

Newsletter of the
Silicon Valley Accordion Society

May 2023

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday June 4th
At Christ Episcopal Church
1040 Border Road, Los Altos
Featuring Lou Di Maggio Accordion Player and Teacher



Lou is from an Italian family, and is related to the famous Joe DiMaggio, the baseball player.

Lou played a little baseball when he was young, but he tended to lean towards playing the accordion.

After a few lessons, Lou wanted to quit because his attention span for practicing just was not there. His mother, (after spending her hard-earned money), insisted on making Lou practice every day. She would listen to him practice, and when he made a mistake, she would bang on the door and tell him to play it over until he got it down without a mistake.

It was Lou's mom that was his motivator, and Lou gives all the credit to his mom for being so persistent and giving him the chance to be part of the accordion world.

Lou soon began playing in a group and solo at his relative's homes, then for Italian weddings and school dances. He then began competing in talent contests around his area and did very well for himself. The solo playing got him into big city competition and soon he hit the big time.

Horace Heidt Youth Opportunity Program became very popular on radio, starring Dick Contino on accordion. That program was Lou's goal to compete in. When Dick Contino left the Horace Heidt Show, it opened an opportunity for Lou to compete. This competition led to other opportunities performing with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Roy Rodgers, Roberta Linn, Edgar Bergen, The Three Suns, and several U.S.O. shows during the war.

After his professional entertaining career, Lou married, settled down and had children. Lou then started his teaching career. He now is interested in passing on some of his experience to other aspiring accordion players. His philosophy is you are never too young or too old to learn this magnificent instrument.

Hello Accordion Friends -

What a fun meeting on Sunday with Bob Stanfield's Sunday Seven Band. It was so nice to be able to sing along with the group and hear familiar tunes we all love. We even had the pleasure of Bob singing for us! What a treat! Who knew he could belt out a few notes in addition to his talent on the accordion! Great day, Sunday Seven...Thank you for sharing your love.

Thank you, Bill Likens, for your help with the mic system and for taking the equipment home for our club and for playing for us. Thank you, SVAS Board for taking care of the club snacks, videos, photos, raffles and thank you all for helping to set up and tear down chairs. It takes a lot to have meetings, and the more assistance we can get makes it easier for us all to carry on.

Recently, one of our club members, Michael Sanossian passed away back in December. His daughter brought over 10 boxes of accordion music to our club member, Barbara Winters. Barbara would like to invite our accordion club members to come to her home and go through the boxes and take any of the music you like. She said Michael would be happy to know his music went to those who love accordion and will use it. Please contact me at colette.ogata@gmail.com, and I will be happy to forward you her phone number. Thank you.

Colette Ogata, President

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Gloria and Rosemary
SVAS Greeters

Raffle Winners



Today's meeting was so much fun! We had, of course, our volunteers play for us, and our Bob Stanfield's Sunday Seven Band. They had such a fun program lined up for us with some popular music, duets, oldies, sing-alongs, as well as German and Norwegian music.



We started our meeting with Rudy Pivk, who played a Polka and a few upbeat ethnic songs that were so pleasing to the ear. Rudy played them on a BEAUTIFUL Hohner Gola accordion, which has such a lovely sound of its own. Always love to hear you play.

Next up we had Bill Likens, who honored us with great French music from his Petosa 1050 Leggera. He played La Valse d'Amélie, La Noyee, La Valse des Mostres. All of Bill's first songs were from the French movie "Amélie" and were written by Yvan Tierson. Bill finished with a Finnish Polka called Levan Polkka (Savitaipaleen Polkka), AKA Finnish Polka. Again, I can't say enough about our club's wide variety of music from many cultures. Goes to show how versatile our accordion is. Thank you, Bill L.



Reno Di Bono played for us next. Reno, we absolutely loved your rendition of When you Wish Upon a Star. Reno also played Barcarolle from the Tales of Hoffmann, Oh Marie, A Billy Joel song from 1977 Just the Way you Are, Trieste Overture by Pietro Deiro of 1915. Reno played La Paloma as well for which I found out that song originated around 1863 by Sebastian Iradier, Spain? That is an old song, and it is still so beautiful today. Thank you, Reno, for making our day brighter with your special chord arrangements that tickle our ears.

