

# SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

## Prez Sez

Dear Accordion Family—and I do mean "Dear"!

These past few weeks have been most unusual. The *Oklahoma Accordion Club's* last meeting in March was a very special time, one we may not enjoy again until the current protective guidelines are lifted. Our hearts are united with the many families around the world as we do our best to maintain normalcy in our homes, despite many surface changes.

Citizens in jobs that are designated "essential" are working even harder than ever to supply the daily needs of their grateful neighbors. While "sheltering at home," other citizens are spending newly freed-up time getting to know their family members better, and improving their home situations. Children in my neighborhood have very obvious life changes as they play more, indoors and out, and enjoy the company and guidance of their parents at an unprecedented level. What an amazing time for them! What we as children only dreamed of! And our Club accordionists have hopefully been able to do a lot more squeezin' of our beautiful instrument.

Our progeny will look back on this unusual era in wonder, and we will surely say to them, "Well, kids, you just had to be there!"

I invite anyone to email me at [magster@aol.com](mailto:magster@aol.com) telling of different activities you have taken on, or incidents that have happened, that reflect this unique social situation. We can preserve your comments and share some of them as a tribute to the ingenuity of our musical population during this historic period.

The Club will keep in touch with members about the future *OAC* schedule as it develops. There will be no April meeting on Easter Sunday this year, of course. We await resolution from the powers that be, regarding meeting in the next few months.

Let me close with two sentiments received from others that meant a lot to me, sentiments that the *Oklahoma Accordion Club* echoes to its precious members.

*Continued on page 2*



## April Meeting

**The April meeting will NOT be held on Sunday, April 12,  
because of the COVIT19 pandemic.**



# Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

*Continued from front page*

\* \* \* When this is over, may we never again take for granted: A handshake with a stranger, full shelves at the store, conversations with neighbors, a crowded theater, Friday night out, the taste of communion, a routine checkup, the school rush each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, life itself. When this ends: May we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be, and may we stay that way — better for each other because of the worst. ~ Laura Kelly Fanucci

\* \* \* \* For weeks I have heard people saying, “I just can’t wait for things to be back to normal,” I remember even saying that a few times myself, but as I’ve thought about our current situation, I have realized how much I don’t want things to go back to the way they were. Here are a few of my thoughts:

1. I pray that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.

2. I pray that when school resumes and people are dropping kids off, they take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to our community.

3. I pray that the next time I’m sitting in a crowded restaurant, I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices, and thank God for the gift of community.

4. I pray that the next time I’m standing in church listening to the voices of praise and taking communion, that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.

5. I pray that the next time I see a person or situation that needs prayer, I hope I pray as passionately and fervently as I have these past few weeks.

6. I pray that when I am at the grocery store, that I take a moment to thank God that He provides us with the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.

7. I pray that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the mall, go to a movie, etc.

So, truth is, I don’t want things to return to the way they once were. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks, and create a new normal. My goal is to pray more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a mere few weeks ago.

~ Shared by Janis Larson

• Maggie Abel, OAC President



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### Lifetime Members

- Jim & June Butricks
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- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli

# Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

*The intent of this column in the newsletter has always been to inform OAC members of future accordion events that they could attend. It never entered my mind that I would someday reverse my actions, and advise of cancellations. Current cancellations are listed below.*

- **2020 NOT JUST Oompah Accordion Concert and Workshops** to be held in Austin, Texas, June 26-28, 2020. Go to [www.NotJustOompah.org](http://www.NotJustOompah.org) for a complete schedule of events and performers, plus hotel information, workshop registration, and payment information. Grammy-nominated accordionists Kevin Solecki and Alicia Baker (French musette accordionist) will conduct special workshops and concerts. This event is worthy of both your consideration and attendance. **To my knowledge, at this point in time, this event is still scheduled.**

## FUTURE DATES

- **Kolache Festival, Prague, OK, May 2, 2020.** This event rescheduled to 2021.
- **AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS ASSOCIATION (AAA) CONVENTION** to be held at the *Holiday Inn* in Alexandria, Virginia, July 8-12, 2020. This event rescheduled to 2021.
- **ACCORDION TEACHERS GUILD (ATG) 80th Anniversary Convention** to be held at the *Double Tree Hotel* in Los Angeles, California, August 5-9, 2020. This event is still scheduled. However, the ATG advises that you postpone making reservations until further announcement.
- **Yukon Czech Days, Yukon, OK, October 3, 2020.** This event rescheduled to 2021.

*I'm sure there will be more events cancelled for this year and I will do my best to keep you advised.*

*Look for more accordion events in future issues of Squeezins.*



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# March Meeting

Lois Roth

The OAC's annual Pizza Party was held on Sunday, March 8, in the multi-purpose room of the *Messiah Lutheran Church* in Oklahoma City. Twenty members and two guests attended.

- Before the meeting, the *Jam Band* entertained with some traditional Irish songs, including, "It's A Long Way To Tipperary," "Wearing Of The Green," and "Sweet Rosie O'Grady."
- President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order. She introduced the guests — Cassi Radicelli and Carol Stickler. She reminded players to choose and practice their songs for the August 9<sup>th</sup> concert. She announced that there would be two presentations at the meeting by Barbara Duer and Ron Shearon.
- The pizza will be delivered at four o'clock.
- Barbara Duer's presentation was about rhythm. She told us that changing the rhythm of a song can completely change the song. She demonstrated by playing "Amour, Amour, Amour" — first with a 1-2-3-4 beat, then with a Bolero rhythm. A Bolero is similar to a rumba, but faster. Maggie added that jazz rhythm changes a slow song into something very different.
- Ron showed us the opened bass side of his demonstration accordion. He gave instructions about tuning, and he handed out a paper showing the fundamental bass row. He

demonstrated how reeds are changed by blocking air from some areas. He also took questions from the attendees.

