

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

July 2019

**SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday August 4th at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos (Driving instructions on page 7)**

## *Steve and Mike Trucco -*

This father and son duo from Stockton, in the heart of the Central Valley of California, has been playing together for over 30 years.

Steve Trucco began taking lessons in 1949 at the age of 10. Steve began his professional career 69 years ago with a small four-piece group in the Stockton area. Today, Steve, 80 years young and happily married to Judy Burke-Trucco, still loves to play music and is available for weddings, parties or wherever they will let him play.

Steve's son Michael began his professional career in his father's group playing at weddings and dances throughout the valley. After college he returned to Stockton and continued the family tradition. Michael now 43, balances his time between his father's band and playing keyboard for the Long Time band. This group pays tribute to the legendary rock band Boston.



Mike is the proud father of two beautiful girls, Chloe and Eva and is devoted to his fiancée Lisa Mills.

In October of 2016 Steve had the honor of playing the old Northern Italian Style music in Tre Fontane, Italy. Together, Steve and Michael play mostly Italian waltzes and polkas, mixing in a few standards from the 40's and 50's, where Michael handles the vocals. They have played at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, and the Italian Festival at the El Dorado in Reno. Their many other appearances include Cotati, the Lodi Grape Festival, several northern California accordion clubs, the Valtarese Foundation Scholarship Dinner in New York, and the Victory Park Concert Series every year since its inception.

Their unique style of playing duets has been honed to almost an art form. Even though they are two separate accordionists, when they play together, they seem to meld into a single accordionist. Maybe being father and son has something to do with that.

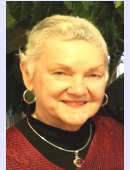
**There is a Jam Band session in August, beginning at 1:30. Bob Stanfield will lead, and provide his music books. Please bring along your accordion and music stand and join in. Everyone takes turns in calling out the next tune. It is always a wonderful event!**



**Bill Tapogna—President's Message**  
President/Master of Ceremonies and Patriot

And summer is in full bloom (pollen and all!) 2019 is half over already! (166 shopping days 'til Christmas, if that helps!)

In spite of summer vacations and our meeting being on the last day of the 4-day Independence Day holiday weekend, we had a really nice turnout for our July 7 concert with **Gordon Kohl**. We thank everyone who came. **Marcia Coullahan** is doing this month's write-up, so she'll tell you all about our very enjoyable afternoon in her section of the newsletter.



*Marcia Coullahan,  
Reporter*

And speaking of Marcia, we want to thank her and her truly energetic supporter, husband Bernie, for chauffeuring our guest artist Gordon Kohl to and from the airport! Thanks to you for doing that!

And speaking of Gordon Kohl, he became our newest SVAS member! Welcome, Gordon.

A special thanks to **Rosemary Miceli** who "manned" the welcome table. She really can multi-task, taking entrance fees, memberships and selling raffle tickets--all by herself while **Gloria Tapogna**, who usually assists in this endeavor, was engaged in playing her Recorder in **Bob Stanfield's "Sunday-7" band**. Thanks, Rosemary!!



*Rosemary & Gloria*

SVAS encourages all players, of all levels, to join in during "Open-Play" time. It is a great way for less-experienced players to "get their light out from under the bushel-basket" and become more at ease playing in front of an audience. It is always challenging to play in front of a group, especially when you know that there are several accomplished musicians in the group. However, each one of those "accomplished musicians" started out as beginners and experienced the same "butterflies" when they first played before an audience. And many still do! **JUST DO IT!! And next month, there is another Jam Band session, an even easier way to start public appearances!**

Our new sound system seems to be working well. Yours truly, Lou Buonomo and Scott Williamson spent quite a bit of time selecting the system. I'm glad it is working well (although we still have to adjust the base down when someone is speaking into a mike.) The great acoustics in the Church hall are most helpful as well. Again, thanks to Bob Stanfield for arranging the use of the facilities.

We look forward to seeing you all for our August concert, featuring **Steve and Mike Trucco**, among our most favorite performers! See you then!

That's All, Folks! Bill Tapogna

### **ACCORDION FESTIVALS:**

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. We have discounted tickets for sale. \$15 for a one day ticket and \$25 for a two day ticket. You can get them at the August meeting, or, contact Bob Stanfield at (650) 888-3701. For more about the Festival, including the program, check out <https://cotatifest.com/> and page 7.

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 all be found at <http://www.accordionstars.com/Home.aspx>, or by calling 801.486.1695.

