

# What's Shakin'

November 2009

Newsletter of the Delaware Accordion Club

[www.DelawareAccordionClub.com](http://www.DelawareAccordionClub.com)

*Meetings held in the banquet room at*

**Bourbon Street Grill  
2605 Philadelphia Pike  
Claymont**

**Directions to Bourbon Street Grill**

Take I-95 north, exit right on Harvey Road, then right to Philadelphia Pike.  
Or take I-95 south to I-495, exit Philadelphia Pike, turn right off ramp, proceed 2 miles.  
Restaurant is on the right.

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\***

Please remember that yearly DAC dues will be collected on Sunday, November 15.

The \$5 amount helps us to pay for flyers, copying, postage, supplies, etc.

You can pay cash or mail a check to

Susan Shertok at 22 East Green Valley Circle, Newark DE 19711

If you no longer want a paper copy, please remember that the newsletters are now posted on our website and you are still more than welcome to come to the DAC open mic sessions as a participant or observer.

Last two events for the year

Open MIC Sessions 2-5pm

November 15

December 20

Listen to our sponsor WVUD 91.3 FM

DAC member Brian Lee hosts Scratchy Grooves on Sunday 7 – 8 pm

Polka Radio

[www.247Polkaheaven.com](http://www.247Polkaheaven.com)

**This issue dedicated to the memory of  
Paul Packo**

He had the honor to perform in Myron Floren's place on the Lawrence Welk Show.  
Also some DAC members have been fortunate to have had Paul as a teacher.

Open Mic – August 16

AUGUST

MEETING

Joe Oberly opened our August session playing a Cajun song for the restaurant - Jambalaya. He also performed Santa Lucia, Beer Barrel Polka, and the Godfather medley. His grandson, Jake Dellosa, played his guitar. Jake played the Day That Never Came by Metallica and a ZZ Top song. You will see him in a rock band someday.

Gary Robinson tried out some songs on the guitar - Folsom Prison Blues and Walk Don't Run. Francois Hricak played his button accordion and gave us C'est la Fete a Seville, C'est la Romance de Paris, La Vie en Rose, Happy Wanderer, and Music, Music, Music.

Richard Trasferini accompanied our 2 singers - Charlie Mariani and Jerrie Alexander with I'm in the Mood for Love, and Smile. (Jerrie needs to sing more often!) We all sang God Bless America. Gerald Masucci played his Sonola accordion and performed Come Back to Sorrento, Czardas, and a waltz. Jeff Anderson played his Sano and performed How Great Thou Art, La Mariposita, and an Irish set. Bob Shoemaker's red Roland accordion is a treat to listen to with all of the varied instrumentation. He performed La Vie en Rose, Twilight Time, Peg 'O My Heart, Rainy Day and Don't Cry for Me, Argentina. Francois joined him and their duets included: Arrivederci Roma, Under the Bridges of Paris, Poor People of Paris, I love Paris, C'est si bon, and Calcutta.

Susan Shertok performed some songs, and we all enjoyed the day. Joe Alexander won the 50/50 for the second consecutive month and received \$16.50. See you in September - to quote a famous song.

Open Mic – September 20

SEPTEMBER

MEETING

Seven players came today; we were a small but mighty group of devoted accordion fans. Jack Chrustowski opened the session playing his Roland accordion. His selections included: The Lady is a Tramp, Tarantella, Someone to Watch Over Me, and Somebody Loves Me.

Pat Racioppa played a great sounding Beltuna and his tunes included: Perfidia, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Baby Elephant Walk and Wake Up Little Susie. Joe Oberly played a 32 bass accordion and honored the restaurant with Jambalaya. He switched to the 120 bass and his songs were: Spanish Eyes, Please Release Me, and God Bless America.

Gary Robinson treated us to Hungarian Dance #5, Sleepwalk, Tzena Tzena, and the Clarinet Polka. He does a great version of the Everly Brothers' hit song Bird Dog. Susan Shertok teamed up with Richard DeLillo on guitar and played Sway, Bye Bye Love, All My Loving, The Happy Wanderer, and Take Me Home Country Roads.

Bob Shoemaker followed with the mellow sounds of his red Roland. Tulips from Amsterdam is a great song. Dream had rich harmonies and his arrangements are always wonderful. He gave us some German tunes to celebrate Oktoberfest and Charlie & Jeanne Mariani kicked up their heels. Remember - In heaven there is no beer, and that's why we drink it here.

Richard DiBlassio and his friend Richard DeLillo closed our meeting with the Anniversary Waltz dedicated to Richard DiBlassio's parents. Everyone was awed by his performance of Shubert's Ave Maria. We all liked an early Beatle's tune called Tell Me What You See. And finally, they rocked the room with Proud Mary. Special thanks to Gary for his help with the echo part.

Congratulations to Joe Alexander for winning the 50/50 raffle for the 3rd consecutive month.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Today, only 4 players came and we were well entertained by the few but mighty. John Maiorano opened the session with a Frank Sinatra medley which included: Theme from New York, New York, Witchcraft, It Was A Very Good Year and My Way. Charlie and Jeannie Mariani celebrated the anniversary of their first date and sang When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New, Bewitched Bothered and Bewildered, and Here in My Heart.

Pat Racioppa was next on his Tonaveri accordion and gave us great arrangements of Lonesome Me, Georgia, Sweet Georgia Brown, Memory, Tarantella, Sway, Besame Mucho, and Skylark. His wife Connie sang My Funny Valentine. He also performed Speak Softly Love, Godfather Waltz, You are My Sunshine, and ended with God Bless America.

Frank Brad played his Excelsior and gave us the Anna Polka, Shangra-la, All of me, Sentimental Journey, Peg 'o my heart, Shine on Harvest Moon and many others. We all formed a conga line and danced around the tables.