We had about 30 people here at the club by the time we had our break, it was so good to see everyone.

After the break, The Sunday Seven Band played for us. Bob's band was so lively. We all loved being able to sing along. Some of the songs they played are as follows:

Never on Sunday, Have I Told You Lately That I Love You, The Entertainer. Bob sang the song Before the Next Teardrop Falls, and it was very nice. Our beloved Tseli Wu played a beautiful solo, Tanzende Finger. Other popular songs were When the Saints go Marching In, and everyone sang along with Take me out to the Ball Game! Vic and Scott played a duet Peacherine Rag, and Birgit sang Du, Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen. Scott sang another solo City of New Orleans. After a few more songs, Bill Likens joined the band and sang Aus Bohmen Kommt Die Musik and Die Fischerin vol Bodensee. In all, there were about 18 songs played by The Sunday Seven Band, all were well rehearsed and very well played.



The Sunday Seven Band currently plays at the First Friday events in downtown Los Altos each month. Go down, have dinner in town and stop by and listen for a bit. Spring and summer months are much warmer, and it would be great to have music in your heart. The current members are Bob Stanfield (accordion), Barbara Corsiglia (bass), Vic Corsiglia (accordion), Scott Barta (guitar and bass), Tseli Wu (accordion), and Birgit Calhoun (recorder).

Colette Ogata, Reporter

Annual SF Italian Street Fair Hosts Accordion Festival



The San Francisco Italian Athletic Club Foundation is sponsoring the “Festa Coloniale Italiana” Street Fair and the 102nd Statuto Race during June 3-4, 2023 in North Beach (on Stockton St., between Union and Filbert). A new Festival, “Symphony of Accordions” will be launched on June 4! The **FREE** two-day Fest Street Fair celebrates Italian food, drink, music, culture, family fun and the Statuto Race.

“Symphony of Accordions” Festival - A San Francisco First! June 4

- 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Mike Trucco Band
- 12:10 - 12:30 p.m. Tatiana Semichastnaya
- 12:45 - 1:30 p.m. Ron Borelli Group
- 1:45 - 2:30 p.m. IL Sole featuring Steve Albini
- 2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Accordion play and sing-along: “That’s Amore”
- 3:15 - 4:00 p.m. Bella Ciao featuring Tom Torriglia

For more Festa and Statuto Race information, visit: www.sfiacfoundation.com/festa-coloniale-italiana

Alpine Sound, Silicon Valley’s German Music Band

Our very own SVAS member, Bill Likens, with his band, Alpine Sound, plays at Esther’s Bakery, Los Altos, and around the Silicon Valley area! When you are in need of your German Music fix, log on to their website to find out when and where they are playing next!! Lots of fun! <https://alpinesound.net>

Webpage: <https://folkaccordion.webs.com/musikantenstammtisch.htm>

FREE LESSONS FOR ACCORDION

ZOOM LESSON EACH SUNDAY AT 11AM TO 11:30...NOW LEARNING “AH MARIE”, ITALIAN STYLE

SEND YOUR EMAIL TO reno.dibono@gmail.com AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED

FREE LECTURES AMERICAN HISTORY FOR HISTORY LOVERS

TAUGHT ONCE PER MONTH ON LAST TUESDAY (12 TO 1 PM)

Seen on Google Greet

NEXT LECTURE IS MAY 28TH “ CIVIL WAR POSTSCRIPTS” HOW DID LIFE TURN OUT FOR CIVIL WAR V.I.Ps? Robt E Lee, Jeff Davis, Julia Ward Howe, George A Custer, George Pickett, Mary todd Lincoln, US Grant, Wm T Sherman, Civil war Vets, Andrew Johnson, Dan Sickles

Send your email to reno.dibono@gmail.com

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Other Accordion Happenings

2023 Rose City Accordion Club's
24th Accordion Camp
June 4-9, 2023

Website: collins.gocamping.org
Leavenworth, WA, International Accordion Celebration
June 22-25, 2023

Website: Accordioncelebration.org



La Plaza Park
August 19th & 20th,
2023
Cotati, California

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Silicon Valley Accordion
Society
PO Box 1513
Los Altos, CA 94023

To: