

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

August 2019

**SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday September 8th
(NOT Sept 1st, that's Labor Day)
at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos
(Driving instructions on page 7)**



The Cantones

**Richard & Larry Denier on the accordion
with Dave Dally violinist.**

Richard and Larry began playing accordion in the early 1960's at the Neronde accordion studio in Sacramento. Being of Swiss heritage, their repertoire included many folk songs from their home country. As youngsters they competed in both individual and duet categories at the Accordion Conventions prominent in those days. Their accordion playing continued in college, but when their business careers began, Larry found himself on the East Coast and Richard was traveling interna-

tionally. The accordions went on the "back burners" for about 25 years. Then some 18 years ago at their parents 50th wedding anniversary, Larry and Richard surprised them by bringing out their accordions and again performing duets of folk music from Switzerland. Since that time, whenever they get together they "pull out" the accordions. Larry lives in Santa Barbara and is a member of the Santa Barbara AIMS accordion club (Accordion International Music Society.) Richard lives in Carmel and can be found every Thursday night performing at Lugano's Swiss Bistro, in The Barnyard at the mouth of Carmel Valley, just off Hwy 1.

Dave Dally is an accomplished professional violinist who lives in Carmel Valley and leads the Monterey String Quartet. Dave is a very sought after musician and has played at our Club with Joe Domitrowich, Mike Marotta Band and others. We are very happy to have him back.

NO Jam Band session in September. But there will be a long Open Mike session. Please book a slot with Pam, and play a tune or two that you know we'll like!



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

First off, I sincerely thank all of you who have renewed your dues---several "Platinum" and "Gold" renewals, and many new memberships. This is what keeps SVAS alive and able to keep bringing you the entertainment you enjoy (as well as this great newsletter!)

Bob Stanfield, he who has been our professional treasurer for 15+ years, is stepping down for a well-deserved break. Bob has also been our membership "chair" and has performed many other important "behind-the-scenes" tasks. **OUR MOST SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION, BOB!** Bob isn't going away--he just really is ready for a break!

Pam Kawashima, who is our videographer and web-master, has volunteered to take on the membership duties as well. Pam is also the person who ferrets out and arranges for all our "Featured Performers," and schedules all other performers (WHEW!!). Thanks, Pam!!

FOLKS, WE NEED ASSISTANCE! IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!!

Our August meeting/concert was WONDERFUL! The "warm-up" entertainers, Colette Ogata and Ed Massolo, were super, and the Jam Band session, under the leadership of **Maestro Robert A. Stanfield** was an enjoyable experience for the participants and, (judging from their reaction) the audience as well. All three of our Open Mic players played interesting music and played it well. And our featured performers, **The Truccos**, were, well, the TRUCCOs! The partnership and amazing playing ability and harmony of these guys has to be seen and heard to be believed. I cannot imagine a more rewarding experience than to be a father/son team like Steve and Mike!

Sue Douglas is doing the write-up this month, so she can tell "the rest of the story" as she does so well!



Sue Douglas, this month's reporter

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

AND, DON'T FORGET---OUR MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 8--THE SECOND SUNDAY, DUE TO LABOR DAY BEING ON THE FIRST SUNDAY!!

That's all, Folks!

Bill Tapogna

Editor Note: Jumping ahead just a little, this was Bill and Gloria's 47th wedding anniversary. Steve and Mike Trucco obliged with a round of Anniversary Waltz.



ACCORDION FESTIVALS:

By the time the Newsletter lands on your doorstep, the **Cotati Accordion Festival** will be history. If you attended, please consider writing up a paragraph and send it in. We all see the events differently, and others' views can be very interesting.

The **Las Vegas International Accordion Convention** 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. It is all organized and run by Paul Pasquali, the owner of Accordions International. In addition to running the Convention, running his accordion store, and repairing accordions, Paul also finds time to design and produce his own digital accordion masterpiece—the Concerto. It has a full set of reeds, and a complete digital setup that is the benchmark for digital accordions. <http://www.accordionfactory.com/Accordions/Concerto.aspx>

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Thanks to Ed Massolo and Colette Ogata, we enjoyed hearing beautiful accordion music even when we came in early. Ed played *Toscano* and Colette took over with *It Had to Be You*.

At 1:30, Bob Stanfield's Jam Band started out by playing *Beautiful Heaven*, aka *Cielito Lindo*, or *Ay, Ay, Ay, Ay, ...* the very well-known Mexican melody. In fact, it is so well known all over the world (thanks to World Cup Soccer games, Luciano Pavarotti, and many others,) that in a memorial bust to composer Quirino Mendoza in his home town near Mexico City, the music and lyrics are there!



