

# **Silicon Valley Accordion Society**

**June 2019**

**SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday July 7th at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos (Driving instructions on page 3)**

***Gordon Kohl***



Gordon Kohl's accordion passion began at age 7. As a teenager, he was already teaching. By age 20, he started his own accordion, piano and organ school while he earned a degree in marine biology. His playing credentials would fill an entire page. He has made TV commercials, video tracks for projects such as the AIDS Foundation, and radio and TV shows, including work with Shirley Jones, Andy Griffith, and the KPBS Radio Ethnic Hour. He maintains a busy schedule performing around San Diego and at Oktoberfests in the mountains.

Gordon has developed a special expertise on the digital accordion, and he conducts acoustic and electronic workshops. What Gordon really enjoys is teaching. The contact with his students helps him stay in tune with changing trends in music education. Folks relatively new to the accordion these days, he says, want to study a variety of musical styles. Gordon states, "Teaching requires the teacher to learn along with the students, exploring ideas of what the accordion left hand can do to add harmony and rhythm to today's musical dance styles, challenging both the student and the teacher." Gordon has a variety of original accordion publications. Several books of music written by Gordon and CD's of his music reflect his diverse interests. The books include Austrian (Alpine) Selections, Accordion Artistry, which covers beginning harmony, scales and improvisation, and Original Solos, which includes a variety of music.

**NO Jam Band session in July, but there is Open Play from 2:30—3:00pm. Please contact Pam to sign up for a slot. Choose a tune or two, practice, then give it a go! You can do it, and we all want to hear it!**

*Bill Tapogna - President's Message*

Regretfully, I missed our annual "Spring Fling-Thing" last month. I heard rave reviews about it! Many thanks to **Barbara Corsiglia** for her great job (as usual --- for the past several years!) of organizing the program. **And thanks to all who provided the entertainment!**

This month we enjoyed a GREAT program with **Gail Campanella** as "featured performer." She is a fabulous accordionist with an absolutely charming personality! To the audience's delight she even added an encore despite having to leave early to catch a flight to Portland for another performance!

**Sue Douglas** is doing this month's program write-up (beginning on page 4), so I will leave the "Rest of the Story" (as Paul Harvey used to say) in her capable hands. Thanks Sue.



*Sue Douglas,  
Reporter*

I am aware of the challenge for some of our members who don't drive and must depend on public transportation to travel to our new venue. This may be, in part, a reason for the drop in attendance at our concerts. If you will let me know that you are experiencing this difficulty, perhaps we can assist with some sort of carpooling arrangement. Please let me know if you need assistance or would be able to provide assistance.

We were saddened this month to learn of the passing of Anna Di Bono, Reno's wife of 56 years. A short, moving tribute to her by Reno is included on page 7.

On a happier note, Pam Kawashima recently persuaded Norma Zonay-Parsons to tell about her life as a professional accordion player. You can read this most interesting article, also on page 7.

This month we had an enthusiastic, if smaller-than-usual audience, and we appreciate all of you who were able to attend on this most beautiful day. And our appreciation to those of you who participated in **Bob Stanfield's** jam session. Great fun and a good experience for all participants.

**Thanks also to the many folks who renewed their membership in SVAS!**

**Rosemary Miceli and Gloria Tapogna** deserve special acknowledgement for their service at the check-in desk, as does **Gorgia Sutherland** who sold raffle tickets and coordinated the raffle activities.

And many thanks to **Pam Kawashima** who does so much "**behind-the-scenes**" to make our organization special!! Pam video-records our programs and is our Web-Meister. She also recruits players for our programs, both "Featured Performers" as well as other participants. Pam is a busy lady, and an important member of our "Team"/Board of Directors.

Please stay safe and well--we hope to see you next month for another great SVAS program with Gordon Kohl.

