

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

March 2019

**The April 7th meeting will be held at
Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos
(Driving instructions on page 3)**



The Aurora Mandolin Orchestra (AMO) under the direction of Jo Pellegrini consists of more than 30 members with professional and amateur musicians playing mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar, string bass, accordion, flute and percussion. The uniqueness of this group is its varied repertoire and creative arrangements of folk music, semi-classical Italian, Spanish, Russian songs, popular "oldies", contemporary pieces (some taken from familiar musicals), excerpts from operas, and classical orchestra compositions written specifically for mandolin. They have played innumerable public appearances and are especially proud to have played at the San Francisco Symphony's festive opening night at Davies Hall in 1984, the Academy of Sciences at Golden Gate Park and Santa Clara University.

**NO Jam Band session in April.
However, we do have an open mike session after the Happy Days
band plays. At least one player already signed up.
Call Pam for a slot. YOU CAN DO IT!!**

Bill Tapogna - President's Message

 Bill Tapogna

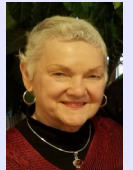
Hi Folks,

March really did come in "Like a Lion"! But we had a great turn-out for our second concert in *The Church!* Thanks to all of you who came out to join us!

We initiated our new sound system, which works well. And, it is a LOT easier to store, transport and set up. Modern technology! **Lou Buonomo and Scott Williamson** accompanied **Yours Truly** on several expeditions to find the best available for the Society. Pass along any tips or suggestions on getting the best out of this system. This is a voyage of discovery for all of us.

A special thanks to those players who, on short notice, volunteered to fill in for some folks who had to cancel.

Marcia Coullahan is doing the program write-up starting on page 4, (which she does SO WELL!), so she'll cover who-did-what.



Reporter Marcia

Our sincere condolences to **Art Maggio** and his family. Art's mom, **Frances Maggio**, who was a regular attendee at our meetings, passed away last month--10 months short of her 100th birthday! We will surely miss her.

On a happy note, it was great to see Luis Rodriguez back at the meetings again. Luis used to be regular performer. And he said he is working on getting back into form. Make it soon Luis!

Our SVAS bands are really active!

Ken Caple's "Happy Days Band" will be playing for us in April. The band features **Ken, Tseli Wu, Hubert Kallabis, Colette Ogata, Marcia Coullahan, Marybarbara Zorio, Lou Buonomo and Bill Tapogna on accordion, Sharon Teeter on Violin and Gloria Tapogna on recorder.** This band plays for SVAS as well as being invited to play at various functions in the community.

Bob Stanfield's "Sunday Seven" band consists of Bob, Bill Tapogna, Vic Corsiglia and Scott Williamson all on accordions (and Vic on vocals!), Gloria Tapogna plays recorder, Scott Barta and Barbara Corsiglia both on guitar, and Scott Stanfield on percussion. So the Sunday Seven are actually eight, and there are three Scott's in the eight. Amazing! Bob's band plays regularly on the First Friday of each month in downtown Los Altos, as well as for several locations within the community. **Bob** also plays regularly at El Camino Hospital, and in the band for a Norwegian dance group (with Scott Williamson.) **Bob** is a super-busy guy! One interest item to spot when they play in May: Scott Barta has transferred all of the band's music, plus more, onto his large I_Pad. Scott carries all of his music around with him wherever he goes. You are looking at the future!

Vic Corsiglia's "Vic & Friends" group consists of Vic, Barbara Corsiglia, Gloria & Bill Tapogna, Don Savant, Lyle Gillison and Scott Williamson. Vic's group plays several times per month at the *Live Oak Senior Day Care* centers in San Jose, Cupertino, Los Gatos and Gilroy. Each event captures the interest and participation of seniors with dances (the staff bring ambulatory participants to their feet,) singalongs, requests, and even the Hokey Pokey and Chicken Dance! Vic did a tremendous favor to the Live Oak organization when he stepped into William deMichelis' shoes after William retired from the lead role.

Vic and Barbara, Gloria and Bill frequently play as a quartet at various functions by invitation.

You can see that it is an action-packed scene. If you play, either solo or in a group, please let us know, so that we can let the membership know. We are always on the lookout for ways to spread the word about accordion performances!

Be certain that you plan on attending our April 7th concert. The "**Aurora Mandolin Orchestra**", **under the direction of Jo Pelligrini**, will be playing for us. Could be as many as 14 players. This you do not want to miss!

Please stay safe and well! *That's all, Folks!*

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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 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 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.

Sign-up to play during the dividual performers' sessions in April

Please ask Pam to schedule a slot. In April, there may be less time for Open Mike, so please let Pam know.

New member!

Welcome Lou Scamporrino from Santa Clara.

