



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

JULY-AUGUST 2014



JULY 9-13, 2014

AAA Festival

Double Tree Hotel – Reservation: AAF
455 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York

AUGUST 1-3, 2014

Master Class & Concert Series

The Everyday Accordion
Ordinary x Proper = Radiant
Tenri Cultural Center
43A W 13th Street
between 5th & 6th Ave.
New York, NY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Celebrating the Music of the Valtaro

Guest Frank Toscano
Riccardo's by the Bridge
2101 245th Avenue
Astoria (Queens), NY
12 noon to 5 pm
Dinner and Dancing

From the Editor

Welcome to the July 2014 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

The accordion world is blessed to play host to a variety of activities this summer, with our own American Accordionists' Association festival in Tarrytown, NY from July 9-13 playing center stage for our organization. It promises to be a wonderful festival with outstanding guest artists and a variety of informative workshop presentations.

The accordion world was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend, esteemed colleague and AAA President Emerita, Faithe Deffner on June 3rd. A celebration of her life will be held at the conclusion of the upcoming AAA Festival. More information is contained within this Newsletter. We also offer our sincerest condolences to our AAA Board of Director Eddie Monteiro, on the loss of his wife of 42 years, Celeste, who sadly passed away on June 12th, 2014.

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. Items for the September Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word .doc (not docx) attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the September Newsletter will be August 15, 2014.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming festival in Tarrytown.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Faithe Deffner (1931 - 2014)

Faithe Deffner, 83, of East Williston, NY, and Boynton Beach, FL, born in Worcester, Massachusetts on March 17, 1931; deceased June 3, 2014, in Florida. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Yale Weisblatt, and husband, Ernest Deffner. She is survived by her daughter, Verne Deffner Leven Uvezian, sister-in-law, Florence Weisblatt, nephew, Gary Weisblatt, nieces Wendy Warwick and Terry Gross, and friend of long-standing, Angelica Bargou. Private burial services were held Friday, June 6, at Beth Israel Memorial Chapel in Boynton Beach, FL. Interment was at Beth David Cemetery in Hollywood, FL.

Faithe Deffner's life was marked by the brilliance of her accomplishments in manifold directions that improved the accordion industry and its popularity, as enabled by her profound intelligence. Despite gender prejudices and jealousies, she rose to world prominence as influential spokesperson on behalf of the instrument family and its players, was known for manufacture of fine accordions and ethical business acumen, was respected for her eloquence and her breadth of insights. With legendary foresight, she strove ceaselessly to enhance the social impact of her industry. With unstinting energy, often against personal interests, she gave of herself in associations that shared her ideals. She was a whole and integrated personality, able to unite life-experiences into the goal-filled path that mention of her name elicits.

Only summarized here, details of her life and work can be found in 15,000 citations on the internet, most notably at www.accordions.com/fdeffner.

Faithe was introduced to music in an Orthodox Jewish family that supported youthful violin studies. Later, she studied accordion with Billy Costa and accordion construction as a by-product of opportunity. Decades later, in 1978, she supplemented her experiences by joining with Lindy Baumgarten, past president of Canadian Accordion Teachers' Association, to form their New York studio called Keyboard Study Centers. Their students won many top awards in national competitions. Faithe's incredible intellect absorbed evaluative criteria that positioned her among the driving forces of the American Accordionists' Association and Accordion Teachers Guild.



Her education in journalism and advertising at University of Missouri School of Journalism lead to formation of her own advertising company in Manhattan which lead to her work for the Ernest Deffner Company, established in 1934 as distributor of multifarious musical instruments. She became acquainted with accordions and eventually influenced the company to focus exclusively on the accordion industry. A then-waning field, her marketing insights led to effective campaigns that brought it new life. Their Italian-made Crucianelli, Video, and Panitalia instruments satisfied thousands of studios while the excellent American hand-made Pancordions appealed to artist professionals of national renown like Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren, Maddalena Belfiore among many others.

Ernest and Faithe formed an exceptionally close team with complimentary skills and compatible personalities. Her marriage to Ernest produced, in 1953, their only child, daughter Verne, who was periodically involved in the firm's business activities. Around 1960, Angelica Bargou became a trusted life-long friend to the family. Faithe took over increased administrative duties as her husband's health declined because of a terminal illness that resulted in his death in 1971. She mourned his loss the rest of her life.

Faithe came into her own as the first female head of a major accordion manufacturer when she assumed the company's presidency. She brought the firm to international prominence, renamed it Ernest Deffner, Inc., and while acquiring other interests as a US government contractor, as Ernest Deffner Affiliates. Along the way, Faithe broke ground for acceptance of women of accomplish-

ment. It was not an easy path in male-dominated fields. Her ability to persuade or failing that, to subvert objections, probably strengthened her resolve to accomplish any goals she undertook.

She recognized brilliance, worked with people of exceptional qualities, and formed solid friendships with those she respected.

For example, she worked closely with the great educator-artists Dr. Willard Palmer and Bill Hughes, whose teaching skills developed in their large Houston, TX, studio. The Palmer-Hughes Accordion Course provided students a methodology and repertory that was appealing as well as pedagogically sound, which in turn enhanced public appreciation for the players' instruments.



continued on page 4

Vivant! presents Musical Extravaganza 'Hooray for Hollywood!'

Kansas City based musical group Vivant! presented a musical extravaganza 'Hooray for Hollywood!' highlighting music of film both in arrangements of popular cinema classics as well as cinema themed original compositions by Kansas City based composers Karen Fremar, the founder of Vivant!, and guitarist Jason Scheufler. Vivant's performance of Scheufler's new work 'Cinematic Caricatures' marked the World Premiere of his new work composed for accordion, flute, cello, electric guitar and piano.

Featured guest soloist, Julie Silfverberg (Gettler), a member of Vivant!, presented Premieres of several new Cinema themed works by Karen Fremar including 'That's the Rainguy (*Ode to Dustin Hoffman*), *Monroe (Too Hot to Cha Cha Cha)*, *Time's Gone By for Bogey* and *The Duke*, as well as a magnificent arrangement of the 1984 Academy Award Winning Hit 'I Just Called to Say I Love You' by Stevie Wonder, from *The Women in Red*.

Julie was born in Ft. Scott, Kansas where she studied accordion and piano with Margie Fremar. She later moved to Kansas City where she received her Bachelor of Music in Accordion Performance studying with Joan C. Sommers. She met and married fellow UMKC Student Juha Silfverberg from Finland and after spending some years living and working in Finland, the family relocated back to the Kansas City area where Julie works as a full time music teacher and performer. She has performed in the group The International Trio with husband Juha Silfverberg and friend Kevin Friedrich, as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the Fremar Foundation of Accordion Arts and is currently the President of the Federated Teachers of Fine Arts and the Mid-America Music Association (MAMA).

The second half featured all the Vivant! musicians performing such greats as masterworks by Piazzolla (*Street Tango*, *Los Suenos*, *Michelangelo '70*) and popular Movie Music such as *I Love A Rainy Night*, *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, *Before Beatlemania* and *Let It Go*.