- Then we had our party! While we enjoyed the delicious pizza, Bob Mansfield entertained with a lovely rendition of "Danny Boy." Then he played "Sophisticated Lady," dedicated to his late wife, Lou.
- Dick Albreski reminded us of how versatile the accordion is. He performed "Fiore d'Abruzzo," and "The Lady is a Tramp." Toni Paulding accompanied him on tambourine.
- Anne Lopez played several traditional Italian songs, including the "Theme From The Godfather," and the "Tarantella."
- Then Anne and Lois (the *Scandalli Sisters*) played "Return To Me," "O Sole Mio," and a medley of "Mari, Mari" and "Ciribiribin."
- The *Trio* (Karen West, Barbara Duer, and Lois Roth) performed "The Kerry Dance," "O'Malley's Song," and "Harvest Home."
- Bob concluded the music and the party with several songs, including "Hymn of Love," and "Domino."

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Roth. OAC Secretary



## Advertisement

An advertisement for Frank Gesinski. On the left is a photograph of Frank Gesinski, a man wearing a hat and glasses, playing an accordion. To the right of the photo is text: "FRANK GESINSKI", "Live Accordion Music &amp; Accordion Lessons", "8035 S. Irvington Ave.", "Tulsa, OK 74136-8404", "918/492-1715", and "AccordionFrank@att.net". The background of the ad is dark with a blue and orange graphic at the bottom right.

# March Meeting

Diana Richard and Maggie Abel



# March Meeting

Diana Richard and Maggie Abel



# Barb's Blog

Barbara Duer

If you haven't heard of *Shelia Lee's Accordion Blog* on-line, you are missing a great wealth of accordion blog and music. Shelia arranges music on levels 1, 2, 3, 4, so everyone can find songs they can play, to match their musical ability

While we are staying home because of The Virus, exploring Sheila's site is a nice place to look for new songs, and even to take some lessons.

Shelia has given me permission to use her blog and music in the *OAC* newsletter. What a deal! So, I am going to continue with a brief discussion of Latin Rhythms, and use some contents from Shelia's music and blog.

From Sheila Lee:

(<https://shelialee.wordpress.com/?s=Latin&search=Go>)

Sheila: "The coolest way to spice up a Latin style song is to learn to read, and then to 'add on

your own' to this bass style." So, continue to practice the left hand rhythms.

Below is a link to a Steel Drum Orchestra playing "Yellow Bird," a Haitian folk song. Notice the rhythm the steel drums are playing. It's the same rhythm for the left hand accordion I presented last month. What a difference that rhythm makes to the song!

Steel Drum Orchestra:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oo4pipZWd3w>

"Yellow Bird" sheet music for accordion from Shelia Lee:

<https://shelialee.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/yellow-bird.pdf>

• Barbara Duer, OAC Past President



*OAC* member George Secor died recently, and he will be sorely missed. Although George lived in Godfrey, Illinois, he traveled the 420 miles to Tulsa — a 6½ drive — for our meetings, and participated in our annual free concerts, always making a significant contribution to the occasion.

He was a talented and generous man, who introduced the Club to the Moschino Free Bass System. He will be fondly remembered for playing varied music pieces on his various Stradella Bass and Moschino Free Bass accordions. He was especially talented at playing difficult classical pieces.

Please remember him in your prayers.



**Happy Birthday Wishes to  
the following OAC members:**

**Milo Shedeck, April 14  
Annette Zongker, April 18  
Beth Henson, April 25  
Ophelia Woody, April 27**



Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it. If your birthdate is not listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please contact Karen West at 405/949-0394, or at [accordion\\_karen@yahoo.com](mailto:accordion_karen@yahoo.com).





## Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**  
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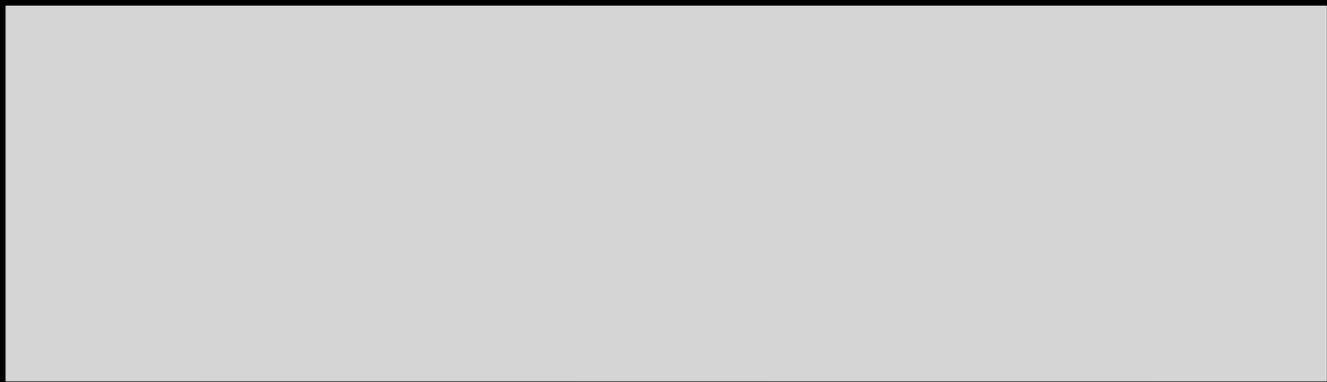
I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins', by:  E-mail  Conventional mail

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

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|--|---|
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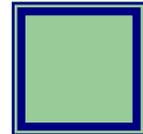
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