Joe Oberly closed the concert with the Barbara Polka, In the Mood, Only You, and Jambalaya. He put on his Mexican sombrero and played Spanish Eyes, and the Mexican Hat Dance.

Joe Alexander won the 50/50 raffle for the 4th consecutive month, taking home \$13.00. What a lucky fellow! Dues will be collected soon.

### Member Bio - Frank Brad

Frank Brad accordionist, as a child protégé, graced the stages of Philadelphia Academy of Music in over one hundred performances and the Convention Hall in more than sixty appearances. Debuting at age eight, Mr. Brad was notorious for his rapid speed over the keyboard. In his modest manner, he now relates that he played rapidly because he was a nervous child.

His formal training was acquired from Arnold Crowe and Jacob Neupauer at the renowned Pietro Deiro and Neupauer Accordion Conservatories, which conducted schools in both New York City and Philadelphia. The same school where Larry Ferrari provided keyboard tutelage; a few years later Mr. Brad accompanied. His formal, classical training continued through age seventeen. The renowned Charles Magnante, a proficient perfectionist, continues to be his most admired master accordionist.

Mr. Brad has been a proverbial musical artist from Chicago to most of the east coast, appearing on television, radio, or at assembled gatherings. He has performed conjointly with Charlie Ventura and the Charlie Ventura Trio, obbigo to many vocal and instrumental artists, and in an array of appearances.

Presently, he is renowned for his assorted instrumental sound resembling aspects of a full orchestra. Beyond concerts, he performs singularly for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, holiday parties, dances, and gatherings of assorted occasions. Whether classical, waltz, rhumba, swing, blues, jazz, fox trot, romantic, or cha-cha -- his fingers generate an abundance of delightful, prolific entertainment, with a personality to match.

### Accordion Happenings in Delaware

Submitted by Tony Cristofich, Austin TX

I had a great time in my visit to Delaware and was lucky to see two great accordionists on 8/15 at the Bourbon Street Grill. Alex Meixner entertained us with fantastic playing and singing using a Baldoni piano accordion and also a button box. He moved from Hungarian czardas to Italian "La Mula de Parenzo" to American "Sway" and "Hoedown." Then we were treated to Phil Bonsiero, who is also very entertaining and skilled. He played many favorites as well as some he has written himself. It was a great time with some singalongs and a great show by these talented performers. Then I enjoyed the DAC meeting the next day on the 16th. It is always good to visit and listen to the various players. It is a great time for socializing and listening to all styles of accordion playing.

On 9/8, we listened to Nick Desiderio play at Soffrito's on Kirkwood Highway. The food was fantastic and Nick was wonderful playing all the Italian favorites for Elio Battista. Charlie Mariani even entertained us on vocals with a great rendition of "Just Because." I would highly recommend a visit there when Nick is playing again.

### Accordion Happenings in Texas

Submitted by Tony Cristofich, Austin TX

This free event lasts two days, but I only attended on Saturday 10/10. It features the accordion in various styles from around the world. There are four stages and you can sample a lot of music in a day. There was some great playing by Daniel Diaz on a bandoneon, which is a very difficult type of concertina (relation to the accordion). It almost has the range of a regular piano with buttons on both sides and

different notes whether the bellows go in or out. He played various Argentine tangos and amazed us with his skill. We heard the George Lammam Ensemble play Middle Eastern music with scales with 1/4 steps or quarter tones. Elias Lammam was fantastic on his piano accordion that was tuned to those Middle Eastern scales. Then we heard some good Conjunto music from the Valley by Gilberto Perez on the Mexican button accordion. Then an interesting ensemble from the Canary Islands called Miguel Afonso y su Grupo with one player on a piano accordion. Their style is international and they were very entertaining, getting the crowd to join in with clapping. Then there was a group from Seattle called Jo Miller and Her Burly Roughnecks. Their accordion player uses a piano accordion. They had a varied sound, some of which sounded like Elvis. The finale of the evening was Buckwheat Zydeco, the great Zydeco king. He had a great stage presence and really engaged the audience. He played a beautiful white piano accordion. His band had everyone clapping or dancing.

For Sale or Wanted

Looking for a particular piece of music or instrument repair?

Found an old instrument you want to sell or give away?

Contact the editor at 302-993-0374 or mail to 10 Walnut Avenue, Wilmington DE 19805-1144

ACME ACCORDION SCHOOL

322 Haddon Avenue Westmont, New Jersey 08108 – phone 856-854-6628

Frank Brad

For performances call 609-408-3906 or 302-529-9333

CINTIOLI'S MUSIC CENTER, 5359 Oxford Avenue Philadelphia PA 19124

215-533-2050 or 215-533-2053, [www.cintiolimusic.com](http://www.cintiolimusic.com)

Concord Music Company, Inc.

2805 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE 19803, 302-658-6875

MODERN ACCORDION SCHOOL II & John Lolli

226 Cedar Avenue, Richland NJ 08350, 856-691-9273

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

Ed TAFELSKI from New Castle DE, 302-655-3529

Accordion Repairs, Teacher & Entertainer

David Cottrell at WELL-TEMPERED MUSIC

293 Lewisville Road, Elkton MD 21921, 410-392-2279

Show over - Latch the bellows

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November 2009

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*Upcoming Accordion Events*

**Nick Desiderio**  
**Soffritto's Italian Grill**  
**1130 Kirkwood Highway**  
**Newark, DE 19711**

**Tuesdays nights – November 3 - December 1 - December 15**  
**6:00-9:00 pm**

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**98.1 WOGL Breakfast Club with Bill Zimpfer**

5:30 – 9am weekday mornings

**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?**

Editor  
Delaware Accordion Club  
10 Walnut Avenue  
Wilmington DE 19805-1144