The concert 'Music and Merlot' is an annual concert in Kansas City presented by the Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts, a non profit organization dedicated to the promotion and support of out-



Guest soloist,
Julie Silfverberg

standing accordion artists, providing education about the accordion, its music, musicians and history, as well as presenting top accordion artists in concert. All of the music was either composed or arranged by Dr. Karen Fremar (accordion/vocals) who was joined by musicians Julie Silfverberg (accordion), Melody Stroth (piano), Judy Johnson (flute), Beth McCollum (cello), Dee Sligar (Keytar bass), Janne Silfverberg (trombone/Latin percussion) and Brian Steever (drums).

For more information about Vivant and their CD recordings,

Santo Endrizzi Receives Legion of Honor Medal

By Marion Endrizzi Whelpley

please visit www.vivantsound.com

On Friday, May 9th, 2014, Santo Endrizzi, a member of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), was bestowed a special honor. This 93 years young World War II veteran received the prestigious Legion of Honor Medal (Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur) from the French government at the West Point Military Academy, West Point, NY "in front of cadets who will be making up the next generation of U.S. military officers."

On this day thirty-four USA veterans were knighted by the French government in a special ceremony overlooking the majestic Hudson River. Lieutenant General Robert Caslen welcomed the group and Mr. Bertrand Lortholary, the New York French Consul General and Mr. Guy Wildenstein, President of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, presented the veterans with their prestigious medals.

Santo, also known as Sam, was honored and humbled by the award ceremony and was very grateful for the recognition he received. He served in Pontois, France from 1944 to 1945 in the 9th Army Air Force, 344th Bomb Group, 495th Bomb Squadron.

Santo was born in a small town named Cavedago in the Trentino (Trentino-Alto Adige) region of Italy. His parents were born in the same town but it was then under Austrian rule. The people there refer to themselves as Tyrolians.

In 1936, at the age of fifteen, Santo and his older sister left from the port of Genoa and sailed to New York where their father was waiting for them. The family resided at 164 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY.

Although his first love was the accordion, he started taking music lessons on the violin because the family couldn't afford to buy an accordion. He started his musical studies at the age of sixteen at the State School of Music which was located at 1397 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY. The cost for lessons at that time was twenty-five cents. In November of 1937 Santo's father purchased a second hand, full size, 120 bass accordion for him for \$300.00. Because he loved the instrument so much Santo practiced for hours at a time.



Santo Endrizzi and Family

His teacher, known as "Mr. Brown," was really Mr. Cacioppo. "Mr. Brown was easier to pronounce."

His competing and performing in various competitions and recitals, some of which were held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, resulted in his winning several medals. It was at these events that Santo met his fellow Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) colleague and eventual life long friend Phil Franzese. In the 1940s Santo played the accordion at a resort in the Catskills called the Grandview Mountain House in East Windham, NY.



In 1942 he was drafted into the Army Air Force. He was stationed in Fort Meyers and Lakeland Florida and was assigned to the 344th Bomb Group, 495th Bomb Squadron as a flight engineer on a B26. They practiced dropping bombs over the Everglades. Before going overseas Santo requested to become a mechanic. He

continued on page 5

LaRue Mangelly and Her Big Kids Accordion Band

LaRue Mangelly and her Big Kids Accordion Band played a concert for World Accordion Day at the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, GA.

The Big Kids Accordion Band consists of some former students and other retired professionals now residing in Augusta who grew

up playing accordion. Selections for World Accordion Day highlighted Pietro's Return by Pietro Deiro, Dixieland Rag by Palmer-Hughes, Tea for Two Cha Cha arranged by Pietro Deiro, Accordion Boogie by Charles Magnante, and of course, Lady of Spain.



LaRue Mangelly

Mrs. LaRue Mangelly, Director, is a Certified Teacher Member of AAA since October 1956. She grew up in Kansas City, MO playing saxophone at 6 and began playing the accordion at 10. While majoring in dietetics at Font Bonne College of the University of St. Louis, she financed her education entertaining with the USO. So it was that in 1941 she met her future husband, Tom Mangelly, in the Republic of Panama. She opened an accordion school wherever he was posted - Panama, Germany, California, and in 1952, they settled at Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA.

Her school grew, she was also teaching dance and in the late 1950's and 1960's they organized an Accordion Music Summer Camp with students from all over the southeast every July. Charles Magnante was very often a guest conductor.

Mrs. Mangelly still enjoys teaching a few students, playing her 1942 white pearl Excelsior, and directing the Big Kids Accordion Band. ■



L to R are Linda McBurney, Nick Savin, Gene McGinty, Christine Mangelly, Sydia Anderson, April Curry, and LaRue Mangelly.

Remembering Faithe Deffner, cont'd. from page 2

Faithe constantly worked to improve the lines of her accordions through the decades. The free-bass converter system for the Titano accordion models was easy to learn and caught on like wildfire. Simultaneously, Palmer's exceptional teaching had developed advanced students that deserved university status. Thanks to the union of teacher and instrument, the University of Houston (headed by Willard Palmer) and the University of Missouri Kansas City (headed by Professor Joan Cochran Sommers) admitted accordionists into the music major program. In wider circles, Titano accordions became the standard and were played by more national champions than all other brands combined. They were performance instruments for artists such as Robert Davine, Dr. Carmelo Pino, Pauline Oliveros, Joan Cochran Sommers and many others.

Always attuned to popular trends, Faithe collaborated with Palmer in construction of the Titano Tiger, a 17", amplified, lightweight accordion with quint reeds that would speak through the raucous sounds of rock bands. Its back-slanted keyboard was ideal for standing players; its keyboard color-reversal of black and white keys and its brightly colored body offered eye-appeal to both players and audiences. She also produced a similar model colored black, the Pancordion Combo, for orchestral use.

Aware of the need for printed materials, Faithe added another division, Ernest Deffner Publications. When the market for O. Pagani and Pietro Deiro music publications declined and the companies closed, she included their stock in her offerings. Her inventory maintained slow-selling 20th century concert compositions and provided new or little-known composers the recognition of publication. Eventually the available titles numbered 6,000. In the late 1970s, she engaged the firm to produce a high-level magazine called "Accord" in which she was named as editor but in fact did most of the writing.

Neglecting her personal or business interests was not uncommon when it came to contributing to the work of worthy organizations. For this she received many honors among which she particularly valued those listed next. She was named honorary vice president of the Accordion Federation of North America. For more than 30 years she was a USA delegate to the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes, sponsors of Coupe Mondiale. In 2000, the CIA presented her their Merit Award which added her name to world luminaries. As a long-standing member of the Accordion Teachers Guild (now renamed Accordionists and Teachers Guild International), she assumed the post of vice president and served as member of the governing board. A 15-year member of the board of directors, A World of Accordions Museum named her "Friend of the Museum" and Emerita in 2002.

