

**NEWSLETTER OF THE**

# **Silicon Valley Accordion Society**

**June , 2013**

**SVAS NEXT MEETING:  
July 7 , 2013 at Harry's Hofbrau**



## **The Left Bank**

Left Bank/Rive Gauche is a musical trio playing the music of the French cafes and Gypsy jazz of the early twentieth century. A combination of accordion, violin, guitar, bass and voice recreates the café and street sounds of the period. Our singer adds French, Spanish and English lyrics to our music. The group brings European music and ambiance to private

parties, corporate events, wedding receptions, museum events, garden parties, group luncheons, festivals and markets.

When we perform, we attend to the 'stage design' of our set, including French-casual costumes with hats, or formal wear, as appropriate, period furniture, and flowers in season. We perform with an acoustic sound quality, even when we use amplification for larger performance spaces or outdoors.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [SVASociety.org](http://SVASociety.org)**

**Visit SVAS on Facebook and upload your photos & comments**



Ken Caple, President

June 2 was Sharon's birthday and we celebrated it in Dallas, TX so I missed the meeting. I heard that the Tangoneros were great as I would have expected. Sorry I missed them. As it happened we had a good gathering of music lovers. I heard we had 98 in attendance which is a larger than normal group.

I was happy to see Bill back in action with us. Thank you Bill for taking over even though your finger is still not up to snuff. Bob & Pam thanks for the photos and special thanks to Georgia Sutherland for writing up the meeting.

I also heard there were lots of goodies brought in and everyone appreciates this. Thanks again to all the Board members who work so hard to put on this show. - Ken



Georgia Sutherland & Bill Tapogna



The Jamboree Band , L-R Eric Scheel, William De Michelis, MaryaBarbara Zorio, Gloria Tapogna, Marcia Coullahan, Bill Tapogna

On June 2, the Pre-Program started even before 1 pm, as the Jamboree Band was warming up with "Jambalaya" at 12:55. Six members of the band were there to play for us: Gloria Tapogna played both the soprano and tenor recorders. The women got the stage, as Gloria was flanked by Marybarbara Zorio (with a bandaged foot) and Marcia Coullahan. Bill Tapogna didn't let his splinted fingers slow him down as he played the introduction to most of their songs. Eric Sheel and William De Michelis completed the group. William was playing his Beltuna acoustic accordion.

The band played fourteen familiar songs, some of them very enthusiastically. When they announced they were going to play "There is a Tavern in the Town," there were some good natured jokes about "Where is it?" to which the answer was "Not far away!" Vic Corsiglia was invited up to sing (actually he was dragged up by Ivan Klitgaard) and he gave a strong Italian delivery of "Tik-a-tee Tik-a-tay" as the band reprised that song for him.

By the time the Jamboree Band completed their performance, the audience had grown from 15 to about 35 people. Bill Tapogna took the microphone (not for the first time that day) to educate us about different accordions in his collection, and explained how he came to be playing a certain one that he had wanted to sell previously. He is glad he has it now as it is the only one of his accordions that will accommodate the splint on two fingers of his left hand!

Bill continued with announcements, and thanked the many people who thoughtfully brought refreshments – and there were many!

### Cotati Tickets

We have Cotati tickets. Will we have them available at our July meeting, and at the August meeting. One day tickets are \$13 and two-day tickets are \$23. (This saves you \$2 on the normal purchase prices of \$15 or \$25, respectively)

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**ACCORDION TEACHERS:**

Peter Di Bono: San Francisco	(415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing: San Carlos	(650) 365-1700
Sharon Walters Greyhosky: Daly City	(650) 731-6010
Lou Jacklich: San Lorenzo	(510) 317-9510
Marian Kelly: Portola Valley	(650) 854-1896
Richard Yaus: San Bruno	(650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni: Sunnyvale	(408) 734-1565
Norma Zonay-Parsons: San Jose	(408) 244-2762
Aaron Wayne: Santa Cruz	(831) 332-0589
Sheri Mignano, Petaluma	(707) 765-1657

**Cotati Accordion Festival**  
**August 17 & 18, 2013**



**Ivan Klitgaard** introduced the first of his three very fine First Half players, **Max Tarmann**. Max stood in front of us and played what he called the “good old songs” without benefit of any sheet music. He started off with a medley of “Whispering” and “My Blue Heaven” and followed that with a nostalgic song that many of us enjoyed singing along with him, “Sentimental Journey.” He then played “The Darktown Strutters Ball” and “Peg of My Heart.” At that point, Max could see that **Ernie Beran** was ready for his turn, so Max invited him up for an impromptu duet of “She’s Too Fat for Me!”