**Dues are Due!** from Bob the Treasurer

As usual, each year in May and June we request our members to renew their membership by paying an annual membership fee to keep our treasury healthy and to be able to send out a newsletter, as well as bring you good entertainment by bringing in professional musicians to entertain us at our meetings, and help support other expenses of the club, such as insurance, equipment, and administrative supplies.

**Platinum membership:** \$200 per year, free admission to club meetings for you and family members plus up to two additional guests at each meeting.

**Gold membership:** \$125 per year, free admission for you and a guest at each meeting.

**Regular membership:** \$35 per year. \$5 door fee for admission to each meeting.

Mail your membership dues to Silicon Valley Accordion Society, PO Box 1513, Los Altos, CA 94023, with the check payable to SVAS.

TWO ACCORDION FESTIVALS are coming up: **Cotati**, and also **Leavenworth**. (But see also page 3)

The Cotati Accordion Festival this year will be on August 17th and 18th. Parking can be tricky, BUT there is free parking nearby with a free shuttle to the festival grounds. You will soon be able to buy discounted tickets via the Society. <https://cotatifest.com/>

Leavenworth's International Accordion Celebration is almost on us: June 20—23. In the past this has been a great favorite with several Society members. <http://www.accordioncelebration.org/>

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.)

Accordion getting heavy?  
Playing LESS never sounded so good!



petosa  
"Leggera"

- Leggera is 15% Lighter than our AM-1100
- Tone Chamber (L/M)
- 41/120 (or 37/96)
- Available LMMH Concert or LMMM Musette
- Hand made reeds
- At only 23 pounds, you'll think it's as light as a feather!



petosa  
accordions  
since 1922

GIULIETTI

Bugari-evo  
DIGITAL DIVISION

Roland

ZERO SOTTO  
ACCORDION FACTORY

HOHNER

YAMAHA

BUGARI ARMANDO

www.petosa.com

206.632.2700

petosa  
accordions  
since 1922

GIULIETTI

There's a professional  
quality Giuliatti for  
everybody!

Light-weight size,  
Heavy-weight  
performance

New Designs!



- P48 (26/48) 13 pounds
- P72 (34/72) 17 pounds
- M37 (37/96) 19 pounds
- M52 (41/120) 21 pounds

petosa  
accordions  
since 1922

GIULIETTI

Bugari-evo  
DIGITAL DIVISION

Roland

ZERO SOTTO  
ACCORDION FACTORY

HOHNER

YAMAHA

BUGARI ARMANDO

www.petosa.com

206.632.2700

petosa  
accordions  
since 1922

### *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

### *Around the Accordion World*

- Two (almost!) local accordion festivals are mentioned on page 2. Slightly further afield, there are more: The Las Vegas Accordion Convention will take place on October 14—17. This will be the 20th anniversary celebration. As always, the line up of professional players is outstanding, the hotel rates are reasonable, and this event too has been an annual favorite with several SVAS members. Just ask Mike Zampiceni who performs every year! <http://www.accordionstars.com/>  
The French Festival in Santa Barbara, on July 13 and (when else?) 14th, features 3 stages, one of which is called "the Accordion Stage." In addition to enjoying a lot of musette waltzes, Quebecois reels, ... you may have to endure crepes, pastries, quiche, ...., and of course the Can-Can. <https://www.nbcloseangeles.com/news/local/Can-Can-Your-Way-to-the-Santa-Barbara-French-Festival-511060161.html>

*Continued on page 5*

## Report on the June Meeting, Sue Douglas

This month, Rosemary and Gloria were on the entrance desk as you came in. It's a big job processing admission fees and name tags for members and visitors. Thanks to both for taking on this job..



As visitors came in the door and stopped at the entrance desk, they met Accordion Joe! The club's unique mascot was a gift from Barbara Winter. Many years ago, Barbara bought Joe (with his real leather shoes!) at a Petaluma Accordion Club picnic at a fundraiser desk for cancer research. Barbara has kept him for many years, but recently wondered if he might be happier mingling with other accordion players.