Faithe's association with A World of Accordions Museum actually began before it had a name, rather, when it was still subsidiary to Accordion and Concertina Repair Technicians' School, begun in 1991 and reorganized in 1993. Although initially sceptical, after her first in-person viewing she was impressed by the breadth of the 750 displays that students studied and appreciated the repair curriculum that resulted in her hiring a graduate, Chad Walker, as head repair person for her accordion companies. She visited several times to participate in special events, notably the 1999 Charles Magnante concerts celebrating acquisition of his musical estate. Behind the scenes, she had persuaded Magnante's son, Dr. Peter Magnante, to make this donation. She saw the building's overcrowded conditions and encouraged relocation to a larger facility. When several properties were under consideration, she toured them with me to offer her advice. In the new Harrington ARTS Center (ARTS being acronym for the repair school), the main foci were on



the by-then 1,000 instruments that created AWAM's name and the magnificent concert hall in which they and many world-renowned performers would sound. Again behind the scenes, Faithe's friend Helen Miller had been encouraged to make a large donation. Separate large rooms were designated for library holdings of accordion reference books, recordings and music. Dozens of scholars have used these resources in research for books and documentaries. In time, the AAA Archival Collection was installed as a public face for the organization to show its social import. In 2002, she pushed to hold the AAA Festival in Minnesota and to include a day-trip to the museum. As expected, the publicity was front-page, but more significantly, accordionists were awed by their instruments' noble heritages. Despite conventional prejudices against free-reed predecessors, she was the first national figure to recognize the importance of accordion history and all the genera of their taxonomy. She urged Dr. Carmelo Pino's presidency to affiliate AWAM with the AAA, which was celebrated during the museum's formal re-opening in 2004. In subsequent years, Faithe was responsible for several of the many major acquisitions that added credibility to the institution. The museum is currently outfitting a room named "The Deffner Legacy" in her honor.

Without question, Faithe's principal affiliation was with the American Accordionists' Association. She wholeheartedly threw herself into their projects despite the time consumption that was nothing short of altruistic. She encouraged their 1985 competition be held in Orlando, FL, where a massed band appearance at Disney World provided fun for participants and public visibility. An incomparable fund-raiser while always seeking new ways to further popular acclaim for the instrument, she envisioned and organized the 1986 Fantasy Cruise to Bermuda in which 700 participants massed in on-deck performance. Thousands of press kits had been distributed to the media which responded with reports of an accordion "renaissance" that included pop bands and fringe music. In 1987, the "Keyboard" magazine cover followed up proclaiming "Accordion power" as "rock's new main squeeze." In 1988, her campaign raised \$30,000 for AAA's international competition that drew 29 entrants from 10 countries. In 1995, she initiated the first Accordion Summit Meeting to discuss the expanding role of accordions in modern music. The meeting drew national speakers. It was considered a great dissemination of thoughts and experiences which had the expected by-product of positive publicity. Also in 1995, she planned the Houston, TX, AAA festival to honor her friend Dr. Willard Palmer who was in failing health yet accepted the invitation. Many of the University of Houston's Accordion Symphony Orchestra participated to resound one of his arrangements and his composition "Ombo." It was his last public appearance.

1996 was named the year of the accordion. The AAA focus was

continued on page 6

Santo Endrizzi, Legion of Honor Medal, cont'd from p. 3

went overseas on the Queen Elisabeth which was travelling unescorted and carrying 18,000 soldiers. He volunteered to help serve meals to the English gunners that were manning the battle stations. As a result, he was given free reign of the ship unlike his peers who were confined to their specific area. They landed safely in Glasgow Scotland.

The war took him to England, France and Belgium. He met many paesani along the way. On returning home after spending three years in military service he became a citizen of the United States and in the summers months returned to playing the accordion at the Catskill resort on weekends.

Santo held several different jobs after his return home. One of these was owning a saloon business with his brother-in law. He married his wife, Ida, in 1954 and they had four children (Marion Whelpley, Donald Endrizzi, Julie Rooney and Joan Woodbury). At the age of forty-eight he became a car inspector for NYC Transit Authority and retired as a supervisor at the age of sixty-eight. He has ten grandchildren.

The family keeps him busy as also does the Tyrolian Club he belongs to. His becoming a member of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) brings Santo back to his original love and passion - the accordion. Santo plays on the first Wednesday of every month at La Vilini Restaurant in East Northport, NY with the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA). This is the "tonic" that keeps him young and enthusiastic and he especially enjoys the camaraderie of his fellow accordionists. ■

Michael Ward-Bergeman in Concert

Accordionist Michael Ward-Bergeman joined the entire Grammy-winning cast of Eighth Blackbird on June 19 at the 2014 Loops and Variations concert series on the Jay Pritzker Pavilion stage in Millennium Park in Chicago! Admission is free.

The Blackbirds have been called "a new breed of super-musicians" (Los Angeles Times) and "stage animals" (The Sunday Telegraph).

Ward-Bergeman, a respected composer from New Orleans with commissions from Carnegie Hall and Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project and performances as a hyper-accordionist at diverse venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to Gainesville Correctional Facility, will join Eighth Blackbird for a program that zings, zooms and zips with verve and wit. Included will be the ram-bunctious Murder Ballades by rock & roll band The National's, Bryce Dessner, a new arrangement of Ward-Bergeman's Barbeich and Mississippi, and a special arrangement of St. James Infirmary. ■



Juha Silfverberg performs on Unsuk Chin's work with Kansas City Symphony

Kansas City based accordionist Juha Silfverberg recently performed with the Kansas City Symphony in the music of Unsuk Chin's new Opera 'Alice in Wonderland'. Under the direction of Aram Demirjian, the concert was held at the new State of the Art Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The concert was the final in this years popular series "Classics Uncorked," with the focus of this particular concert celebrating great women of classical music.



Juha Silfverberg

Unsuk Chin was born in Seoul, Korea. She studied composition with Sukhi Kang at Seoul National University and won several international prizes in her early 20s. She studied with György Ligeti at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg from 1985 to 1988. In 1988 Unsuk Chin moved to Berlin, where she worked as a freelance composer at the electronic

music studio of the Technical University of Berlin, realizing seven works.

Unsuk Chin's works have been performed by conductors such as Kent Nagano, Simon Rattle, Alan Gilbert, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Neeme Järvi, Peter Eötvös, David Robertson and George Benjamin as well as by leading orchestras and ensembles. Commissioners include the Kronos Quartet, Radio France, the BBC, the London Sinfonietta, South Bank Centre, Los Angeles Opera, IRCAM and the Bavarian State Opera. Chin's music has been highlighted at major music festivals such as Festival Musica in Strasbourg or Settembre Musica in Italy. Since 2006 she holds the position of Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra's composer-in-residence and artistic director of its Contemporary Music Series.

Born into a musical family in Helsinki, Finland, accordionist Juha Silfverberg began his accordion studies at the age of seven with Lasse Pihlajamaa, a pioneer in the accordion field. Playing the Finnish C System button accordion, he was both Finnish National Accordion Champion and Scandinavian Accordion Champion, earning the right to represent Finland when the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships were held in Helsinki. Later, he moved to the United States to study accordion performance at the

University of Missouri - Kansas City.

A sought after accordionist, Juha is regularly found entertaining professionally in the Kansas City area, where he freelances in a wide variety of ensembles. He has toured Finland, Estonia, New Zealand, Japan and throughout the USA with diverse musical groups ranging from Zydeco to Klezmer, from Classical to Pop. ■

Remembering Faithe Deffner, cont'd. from page 4

on renewing accordionists' enthusiasm for their instrument. They could not have chosen a more popular figure for festival honors--Myron Floren, whose weekly appearances on Lawrence Welk's 27-year television show made the "Happy Norwegian" America's most sought-after entertainer.