**Ernie** then took over as the second of the First Half players. Ernie is from Aptos, and it has been a year and a half since we’ve heard him play. He told us that the pieces he would be playing had all been chosen because they were written, arranged, and/or composed by accordion artists. The eight songs he performed were all done with a great deal of feeling, some smooth, some syncopated, some slow, some peppy, some with a light touch, some with more drama. One very interesting song had a slow and pacing bass part, with a very melodic part on the keyboard. Ernie was playing his Gabannelli accordion. At the end of his performance, Bill T continued with his “accordion education” theme and pointed out that Ernie’s Gabannelli is an electronic accordion, built by a company that is famous for making Mariachi “button-boxes.” Bill complimented Ernie on his “bellows technique” in which he does a lot of expressive things with the bellows, not simply moving them in and out. Ernie’s comment was that “The bellows are like your voice, they are an important part of the instrument.”



By the time the third of the First Half players took the stage, the audience had grown to 70 people. **Herman Schmalzreid** took the stage with his very unusual instrument. He said that some of us might call it a “button box” but that it is really more like a harmonica in design. It is a diatonic instrument, with different notes on the in and out of the bellows. That means that the 46 right hand buttons could have represented 92 notes, though Herman told us that there were a few duplicates. The left hand featured sixteen large bass buttons. He informed us that music has to be written especially for this instrument. He told us that he is a trumpet player by training, but someone gave him an instrument like this ten years ago and he got intrigued and went to a camp to learn to play it better. He was certainly competent on this beautiful instrument and played some wonderful music with very quick fingering that is bewildering to those of us who play standard keyboards! During the break, several people from the audience came to inspect his instrument. By this time, the audience had grown to at least 90.

### Membership Dues are due again.

Thank you to many members who paid their dues for 2013-2014 already. There are still a few of you out there who need to send in their \$25 to continue receiving the Newsletter.

Thanks for helping keeping us financially healthy. Send your dues to SVAS, PO Box 1513, Los Altos, CA 94022. Thanks. Bob Stanfield, Treasurer.



Paul and Leah Powers



Phyllis Bob



Martin



Norma Bob Bloria



Bill Bob

The raffle of prizes was made a little more exciting than usual because of both blue and red tickets! **Phyllis Appleby** won \$70 (half of the pot). **Martin Gizardich** won the Harry Hofbrau gift certificate. **Georgia Sutherland** (your scribe for the day) won a Richard Noel CD. And **Bill Francken** won a Big Lou CD.



**Tangonero**, the featured performers, lived up to their advanced billing, and more. All four are obviously talented musicians in their own right, and all of them demonstrated many different techniques for getting beautiful music and unusual sound effects from their instruments. Alex Roitman played an accordion during their first number, in honor of the fact that he was playing for an accordion club. Then he switched to a button box, which he said was more typically used for tango music. Michel Walther, the female member of the group, played a very fine violin. Zac Selissen was excellent on the guitar, and Jacob Johnson was impressive on the stand-up bass, bowing and plucking as required by the music. All players were closely attentive to each other during every song, which made their performance seem flawless to my ears. Most of their twenty or so pieces had names that were translated for us. We heard “Bad Company,” “House with a Tile Roof,” “The Grieving Ones,” “The Choo Choo Song,” “The Dawn (which started off with a wonderful solo by the bass player and included sound effects from the violin that sounded just like birds tweeting),” “The Absence (which was a button box solo all the way),” “Death of an Angel,” and “Lovesick.” These trite names do not do the pieces justice, but there was no way I could write down those foreign-language titles. They concluded their hour-long performance with an amazing performance of “El Choclo” in which the melody shifted between the button box, violin, and guitar many times during the song. Afterwards, the 98 in attendance (is that some sort of record?) gave them a standing ovation and many rushed forward to engage the band members in conversation.

## COMING EVENTS

## Coming Events at SVAS: July 7 Meeting

Doors open at 1:00 pm

1:15-2:00 pm Preprogram: Sunday 7 Band2:00-2:15pm Presidents Message & Master of Ceremonies Introductions2:15-3:00pm First Half Program : Jana Maas, Ron Harris, Hubert Kallabis3:00-3:15pm Break & Drawing3:15-4:15pm Featured Player: The Left BankJuly—The Left Bank BandAugust - Don Garibaldi & Don FoppianoSeptember - Roberto Rosa

Visit SVAS on FACEBOOK and post your photos

## SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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NEWSLETTER:	KEN CAPLE, 408 892-2760
SVAS REPORTER	SUE DOUGLAS 408 266-3598



♫ **Who's Playing???** ♫

**William DeMichelis**—Music with an accent, 408-375-0001, accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

**Reno di Bono** plays the second Friday of each month at **Montavalle** in Scotts Valley, dancing to the **Blue Moon Trio**.