Accordion getting heavy?  
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### Report on the June Meeting, Marcia Coullahan

The meeting began with a performance by the "Sunday Seven," all in new red band shirts. Bob Stanfield, Bill Tapogna, and Scott Williamson played accordions, Gloria Tapogna accompanied on the recorder. Scott Barta played base guitar, and Scott Stanfield accompanied on his bongos. There were only 6 Sunday Seven players this time. Vic and Barbara Corsiglia were out of town attending a music camp for guitar and mandolin players. The Sunday Seven normally has 8 players. Someone needs a refresher in Arithmetic 101! July being a special month to wave the red, white, and blue, we did so. The "Sunday Seven" jumped right in, playing our patriotic songs with great gusto. But it was a pleasant combo. A Military Medley included the armed service song for each branch: *The Caissons Go Rolling Along* for the Army, *Anchors Aweigh* for the Navy, *The Marines Hymn* for the Marines, *The Air Force Song* for the Air Force, and *Semper Paratus* for the Coast Guard. Those who served in the armed forces stood when it was their tune being played. We were also treated to some fine country & western songs and a unique medley containing real upbeat tunes. It's amazing how *Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* can fit together with *Hot Time in the Old Time Tonight*. They played *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* and we all agreed with Scott Stanfield that this should be in honor of the American Women winning the World Cup. Finally, we were treated to and sang along with our most patriotic songs to complete this part of the program: *America the Beautiful* and *God Bless America*.



The Sunday Seven



Mei Lu

Mei Lu with that winning smile, played *Around the World*. Mei keeps getting better and better. She also played *I Have Only One Heart*, and *By the Sea*. Still being part of the non-retired class, Mei gives up her lunch hour (and more) every week to take her lesson. That's dedication!

Reno DiBono treated us to his easy listening style and played *Marenariello* (By the Sea.) He also played *Polka Rosalie* and *Por Una Cabeza*, a famous Latin tango. The lyrics are sung by a hopeless case: his life is a wreck because of two compulsions: horse racing and the ladies. Reno finished with a lively Klezmer piece, *Bei Mir Bistu Shein*. Reno plays at the "Tre Monti" Italian restaurant after our meeting. It is located on Main St. in Los Altos, only three miles away.



Reno DiBono



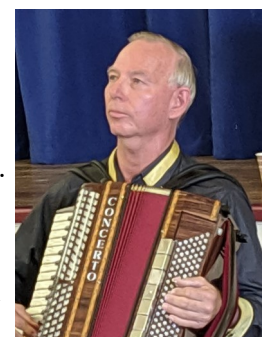
Ken Schwartz

Ken Schwartz, a Board Member of the San Francisco Accordion Club did a terrific job. He started with *The Jolly Caballero* by Pietro Frosini, all by memory. As he played, he slowly increased the speed. This quite often happens accidentally, but it is not easy to do in a steady, controlled manner! He also played *Czardas*. This is a gypsy dance, a classic violin + piano piece. Ken played it with great dexterity. Great performance Ken! We look forward to hearing you on a regular basis.

Our headliner, Gordon Kohl is truly an accomplished musician. Gordon has played for over 45 years. He has an interest and demonstrated that he can play all types of music. He was exposed to ethnic varieties at an early age, and regional music around the U.S. Gordon has a band and is very busy playing gigs that often last up to five hours. He said it was truly a pleasure to see professional ballroom dancers dance to his music.

Gordon played a Concerto digital accordion. This is his instrument of choice, although he is equally proficient with acoustic accordions.

Continued on page 5



Gordon, with his Concerto accordion

*Continued from page 4*

In his view, the next generation of players seem to be more interested in the greatly increased versatility of the electronic instrument. Gordon certainly demonstrated that by changing “voice” within a melody from an accordion to a xylophone, to a guitar, to a piano... There were none of the distracting pauses that sometimes occur when a player searches around for the right button to make changes.

He began with *The Tango Waltz* which is written in three quarter time, but is a tango. He played musettes, polkas, waltzes, and songs we all know and love, examples being *Granada*, *Under Paris Skies*, *La Vie en Rose*, *Somewhere My Love* and *Margaritaville*. At one point in his performance Gordon switched to country western tunes which pleased our cowboys. Gordon played many songs with familiar words, *I Can't Stop Loving You*, *Can I Have This Dance*, and *Help Me Make it Through The Night*.

Gordon's main interest is teaching. He has his own music school. Here is a Gordon tip!!! Some songs should be played “simple”. Single notes can say it all, just think of “Taps.”

He gave us a schedule for memorizing:

**KNOW AND PRACTICE YOUR SCALES REGULARLY!**

Visualize.