In 2005, the AAA hosted another innovative step inspired by Faithe—a search to find “the” new accordion “star” performing pieces of modern-pop appeal in an attempt to bring more young people to the instrument. Financed by her friend, Steve Stolaruk, the campaign named “Search for the Hottest Accordionist,” offered significant cash awards along with other benefits to promote accordion careers of the three top winners.

The AAA-ATG co-hosted 2007 Coupe Mondiale was a crowning moment of organization for Faithe. It was the largest International accordion event in the history of the USA, attracting over 1,000 partic-



ipants and putting accordionists everywhere from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to the steps of the Capital Building, and the inaugural World Accordion Orchestra. During that time, Faithe was CIA Honorary Vice President.

Faithe decided to retire around 2007. She sold Ernest Deffner Affiliates to Frank Busso, Jr., son of her dear friends, Carmela and Frank Busso, Sr. Frank (Sr.) and Faithe worked closely together for many years in organizing AAA events.

When asked about a memorial for her years of AAA service, Faithe requested a commissioned work for piano accordion from Russian composer, Sofia Gubaidulina. This wish could not be fulfilled, so in 2005 she personally commissioned Viatcheslav Semionov's three-movement masterpiece, “Divertimento.” It was premiered by the composer at a concert hosted by the AAA in New York in March, 2005 and repeated throughout his nationwide concert tour.

In recognition of her years of service and her status as president of the organization in 1985-86, 1995-2000, the AAA presented her with a “Lifetime Achievement Award” in an elaborate 2009 banquet at New York City's Tavern on the Green, attended by national and international figures. Surrounded by dear friends and respected

associates she heard her legendary accomplishments extolled as she was presented with the esteemed “President Emerita” recognition by the American Accordionists' Association.

On a personal note: Faithe asked me to write her obituary during an October, 2010 conversation, saying that she hoped it would not be needed for a long time because she still had many things to complete. It was an unexpected honor I took with utmost seriousness wrought from deep affection and esteem. I knew it would be a difficult task to summarize her life so filled with accomplishments. With new eyes, I began to reread everything I found written by and about her; to rethink our years of conversations, letters and emails; to listen differently when associates mentioned her name. Without fail I noticed a tone of respect and often the assumption of friendship. However, her polished, professional façade and articulate speech could also disaffect, obscuring the depth of her heart. Only occasionally did a glimmer of hesitation encroach on her stolid, determined bearing. Look again at photos of the young woman to see that she fostered a dichotomy between professionalism and her self-assessed intrinsic romanticism. Against any obstacles, she stood with her friends and defended their interests.

It has become trite to speak of celebrating a life when in reality we mourn its loss. There will be many who write about Faithe, uncounted others who will quietly acknowledge her influence, myriads who will never know her impact on their lives, and a world-wide public who bid farewell to this giant of our time. She



used her passion to achieve what four people might not equal. Her presence is irreplaceable and loss of her brilliant intellect leaves us all reduced. Many have set out to improve the accordion world, but she did it with aplomb.

A memorial service (by invitation only) will be held July 13, 2014 hosted by Angelica Bargou, following the American Accordionists' Association Festival, at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Tarrytown, NY.

Dr. Helmi Harrington

AAA Festival 2014
July 9-13 • Double Tree by Hilton • Tarrytown, New York

Schedule of Events and Workshop Schedule
online at
www.ameraccord.com

20th Anniversary of SkandJam Honoring Walter Eriksson

Formerly known as the "Walter Eriksson MusikFest," the renamed SkandJam will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at the popular Vasa Park in Budd Lake, New Jersey. The festival, produced by Walter Eriksson's daughter, Jeanne Widman, in honor of her father, will feature dinner, music and dancing, and will begin at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40.00.

This anniversary event will feature accordion bands such as the "Amazing Accordion Kings," "SmörgåsBandet," the 'Swedish Meatballs' and a reunion of the "SAC," the Scandinavian Accordion Club of New York.

Born to Scandinavian parents in New York City on May 30, 1926, Walter Algot Eriksson became a formidable figure in the accordion and Scandinavian music scene in New York spending his life teaching and performing. At the peak of his teaching career, his studio hosted more than 1,000 students!

He began lessons at age 9, and was already playing professionally by age 14, and made his first recording by age 15. Walter's parents recognized his musical abilities early and enrolled him into the High School of Music & Art in New York City. His first record was sponsored by C.A. Hanssen and Bros., and the group was called Scandinavian Music Makers with Gunnar Lindholm on guitar and Karl Lorentzen on bass.

During the course of his active career, which involved many trips to Sweden and Scandinavia, Walter appeared on American TV programs such as "I Remember Mama," the NBC "Home Show," the CBS Children's Show, "Around The World with Gunther Less," and was a guest on the "Merv Griffin Show," The "Arthur Murray Show" and "Faye Emerson" Shows. He made radio commercials for Rheingold and SAS Airlines. He recorded with RCA Victor a series

of folk dances under the direction of Michael Herman that were used in all New York City public schools. Walter had his own radio shows, including "Scandinavian Breakfast Club," "Viking Melody Time" and "Scandinavian Echoes," passed on to him by Hans Berggren.

Walter played in the presence of Nordic Royalty: King Olav of Norway, King Carl Gustav and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Crown Prince Harald & Crown Princess Sonja of Norway, Princesses Margareta & Christina of Sweden, and President Urho of Finland. He has also entertained celebrities Liv Ullman, Ann-Margret and Victor Borge and accompanied opera singer, Lauritz Melchior. He was featured on stage at Lincoln Center for the 1976 USA Bicentennial, along with the King of Sweden.

Walter was honored with prestigious awards: Knights Cross First Class Order of Vasa from the King of Sweden, the St. Olav's medal from the King of Norway and the Finnish Government Cultural Medal and various honors in the USA including Man of Year at New York's Vasa Day along with Eric-Olof Ericson. In the 1980s Walter accompanied the Vasa Folkdancers as their main musician and toured with them in 1983 to Sweden and Åland. In 1987 the Scandinavian Accordion Club of New York was born, working together with his daughter Jeanne Widman. In 1988, the SAC appeared at the South Street Seaport as part of New Sweden '88, where Walter and his son Wally played on stage in the presence of King Carl XVI Gustaf & Queen Silvia.

For more information, please visit www.WalterErikssonMusikFest.com or for reservations, please call 718-415-0602 or e-mail Dragspel@aol.com ■

MusikFest
20th Anniversary
SkandJam

Amazing Accordion Kings
SmorgasBandet
Swedish Meatballs

MusikFest
20th Anniversary
SkandJam

JULY
SATURDAY
26th

July 26th 2014 we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of our father Walter Eriksson MusikFest aka SkandJam...with MJD
we and join us where it all started at Vasa Park in Budd Lake
The featured guests of the evening will be the "Accordion Kings" (Angelo Di Paolo, Frank Toscano & Wanny Corallo)

The Date || MusikFest Save The Date
26th 2014 20th Anniversary SkandJam July 26th

Joe Soprani performs in Operetta in Philadelphia

Accordionist/composer/arranger Joseph Soprani performed in "La Giara" ("The Water Jug") Concert Premiere of the Operetta by Patricia King on Friday, June 20, 2014 at the World Cafe Live Philadelphia.