The open mic session was started by Misha Studenkov, a young man, but a very accomplished player from Homestead High school. Misha played the well-known *Second Waltz* by Shostakovich. Then he played *Fly Me To the Moon*. As Misha played, he looked relaxed and smiled at the audience.



Misha Studenkov



Our featured player was Gail Campanella. Because of timing with a flight to Portland, Oregon, Gail began her performance early at 2:00 pm. Gail started off with *Hot Points*, and when she played *Las Alteñitas*, she did glissandos and bellows shakes while playing the notes! Wow! With *Zingarella Valse Musette*, there were quick-play notes and many single notes on the bass! She played *Czardas Monti*, and again, she played single notes on the bass and a "million" right hand notes per second! *Czardas* is famous for the changes in rhythm, and Gail demonstrated how this should be done. Her next piece was *Sixty Miles Per Hour*, composed by John Gart. Then she played a love song from the 1950s called *Around The World*. The title is from a book by Jules Verne

set in the 1870s, and a Cole Porter musical from 1946. Frank Sinatra helped to make the song famous in the 1950s. Next was Pearls Of Cuptaes.

When she played Argentine *Cauaguinho*, she asked Scott Stanfield to accompany her with his tambourine. That was fun to hear. Now in the Sicilian Tarantella, Gail played slowly at first, then picked up speed, then slowed down, then a bit of speed—off and on. She played two pieces by Astor Piazzolla: a tango called *Oblivion*, followed by the *Libertango*. This requires bellows shake, and again, that's not easy at all. Slowly, she played *Vivacita Anton Zordon*. We're familiar with *Ave Maria*, but I don't remember ever hearing *Donkey Serenade* or the *Wrong Note Polka*. Maybe some of you folks are familiar with them. But wasn't it interesting to hear her play the fast note on the piano side while holding the notes on the bass, and then playing fast notes on the bass while holding notes on the piano side? It was like a trade off. Then she played fast notes on both sides, with bellows shakes! That was absolute entertainment!



Gail and Scott perform together

After the break and raffle, Ron Harris played for us. When he played *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, he performed very good glissandos, running his fingers up and down the keyboard. Then he played *All Of Me*. Thank you Ron.



Ron Harris

Then, finally, the Jam Band set up and entertained us with a succession of golden oldies, including *Baby Face*, *Have You Ever Been Lonely* - Vic and Barbara sang that one. All these tunes are in Bob's Jam Band book. The players take turns at selecting the next tune. Later, Vic also sang *Bouquet of Roses* (aka "Bucket of Rosé"). Many in the audience joined in singing *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*. Then Master of Ceremonies Bill announced that Vic had just turned 80 years old. An easy guess what they played next! Then the band finished up with *Love Me Tender*, *Tennessee Waltz*, *Du Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen*, and their grand finale was the *Just Because* polka (aka: *Why?*). We enjoyed it all!



Bob looks up for a moment while the Jam Band plays *Baby Face*



Georgia at raffle desk, with Gloria and Rosemary peeking from the check-in desk

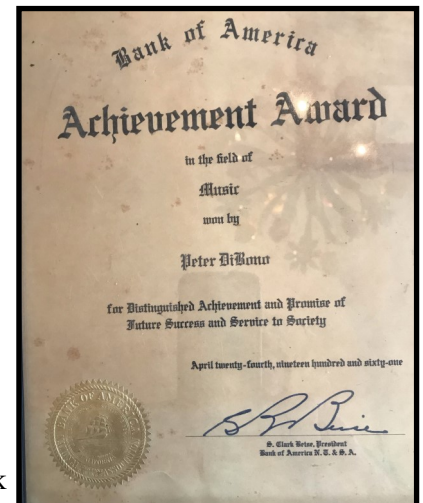


During the break, the monthly raffle took place. President Bill provided a fine selection of prizes. Georgia ran the raffle table, and made sure everyone was able to select the prize they wanted (from the prizes remaining!) Bernie went straight for the Aussie red wine. Barbara won “the strange device” (Pre-Copernican solar system maybe), Ilona took a white wine. Frances was very happy with her bottle of red wine. Mai, who always wins(!) chose a rose wine. George also chose a rose. Behzad won the last prize—the pair of Lindt chocolate bars.