Report of the Meeting on March 3. Marcia Coullahan



Rosemary and Gloria



Karen

Let's begin with special praise for the people who run the welcome desk, and the treats table. Rosemary, Gloria and Karen did their customary wonderful job of issuing name tags, and selling raffle tickets. It can become hectic when a multiple members arrive together. But it was no problem for the team. Sadly, we will soon lose Karen and her husband Lou when they move to Dallas for several months each year to be close to their daughter and grandkids.

Scott Stanfield made sure that the snack table was set to perfection. Eye appeal couldn't have been better. Scott made several trips to the kitchen keeping the water pitchers full. As the goodies dwindled he reorganized and at quitting time no one felt like the last person in a buffet line. Thanks Scott!



Scott



Mei

Mei Lu was our first performer playing, "Merry Widow Waltz" and "Greensleeves." Mei has come a long way in a short period of time. She did a terrific job with excellent phrasing. Mei has been a student of Reno DiBono for 17 months. Mei praised Reno for teaching her accordion and helping her with English, her second language.

Next was Sue Douglas who treated us to "The Happy Wanderer," "Mexican Hat Dance," "La Paloma," and a tune we have not heard for a long time: "Put Another Nickel in, In the Nickelodeon." She kept that great smile going as she played by memory. Welcome back Sue!



Sue



Tseli

Tseli Wu was commandeered from the audience as several performers phoned in to report colds and 'flu. Tseli was faced with using an unfamiliar accordion. She attempted "Flight of the Angels," then switched to "Ricardo Waltz" at Reno's recommendation. After playing that song perfectly she returned to "Flight of the Angels" and did an outstanding job. Tseli plays with great expression and has a very enjoyable style. As a little girl Tseli was taught in Shanghai by her father, first starting with the number system. In no time she transferred to notation. Tseli is also a student of Reno DiBono. Keep up the good work! We are expecting you to be a feature SVAS performer in no time. Tseli has just started playing with Happy Days Band and has proven to be a true gem.

Now it was time for our headliner. At their request, the Reno DiBono Trio played before the break to keep appointments later in the afternoon. The Trio is made up of Reno, Dave Kawamoto, and Bob Belanski. This group has played together for over 30 years, playing mostly as a dance band. At this time Reno and Dave are retired, but that does not mean they don't play. Bob is still a working musician and no wonder!

In honor of Fat Tuesday, Dave played and sang "Jambalaya" and played other Mardi Gras tunes. Dixieland is definitely Dave's forte. Reno treated us to the oldie, "Dizzy Fingers" with drum accompaniment. It was fun to hear each player take the lead. Reno has a great memory for the Italian words. The audience enjoyed "Buona Sera". The dancers loved the dance tunes. Dave hit the highest note on the clarinet at the end of "Begin the Beguine."



Reno, Tom and Dave

Then it was the break and raffle time (see fur-

Marcia's report, continued from page 4.



Frank La Ducca

After the break and raffle Bill persuaded Frank La Ducca to play. He put on a fine performance. Frank has been one of our featured performers. He is very easy to listen to as his dynamics couldn't be better. He played "Blue Spanish Eyes," "Aldila," Bill and Bob's favorite, "Iupali Iupala," and played and sang "Hello Dolly." "Spanish Eyes" is a timeless accordion piece with an interesting history. It was composed and recorded by Bert Kaempfert with lyrics entitled "Moon over Naples." The well known lyrics were a second addition.

The last part of the program was kicked off by Bob Stanfield and Scott Williamson. They played some tunes from the collection of the Norwegian band, including a catchy tune called "Teton Mountain Stomp." They also played "Grandfather's Waltz," and "Bride of Trondheim" Waltz.) It was easy to picture the Norwegians twirling in their brightly colored costumes.



Bob and Scott



Barbara, Vic and Bill, and Bob and Scott

Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, and Bill Tapogna joined in and played "Edelweiss", "Marianna Waltz," and "Before the Last Tear Drop Falls," plus others. Barbara played her concertina and the group played some Irish tunes while Vic belted out the words. Barbara was asked to demo her concertina and tell us a bit about it. It is a Anglo Concertina from Ireland, an expensive little thing, about \$2000. According to Barbara if you can play a harmonica, you will be able to play the concertina!

The middle row of buttons is the key of C. The bottom row is G and the top row is accidentals. Barbara plays her concertina well, as she does her other instruments. Ask her what she plays! It was a memorable end to a memorable afternoon.