Think, Get your timing, What patterns do you see? Broken scales, triplets, etc.

Work out fingering.

Listen to what you are playing. [Ed note: You can also use video on your phone's camera. It captures sound. Play the video back to hear yourself. Forget the image. Don't get depressed!]

Review.

Memorize small parts at a time.

Gordon finished his program with a fabulous medley of patriotic songs. He commented that throughout his career he played frequently for military personnel.



Thanks Gordon and all others who helped make a delightful afternoon of music. And thanks, Gordon, for becoming a member.

**The Raffle**



President Bill provided an even finer selection of prizes. Gloria and Rosemary ran the raffle table, and made sure everyone was able to select the prize they wanted (from the prizes remaining!) Bernie for the second month in a row, went straight for the Aussie red wine. Arcie preferred a rosé. George also took an Aussie red. Mei and You chose the chardonnay. Colette chose the mixed nuts. Ken and Jane took the scented soap.



Gloria won the big tub of iced cookies. And Paul and Jean won the last prize—the ginormous chocolate bar. Thanks to all the prize winners and everyone else who bought tickets. The proceeds help to keep us afloat..

**ACCORDION TEACHERS:**

Peter Di Bono: San Francisco,  
(415) 699-8674  
Reno DiBono: Lessons at Cupertino Senior Center every Tuesday, 1:30pm  
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,

**Coming Events at SVAS:****August: Doors open at 1:00pm for setup.**

1:30—2:30 Jam Band led by Bob Stanfield  
2:30—2:55 Open mic—call Pam  
3:00—3:25 Break and raffle  
3:30—4:30 Mike and Steve Trucco  
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**Sept: The Cantones (Rich Denier, Larry Denier, Dave Dally)****Oct: Mike Marotta, Dave Dally, Monterey International****Nov: Peter Di Bono Trio****SVAS BOARD of Directors / Officers****PRESIDENT:** BILL TAPOGNA,  
408 984-5290**VICE PRESIDENT:****SECRETARY/TREASURER:** BOB STANFIELD,  
650 888-3701**PROGRAM SCHEDULE:** PAM KAWASHIMA  
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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).**Pam Tom**—Plays at Farmers Market, Davis, every Sat. For private events, contact [accordionpam@gmail.com](mailto: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)** 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—A collection of local and world-wide items that involve the accordion.*



Pam Tom at Farmers Market in Davis, with Weltmeister Rainbow accordion.

- With the warm weather, and the steady growth in outdoor tables at many restaurants, accordion players are back in demand to provide live entertainment. We will try to mention these in the coming months. This month, here is Pam Tom, playing at the Farmer's Market in Davis. Pam has several playing engagements, but many people see her here as they scurry around collecting brussel sprouts, etc. at the Farmer's market. She has been playing here for several years. Follow-on assignments have come from listeners who first heard her at the Farmer's Market. She has noticed some interesting correlations between music style and tips. Fast-paced and ethnic music, such as French, Italian, Latin, .. and Beatles music, draw in a crowd of listeners and bring in the tips. But patriotic music, even on the Fourth of July week—forget it! By the way, the very compact accordion, with color-matched keys and bellow plaits is a Weltmeister "Rainbow," one of several colorful instruments in this line.

- If you are in Cotati the evening before the Festival starts, don't miss the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Benefit Concert for Student Accordionists at the Redwood Café (8240 Old Redwood City Highway). This takes place the evening before the Festival: August 16 at 4:30pm. The proceeds from the \$5 suggested donation go to student scholarships. You will recognize several familiar faces in the poster for this event!

**Paul Betken; Reno Di Bono; Lou Jacklich and Colette Ogata; Frank Lima** (AKA the Great Morgani); and, **Sheri Mignano Crawford** of Due Zhigi Baci (Two Gypsy Kisses with **Michael Van Why**, tenor).

The associated Student Stage competition takes place 9:30 AM on Saturday morning, August 17 in the Social Hall of the Church of the Oaks (175 Page St.), a few hundred yards from the South entrance to the Accordion Festival. Admission is free. Sheri Mignano has been the Student Stage Coordinator for many years, and continues to support this event.



- Finally, on a sad note, many of our regular members will remember Dr. Max Tarmann. Max passed away on July 16 at age 89. Until a couple of years ago, Max dressed up in full lederhosen kit and played for us every October. He was a real accordion enthusiast. There is a account of his life in SFGate: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?n=max-tarmann&pid=193429298&fhid=2154>

**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 into the driveway and to top of hill for parking.

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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**Silicon Valley Accordion Society meets first Sunday of each month, at  
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