

# SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezein'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

## Paolo Soprani

[Paolo Soprani](#) (1845-1918) is widely recognized for founding the accordion industry in [Castelfidardo](#), Italy, in 1863. The year 2013 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year [Paolo Soprani](#) built his first accordion, followed in 1872 when he opened a factory in

[Castelfidardo](#). Others soon followed his example, creating a large industry that is still a world leader.

The Italian post office has now issued a commemorative stamp in celebration of Soprani's monumental achievement.

## In Memoriam

A previous member of the OAC passed away recently. Perhaps some of the early members will recall Karen Laskela. Karen's Mom, Lillian, was also a very active member who passed

way several years ago. Karen never played the accordion, but was the top accordion fan. Her Mom, Lillian, was a very accomplished accordionist



## November Meeting

<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Orchestra Rehearsal</b>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>
<b>3:15 pm</b>	<b>Individual and Group Performances</b>
<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Jam Session</b>

The November meeting will be held on Sunday, November 10, at 3:00 pm. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City. Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone

is encouraged to perform. If you are shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you. After the individual and group performances, we will have a Jam Session. All are welcome to join in on the fun!



# The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

Special thanks to Nick Bratkovich who, once again, gave a great concert at the October OAC meeting. Nick is a true talent, and will be at the NAA in March 2014. If you missed him at the OAC meeting, plan to see him at the NAA next March.

I announced last month that yours truly and Bob Mansfield will be at the end of our terms as president and vice-president. I also nominated the entire OAC membership to recommend new talent for those positions. Please be prepared to announce your recommendations at the November meeting. This is your club, and only you can make it continue to grow. We will vote for the new officers at the December meeting.

The December meeting will be a special meeting. It's one of our most traditional meetings. We encourage all members to bring candies and cookies to enjoy and exchange. The Club will furnish all appropriate drinks. The most important is the call for all members to bring gloves, scarfs, socks, and hats that can be given to the homeless. Collecting and giving to the needy in December is one of our annual events. Please support this program.

I can't believe the year is almost over. The OAC is always such a pleasure for me. This year was great year, and I know it will end that way.

See you all at the November meeting. Bring your accordion and a friend.

• Dick



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7-07

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### PRESIDENT

**Dick Albreski**  
7109 NW 102<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162  
405/721-0564  
[evrick@att.net](mailto:evrick@att.net)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

**Bob Mansfield**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
[bobmansfield@cox.net](mailto:bobmansfield@cox.net)

### TREASURER

**Milo Shedek**  
12805 Castlerock Court  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142  
[miloshedek@cox.net](mailto:miloshedek@cox.net)

### SECRETARY

**Maggie Abel**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
[magster@aol.com](mailto:magster@aol.com)

### HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN

**Barbara Duer**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
[bduer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bduer@sbcglobal.net)

### PAST PRESIDENT

**Bill Henson**  
Mustang, OK  
[MustangBilly@cox.net](mailto:MustangBilly@cox.net)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Frank Gesinski**  
8035 South Irvington  
Tulsa, OK 74136-8404  
918/492-1715  
[OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net](mailto:OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net)

### WEBMASTER

**Diana Richard**  
[Diana.L.richard@gmail.com](mailto:Diana.L.richard@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE

<http://www.okaccordions.com/>

# The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Greetings from your treasurer.

Happy November birthdays to: Frankie Martinez on November 9, Donna Dove on November 16, and Bria Smith on November 22!

Remember to honor our Veterans on November 11. The first *Armistice Day* was proclaimed in 1919 by Woodrow Wilson, and changed to *Veterans Day* in 1954.

Wilson said, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us, and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

Nov 14 is *World Diabetes Day*. If you have the following symptoms, see your doctor (or it may be you are getting older, like me):

Some symptoms of diabetes include: being very thirsty, losing weight without trying, feeling tired, feeling hungry, blurry eyesight, and urinating often.

November 28 is *Thanksgiving*. Eat one of the 47 million turkeys eaten on Thursday!

November is *American Indian Heritage Month* - the first to greet Chris Columbus when he arrived were the Native Americans.

## Fun Facts About Veterans Day

- Note that the World War I armistice was signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month.
- There were around 21.8 million veterans in the United States as of 2010.
- There are around 9 million veterans over the age of 65.
- Around 1.6 million veterans are women.
- General George Patton, the famous World War II general, was born on November 11.

Listen to this, "The Thanksgiving Song" by Mary Chapin Carpenter: <http://top40.about.com/od/top10lists/tp/thanksgivingpop.htm>

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

• Milo



## Mark Your Calendars

**October 28-31, 2013: *Accordions International*** will have their annual accordion event, *Carnival of Venice in Vegas*, at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas. For more info, call 800/472-1695, or check their website, [vegas@AccordionnInfo.com](mailto:vegas@AccordionnInfo.com). Dick Contino will once again be one of the many headliners.

**November 1-10, 2013: *Wurstfest*** in New Braunfels, Texas. If you like German, Czech, and Polish food and music, you must attend this event. Ten days of the best bands from all over the world. Go to [www.wurfest.com](http://www.wurfest.com) for all details and schedules.

### Advertisement

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# October Meeting

Lois Roth

## OAC Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2013

There were 12 members and 4 guests present.

- President Dick Albreski opened the meeting with a brief discussion of business.
- The December meeting will be our traditional Christmas Cookie Party. Members are asked to bring cookies or other treats to share with the group. Donations of winter accessories (hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) will be collected to give to a charity. A gift raffle is again being considered. Details will be decided at the November meeting.
- Seven OAC youth members plan to attend the 2014 National Accordion Association Convention. The raffle proceeds will help with their expenses. The convention will have a new location: South Fork in Plano, Texas.
- Dick Albreski's and Bob Mansfield's terms end in December, and Dick has requested nominations for a new president and vice president. The new officers will be elected at the December meeting.
- Then we had music! Our special guest accordionist, Nick Bratkovich, performed eastern European selections. Nick told us that he grew up in Milwaukee, and he began accordion lessons at age six. He learned his unique style of music from listening to his grandmother's old records. It is played in strong keys with many key changes, and it

has strange rhythms with counts of 5, 7, 11, or more beats per measure. He performed a Serbian round dance, a Macedonian song in 7/8 time with vocal, and other exciting pieces. He said he also plays polkas and waltzes, and demonstrated with "The Tinker Polka." We all enjoyed Nick's great music.

- The music program continued with these performers:
  - Tim Granger played "Eleanor Rigby," a Beatles tune.
  - Barbara Duer played "Monday Morning Blues" and "Creole Belles."
  - Bob Mansfield played an Italian song entitled "Lujan."
  - Dick said he has been very busy entertaining at Oktoberfest parties. He performed a medley of popular songs, including "Beer Barrel" and "Clarinet" polkas, "Music, Music, Music," and "The Chicken Dance."
  - The Accordionaires (Dan Orza, Karen West, John Buchanan, and Lois Roth) played "Autumn Leaves," "Schutzenliesel," and "Oklahoma." Dan said that the group played at three Oktoberfest parties last week.

The next OAC meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 10. There will be music music music! Come and join in the fun!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Roth  
for Secretary Maggie Abel



## Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**  
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**  
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73162

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Birthday (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (optional)

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins', by:  E-mail  Conventional mail

The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- Primary Membership is \$16 per year per individual  Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180  
 Family Membership is \$8 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership  Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18

Your status (please check all that apply):  Professional  Teacher  Repairman  Student  
 Semi-Professional  Associate  Hobby  Amateur  Other

# October Meeting

Diana Richard



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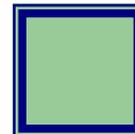
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