"La Giara, the Water Jug," merges Italian Folk music and Opera with Brazilian Choro and Jazz, telling the story of Patricia's family's emigration from Sicily to Philadelphia. Comprised of compositions, both dramatic and comedic, La Giara expresses themes relevant to gender oppression, migration and cultural losses that families experienced in adapting to a new world.

Music and lyrics by Patricia King, Musical Director: Orlando Haddad, Artistic Director: John Nicholas Peters, with Patricia King, piano; Orlando Haddad, guitar; Jessica Lennick & Martha Stuckey, sopranos; Mike Dorsey, tenor; John Nicholas Peters, baritone; Jim Stager, bass; Joe Soprani, accordion. Narrated by Charlotte Blake Alston.

Joe Soprani is a noted accordionist, educator, arranger-composer whose reputation among professionals places him in the first ranks of contemporary accordionists. He has dominated the accordion scene in Philadelphia for over forty years playing in major concert halls, theatres, TV shows and hotels. He holds the distinction of being the only accordionist in the history of the Philadelphia Orchestra to appear as a featured soloist under Eugene Ormandy.

While accordion soloist with the USAF Band in Washington,

continued on page 8

Joe Soprani, cont'd from p. 7

D.C. under Col. George S. Howard, he won the "The Air Force Roger," the most prestigious entertainment award in the U.S. Air Force. He also was the first accordion soloist with the PA Army National Guard Band "The Adjutant General's Own" for over eight years. On five occasions, Soprani appeared with opera singer Luciano Pavarotti at the Spectrum in Philadelphia and has performed for President Eisenhower at the White House.

To add to his impressive list of credentials, Soprani was invited to arrange the opening selection for rock star Jon Bon Jovi's 1996 world tour and has also written the official song for the International Rotary Club. In addition to performing in Broadway shows such as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Zorba," "Cabaret" and "Erma la Duce," he has performed in world premieres of "Frida", a musical that called for a virtuoso accordionist and "Another Kind of Hero", a musical which featured Soprani on stage for an entire scene.

His future performances include:

July 15: Capital Steps
With the US Air Force Band, Washington, DC
July 21: Citizens Bank Park
With the Philly Phanatic,
third consecutive year

For further information: sopranimusic@comcast.net ■

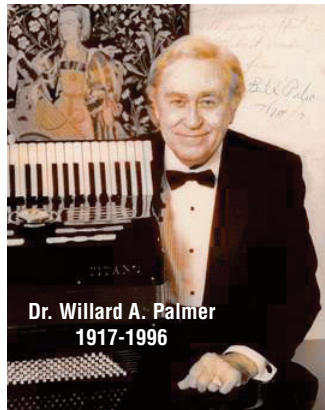
Honoring Dr. Willard (Bill) A. Palmer Festival and Fundraiser

The two-day festival at the AAA affiliated Harrington ARTS Center and A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI "Honoring Dr. Willard A. Palmer" was dominated by the presence of "Big Red," the magnificent harpsichord previously owned by Palmer and donated in 2013 to A World of Accordions Museum by Willard A. Palmer, III.

The acoustically ideal Hanni Strahl Concert Hall was the setting for well-balanced programs filled with music, educational and entertainment events. Both Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Superior Mayor Bruce Hagen issued proclamations denoting "Dr. Willard A. Palmer Days." This Second Annual event encompassed more than seventeen hours during which Dr. Palmer's unequalled accomplishments were reviewed and illustrated. In all aspects, the event was an extraordinary success.

Held from May 3-4, 2014, the opening session introduced both father and son in biographic summaries of comparable import. Willard Palmer, III, presented the opening session by explaining construction of the 1976 harpsichord made by A. Cecil Taylor of Houston, Texas. This highly valuable asset contributes to the esteem in which the institution is held as a national resource. "Big Red," affectionately named for its vermilion and gold casing, is ten-feet in overall size, with two manuals, eleven pedals controlling six plectra, and its own website showing mechanisms and details of Houston artist Brent Tinkler's hand painted soundboard of Texas flora and motifs. Special displays documenting its transport and restoration (completed for the events by Bill III) were set up in the concert hall's foyer.

In a session describing the genius of Dr. Palmer, the topics "Scholarship and Pedagogy: Methodology and Transcriptions"



Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA)

Accordionist and AAA Board of Director member, Ray Oreggia and guitarist Vic Kastel were the featured guest artists at the June 4th Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) meeting at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY. The duo performed a very entertaining and varied program of French Musette, club date and accordion standards.

There will be no July Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) meeting and their Wednesday, August 6th meeting will be their "fourth year celebration" featuring accordionist Dominic Karcic and vocalist Cheryl Spielman as featured guest artists. ■



were discussed and demonstrated by Museum curator Helmi Harrington, Ph.D. She took several pieces of Palmer's editions from harpsichord to piano to accordion performances that pointed out interpretive differences resulting through the instruments' characteristics. Among her selections was included use of the Titano Super-V Emperor accordion, outfitted with MIDI system, eight rows of bass buttons including double converter pitches from "C1" to "B5," among additional features. She restored this instrument in 2013, when included in the younger Palmer's donation of his father's estate to the museum.

A unique person of diverse talents, Willard Palmer, III, spoke on "Secrets Behind the Masterwork Editions," revealing information that only he could deliver. In the segment entitled "Master of Magic, Mystery and Mirth" he offered an audience-engaging entertainment of tremendous appeal. Surprising parallels between the invention/evolution of banjo types and early accordions came to light in his "Cultural Influences on Banjo and Accordions" lecture/demonstration. Here accompanied by his wife Julie, Palmer has the ability to captivate and hold listeners' interest by interjecting humor into scholarly insights.

Attendees were enticed to remain on-site through lunch and refreshments provided each day by local restaurants. Concerts were plentiful and varied. One such involved symphony violinist Carolyn Carver and Helmi Harrington playing Palmer arrangements and performance favorites. They also accompanied lyric soprano Amanda Bush (Master's degree candidate) in performances of original works on which Palmer based arrangements used in Palmer-Hughes books. One such was Puccini's "Un Bel Di,"

continued on page 9

Palmer Festival & Fundraiser, cont'd. from p. 8

recorded during one of Dr. Palmer's last public appearances. Another concert, involving 26 performers from

Harrington's studio, presented an historic synopsis of accordion ensemble genre from folk music and virtuoso pieces to original contemporary compositions. This program included works by, among others, Carrozza, Piazzolla, Brehme, and Pauline Oliveros, a well-known graduate of Palmer's accordion department at the University of Houston.

Touring *A World of Accordions Museum* were about 100 people including Mayor Hagen and former State Representative, Mike Jaros. Attendees were introduced to the rich taxonomy of accordion family instruments, the books, recordings, music and history files libraries, the American Accordionists' Archival Collection room, and the evolving Deffner Legacy rooms.

Retired Professor Dr. Anthony Bukoski, popular mid-west chronicler and special friend to the museum, read excerpts from his books. Intermittent music by Harrington and an informal jam-session group played titles mentioned in Bukoski's anecdotes.

