

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

March 2020

**NO MEETING OF SVAS IN APRIL.
CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS**



Since the April meeting is cancelled, we have no Featured Performer announcement. Instead, here are a few incidental highlights of previous meetings—items we don't usually get to, but definitely should.

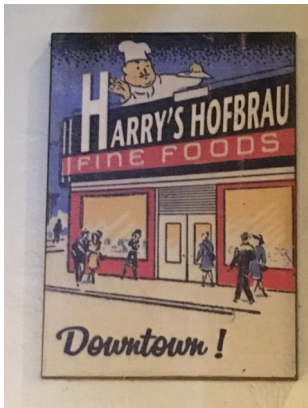
Rosemary Armanino puts the finishing touches to a table loaded with the tastiest treats. Rosemary also brings the tablecloths, plates, and sets up to make everything a wonderful experience.

It was Bill's 80th birthday, and here is one surprise for him.



Steve Truco and Marian Kelly—combined memberships probably approaching 50 years!

Hardly seems possible, but it has been more than a year since we departed Harry's Hofbrau.



Mike Zampiceni with a very young player

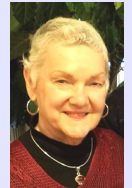


BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE: **NO MEETING IN APRIL!!** THE SPREAD OF THE NEW CORONA VIRUS STARTED THE BOARD DISCUSSING WHAT TO DO – AND WE'D PRETTY MUCH AGREED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL. THEN WE LEARNED THAT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH HAD CANCELLED MEETINGS AT ITS BUILDINGS. SO, SORRY FOLKS, BUT IT IS FOR ALL OF OUR SAKES.

To be quite frank, subsequent meetings after April are also up in the air. It all depends on how Covid-19 develops locally, and the corresponding rules and regulations to combat the spread. If Northern California becomes like Wuhan in China, or Northern Italy, or Korea, we may face widespread lockdowns for quite some time. We'll keep fingers crossed, and see what happens.

Daylight-savings time is upon us again, so I guess we're "on the other side of that" as my grand-dad used to say! The weather here has been enjoyable, but once again, we need (a lot of) rain!!

We enjoyed a most enjoyable program in March. **Marcia Coullahan** did the write-up: a big thanks Marcia. But I want to make a couple of comments. First off, in addition to the accordion music we were treated to an exceptional piano performance by our newest, and youngest, member **Misha Studenkov!** Misha played "Flight of the Bumblebee" with such professionalism and musicality it about took your breath away! What a talent! Also, we almost had a real "Italian Music" day, what with **Reno Di Bono** and his band as well as **Vic Corsiglia's group--starring Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, and Gloria Tapogna (and me, too!)**



Marcia, reporter in March

We really appreciate all of you who attended our meeting. However, our attendance has been dropping. Once the Corona crisis is past, and we resume the normal monthly schedule, I encourage everyone who can to attend our concerts. We do our best to provide quality entertainment!

Regarding my comments last month about "How do YOU practice?" Joe Domitrowich has informed me that he has written an article for the San Francisco Accordion Club, and hopefully we can persuade him to share that with us. He is planning on expanding on that article, as well. Nonetheless, we would really like to hear from you regarding your practice techniques!

That's all for now, Folks!

Stay Safe and Well! Bill

The monthly meetings wouldn't be possible without quite a band of volunteers. Gloria and Rosemary run the admissions desk. Bill, with occasional help from others, sets up and operates the sound system. Bob helps with everything linked to the church—the coffees, kitchen, And you, dear attendees, help clear out the chairs and tables at the end of the meeting. Many join in to get it done. Thank you!



Raffle tickets too?

The admissions desk just before the meeting starts

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE at SVASociety.org and visit us on Facebook
Watch Pam's Videos of SVAS meetings on YouTube at: [accordionpam](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)**

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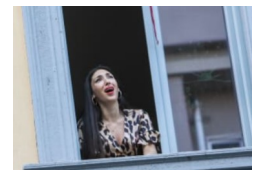
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Around the accordion world—Some of the latest happenings in the Accordion World.

