



What's Shakin'



July 2012

Newsletter of the Delaware Accordion Club
www.DelawareAccordionClub.com

Meetings held in the banquet room at

Wize Guys Restaurant

Formerly 896 Diner

I-95 exit 1b, Route 896 north

Newark DE 19713

Any questions, call Joe 302-388-0471

2012 schedule

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16

Listen to our sponsor WVUD 91.3 FM

DAC member Brian Lee

hosts Scratchy Grooves on Sunday 7 – 8 pm

98.1 WOGL Breakfast Club with Bill Zimpfer
approx 7:30am on Thursday morning

Could you figure out what is coming out of Bill Z's accordion?

News from Our President: Accordion Joe

**One of his antique accordions is in the window of
Caroline's Restaurant, 410 Delaware St, New Castle**

They are open Tues-Fri 8am-11:30am, TWR&Sat 11am-2p, Fri dinner by reservation

This issue dedicated to the memory of Sam Fire

(Sam's legacy on page 5)

APRIL 15

Today we had a group of 30 people with 8 performers and a lot of energy. Joshua Heins, grandson of Dr. & Mrs. Wendel, opened our meeting with some songs played on a keyboard. He played the theme of Beethoven's 9th symphony and Kumbaya. How wonderful it is to have family members join us and be inspired by our experienced musicians.

Joe Oberly followed and gave us: Suzy's Polka, Can't Help Falling in Love, He Stopped Loving Her Today, and My Heart Will Go On (the theme from the movie *Titanic*). This weekend marks the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking.

Phil Bonsiero played his Petosa and offered: Ramblin' Rose, Green Grass of Home, Roses are Red, and Begin the Beguine. Phil also won the 50/50 raffle. Gary Robinson played: Hungarian Dance #5, Clarinet Polka, If I Were A Rich Man, and Blueberry Hill.

Richard DiBlassio played his Sano and performed: I Won't Dance, Taking a Chance on Love, and the Helena Polka. His rendition of Irving Berlin's What'll I Do had a low, gentle intro with the Tennessee Waltz added and then a return to the original melody. Tony Cristofich sang an Italian song with Richard and Tony danced with Jeanne Mariani. Richard's arrangements of songs are well done and his jokes add to the entertainment.

Richard DeLello played guitar along with his friend, Richard DiBlassio and gave us: All My Loving, Light My Fire, The Lady is a Tramp, and Lying Eyes. The Maioranos danced to You Send Me. Cody McSherry followed with: Alley Cat, and the Beer Barrel Polka with a bellow shake. He also performed Bella Notte, Radetsky March, and Espana Cani. He switched to his button accordion and marched around the room. Cody will also perform in June at our featured concert.

Finally, Susan Shertok and Richard DeLello played the following songs: Jamaica Farewell/Yellow Bird, Take Me Home Country Roads, More, Rocky Top, Sway, Bye Bye Love, Hey Good Lookin', Those Were the Days (Edith Bunker is back), Hava Nagilah and the Miami Beach Rhumba.

Everyone had a wonderful time with good food, friends, great music, and the mighty accordion ruled the day! See you next month.

MAY 20

Today we had a small group of 20 people attending with 10 players. Tony Cristofich opened our session with the Bing Bang Polka, Somewhere My Love, O Sole Mio and Beer Barrel Polka. Phil Bonsiero followed with Unforgettable and Beyond the Sea. He played a good arrangement of Last Dance dedicated to the memory of Donna Summer. Phil also played Midnight Rider, Hoop De Doo and Too Fat Polka.

Richard Trasferini was next and gave us Dream, Beer Barrel Polka, Waiting for the Robert E. Lee and Alabama Jubilee. Gerald Masucci played a tango, Carnival of Venice and an Italian medley. John Maiorano performed several French tunes: Theme from Moulin Rouge, Under Paris Skies, Poor People of Paris, The Last Time I Saw Paris, La Vie en Rose and I Love Paris. He also played I Should Care, Begin the Beguine, Memories and Who Can I Turn To? Jeanne Mariani and Tony Cristofich danced to the great melodies.

Joe Ragan played a patriotic medley on his Quagliardi accordion: Anchors Away, Air Force Song, Marines Hymn and Caissons Go Rolling Along. Many of our members have proudly served our country in the armed forces and we applauded their service and dedication. Susan Shertok teamed up with Joe for the Happy Wanderer, Bing Bang Polka, Hey Good Lookin', Liechtensteiner Polka and All My Loving. Richard Trasferini's grandson, Aidan Serad, played these songs on a small accordion: Indian Song, Can Can Song, Ode to Joy and Caissons Go Rolling Along. Sam Scaffo ended our day with Memories of Paris, Flight of the Angels and German Song.