The festival was concluded with champagne toasts in memory of Dr. Willard Palmer and the generosity of Willard Palmer, III, his wife and family. ■



The Felice Brothers Release New Album

Popular band, The Felice Brothers, featuring Ian Felice on accordion, performed "Meadow of a Dream" from their new album "Favorite Waitress" on the CBS "This Morning" Saturday show.

The Felice Brothers Simone, Ian (accordion) and James got their start as a band playing in the New York City subway. The sons of a carpenter, they would play together on Sundays at their father's afternoon barbecues. They stayed in a little apartment in Brooklyn and would play in the subway stations at 42nd Street and Union Square and in Greenwich Village. The three brothers originally hail from Palenville, New York in the Catskill Mountains.

After a few years their devotion and extreme lifestyle choices which meant rehearsing in an old chicken coup, and pounding the pavements of New York looking for gigs, and willing to play for food paid off. The band has been traveling the world for 8 years now, playing major festivals like Coachella to Midwestern dive bars to ancient churches in Bavarian Germany. *continued on page 10*



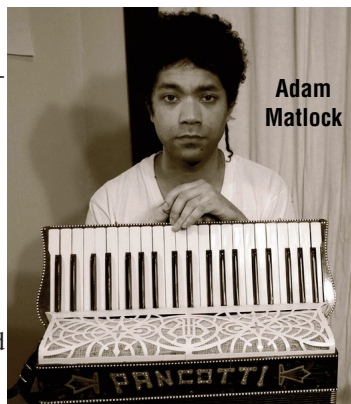
Litchfield Jazz Festival

Bassist and composer Mario Pavone had always wanted to do something with accordion. He recalls accordionists of Italian, Portuguese and Polish heritage and with that "Street Songs: The Accordion Project" was born.

Pavone has collaborated with legendary innovators and today's most talented young musicians defining the cutting edge of jazz for 40 years. He has anchored the trios of Paul Bley, Bill Dixon, and the late Thomas Chapin and co-led ensembles with Anthony Braxton, Wadada Leo Smith, Marty Ehrlich, and Michael Musilami. His list of sidemen past and present includes Steven Bernstein, Gerald Cleaver, Dave Douglas, Peter Madsen, Tony Malaby, Joshua Redman, George Schuller, Michael Sarin, Craig Taborn, Tyshawn Sorey and Matt Wilson.

Pavone has 17 recordings as a leader/co-leader, including his acclaimed 2006 release, "Deez to Blues," on Playscape Recordings. Among his awards are a NewWorks grant from Chamber Music America/Doris Duke Foundation and a Distinguished Artists Grant from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. In addition to his ongoing activities as a bandleader, Pavone's artwork and photography have graced the covers of dozens of recordings. He currently serves as an educator, administrator and board member for the Litchfield Jazz Festival and Litchfield Jazz Camp in Connecticut.

Pavone's bass/compositions appear in this performance with Dave Ballou on cornet and flugelhorn, Peter McEachern on trombone, Gary Buttery on tuba, Matt Mitchell on piano, Adam Matlock on accordion, Carl Testa on bass, Leise Ballou on French



horn, Gary Buttery on tuba and Steve Johns on drums.

New Haven, CT-based accordionist, composer and vocalist Adam Matlock works in a variety of mediums to explore the connections between improvisation, narrative, composition and musical structure. Beginning with piano lessons and black American spirituals and moving on to rock and improvisation in high school and college, he found the accordion as a member of the Valley Kapelye Klezmer Band at Mount Holyoke College, and began exploring its uses and implications both in the innumerable folk traditions which contain it, as well as the extensive non-traditional applications for it in the context of new composed and improvised music.

After completing a study of music and narrative under Michael Dessen and Margo Simmons-Edwards at Hampshire College and a pair of compositions used to explore these connections, he began exploring songwriting, electronic/electro acoustic music and free improvisation in addition to his background in folk and composition. Matlock writes increasingly narrative and frenzied songs under the name An Historic, and dark ambient music under the alias G. Zarapaneko, and frequently writes and performs compositions under his own name solo or with various partners or small ensembles. He has worked with composers Carl Testa, Brian Parks, Nate Trier and Erik Deluca on the realizations of new works. Matlock can also be seen performing with chamber improv trio Broadcloth and avant-traditionalists Dr. Caterwaul's Cadre of Clairvoyant Claptrap. He performs with these groups, as well as Anthony Braxton's Syntactical Ghost Trance Choir, The Afro Semitic Experience and the Yale Klezmer Band in New Haven, New York and Boston and various other locations on the East Coast.

The performance will take place Sunday, August 10 at 1:45 PM as part of the 19th Annual Litchfield Jazz Festival from August 8 - 10, 2014 at the Goshen Fairgrounds in Goshen, CT. For more information, please visit www.litchfieldjazzfest.com ■

Felice Brothers, cont'd from page 9

Interestingly, The Felice Brothers' new album "Favorite Waitress" marked the first time the band ever recorded in a proper studio. Produced by the band's longtime producer and collaborator Jeremy Backofen, the album is their most fully realized statement yet. After diligently working for a year, mining through a hundred songs worth of material, they took off last December for Omaha and recorded everything in a week.

"Favorite Waitress" is The Felice Brothers' 5th official release (in addition to 6 mix-tapes) and marks their first release for new label Dualtone (The Lumineers, Shovels & Rope, Guy Clark). These 11 total releases range from the backwoods kitchen sink folk of "God Bless You, Amigo," to the swamp strip-mall "Space Odyssey" of Celebration, Florida. The band has appeared at Bonnaroo, Newport Folk Festival, and Coachella and toured with the Killers, Mumford and Sons, and Bright Eyes.

Track Listings for "Favorite Waitress" include:

1. "Bird On Broken Wing," 2. "Cherry Licorice," 3. "Meadow Of A Dream," 4. "Lion," 5. "Saturday Night," 6. "Constituents," 7. "Hawthorne," 8. "Katie Cruel," 9. "No Trouble," 10. "Alien," 11. "Chinatown," 12. "Woman Next Door" and 13. "Silver In The Shadow."

Upcoming shows include:

- July 6 The Earl – Atlanta, GA
- July 7 The Orange Peel – Asheville, NC
- July 9 Webster Hall – New York, NY
- July 10 Union Transfer – Philadelphia, PA
- July 11 The Sinclair – Cambridge, MA
- July 12 The Whiskey Rebellion – Festival, Washington, PA
- July 13 The Abby Bar – Harrisburg, PA

For more information, please visit www.thefelicebrothers.com

A World of Accordions Museum Enjoys Unprecedented Growth by Helmi Harrington, Ph.D.

In a phase of unprecedented growth, A World of Accordions Museum is honored by the trust shown by many estate donors in past years and those of recent origin.