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

The Alpiners play monthly at Esther's Café in Los Altos, CA ; Please check the website schedule.

**Mike Zampiceni** - Accordionist 408 734-1565

**AbsolutAccord**: Schedule Concerts with Norma Parsons (408) 246-3073, [www.absolutaccord.com](http://www.absolutaccord.com)

**Sunday 7** : Schedule Concerts with Bob Stanfield (650) 888-3701

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

## WHEN THE ACCORDION CLUBS IN THE BAY AREA MEET?

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

**Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)** has three divisions:

1. **The Vacaville Club** meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM, Pietro's N.2, 679 Merchant St, Vacaville, CA 95687, Starting July 12, 2012, Except for June and December.
2. **The Humboldt Club** meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 PM., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551.
3. **The Sacramento Club** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Rd., Rancho Cordova CA, 95742. 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. Contact: Jerry Choate, President (530) 345-2031

**San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC)** meets on the third Sunday of the month 2:00 PM . Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd. South San Francisco, CA 94080. Contact Lynn Ewing 650-453-3391.

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)** meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:00 PM at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129. (between Kiely Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.



## Vic Corsiglia

Vic was born in 1939 in Sacramento into an Italian family. His Mom was born in Italy and came to Sacramento, California as a child. Her parents lived next door. Vic's Dad was born in the US, but his parents had emigrated from Italy. This extended family was very involved in the Italian community throughout Vic's youth. This background is important to understanding Vic's connection with accordion. Italian boys are not allowed to advance to adulthood without demonstrating proficiency on accordion. When Vic was in about 7<sup>th</sup> grade he told his mother that he wanted to play trumpet. There was no response. About a week later he asked again, still no response. After several such unsuccessful attempts at trumpet lessons, he changed the request to accordion. That very same day he was enrolled in Neronde Accordion School.

Vic took lessons for about four years from Neronde, who had an accordion band that entertained at the Californian State Fair, and at other fairs and festivals. The band sounded good for the following reason: There were two microphones in the front of the band. Joe played into one and his advanced student played into the other. The rest of the band were seated behind and not well heard. Vic played a duet on accordion in the annual minstrel show at his high school. After his junior year of high school he stopped playing accordion.

Fast forward 25 years to when he picked up the accordion again. In the intervening years he had been playing mandolin in a string band. He then added accordion music to the string band tunes. He continued doing this until he retired from his employment in 1998 at which time he chose to focus his effort on accordion. After retirement he took lessons from Norma Parsons, Sharon Walters, and Ron Borelli. He has participated in Galla-Rini and the Silver Falls accordion camps for almost every year since his retirement. He and his wife Barbara played in the San Francisco Accordion Club Band for many years. He now performs regularly at various Adult Day Care Centers. In addition, he and Barbara are in "Sunday 7 Band" led by Bob Stanfield and a band called "20's Trio" with Lyle Gillison who plays saxophone and clarinet.

### SVAS Professional Accordionist Members

**Please support our Professional Accordionists. Look at "Who is Playing" to locate the Website and check their schedules. They would appreciate seeing you attend their gigs and concerts. Lets keep accordion music alive and well. -Ken**

#### **RENO DI BONO**

Offers group accordion class  
at the Cupertino Senior Center:

Class will Begin on June 12, 2013 and go to July 31 every Wednesday. Call to schedule (408)777 3150.

Location Cupertino Senior Center, 21251  
Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino, CA 95014

### **Important Notice**

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society meets the first Sunday of the month with few exceptions. We do have an exception coming up that I would like everyone to know about well in advance. The First Sunday of September is the Labor Day holiday. This is that last big long weekend of the summer season for people to get out or take off so we are changing our meeting to the 8th of Sept.**

NEWSLETTER OF THE

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

P.O. Box 1513  
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE 🎵

## MEETING PARTICIPANTS



**Silicon Valley Accordion Society meetings held first Sunday of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. Doors open at 1:00, Music begins at 1:15, Meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. door fee \$5, under 16 no charge.**