JUNE 17

Our members and friends were treated to an excellent concert today by our special guest Rita Davidson, and an opening act by DAC's Cody McSherry. It was a grand way to spend Father's Day by listening to great music.

Cody McSherry performed the Beer Barrel Polka, Alley Cat, Radetsky March, Bella Notte (from Disney's Lady and the Tramp), and La Spagnola. He played and sang the Chattanooga Choo Choo. His family members and friends cheered him on. This young, talented boy has a terrific future and he will have celebrated his 9th birthday when this article is printed. Cody switched to a button box accordion and played Kinder March, Snow Waltz, and Trumpet & Echo. It was a wonderful way to open the concert.

Rita Davidson of West Orange, New Jersey is an accomplished accordionist and music teacher. She studied accordion with Eugene Ettore, former AAA President and noted, accordion composer. She is also the editor of the Accordion USA News. Rita played a Sano accordion and performed several selections by Eugene Ettore: Spanish Holiday, Springtime Caprice, Manhattan Concerto (on her Petosa), Valse, Concert Etude, Accordion Miniatures, Prelude & Scherzo, Rhapsodie Espanol, Five O'Clock Rush, and Introduction, Cadenza and Tarantella.

Rita is a delightful public speaker, and she said she practices scales and warmups before she begins her music. She mentioned that many accordion contest performances are online to listen to. How fortunate we were to meet her and experience the superb music of Eugene Ettore. His music is very expressive and he has over three hundred published copyrighted works. Everyone was touched by this special concert. CDs and books were raffled off and many thanks to Lisa Cristofich for arranging this concert.

Note from Rita Davidson

**Thank you again for inviting me to play for the Delaware Accordion Club.
I really enjoyed the afternoon, your friends, Cody, meeting your father etc.
The story about Cody is in the July www.accordionusa.com news.
Hope to see you again at another accordion event.**

KUDOS

A big BIG thanks to Lisa Fieldman

That was a fine article on DAC in the Spring/Summer edition of Newark Life

Special thanks to Ted Joslin for advertising DAC in his newsletter

Cobblestones

JULY 15

Today's meeting featured 5 players and 15 friends. We played in the main dining room since the two side rooms are being renovated. We heard that there will be a stage, sports betting, a bar, and a pizza oven.

Jack Chrustowski opened our session with the following: I'll Take Manhattan, Anything Goes, You Do Something to Me, Just One of Those Things, Arrivederci Roma and Someone to Watch Over Me.

Joe Oberly followed and played: Barbara Polka, Please Release Me, Bottle of Wine, O Sole Mio, Marie, Marine's Hymn, Danny Boy and God Bless America. Gary Robinson entertained us with: Repasz March, Clarinet Polka, If I Were A Rich Man, Anniversary Waltz, and Saucy Miss. He sang All Shook Up and Bird Dog. He was born to rock and roll!

Susan Shertok followed with: Happy Wanderer, Miami Beach Rhumba, Tzena Tzena, Bing Bang Polka, Hey Good Lookin', Hello Dolly, and her Edith Bunker song.

Bob Shoemaker played his famous red Roland accordion and gave us: Mr. Sandman, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, and a Stevie Wonder medley which included: Isn't She Lovely?, Sunshine of My Life, For Once in My Life, and I Just Called to Say I Love You. He also played: Just the Way You Look Tonight, Our Love is Here to Stay, Embraceable You and Lady Be Good. Bob played several Greek songs which included Never on Sunday and Zorba the Greek. Jack and Winnie danced to some tunes.

Member Bio – Cody McSherry

Cody McSherry is 9 years old and from Conestoga, PA. He is a third grade student at Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster. Cody is the youngest in his family - his older brothers, Shawn and Justin, are 24 and 23 years old, and both are very talented musically. From the time Cody was born he loved attending their concerts and hearing them practice. Shawn plays viola and trumpet, and Justin plays trombone and piano.

Cody began studying piano with Mary Koenig in Lancaster at age 4. When we later learned that Mary also played accordion, we went to hear her perform at a German restaurant. Cody fell in love with the sound of accordion and received one for his 6th birthday that June. Mary immediately began teaching him accordion along with piano. Cody's interest in music only grew, and organ lessons were added when he turned 7 and button box (steirische harmonika) was added last summer. Mary Koenig teaches all four instruments to Cody. He takes a 90 minute combined lesson each week and practices at least 90 minutes each day.