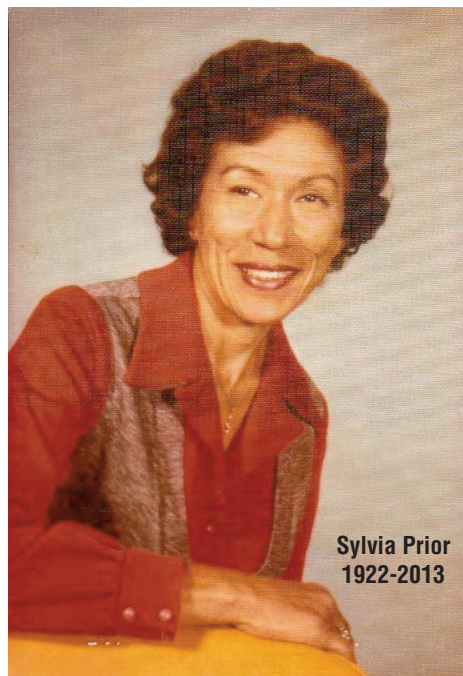
We proudly announce the arrival of the musical estate of Sylvia Prior (1922-2013). Together with her husband Tito Guidotti, their large music studio focused on accordion and piano studies for hundreds of students in Los Angeles and Oxnard in nearly 60 years of operation. An avid supporter of AFNA, Sylvia also contributed to the AWAM display of 2007, the year she sponsored a competition for women at the conjoined AAA-ATG Coupe Mondiale.

Sylvia's daughter, Adrian Guidotti, contacted the museum a few weeks ago with the offer of her mother's studio music, reference materials, several accordions, and ca. 150 accordion figurines. The shipment totaled 43 boxes and 1,300 lbs! This major contribution to our resources encompasses early-1900s to present-day publications that include those of her father, Syl Prior, whose accordion studio was founded in 1917. It was like Christmas when we scanned seven boxes, each containing about 150 accordion collections, eighteen boxes containing about 175 pieces of sheet music in titled and alphabetized manila folders, and four boxes of piano music. Much of this music is very rare and includes original compositions by famous persona of whose works we had no examples. Although not yet fully investigated, there are dozens of accordion manufacturers' and publishers' catalogs, scholarly works, and similar materials that will benefit our research projects and answer questions posed by accordion aficionados. Six boxes of figurines encompass valuable Lladro, Hummel, and Hutschenreuther pieces, as well as porcelains, wood carvings and handmade ceramics from around the world. Among the seven accordions are very rare examples: the earliest Giulietti (1920s) of the museum collection, a delightful gold-glitter Zon-Rio previously owned by Art Van Damme, an unusual Excelsior, and two mini accordions—an 18-bass, ornately decorated Excelsior pictured with Sylvana Prior in her childhood, and a Hohner Piccola. Of special significance is the flawless Sylprio piano accordion played by her father.

Dan Barski (NY), who in 2013, sent us 17 boxes of cassettes and CDs that prompted new shelving be built and reorganization of the entire recorded music library. He also sent his prize collection of figurines and two additional packages that followed his visit to the museum. His collections of music books and sheets have been incorporated into library filers and have been often referenced. Clearly, this is their best and highest placement.

We have received advance notice that the Donald Hulme estate is on its way to us. Donald (1940-2014) was a Coupe Mondiale champion who had many years in the spotlight of fame. He is pictured

with accordion greats, as well as entertainment personalities. Years ago, the museum had acquired from Charles Nunzio a Hohner Gola said to have been Hulme's. It features 200-basses in quint free-bass, and an interchangeable bass section (fitted to the Gola by the Victoria Co.) with Stradella and quint converter. Hulme has been a person of interest because of his fine musical accomplishments that contrast with the difficulties of his personal life. Another of his instruments is a contrived Hohner with bellows



Sylvia Prior
1922-2013

that extend about 10-feet, which we plan to use ahead of our Fourth of July parade float. We're hoping for one more trophy for our entry this year. We are also trying to raise money to contribute to a fitting memorial for his barren pauper's gravesite.

With these new holdings we must continue to add filers and displays to do justice to the immense quantities, and our increasing number of volunteers will spend many hours in reorganizing while I look forward to new investigative research. ■

Frank Petrilli to Perform for the WMAS

The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) is delighted to announce that our Guest Artist Concert, on Saturday, September 21, 2014, will feature celebrated jazz accordionist, Frank Petrilli. The event will take place at the Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church in Falls Church, Virginia at 4 pm. Please check out our website in the upcoming weeks for more details: www.washingtonaccordions.org or contact Joan Grauman, (301) 662-0203. Hope to see everyone there! ■



AAA 20th Annual Master Class and Concert Series

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) will present its 20th annual Master Class and Concert Series – "THE SEMINARS" The Everyday Accordion: Ordinary x Proper = Radiant." Moderated by AAA Board of Director's member, Dr. William Schimmel, the 20th Anniversary year takes place on August 1, 2, 3 at The Tenri Cultural Institute, 43 A West 13th St –between 5 and 6 Avenues, with Master Classes at 3:00 PM and Concerts at 7:00 p.m.



Welcome to the 20th anniversary year. It seems that every year, the accordion descends on New York – usually at the end of summer. And then everyone goes home until next year – or so it seems. What about the accordion in everyday life? In your home? In the Concert Hall (proper)?, the performance space? The bar and grill (ordinary)? At your sweet sixteen or 65th birthday? Or at a new music concert? At the strip mall? (or the strip club?), or at your place of worship? Why can't the accordion be an everyday affair? In our lives 24/7 – part of an actual radiant culture – sophisticated! strategic! real! unreal!

Join us for a weekend of our greatest hits, new ideas, old ideas made new and bold angles. Find out how the accordion fits into your daily life – everyday. In ordinary life – in proper life – in radiant life!

The distinguished participants will include: Micki Goodman, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Paul Stein, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Rita Barnea, Will Holshouser, Ken Laufer, Lee Mc Clure, Kathleen Tipton, Mayumi Mayaoka, Doug Makofka, Bob Goldberg, Melissa Elledge, Mark Nathanson, Art Bailey, Mary Spencer Knapp, Erica Marie Mancini, Benjamin Ickies, Corn Mo, John Foti, Rachid Eladlouni, Rachel Swaner, Mark Nathanson, David First, David Stoler, Brian Dewan, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Dr. Rocco Jerry, Dave Soldier, Milica Paranosic, Dan Cooper, Noah Creshevsky, Demitrius Spaneas, Peter Jarvis, Tomoka Sugawara, Yoichi Fukui, Michael Dames, Linda Reed, Dragica Banic-Curcic, Peter Flint, Ingrid Kvale, Marni Rice, Genevieve Leloup, Bjorn Skjelbred, Carl Riehl, Ralph Crispino and Dr. Schimmel.

Read Dr. Schimmel's free e-book - *On Credibility and Why you should attend the Seminars*. You can download a free copy by going to William Schimmel's facebook page or the July issue of *Accordionusa*.

For more information, please visit www.ameraccord.com or for reservations and information phone: 212-876-0827. ■



Left: Corn Mo;
Right: Marni Rice
Below: Doug Makofka



Above: Will Holshouser
Center: Ben Ickies
Right: Paul Stein and
Dr. William Schimmel



Coast to Coast

...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!
Contact the individual organizations for updates.



San Francisco, CA

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will host their 74th Annual Competition and Festival from July 23-26, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza San Francisco International Airport Hotel.

Stas Venglevski will appear as the featured guest artist. ATG also welcomes jazz accordionist Frank Petrilli and his Quartet, as well as International guests from China and Italy. Xia Gang is a famous Chinese Bayanist who has many titles to his name internationally while Antonio Spac-



carotella is a young Italian accordion artist who has won many International competitions and teaches modern and classical accordion at the Nuove Armonie Musical Institute (Italy).

