



# What's Shakin'



October 2011

Newsletter of the Delaware Accordion Club  
[www.DelawareAccordionClub.com](http://www.DelawareAccordionClub.com)

*Meetings held in the banquet room at*  
**896 Diner**  
**I-95 exit 1b, Route 896 north**  
**Newark DE 19713**  
**Any questions, call Joe 302-388-0471**

Two more dates in 2011  
Open MIC Sessions 2-5pm  
November 20  
December 18

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  
**You may think you know music, but do you know your polka?**  
**Could you figure out what is coming out of Bill Z's accordion?**

**Polka Radio - [www.247Polkaheaven.com](http://www.247Polkaheaven.com)**

DAC dues will remain at \$5 and are due on November 1st.

Mail checks (made payable) to Susan Shertok, 22 East Green Valley Circle, Newark, DE 19711  
Checks made out to DAC will be returned.

The dues take care of our expenses: newsletters, flyers and stationery, envelopes, stamps, receipt books and tickets. Dues are also used for flowers, cards, donation to WVUD, guest bands and parties. Please let Lisa Cristofich know if your address, phone number and email address have changed so that our mailing list will be accurate. Our newsletter is posted on our website in case you do not want to receive a paper copy; please let Lisa know. Everyone is encouraged to pay dues to enjoy all that we offer. (No payment is asked of those on the "associate and honorary" list.)

All are welcome to attend DAC open mike sessions as a participant or observer.

July 17

Thirty accordion fans celebrated today at the 896 Diner and seven players performed. We thank everyone who traveled from New Jersey - Richard Trasferini, Sam Scaffo and Francois Hricak. Thanks to our PA crew - Frank Brad and Carrie Cossaboon - and from Maryland, Phil Bonsiero.

Joe Bucci opened our session with his Notturmi diatonic button accordion. He played Piemontesina, Lo Spazzacamino, Primo Applauso and Calabrisella. Phil Bonsiero followed and gave us: Red Roses for a Blue Lady, Summertime, Love Letters in the Sand, Marie, New York New York, and Blessed Assurance in swingstyle.

Jeff Anderson was next and he gave us: I'll Fly Away, Al Di La, La Campagnola & Norse Cradle Song. Gary Robinson followed with the Sharpshooter's March, Freilach, Clarinet Polka, Anniversary Waltz, and If I Were a Rich Man.

Susan Shertok played Anema Core/Arrivederci Roma, More, Jamaica Farewell/Yellow Bird, Sway, Hey Good Lookin', Tzena Tzena and Miami Beach Rhumba. She simply had to sing Those Were the Days as Edith Bunker, her alter ego.

Ruthann Christopherson treated us to a delightful medley of songs reminiscent of the Mummer's style: Avalon, Baby Face, Best Things in Life are Free, Bye Bye Blues, By the Sea, Smiles, and O Them Golden Slippers. Joe Oberly closed the meeting with: O Sole Mio, Strangers in the Night, and Goodnight Irene. Joe also won the 50/50 raffle.

August 13 – Accordions NOW! Convention  
by Rob Trietsch

On August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> - Accordion enthusiasts from around the country converged in Nashua, New Hampshire for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Accordions Now! 2011 Festival. The entire event was spectacular, from the open mike session and Gary Morin Concert Friday night to the final note that sang from Tony Lovello's Petosa during the main event Saturday evening.

Saturday delivered a full itinerary for attendees that started off with educational workshops and lecture demonstrations which included: "Which Finger Do I Use Next?" – Secrets of Accordion Fingering by Sam Falcetti, Avoiding the Pitfalls of Do-It-Yourself Accordion Repairs by Authur Welch, Lecture-Demonstration on Style and Technique by Stephen Dominko and Eugene Ettore (1921-1985): His Life and His Music by Rita Davidson. Additionally, all-day vendor displays and professional advice presented the opportunity to play a variety of accordions from Acctone to Roland and obtain specialty items including straps, music books and CDs.

A delicious luncheon buffet with Accordion Friends Old & New was followed by a busy afternoon of concerts and informal jam sessions. Jerry Tramontozzi performed first and included a wonderful tribute to all veterans in the audience, followed by jazz accordionist Carmen Vitanza, Lynda Fish & Friends and Fabio & Fabio. The Fabio's are a fourth generation father-son accordion duo from Connecticut who delighted the audience with their amazing synchronization. When asked how they do it, the response was – it's in the family genes! The final afternoon concert presented Donna Maria Regis, solo, with friends and conducting the Accordions Now! Festival Orchestra – this year honoring Tony Lovello by playing some of his arrangements adapted for this ensemble. Many accordionists present participated in playing in the Festival Orchestra and sounded great!