*Around the accordion world—continued from page 3*

- You can read Pam Kawashima’s notes on her conversation with Norma Zonay-Parsons on page 7. Pam also contacted Peter Di Bono. Via e-mail, here is what Peter had to say:

I was a pretty good accordion player back in high school and won several talent competitions. The biggest competition was a Nationwide event called "Talentsville USA," sponsored by The Coca Cola Bottling Company. It was an elimination contest with many levels of competition. My playing partner, Bobbie Molinari, and I won the California title. We were called "Pete and Bob," and afterward were featured on the local rock and roll radio stations. We performed at many dances("hops") around The Bay Area which were popular at that time. We were local rock stars and signed lots of autographs. After that, The Exchange Clubs of California also sponsored a Statewide competition with the same format as the Coca Cola contest. Bobbie and I won that also. Well, this brought lots of good press for our high school, and the Christian Brothers, apparently, were pleased. I don't know if this notoriety was the reason I received The Bank of America Award but it didn't hurt.



*Peter's certificate from the Bank of America*

**ACCORDION TEACHERS:**

Peter Di Bono: San Francisco,  
(415) 699-8674  
Lynn Ewing:  
San Carlos, (650) 867-2633  
ewinglynn@gmail.com  
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](http://Mikezamp.com)  
Ernie Beran: Aptos,  
(831) 238-4961  
[reeds@baymoon.com](mailto:reeds@baymoon.com)

**Coming Events at SVAS:****July:** *Doors open at 1:00pm*

1:30—2:30 Sunday Seven band,  
led by Bob Stanfield  
2:30—3:00 Open mic—call Pam  
3:10—3:30 Break and raffle  
3:40—4:30 Gordon Kohl visits  
from Chula Vista,  
Southern California

**August:** Mike and Steve Trucco**Sept:** The Cantones (Rich Denier,  
Larry Denier, Dave Dally)**Oct:** Mike Marotta, Dave Dally, Mon-  
terey International**SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers****PRESIDENT:** BILL TAPONGA,  
408 984-5290**VICE PRESIDENT:****SECRETARY/TREASURER:** BOB STANFIELD,  
650 888-3701**PROGRAM SCHEDULE:** PAM KAWASHIMA  
pkawashima@outlook.com**WEBMASTER:** PAM KAWASHIMA  
pkawashima@outlook.com**NEWSLETTER Editor:** SCOTT WILLIAMSON  
aswy01@gmail.com**NL Reporters:** MARCIA COULLAHAN,  
SUE DOUGLAS,  
GORGIA SUTHERLAND,  
MARYBARBARA ZORIO**Board Committee:** Norma Parsons  
Dick Siudzinski


♫ **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).

**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.

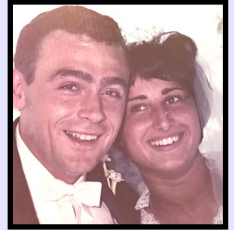
**Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)** meets on the first Wednesday of the month 6:30 PM 6365 Douglas Blvd., Lutheran Church Social Hall, Granite Bay, CA 95746.

**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.

In Memoriam, Anna Di Bono, July 24, 1941 – May 21, 2019, by Reno Di Bono

We were married Sept 7, 1963. Anna immigrated to San Jose to attend Santa Clara university in 1963. One day she sat down next to me while I was eating lunch. I was a member of the Santa Clara baseball team. She heard that Broncos had beaten the San Francisco Giants and was there to tease me about the miracle victory. We began dating in May and married in September 1963. We were married for 56 years. We have three sons and 9 grandchildren. Anna was born in Sestri, Levante province of Genoa, Italy. Anna could make "Pasta al Pesto like most Genoese. She became a top realtor in Cupertino. We sent three sons to Santa Clara University because of her skills in real estate. When the youngest son graduated from SCU she developed Parkinson's disease at 55. It is as if God said "okay Anna all three sons graduated from Santa Clara as you wished." Finally she passed away on May 21, 9:40am at 77 years old.