Cody attended the American Accordionists Association Festival and Competition in July 2011 in Charleston, South Carolina. He entered the junior ethnic, open, and pop categories, earning two first place trophies and one second place trophy. Additionally, he was invited to perform at the awards ceremony! Cody is already working on his music for this year's American Accordionists Association Festival to be held in Baltimore in July. He will be entering five categories this year and has already been invited to perform at the Cabaret Night concert!

Since September 2011, Cody has been performing once per month at the Mennonite Home in Lancaster and recently has been performing each month at The Glen at Willow Valley. He can also occasionally be found performing with a group of local musicians at Valentino's Café in Lancaster on Thursday nights. He very much enjoys spending time with other accordionists at the Delaware Accordion Club meetings, where everyone is friendly and welcoming!

News from the McSherry Family

We just returned yesterday from the American Accordionists Association 2012 Festival in Baltimore. Cody competed in five categories (open, open ethnic, open classical, open pop, and open jazz) in the juniorette division (9 and under) and won four first place trophies and one second place (plus a trophy for participation in the evaluation solo). While there were no other competitors in his age group, they do not award any trophies unless scores are high enough. Cody's scores ranged from 95 to 99. He also performed three songs at the Italian Cabaret dinner and concert Thursday evening and played with the junior orchestra at the awards ceremony on Saturday.

Richard DiBlassio performs in Wilmington

Tony Cristofich is a regular participant in the activities at Elwyn Senior Center.

Richard is scheduled to perform at Elywn on Thursday, August 16.

In Memory of Sam Fire

by Kurt Martin

I first met Sam on February 5, 1962, when I took my first accordion lesson at the Johnny Felice School of Music. Sam was an inspiring teacher, a large reason why I became a full-time professional musician. He was a gentle, sensitive, honorable and generous man. After teaching me for about a year, Sam left the music studio to take a job as a surveyor. That was his livelihood until he retired. But if the truth be told, Sam was in love with the accordion. Not only was he a very capable musician, but he could repair the accordion as well and was a reliable source of excellent craftsmanship to many of the accordion studios in the Philadelphia area. I have often thought that the accordion was invented by a genius. Well, if that is the case, then it takes a genius to repair an accordion. Sam's qualities of dedication and perfection enabled him to become a marvelous repairman. Just looking at his workshop is an indication of how diligent he was at his repairs.

Sam's playing career took him from playing in bands and doing private parties to playing at AAA events. He always wanted the accordion to be appreciated. His dream was for the accordion to make a comeback and be as popular as it was in the 40's and 50's. We would always have these discussions about who or what caused the popularity as well as the reputation of the accordion the most harm. A certain TV show or a certain British band would always head the list. But to Sam, the accordion would always remain number one.

On March 5, 2012, Sam Fire passed away. Sam is survived by his biggest fan, Ruth. They had been married 55 years. Over the years, Sam and I would get together to play. Ruth would be upstairs, but she would applaud when we finished a song. Then we would adjourn to the dining room where we would solve the problems of the world and the accordion over a good pizza. Those memories will be with me forever.

Show over - Latch the bellows

DAC Directory

Acme Accordion School, 322 Haddon Avenue Westmont, NJ 08108, phone 856-854-6628

Cintioli's Music Center, 5359 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19124, 215-533-2050

Concord Music Company, Inc., 2805 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE 19803, 302-658-6875
Palmer-Hughes books are available; if the issue that you need is not in stock, it can be ordered.

Richard DiBlassio, DMA, Accordion - Piano - Vocals, call 215-357-1632

Joe, U.S. Sales Representative of accordions made in Castelfidardo, Italy, 215-514-3787

Modern Accordion School II, John Lolli, 226 Cedar Avenue, Richland NJ 08350, 856-691-9273

Scotty, accordion lessons, 1090 Notley Court, Pasadena MD 21122-1819, 410-255-7889

Accordion Joe Oberly, President of the Delaware Accordion Club

Founder of the Catherine Brady Oberly traveling accordion museum.

Will "play show and tell" at schools, churches, retirement homes, etc.

Have you found an old instrument you want to sell or give away that could be added to the traveling museum (any condition) then call 302-388-0471

Upcoming Accordion Events

September 24-27, International Accordion Convention, Las Vegas

October 8 - Save the Date --- Alex Meixner in Wilmington

Editor

Delaware Accordion Club

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Wilmington DE 19805-1144