Saturday evening brought about the Gala Banquet (plated dinner) followed by the Gala Concert. Evan Harlan – accordionist, composer and music director presented a potpourri of traditional and original accordion music that entailed various flavors of accordion music from around the world. Rita Davidson – accordionist, educator, editor of Accordion USA website and student of Eugene Ettore (1921-1985), commemorated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ettore's birth by playing his virtuoso compositions. To further raise his profile as a composer and keep his memory alive, she has been developing and is curator of the Eugene Ettore Memorial Website, whose expressively stated purpose is "preserving the memory and works of Eugene Ettore, composer, arranger, accordionist, inventor, teacher and more!" Rita gave a fantastic performance; exposure to the works of Eugene Ettore was most enjoyable.

The culmination of the event was the concert given by master accordionist Tony Lovello. Tony has been proclaimed "King and Master of the Bellow Shake" by the late great Maestro Galla-Rini and hailed as "The Living Legend of the Accordion World!" by the National Accordion Association. You may have also heard Tony referred to as "The Liberace of the Accordion" since he is a superlative showman and entertainer who generates excitement with his dazzling musicianship and clever humor. Once again, Tony delivered and "wowed" the audience! Tony's energy, precision, execution and ability to make his Petosa sing delighted the entire crowd. Tony played many items from his repertoire including several songs from his new CD, Shall We Dance. During his performance, Accordions Now! 2011 attendees received a special instructional demonstration when he delved into a Bellow Shake tutorial straight from his "Bellow Shake Workshop" DVD. What a treat! I was anxious to get home, strap on my accordion and get shaking! I particularly enjoyed Tony's famous arrangement of "Malaguena" which was an audience request posed by none other than Delaware's own Lisa Cristofich! To say Tony hit the ball out of the park is an understatement.

Accordions Now! 2011, co-sponsored by the New Hampshire Accordion Association and Accordion Connection LLC was a terrific venue jammed packed with something of interest for every accordion enthusiast in attendance. The highlights of the weekend for me personally were meeting American Accordionists' Association (AAA) President Linda Soley Reed, exposure to the talent of Eugene Ettore as presented so wonderfully by Rita Davidson, Stephen Dominko's lecture on Style and Technique, Tony Lovello's spectacular energized performance, and the many old and new accordion friends that I had the opportunity to interact with. I even enjoyed the car ride home back to New York while listening to the autographed CDs I acquired from Tony Lovello, Carmen Vitanza, Stephen Dominko and Fabio & Fabio! Count me in for Accordions Now! 2012

The Cotati Accordion Festival seems to be a well-kept secret. I had never heard of it until, in 1997, I flew to California to visit my daughter Jenny who lives in Cotati CA, and she had just given birth to my grandson Kirk on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August that year. Coincidentally, the festival is held every year on the third weekend of August, and I just happened to be there then! Who knew?

Cotati is a quaint village just off US 101 about an hour's drive north of San Francisco. Long ago the town fathers chose not to allow any large shopping centers or box stores in the community – they wanted to keep it typically northern California-ish (very laid-back), and it is! In the center of the village is a large tree-lined plaza, where entertainment is held every few weeks during the summer – one of those being the accordion festival.

The first Cotati Accordion Festival was held in 1990 and was the idea of two local accordionists/musicians – Jim Boggio and Clifton Buck-Kaufman. Jim Boggio had just recorded an album of accordion music “Accordion to the Blues.” The festival is held outside on the plaza over Saturday and Sunday. There are two stages, a jam tent, a polka/dance tent, and many vendors selling food, arts & crafts, clothing and, of course, accordions. Cost is about \$25 for a two-day wrist-band. Thousands of people come from all over, sit on the hay bales provided, or on the grass, many having brought their own accordions, and play in the jam tent or just wherever they are sitting! If you chose, you can walk a few blocks to the local restaurants and shops. The weather there is always pleasant.

It is a very wonderful experience for us accordion aficionados. This year there were over 30 listed performers, including Those Darn Accordions, Polkacide, Mary Tokarski, The Great Morgani, Chuck Berger, Motordude Zydeco, and the Golden State Accordion Band. Other years featured Dick Contino. Their website is [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)

August 21

Today, our small group included 26 accordion members and 8 players. Phil Bonsiero opened our session with the following songs: Charade, More, Love Boat theme, You Belong to Me, Smoke on the Water, A Day in the Life of a Fool, Laura, Misty and Always on My Mind.

Cody McSherry and his parents joined us again, and he played: Snow Waltz, Danube Waves, Arkansas Traveler, and Roll Out the Barrel. He switched to a diatonic accordion and played Kinder Marsch. Cody is our youngest performer at 8 years old, and is doing extremely well. He also went home with a DAC cap which he is proudly wearing.