Reno and Anna

Pam interviews Norma Zonay-Parsons

Did you know that our very own Norma was a professional musician for almost 12 years of her life? Norma was an only child born and raised in southern CA. Her Italian father came to the US in his 20's, and moved to CA. Her Welsh mother was born and raised in Idaho. Norma was born in LA in 1927.

When she was 6 years old, Norma remembers that her father's friend had a small accordion. Soon, her father found an 80 bass accordion, and Norma started lessons at about the age of 10. She practiced diligently, played in recitals, school plays and at football rallies. After graduating from high school, Norma entered an amateur contest that landed a band job for a short time. She then played with a guitar/singer as a duet doing private parties. Next, Norma was introduced to western music by playing with two women who needed an accordionist. They played a short gig in Oakland, CA.

Jimmie Dolan, a popular cowboy singer, hired bass (Boots) and guitarist (Vivian) and Norma with her Pancordion to play dance music and entertain. However, the pay was minimal, so the three of them decided to form a trio, get an agent, and travel. The agent named the trio "The Hollywood Rangerettes." At 19 years old, they drove off in Norma's 1937, 2-door Buick, with the neck of the bass fiddle sticking out the window, to their first engagement in Winnemucca, NV. Vivian was handy with needle and thread so she made their first cowgirl costumes. Add some cowgirl hats and this trio was ready to go. On opening night, they found that they really clicked and would be playing together for a long time. Their second job in Jackson, Wyoming lasted for 4-1/2 months! Then the owner of the Alpine Club in Sun Valley, ID, hired them. The Rangerettes also did live 30-minute radio broadcasts, entertained at veteran hospitals and other venues. They had an agent in the mid-west and New York who booked them all over the US and Canada, and they continued that life for almost 10 years. Eventually, Vivian married and left the group. Norma and Boots played as a duo for a short while until they recruited Vivian's younger sister who fitted in just fine. The Hollywood Rangerettes continued for another 4 years.



The Hollywood Rangerettes



A photo portrait  
of Norma

Norma married and settled in Salt Lake City, UT. While in an elevator, about to apply for a desk job, she was recognized as a Rangerette by Eugene Jelesnik, well-known professional violinist from New York. He offered her a job at the Cinegrill Restaurant. Without hesitation, she said "Sure!" She continued her music career three more years with Eugene, playing local gigs in UT. Eugene was a promoter, organizer and music/conductor with a lot of venues for Norma including POP symphonies, weekly TV Variety Show (KDYL) called Video Frolics, duets, solo gigs and more.

But by now, the popularity of the electric guitar was overtaking the accordion. Norma settled in Silicon Valley with her husband, working in his electronics company. She learned and became proficient on the organ, and began giving music lessons for accordion and organ students. Norma played in a duo, Bellows and Bow, with violinist, Tyane Boye, for several years, around the SF Bay area. Bellows and Bow was featured at the Cotati Accordion Festival and also performed for SVAS.

The Silicon Valley Accordion Society was founded in 2003. Norma has been an outstanding contributor to the club. She was the founding Vice President and program director, arranged and established Harry's Hofbrau as the SVAS venue in September 2003. On many occasions she performed for SVAS as an individual performer/singer, entertained in duets with Bruno Bianchini, performed with the renowned AbsolutAccord ensemble. She continues her interest in SVAS and likes to attend the board meetings.

Norma continues to enjoy playing the accordion, and loves playing pop, 30's and standards, as well as Italian and Latin classics.

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**