloudless skies and warm dry days of my favorite season - Spring!



The Happy Days Band. Beginning with Hubert (back to us in the blue shirt), then clockwise to Ken, Lou, Marcia, Tseli, Colette, Sharon (on the violin), Gloria and Bill.

All of us who attended the April meeting quickly awoke from our long winter's hibernation at the first notes of "Happy Days are Here Again." The **Happy Days Band** never fails to extend the invitation to come out and play after the long rainy months of February and March. Toes a-tappin' and hands a-clappin' to the strains of such favorites as "The Happy Wanderer" and "Yellow Bird" were the norm as these practiced musicians opened the meeting. "Spanish Eyes," played with the beautiful beguine rhythm was an audience favorite. No doubt even the robins joined our enthusiastic audience who couldn't resist singing along to **HDB's** big finish "Just Because," Why? Just because!!!

**Don Savant's** unique style always entertains and Sunday's performance was no exception as Don injected his own unique and jazzy twist into such all time favorites as "Polka Dots and Moonbeams" and "Moments to Remember." Don specializes in swing jazz, using a strong anchoring rhythm section. Don takes lessons from teacher extraordinaire, Mike Zampiceni, and occasionally partners with him at the San Francisco club. Don enjoys perfecting his craft even though he's been playing for 71 years.



Don Savant



Mis

Who would believe that self-taught **Misha Studenkov**, an accomplished pianist has only been playing accordion for eight months! This Homestead High School sophomore enthralled us with a famous Finnish folk song, a Russian waltz and one of Duke Ellington's most famous tunes, "Don't Get Around Much Anymore." You can hear more of Misha in one of Homestead High School Jazz Band's performances.

Then taking us up to the break and the raffle was everyone's favorite, **Reno di Bono**, aka "The Italian Accordionist." Reno serenaded us with such Neapolitan favorites as, "Oh Marie," "Arrivederci Roma," and "The Theme from the Godfather." Playing with Reno was hard to pass up, and **Bob Rizzetto** couldn't resist! Bob was among



Bob and Reno

the featured players in the Aurora Mandolin Orchestra and accompanied Reno on several selections. Reno frequently performs at Italian festivals, wineries, weddings, funerals, and local restaurants. Check him out at [https://www.gigsalad.com/reno\\_di\\_bono\\_the\\_italian\\_accordionist](https://www.gigsalad.com/reno_di_bono_the_italian_accordionist) to learn more about Reno.

The raffle is described on the next page.

After the break, **The Aurora Mandolin Orchestra (AMO)** made a very welcome return visit to SVAC under the direction of **Jo Pellegrini**.

(Continued on page 5)



Jo Pellegrini and the Aurora Mandolin Orchestra

Patricia Brown, playing the accordion, second from left in back row is also a member of SVAS

**The AMO** is the largest and one of the oldest orchestras of its kind in Northern California having been officially established in the 1930s. **AMO** consists of more than 30 members with professional and amateur musicians playing mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar, string bass, flute, percussion, and, of course, accordion. Today's performance paid tribute to composers from around the world. The uniqueness of this group was on full display as **AMO** graced us with its varied repertoire. At one point, Jo described how mandolin orchestras play around the world, but are amazingly popular in Japan, with headcounts of 100 or more!

Their program began with "Blue Tango," an instrumental composition by Leroy Anderson, written for orchestra in 1951 and continued with the beautiful and haunting "Ashokan Farewell," written by J Unger and prominently featured in Ken Burn's PBS series, The Civil War. We moved seamlessly from Americana to the theme from the 1999 foreign film of the year, La Vita Bella. "Oblivion," composed by famed Argentine tango composer, Astor Piazzola followed. As Jo took up her mandolin, **Bob Rizetto** assumed the role of conductor and led the orchestra in "Begin the Beguine," the very popular 1935 Cole Porter tune. We all sang along to "When I'm 64," composed by Paul McCartney when he was only 16. Our oh-so-entertaining afternoon ended with "Vecchio Espagna" an original composition by AMO's founder, **Gino Pellegrini**.

This group of consummate musicians will perform at the 16th Annual San Francisco's Mandolin Festival on Sunday, April 21 at 1:00 pm. The festival will be held at the Croatian American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga Ave, San Francisco, California 94112. You can also hear more of this delightful orchestra on youtube and via their Facebook page.