Bill asked how many play an instrument. Many raised their hand. If you play and want to get better or start again, get a good teacher, "Practice, practice, and practice some more," a quote from Dick Siudzinski. If you are interested in how music works, read "The Everything Essential Music Theory Book." Don Savant introduced me to this book. It's my airplane study book. I'm working on the second reading. *Marcia Coullahan.*

The Raffle—also Marcia's notes

Remember to buy raffle tickets as the proceeds support the club. Bob finds something for everyone. Dan won the Ferrero Rocher Truffles, Pam took home 2 bottles of wine, Mary Ann got the adorable bunny, Barbara will look classy in her new St. Paddy's Day Tee, Rosemary will enjoy the chocolate Turtles, Bernie WILL share his wine with Marcia, and Roger & Silvia will enjoy their can of Almond Roca.



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

Coming Events at SVAS:

April: Doors open at 1:00pm
1:30—2:20 Happy Days Band
2:30—3:00 Open mike
3:00—3:30 Break and raffle
3:30—4:30 Aurora Mandolins,
under direction of Jo
Pelligrini

May: SVAS Spring Festival, with
SVAS players and bands

June: Gail Campanella


July: Gordon Kohl

SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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♫ **Who's Playing???** ♫

William DeMichelis - Music with an accent, 408-375-0001, 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 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" - Gloria Gazave and Paul Aebersold will perform at Angelica's, Redwood City on Thu, March 28. Tickets free if reserved in advance, otherwise \$10 at the door. Contact Gloria at 415.845.0772, or email 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.

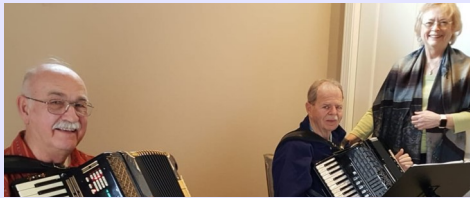
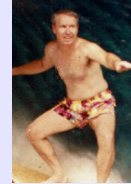
Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Around the accordion world:

(With the email copy of the Newsletter, you can access the links below by holding down the control button and clicking on the link. As long as you are connected to the Internet, the webpage will automatically open. Of course, you can also select, copy and paste, or just copy the link into your browser.)

- Last month we reported on a movement to replace the fiddle with the accordion as the state instrument in South Dakota (no update.) Topping that is SB158 in the Kansas legislature designating the polka as the state dance. The Revolution may be even closer than we all expected! <https://www.kwch.com/content/news/Kansas-legislature-considers-polka-for-state-dance-506201781.html>

- Also last month, we challenged everyone to Name-This-Man. Nobody won the bottomless cup of free coffee. It was, of course, Bernie Coullahan. The funny thing was that, even at the moment of composing the challenge, Bernie and Marcia were in Hawaii.



- Ex-president of SVAS Ken Caple found that one of his neighbors at Lake of the Pines, Auburn is none other than Don Nurisso. Don is famous as an exponent of jazz accordion, and frequently played at the San Francisco Club when he lived in Pacifica. Ken and Don played together, and Don's wife Carol sang. Don is fighting Alzheimer's. His doctor tells him to keep playing the accordion—it is great therapy for the brain. Ken has found three other players in the Lake Community. Perhaps another band will pay us a visit in the not-too-distant future!

- The New York Public Library hosts week long Musician-In-Residence events at their Library for the Performing Arts. In case you are visiting during the week of April 6, you are invited to make a free reservation (because the sessions are usually over-subscribed) and bring an accordion. Several performers are listed, and an all-hands jam session is planned, <https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2019/04/06/artsy-sing-along> The World is changing.
- Did you know that there are several online accordion classes? Beverly Fess in Okotoks, Canada is well-established. You can find her via Facebook, or just Google to find contact information. Her meeting format is a Skype session.
- Ever heard of a pianica? Yamaha sells a line of them in the US. They are a keyboard, free-reed instrument like an accordion, but no bellows. You blow into a mouth piece to provide the airflow. So it is like a harmonica on steroids. This video shows a young girl, Janice Maria, playing the theme from the Godfather. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KQyXvZCgJ8>



Then there is the Roland line of electronic accordians, like the FR4 that several players have used at our meetings. And there are several electronic keyboards that have a strap and are shaped to be worn like a guitar, and played like an accordion. The birds eye view suggests that there is a strong sustained interest in “wearable” musical instruments, and a lot of experimentation to find the perfect tradeoff between simplicity, complexity, and musical character. The bagpipes better look out!

- “Summer” is one of the four concerti in the “Four Seasons” by Antonio Vivaldi. The finale is perhaps the most exciting and well-known Baroque work ever written. It was composed for a solo viola accompanied by twelve violins, four other violas, three cellos, a double bass and a harpsicord. That MUST be a “bridge too far” for an accordion solo. Or What do you think? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SE222v1eyM>

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 on top) for videos from the club.

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

P.O. Box 1513
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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 1:30. \$5 for members, \$ 10 for non members, 16 years and under free.**

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