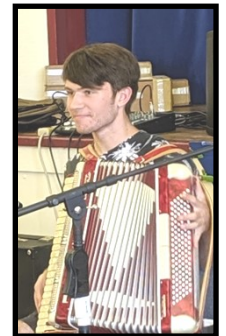
The Jam Band, led by Bob Stanfield



Mike Trucco joins the Jam Band session

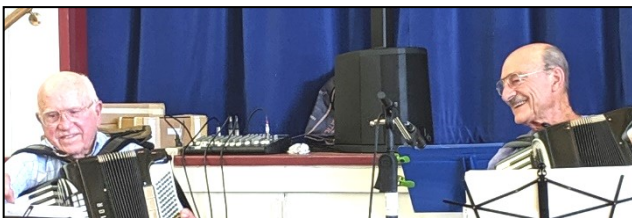
The band consisted of 8 players this month, including Mike Trucco, who joined in from where he was sitting. They carried on with *Vieni Sul Mar/Come To The Sea*, a waltz. Next we headed out to Country & Western terrain, and heard a very enjoyable piece called *Bouquet Of Roses*, followed by *Down In The Valley*, another waltz. In a hint that October was coming soon, the Jam Band played *Du, du liegst mir im Herzen* (You're in my heart.) This is a German folk song. It became well-known outside of Germany via Marlene Dietrich and her famous sultry voice. Bob's Jam book is stuffed with easy versions of great tunes that the players take turns in selecting. *Du, du* was followed by *Ain't She Sweet* and *Baby Face*. They were both from the world of the 1920s, with its Charlestons and Flapper girls. After that, players selected *Bye Bye Love*, *Red Sails in The Sunset*, and *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*. Poignancy for days gone by is never far away! And the band carried the same theme on with *All Of Me*, *It's A Small World*, *Red River Valley*, and *Long Long Ago*. They finished up with three tunes that were a little more challenging: *Daisy Bell* (aka *A Bicycle Built for Two*), *My Blue Heaven* and *Moon River*. Thank you, Jam Band. We enjoy the spontaneity and player enthusiasm. It should inspire others to bring along their accordions and join in – not mentioning any names out loud, but you know who we're talking to!

There was a relatively short open mike session this month. Two players had requested slots. Misha Studenkov is young, a teenager, but he is truly talented accordion-wise. He played *Rosita Polka*, and when he played *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, he could tap the single notes "6 times a second"! Wow! Thank you for joining the club Misha. We cherish our younger members. And bring along as many of your friends as you can.



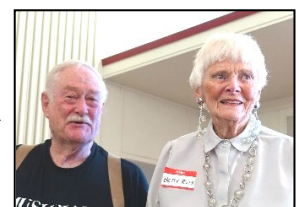
Misha

Next was Don Savant. Don invited Ed Massolo to join him for the first piece: *Toscano*. Subsequently, Ed explained that the composer of *Toscano* was Carl Fontina. Carl grew up in San Francisco, and was an avid accordion player. But he quickly found out that the "pickings were slim" for accordion players in SF. Looking around, he decided to head for Hollywood. Carl became the de facto head of music for Hollywood with Frank Marocco. His many compositions included themes for *StarTrek*, *The Motion Picture*, *Airplane*, *The Hunt for Red October*, ... The list goes on and on. Ed pointed out that, after Carl passed away in 1981, his estate was worth \$14 million! So you can become wealthy playing the accordion. But you need a good strategy. Then Don played the song called *You've Changed*, and another one called *Things Ain't What They Used To Be*, and ended with *Stardust*. This last one was one of the most recorded melodies of the 20th century, and probably Hoagy Carmichael's most famous tune (amongst several famous tunes by Carmichael.)

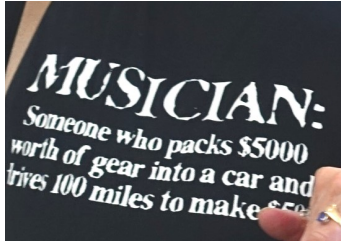


Ed Masollo joins Don Savant

Just before the break, Bill announced that there was a very special birthday this month. Betty Ruth would be 90 in just a few days. There were loud cheers and applause followed by a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday Betty Ruth."



Bill introduces Betty Ruth



Continued from page 4

Bill also showed us his special T shirt, with music and accordion messages on the front and back. Colette read out the one on the back. Somehow, it seemed that the Truccos applauded quite enthusiastically!