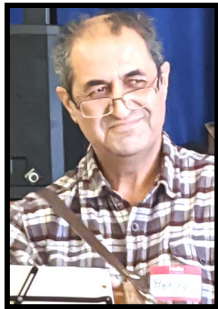
- Let's begin with a smile. You may have heard this one: A gentleman is someone who go to page 5
- Videos are available online of "flash choirs" in Italy. Many people, now confined to homes during the Corona crisis, join in singing and playing (including accordions) from balconies and windows, There are several heart-warming videos in this link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/14/coronavirus-lockdown-italians-are-singing-songs-from-balconies.html>
- Nothing to do with accordions per se. There have been previous widespread lockdowns in the face of devastating diseases. One such was a flair-up of the plague around 1665 in England. Cambridge University closed its doors, and sent everyone packing, including Isaac Newton. He returned to his family farm, and over the course of the next few months, developed the entire mathematics and physics that became known as the Calculus and Newton's Laws. They dominated science for more than 250 years. Amazing things may come from a chance to step back from the ordinary and ponder deeper questions.
- Bill's interesting question in his monthly letter is: how do you practice playing the accordion? Well in this day and age, ANY question can be googled. Often this turns up links that are (i) contradictory, (ii) obviously fake, (iii) include snide or irrelevant comments, ... But on the plus side, the consensus seem to be
 - Practice each hand separately and slowly until you can play each hand through 5 times slowly at the correct rhythm without a mistake.
 - Still going slowly, start playing both hands together. Keep doing this until you can play 5 times without mistakes, keeping the correct rhythm.
 - Now you can begin to pick up the pace. But you must preserve the correct rhythm.



But, what works for you?

Marcia's report on the Meeting of March 1st.

BILL LIKENS kicked off our March program proving that his Norwegian and German styles of playing could easily adapt to the songs of Ireland. We loved hearing three Irish reels. Bill plays the fast notes at a speed that only accomplished dancers could keep up, but we know it can be done. Bill has a unique back strap that really holds his accordion in position. Check it out! Later on, Bill told us that he purchased the back strap from Steirischer Harmonica. Read more in "Around the Accordion World" on page 5.



BEHZAD KIASAT entertained us by playing his Garmon. This instrument looks like a very, very small accordion. It has two and a half octaves of tiny piano keys and 8 buttons on the left. It is higher pitched than an accordion. Behzad has truly mastered this instrument. He can make vibrato tones and bellow shakes. Behzad mixed his tunes playing some home country themes and some songs more well known to us. He played the *Theme from Love Story*, an Azerbaijan Dance, and *For He's a Jolly Good Fellow*, which is also the same tune as *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*. This was a unique and enjoyable experience

MISHA STUDENKOV plays in the Sunday Seven Band, and the Happy Days Band. He also played solo accordion last month and we were impressed. This month Misha treated us by playing his first instrument, piano. He played, *I Thought About You* which he played jazz style. Misha plays in his high school jazz band and truly has a gift for jazz. His second piece was *Flight of the Bumblebee* which could not have been played better. This reporter sat four feet from him and just couldn't believe how fast and how accurately his fingers could fly. Misha has 10 years of piano lessons under his belt, but it sounds more like 20, even though not possible!



DON SAVANT We mellowed out with Don's easy listening style playing *Heat of the Night.* Don plays with so much expression. I heard his wife, Mary, tell him not to play with his eyes closed. It might be over the top. Don also played *The Summer Knows* from the movie *Summer of 42*. His bellows add so much drama.

WAYNE LAVENGOOD is another player who has the ability to play with great ease. His Excelsior weighs 40 pounds, but when he plays, it appears to be effortless. Wayne played "Don't Take Your Love From Me", "Unforgettable", and "Strangers in the Night". On this song he demonstrated how quietly his Excelsior could be played, then finished by building up with a great ending showing it's high volume. A bit more than on my 13 pound Weltmeister!



THE CORSIGLIAS AND THE TAPOGNAS chose to play music from Italy in honor of St. Joseph's Day which falls two days after St. Patrick's Day. It's rumored that this foursome do not believe St. Patrick really chased the snakes out of Ireland. They played a variety of Italian tunes, some new to us, others very familiar, including *Amore, Amore, Amore, Funiculi Funicula*, and *Godfather Waltz*.

(Continued from page 4)

We waited for something sinister to happen during the Godfather, but we were safe. On some songs, *Godfather Waltz* and *O Marenariello* Vic played his mandolin which was a nice addition. We were also treated to that booming, confident voice. Barbara does a beautiful job of keeping everyone together with her bass (always on time.) The group played, *Mala Femmina* (= *Bad Woman*.) We could hear the hips moving from side to side. Gloria's mic was perfect - we could hear you coming through nicely. Bill, as always, played well and did not need amplification.