Gary Woodling followed and performed: I'm Confessin' That I Love You, and a medley of Slovenian polkas including Iron Mike Polka, Slovenian Wedding Waltz, and Gornik's Polka. Bob Shoemaker played his red Roland accordion and opened with Liber Tango, which he performed brilliantly. He also gave us: I Wanna Call You Sweetheart, Someone to Watch Over Me, Colonial Boy, and Peg o' My Heart. He played a Frank Sinatra medley which included: Come Fly With Me, My Kind of Town, and Chicago. He closed with the Red Rose Cafe.

Henri Nikol played a Roland Chromatic button accordion and gave us: Brise Napolitano, Snowflake Waltz, Return of the Swallows, Piero's Waltz and M'Lord (which Edith Piaf sang). Susan Shertok played: Miami Beach Rhumba, Midnight in Moscow, Sway, Jamaica Farewell into Yellow Bird, Bing Bang Polka, Rocky Top and Havah Nagilah. She also sang her Edith Bunker song - Those Were the Days. Joe Oberly played: Tears On My Pillow, Sweet Rosie O'Grady, Santa Lucia, Danny Boy, Tarantella, and Under the Bridges of Paris. Gary Robinson ended our day with: Bird Dog, All Shook up, Clarinet Polka, Talk of the Town, and Since I Don't Have You. Tony Cristofich won our 50/50 raffle. See ya next month!!

SEPTEMBER 18

Today we had a small group of 22 people, including 5 players. Phil Bonsiero played his Petosa accordion and gave us: Everybody Loves Someone, Bye Bye Blackbird, Pretty Woman, There is a Tavern in the Town, The Lady is a Tramp, Those Were the Days, Let's Get Away From it All, and Brown-Eyed Girl.

Jack Chrustowski played his Roland and offered: Someone to Watch Over Me, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Espana Cani, 'S Wonderful, Just One of those Things, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, I'll Be Seeing You, and I'll Take Manhattan. Susan Shertok played Miami Beach Rhumba, Rocky Top, More, Sway, and Jamaica Farewell into Yellow Bird. Gary Robinson joined her for duets on these songs: Freilach and Tzena Tzena. Susan finished with a Hava Nagilah medley and sang her famous Edith Bunker song.

Gary Robinson followed with: Talk of the Town, If I Were a Rich Man, All Shook Up, Clarinet Polka, Bird Dog, La Petit Waltz, Since I Don't Have You, Hey Good Lookin', Rock Around the Clock, Anniversary Waltz and Sharpshooter's March.

Joe Oberly closed the day with Santa Lucia, Tarantella, Golden Slippers, Your Cheatin' Heart, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Notre Dame March, and Battle Hymn of the Republic.

We collected \$18 on the 50/50 raffle for the club. Susan's friend, Eric Rangell, recorded all of the players and mailed their performances to a computer site, allowing friends and family to see us. Thank you so much. See you all in October!

### **Accordion Bio by Winifred Dryden**

I grew up in Roselle, attended Oak Grove School, Alexis I duPont and Goldey Beacom College. I have always loved music and dancing. I was a very lucky teenager to go on to New York City and join a summer dance tour. We performed at the Allentown State Fair and other places such as Illinois, Mississippi and Canada. That was the best job I had ever had!

My dancing also opened the door to model at the Delaware Art Center for Charles Parks' sculptor classes and Henry Peacock's drawing classes.

I am a retired legal secretary from DuPont where I had met Nancy Frampton who invited me to DAC. My job in retirement is dog sitting. I am usually at the meetings with my friend Joe who is from Belair and is a fellow square dancer. He really enjoys the Sunday sessions!

I have a son named Bill who is an excellent guitarist; my other son Jim has two children.

### **For Sale – New Accordion Case on Wheels**

\$175 or 125 euros – it is imported from Castelfidardo, Italy

It has a flip-up “D” handle on side-top, 2 wheels on opposite bottom side

A new style rounded corners with thick rubber protectors to prevent scraping and dents!

There is beautiful embroidered white stitching around all of exterior and lush red felt interior

Smells like new!

Call Joe at 215-887-5253

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

Frank Brad, performer, call 609-408-3906 or 302-529-9333

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

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

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

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

Pat Racioppa sells straps; he will bring them to our meetings, call 717-939-3096

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

Ed Tafelski, New Castle DE, Accordion Repairs, Teacher & Entertainer, 302-655-3529

Well-Tempered Music, David Cottrell, 293 Lewisville Road, Elkton MD 21921, 410-392-2279

Editor

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