

NEWSLETTER OF THE

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

November 2013

SVAS NEXT MEETING:

December 1, 2013 at Harry's Hofbrau



## ABSOLUT ACCORD

**AbsolutAccord**, an accordion ensemble based in the San Francisco area, will be featured at the SVAS Meeting on December 2, 2012.

Accordionist Richard Yaus founded the group eleven years ago and uses many of his teacher's arrangements. Born in Germany, he began to play the accordion at the age of six. Richard Yaus studied with the German accordion virtuoso, Georg Schwenk, while winning music competitions in the solo, duo and orchestra categories during the 1980's and 90's.

Richard attended conducting classes held at the conservatory in Munich and in Trossingen, led his own accordion orchestra, played accordion parts in opera and musical theater in and around Munich, and later joined his teacher's accordion ensemble and orchestra. Richard recently performed music by Astor Piazzolla as part of the chamber music series with the Palo Alto Philharmonic, and with the Redwood Symphony in Shostakovich's Suite for Variety Orchestra.

AbsolutAccord has been recognized as an unusual and rare musical treat and consists of seven accordionists: Lynn Ewing, Norma Zonay-Parsons, Randall Hicks, Marian Kelly, Joe Simoni, David Perry and Richard Yaus. AbsolutAccord's repertoire includes jazz standards, French, Italian, and Russian music, tangos, and classical music.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE at [SVASociety.org](http://SVASociety.org) and visit us on Facebook

**Presidents Message:**

What a hoot Oktoberfest was this year. I believe we all had fun and were played out in the end, with the exception of William. He never gets played out. We all love our William but I don't know where he gets the energy from, he will play until the cows come home. SVAS Bands and Individuals played for two days; a total of fifteen hours of play time. It was simply great.

November was a great meeting with lots of good accordion music. Marybarbara is our Reporter this month and I'll let her write about it. A special Thanks to Pamela for her November photos - Ken

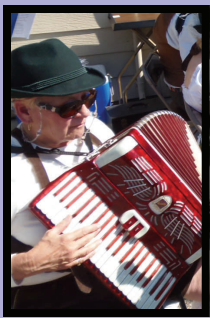
On this beautiful Sunday afternoon we were off to a rousing start beginning with the music of The Happy Days Band. Members include Ken Caple, Hubert Kallabis, Dick Siudzinski, William De Michelis, and Andriy Shegera. Andriy, by the way, plays a Chromatic accordion, is new to SVAS, coming from Ukraine with his wife. Rumor has it that Andriy and his wife, who both sing, will be performing at one of our upcoming meetings. It was no surprise to anyone that the band began it's repertoire with "Happy Days are Here Again". Today, that song is probably best remembered as the campaign song for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's successful 1932 presidential campaign. According to TIME magazine, it gained prominence after a spontaneous decision by Roosevelt's advisers to play it at the 1932 Democratic National Convention, and went on to become the Democratic's "unofficial theme song for years to come". The song is also associated with the repeal of Prohibition, which occurred shortly after Roosevelt's election. The band went on to play a variety of polkas and waltzes that were featured in their performance at this year's Campbell Oktoberfest. This reporter heard audience member, George, singing along to many of the songs and in fact, was the winner of a bottle of Promiscuous wine when he correctly identified one of the "secret songs" the band played as "Happiness is the Life of a Gypsy". Later in their program Gloria Topagna identified Die Lorelei as the correct answer and also scored a bottle of Promiscuous wine.

Bill, a man of 'not-so-few-words', and an admirer of Johnny Cash, dressed in black for the occasion and introduced several accordion enthusiasts who were first-timers at an SVAS meeting. We welcomed Elaine, who was originally from Milwaukee, brought her childhood accordion to display. Lou, also a newcomer brought a public address system for interested audience members to consider purchasing. Other newcomers included Zoey from Stockton and Annette. A family who were impressed by the bands that performed at the Oktoberfest and who had received a personal invitation from Sue Douglas also came to hear more great music.

Ivan introduced the dynamic and oh-so-talented duet of William De Michelis and Dick Siudzinski as our first half entertainers. Old favorites such as "Nevertheless (I'm in Love with You)", "Elmer's Tune", "Margie", "Good Night Irene", "Hoop-Dee-Doo", and "Darktown Strutters' Ball" were the theme of their performance. They also included "Cruising Down the River" which was written by two middle-aged women who wrote the song to win a British song-writing contest in 1945!



Ken Caple, President



Marybarbara Zorio,  
SVAS November  
Reporter



Bill Tapogna  
Master of Ceremonies



Happy Days Band with Ken Caple, Hubert Kallabis, Andriy Shegera, Dick Siudzinski and William De Michelis



Dick Siudzinski and William De Michelis

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OKTOBERFEST 2013, Downtown Campbell, CA



Scott Stanfield and Bill Tapogna as well as Bob Stanfield were crowd controlling on and off all Day



Delightfully German Gloria Tapogna



Happy Days Band



William De Michelis Entertainer Extrordinaire



Hubert Kallabis



Dick Siudzinski

**Oktoberfest 2013** was our best year ever. We had a great location on the corner of First St. and Campbell Ave. We had thousands of people walking by and listening both days. The weather was perfect. The crowd was fun, it could not have been better.

The days were started with William DeMichelis, Hubert Kallabis and Doris Sprugasi playing as singles and groups. The "Happy Days Band" was the starter band for the day. Followed by the "Sunday Seven" and the "Jamboree Bands". Each Band played twice per day with 15 minute breaks for stage change over.

**Invite a friend to our next meeting !**