RENO DI BONO TRIO with BOB RIZETTO and OLAF SCHIAPPACASI have played together for years. They ARE together. Bob and Olaf know where Reno is going at all times. They played a wide variety of tunes, waltzes, polkas, tangos, and even a march. *St. Louis Blues* was played as a jazz march. They played familiar songs, *Marina*, *Beer Barrel Polka*, *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *Granada*, *Tico Tico*, and *Twilight Time*. A song that was not so familiar, but very enjoyable was *Motorcycle Polka*. Reno uses no sheet music or notes and moves very easily from one song to another. He sang many of the Italian songs which he does so well. Reno provided a little history and formats that were used throughout the years. An example is Hotel type music was usually used to start a program, including works by Porter, Berlin, & Gershwin. The Reno Di Bono Trio put on a lively performance that we could have listened to for hours.



Around the accordion world—Some of the latest happenings in the Accordion World.

- *Continued from page 3* .. (gentleman is).. someone who knows how to play an accordion, but doesn't.
- Bill Likens told us about this item. There is a small business named Strings and Boxes in a village near Munich in Germany. It is an amazing source of all kinds of parts and gear for accordions and repair. And it sells the Kraxler Steirischer Harmonika strap system that Bill uses. A source to keep in mind if you are looking for an obscure part, or service?

https://www.stringsandboxes.de/epages/es117831.sf/de_DE/?ObjectPath=/Shops/es117831_stringsandboxes/Products/KX-SYT1

Did you miss a meeting performance? You can view some on YouTube. To see Pam's videos from past meetings: Go to youtube.com, and type in "accordionpam" in the search field (next to the magnifying glass.)

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 Di Bono: 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:

April 5: As noted: NO MEETING

May 3: This meeting is NOT certain.
 But if it is on, we plan the annual
 Festival Day—SVAS players

June 7: Lou Jacklich and Colette Ogata

July 12: Richard Noel. Note this is the
 2nd Sunday of the month, because of the July 4th Holiday.

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 and private events in Davis, CA. 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.

Napa Valley Accordion Club meets the 2nd 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.

Humboldt Accordion Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 PM., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551.

The Sacramento Accordion Club has just dissolved. Former members are encouraged to transfer to the Granite Bay, and Napa clubs.

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 Ken Schwartz Kenneth.e.schwartz@gmail.com

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 Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

The Raffle

Thanks again, Gloria, for lining up another tempting selection for the raffle. In the photos this month, we have tried to show the prizes chosen by the winners: in fact, wine is the hands down winner!

Mei chose a bottle of Barefoot Pinot Noir. Then Pam took the bottle of Aussie cab. Later on, she chose a can of nuts when her Mom, Frances, won a prize. Next was Rosemary, who brought almost the whole table of goodies. She selected the Yellow Tail Chardonnay —a French sounding wine from Australia. It's definitely a global world nowadays. Wayne, who played beautifully for us, chose the rosé: White Zinfandel. Now we were down to three remaining prizes. Bernie and John both chose the boxes of chocolates from Russell Stover. And the last remaining prize was the bag of pecan halves. Dick was somewhat embarrassed by his forced "choice," but Rosemary gave the secret away!



Birthday: Astor Piazzola. Born March 11, 1921

Astor Piazzola was one of the musical giants of the 20th century. He was born in Mar del Plata, Argentina and died July 4, 1992 in Buenos Aires. As his fame spread, he moved around, and lived for several years in Italy, mainly Rome. He was heavily influenced by the tango rhythms of Argentina. His musical legacy featured many compositions for the bandoneon on which he was a virtuoso player, but also guitar, and some orchestral pieces. He was a prolific composer: biographies credit him with some 3,000 compositions. He also founded the musical style known as nuevo tango. His legacy includes three accordion pieces in particular that are evergreen favorites: *Libertango*, *Oblivion*, *Chiquilin de Bachin*. Even if you don't recall the title of these pieces, their style is unmistakably Piazzola.



in

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

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**Silicon Valley Accordion Society meets first Sunday of each month, at
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Doors open at 1:00. \$5 for members, \$10 for non members, 16 years and under free.**

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