Other guest artists who will be featured: Jana Maas, UMKC Chamber Ensemble, Steve Albini, Gary Blair (Scotland), Peter Di Bono Trio, Jeff Lisenby, Jamie Maschler, Michael Zampiceni, The Great Morgani, AbsolutAccord, Reno Di Bono, Steve Mobia & many more!

For updated information on the guest artists and the workshops available, please visit www.accordions.com/atg

Geyserville, CA

Accordionist Steve Albini often performs in the restaurant at the Francis Ford Coppola Winery, owned by the fa-

mous Hollywood m o v i e director/producer, in Geyserville, California on Tuesday evenings. Steve performed there this week, commenting, "I have been there for almost a year now. Mr. Coppola often comes in. He also has me play for his private events at his home. I perform all night. He likes Neapolitan classics so I usually play and sing something like that for him. The food is fantastic and the winery has a wonderful atmosphere. Mr. Coppola has memorabilia from his movies throughout the winery."

Francis Ford Coppola's most famous movies include "Patton," "The Godfather" (1, 2, 3), "The Great Gatsby,"



"Apocalypse Now," "The Cotton Club," and "Bram Stoker's Dracula," and many more. Steve Albini will be performing and giving workshops in July at both the AAA festival in New York and the ATG festival in San Francisco. For further information e-mail: steven.albini@gmail.com

Nashua, NH

The New Hampshire Accordion Association has announced their upcoming festival "ACCORDIONS NOW!" festival at the Courtyard Nashua hotel, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua, NH from August 8 - 10, 2014. For further information about guest artists and participating in the festival, please e-mail: regisdonna@yahoo.com

continued on page 12

Coast to Coast

*...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!
Contact the individual organizations for updates.*



New York, NY

New York-based accordionist, Victor Prieto appears at "Birdland" in New York from July 1-5, 2014 with Arturo O'Farrill and David Bixler in the Auction Project. He will then perform with vocalist, Liliana Araujo on July 11 at 10:30 p.m. at *Terraza, 7 Live Music*, 40-19 Gleane Street in Elmhurst, New York. For further information e-mail: victorprieto2001@yahoo.com



cordion players in different Fishing Stages; Best of Newfoundland (8 p.m.) July 20, 2 pm-The Gospel Accordion Too July 14 to July 16th - a series of workshops on step dancing, square dancing and accordion skills will be held over 3 days. More details will be available later. For further information e-mail: ephs@nf.aibn.com

Midwest, USA

Those Darn Accordions have announced details of their August Midwest Tour. The TDA website will have tour updates.

- August 2 - Winona, Minnesota
- August 3, 4 - St Louis with The Compton Heights Concert Band, Missouri
- August 5 - High Noon Saloon, Madison, Wisconsin
- August 7 - O'Marro's Public House, Oshkosh, Wisconsin
- August 8 - Shank Hall, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- August 9 - FitzGerald's, Berwyn, Illinois

San Francisco's accordion-fueled rock 'n' roll band, TDA, pumps out polkas, rock classics and catchy originals chronicling life in the weird lane. Fronted by singer-songwriter/accordionists Paul Rogers and Suzanne Garomone, TDA promises to forever rearrange your understanding of the accordion. TDA's extreme squeezeboxers mix solid keyboard chops with a groundbreaking use of guitar effects pedals and amps to produce a super-cool sound like nothing you've ever heard emanating from an accordion. Behind the amazing wall of wheeze, drummer Michael Messer and bass player Lewis Wallace anchor the band, providing a firm foundation upon which the manic TDA accordionists can layer huge slabs of sonic mayhem.

For further information, e-mail: tda@thosedarnaccordions.com

Cotati, CA

The 2014 Cotati Accordion Festival a non-stop multicultural extravaganza of accordion music, polka dancing, food, drink and crafts will take place from

August 16-17, 2014. Bring your accordion to play in the Lady of Spain-a-Ring! In support of our local vendors, outside food and drink is not permitted, and gates open at 9:30 a.m. on both days.

Among the line-up of featured artists throughout the weekend are: The Golden State Accordion Club Band, Jianan Tian, Rory McNamara & The Ring of Truth Trio, Due Zighi Baci, Bruce Gassman, The Great Morgani, Alicia Baker, Vincenzo Abbracciante, Dick Contino, The Mad Maggies, Jet Black Pearl, Polkacide, Jim Gilman, Chuck Berger, Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band, Trio Voronezh and many more!

The Cotati Accordion Festival is a non-profit organization established in 1991 to promote the love of the accordion and to support local youth service organizations. To date we have contributed in excess of \$320,000 to the youth of our community. For complete information, please visit www.cotatifest.com

Connecticut

The Connecticut Accordion Association recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a Luncheon and Concert at Vasi's in Waterbury. The AAA Junior Festival Orchestra conducted by Mary Tokarski and the CT Accordion Orchestra, conducted by Linda Soley Reed

were featured. The youngsters dazzled the audience and included newcomer, Will Comer (Connecticut), Luba Pak (Virginia), Cody McSherry (Pennsylvania) and Nathan Chapetan (Connecticut). Kudos to co-President Marilyn O'Neil for getting the local Waterbury Republican newspaper for their participation and beautiful article (<http://www.rep-am.com/news/local/800555.txt>)

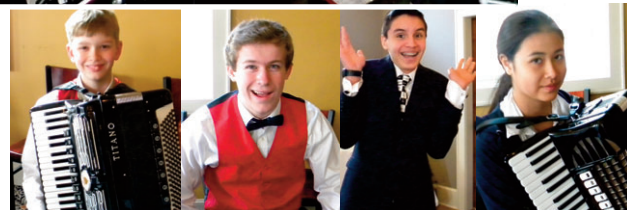
CAA member, Judy Sehna, once again treated us to her special accordion



cake. Delicious!



The AAA Jr. Festival Orchestra Conducted by Mary Tokarski



Our Future "Accordion Stars": Left to right, Cody McSherry, Will Comer, Nathan Chapetan and Luba Pak

Columbus, OH

The Ken and Mary Turbo Accordions Express band featured on July 3rd at 6 p.m. at the polka festival at *Germania* (German Village), 543 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Ken has over 40 years of music experience, playing the diatonic button accordion and also the tenor banjo, guitar, mandolin, and mandola. He was even bestowed the title "Baron of the Banjo" by Frankie Yankovic. Ken had his own rag/jazz band for many years, playing in and around Ohio, as well as performing in the German Pavilion at Disney's Epcot Center and at the Altstadt Fest in Goslar/Harz, Germany. Mary's music career has spanned over 30 years, playing both the organ and the piano accordion. She has performed at numerous festivals, banquets and for parties.

For further information about upcoming performances, please e-mail: kenandmarymusik@yahoo.com

Eastport, Newfoundland (Canada)

The annual Beaches Accordion Festival takes place from July 12th until 20th at the Beaches Heritage Centre, Church St, Eastport, Newfoundland.

- The daily schedule includes:
- July 12 - Accordion Greats
- July 16 - Dine and Dance at the S.U.F.
- July 17 - Future of the Accordion
- July 18 - Best of Bonavista Bay
- July 19, 2 p.m. - Salvage Stages, Ac-



The CAA Orchestra, Conducted by Linda Soley Reed