### *The Raffle*

Queta won the flowery table runner, Frances won a very fine bottle of red wine, John (who always wins?) took the chocolate Easter Bunny, Mei won the second fine red wine, and Norma hugged the third tightly. Satoshi from the Aurora Mandolins won the cuddly bunny, Colette won the Chardonnay, and Ray took the last prize—the Gucci Rabbit Ears.



**ACCORDION TEACHERS:**

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Ernie Beran: Aptos,  
(831) 238-4961  
[reeds@baymoon.com](mailto:reeds@baymoon.com)

**Coming Events at SVAS:**

**May:** *Doors open at 1:00pm*  
SVAS Spring Festival, with  
SVAS players and groups.  
1:30—2:50 pm Schedule arranged  
by Barbara Corsiglia.  
2:50—3:00 pm World Accordion  
Day event: massed accordions  
3:00—3:30 Break and raffle  
3:30—4:30 Barbara's schedule

**June:** Gail Campanella

**July:** Gordon Kohl

**August:** TBD.

**SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers**

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408 984-5290  
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**Who's Playing???**

**William DeMichelis** - Music with an accent, 408-375-0001, [accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net](mailto:accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net)  
**Reno DiBono** - plays the second Friday of each month at **Montavalle** in Scotts Valley, dancing to the **Blue Moon Trio**.  
**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).  
**Mike Marotta, Dave Dally and Dave Marzetti** play at Portola Hotel and Spa atrium restaurant, Monterey, Sunday May 12, and May 26, from 11:30 -2:30.

**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)** has three divisions:  
**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. Contact for all the GSAC: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.  
**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.

*Around the Accordion World—Interesting items from near and far*

- As mentioned in “Whose Playing,” Monterey International with **Mike Marotta**, **Dave Dally** and **Dave Marzetti** will play at the Atrium restaurant in the Portola Hotel and Spa, Monterey, Sunday May 12, and May 26, from 11:30 -2:30. Pam Kawashima visited recently and says “Enjoy great music with a terrific lunch!”



- Sheri Mignano, (played for SVAS in the past,) coordinates a fund raiser for student accordion players before and during the annual Cotati Accordion Festival. Siyuan Donnelly (also has played for SVAS on several occasions) has won an award in the past. After reviewing Sheri’s request, the Board voted to donate \$200 to the fund.
- A couple who lost their home in the Paradise fire, returned to the site in a trailer, with an accordion. An article in the Sacramento Bee, with an accompanying video, describes how they evacuated Paradise on the day of the fire. But now they are back. The video switches back and forth between Marty Zentzel narrating their evacuation, and playing his accordion.  
<https://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/fires/article228401389.html>

- The Museum of Making Music is in Carlsbad, CA. Their featured exhibition until the end of August is Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA. There are occasional jam sessions and featured players at the Museum.

<https://www.museumofmakingmusic.org/>

- The annual Las Vegas Accordion Convention will be held on Oct 14—17 this year. Several members from SVAS attended last year, and plan to visit again this year. The first LVAC Festival was in 1999, so this year will be the 20th year celebration. The rates are very reasonable, including early bird registrations (good through April 30,) special discounts, ... , and the list of performers is awesome, including Cory Pesaturo (see below.)

<http://www.accordionstars.com/>



Pam Tom with Mike Zampiceni, Lou Jacklich, and Gail Campanella with Lynn Ewing, all at the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, 2018

- Cory Pesaturo is arguably the best accordion player in the US today. He grew up in Cumberland, Rhode Island. Among many awards, national and international, he won the Coupe Mondiale World Digital Accordion Championship in New Zealand, the first US winner. Cory will visit the Bay Area and play at the San Francisco Club on May 19. If you happen to be in Iceland, Cory will play on several occasions during the week of July 8 to July 15! Accordion music is global!



<http://www.corypesaturo.com/>

- World Accordion Day. Yes, (almost) coinciding with our regular meeting, it is WAD again. We want as many accordions as possible in a group shot. And preferably it could be at the end of a rousing chorus of Lady of Spain (or you suggest!). Please bring your accordion for this event, as well as for individual/group performances.



*Continued at the bottom of page 3*

NEWSLETTER OF THE

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

P.O. Box 1513  
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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**