The raffle is described below. Once the break and the raffle were over, it was time for the featured performance. Steve and Mike Trucco are famous far and wide for their Val Taro style of playing, or Val Taro musette style. The style is typical of accordion music in northern Italy. But in New York City in the early 20th century, the style became named after a valley and small town on the river Taro. And the name has stuck. Steve has been a guest of the Valtarese Foundation in NY, which seeks to preserve and share this style. We were treated to a good example when the duo played *Blondie (Tuttie Mi Chiamano Bionda)*. There is a conventional way of playing this popular tune, and there is a peppier way which is faster, and has more runs and lead-ins. That is the Val Taro style. Mike and Steve hopped back and forth in and out of the Val Taro style. They began with *Tick Tock Polka*, then *Flight of the Angels*. Several Val Taro tunes: *Love Dream*, *Masquerade Polka* and *la Campagnola*. Then Colette asked them to play *Angelina*, and when they played it, Mike sang. Then they played an Italian waltz: *Carnival of Venice*. And when they played *It Had To Be You*, Mike sang that one too. Next came *The Rose of San Antone*, and *The Liechtensteiner Polka*. And when they played *All Of Me*, Mike sang that one too. We enjoyed hearing him sing. They took us to Italy by playing *That's Amore*, then to Ireland with *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*. Their finale was a stunning rendition of *Beer Barrel Polka*, and we all had a great time clapping to the rhythm! Oh, what a fun time!



Steve and Mike Trucco

The Raffle

During Break and Raffle-time, we enjoyed being treated to the very tasty food that Colette brought. YUMMY! And the raffle winners were Jean, who chose the wine, Marian chose the Tasty Nuts, Pam chose the wine, Frank chose the matched pair of chocolate bars, Behzad chose the very decorative light-switch panel, Scott chose Whitman's Sampler box of chocolates. (Did you know that the uber-fancy box that Apple (and copy cats) deliver cell phones in is modeled after the Whitman's Sampler box? It is a cardboard construction that gently closes itself when the top is released – this feature adds a touch of class to whatever is inside.) Marian won a second prize: a beautiful and artistic metal decoration to hang on a wall.



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:

September 8: Doors open at 1:00pm for setup.

1:30—2:55 Open mic—call Pam
 3:00—3:25 Break and raffle
 3:30—4:30 The Cantones (Rich Denier, Larry Denier, Dave Dally)

Oct 6: Mike Marotta, Dave Dally, Monterey International

Nov 3: Peter Di Bono Trio

Dec 1: Murl Sanders

SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers

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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.

IN MEMORIAM – LYNN EWING, a tribute from the San Francisco Accordion Club

It is with profound sadness that we must inform you that our dear friend and former SFAC President Lynn Ewing passed away suddenly on August 10th while in New Mexico with her husband, Gail, visiting their daughter. Lynn was in good health but had some known cardiac issues.

After her family and her church, probably nothing was more important to Lynn than her involvement with the accordion, whether it be as a young student starting at age 7 in San Diego or later as an accordion teacher. Lynn touched all who knew her over her decades of involvement with music and the accordion. She was a teacher and mentor to countless students, was a member of the Accordion Teachers Guild, the SFAC, and the Accordion Chamber Ensemble, and other organizations. Lynn loved to travel, sometimes with her accordion. Her involvement with the San Francisco Accordion Club went back to 1995, when she was invited to become a member by Frank Montoro. Lynn ultimately became president of the club and single-handedly guided it for many years, remaining as the go-to person even after she stepped down from being official president.

Lynn was one of those special people who lit up the room and touched so many lives! Please share your memories of Lynn with us, which will be included in a bound volume for presentation to her family. Many people will remember this: Lynn used to cheer up the December meetings with her playing and singing renditions of “Somebody snatched on me,” and “The Twelve Days of Vacation!”



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.

Continuing the series covering local accordion players ... This month, Paul Abersold, who particularly enjoys playing French music.

Paul Abersold and his wife Jean came to the Bay Area from Washington DC. He had the good fortune to run into a singer, Milena, in Palo Alto. They started playing at farmers' markets from time to time, but did not find a venue for regular French gigs. They thought about busking, and scouted around California Avenue in Palo Alto for a potential sidewalk location. To their surprise, the Italian restaurant Spalti was not open for Saturday brunch, and it was next door to the French cafe La Boheme, which has sidewalk tables. They introduced themselves to the owner, who was all for having live French music on the sidewalk next door during brunch. So now on Saturdays during the nice weather, you might find them busking as Les Deux L'Ouest, or find Paul busking solo. It's a great way to practice, and we even make a little tip money as well.



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**

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