

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

SUNDAY APRIL 11 IS OUR OAC **PIZZA PARTY**

You and your guests are invited to
Oklahoma Accordion Club's
fabulous **Annual Pizza Party!**



Nothing could be finer than to bite into a piece of **supreme, pepperoni, cheese, or veggie pizza** -- accompanied by spirit-lifting accordion music provided by our Club members.

So that the pizza may be plenteous, **RESERVATIONS BY NOON, SATURDAY APRIL 10** are requested for this **April 11** event. Each member is **free to invite one guest.** (But for a **donation, you may invite additional guests.**) Our reservations mistress, Karen West, would like to be emailed at accordion_karen@yahoo.com. If email is not convenient, leave a **voice message on 405/949-0394, Karen's home phone.** Or a **text message on 405/830-1058, her cell phone.** In your message, state the **number of attendees and your preference** among the 4 types of pizza mentioned above!

April Hybrid Meeting

Our April meeting will be held on Sunday, April 11. It will be a "hybrid meeting," and will combine both an "in-person" meeting and a *Zoom* meeting. If you need instructions for using *Zoom*, please call Maggie Abel and ask her for a trial session on using the *Zoom* meeting features. For meeting details and instructions, see page 3.



Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

Pizza, pizza, pizza! That's the word of the month as our annual Club pizza party has come around to Sunday, April 11, 2021. Members are welcome to bring a guest, and may even tote in additional guests for a small donation. Reservations required -- check out the red flyer in the cover page of this newsletter to RSVP.

This month we'll meet hybrid-wise! That is, both in-person and also on-Zoom for those remaining at home to view or join in. Note: if you have a computer but no web camera, you can still sign into the Zoom via computer in order to see and hear all of us, even if we can't view you. There are simple phone instructions as well. The complete guidelines on page 3 have not changed since we began Zooming a year ago. Newsletter Editor Frank Gesinski tells us that other groups have adopted our hybrid method as well. Our distant friends are valuable guests and we want them to continue to join us -- from wherever!

As I sort through my sheet music, I am more and more grateful for the fruitful endeavors of the late Shelia Lee. I'm coming across many of her simplified arrangements of popular songs. Valuable finds include musical binders that Sharon Fox left behind -- I won one in the OAC Christmas raffle in a previous year. Musical friends we have met along the way leave irreplaceable mementos to guide us.

Our friend and valued Club supporter, Wayne Turgeon, will soon be safely ensconced in his new duties in the Stratford-on-Avon area of England. Although being far away, Wayne will still count himself among those of us who look up to Dick Albreski as our accordion guru. Wayne and Dick are already employing Zoom to keep the lifeline active across the pond!

One of our members actively performing around the region is T. Z. Wright. We can enjoy him on-line Thursday, April 15, from 8:00-9:00 pm in the virtual concert hosted by the *Arcadia Round Barn*. In June, an outdoor concert will follow.

The first day of spring held a great treat for OAC. One of our student members, teen Laz Elliott, distinguished himself as a stunning performer March 21 at the on-line student recital sponsored by the *Accordion Teachers Guild*. A number of Club members joined in the audience through Zoom, including Dick, Milo Shedeck, Karen West, Barbara Yuill, Barbara Duer, and Lou LeBrun.

Anyone who has overlooked paying Club dues, or who wishes to join as a new supporting member, will find our Treasurer, Ron Shearer's, contact info in this newsletter.

May the ambiance of spring weather and sunshiny days fill your heart -- with the urge to play your squeezebox!!!

- Maggie Abel, OAC President



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma City, OK 73107

405/201-7867

magster@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ron Shearon

209 South 2nd

Bison, OK. 73720

580/603-0078

rdshearon@gmail.com

TREASURER

Ron Shearon

209 South 2nd

Bison, OK. 73720

580/603-0078

rdshearon@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Lois Roth

Edmond, OK 73013

405/340-6454

roth6454@gmail.com

HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN

Barbara Duer

Oklahoma City, OK 73162

405-721-9657

bduer@sbcglobal.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Barbara Duer

Oklahoma City, OK 73162

405-721-9657

bduer@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Gesinski

Tulsa, OK 74136

918/492-1715

OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net

WEBMASTER

Diana Richard

Diana.l.richard@gmail.com

WEBSITE

<http://www.okaccordion.club/>

Lifetime Members

- Jim & June Butricks
- William "Rusty" Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips

April Hybrid Meeting

Out-of-town members, or anyone who cannot attend the live meeting in person, may still wish to experience it in *Zoom* (the same way they did in previous months).

(1) On computer, tablet, or smartphone, to join us with audio and video, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799>

OR

(2) On your landline or non-smart telephone, to join us by audio only, call this number:

346/248-7799. When you are asked for a meeting ID, type in 523-670-9799.

If you want to try out the system before that date, just call me at 405/201-7867, and we'll give it a test to make sure all systems are go.

Grab your Ma and bring your Pa, as we broad-jump into that *OAC* squeezebox spirit, anticipating our upcoming meeting!



Outside Group Policy Messiah Lutheran Church Open Up and Recover Safely Plan:



- We ask that everyone who is entering the building wears a mask. The rule of thumb is:

IF YOU'RE MOVING, YOU'RE MASKING

- Once you are in place and safely distanced, you may remove your mask if you desire
- Groups are responsible for providing masks for their group members if they do not have their own
- Groups are responsible for proving their own hand sanitizer, gloves and disinfecting wipes to do the wipe down of touch points on the doors, bathrooms and surfaces used by their group during their activities.

Sanitation & Disinfecting of touch points: Wipe down all touchpoints used by group including but not limited to:

- Inside and outside door handles on all doors touched by group members
- Restroom touchpoints including faucet handles and stall door touchpoints
- Any chairs and or tables used by the group

Maintain Social Distancing

- Groups are asked to abstain from shaking hands and we encourage doing non-contact greetings.
- Seating should be set up to maintain proper spacing (family members from same household may sit together)
- If distancing cannot be assured, then masks should be worn
- It is recommended that group members use hand sanitizer before your group activity begins and again before leaving

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

The **National Accordion Association (NAA)** convention scheduled for March 2021 was not held this year. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there were not enough members or presenters signed up for the event. So, that forced the decision to cancel this year. Hopefully, there will be an *NAA* convention in 2022. See you there

OAC Student Laz Elliott performed on the *Accordionists & Teachers Guild* virtual recital last March 21, 2021. To say how he performed can be done with one single word: "Great." Laz played flawlessly with total ease and passion for the composition he chose to play. This 14-year-old student is well on his way to be a very prominent player in the accordion world.

The **Accordionists & Teachers Guild (ATG)** reluctantly has cancelled the *80th Anniversary*

Festival in Lisle, Illinois that was to be held in July 2021. Definite plans are being made to reschedule the *Festival* for next year, 2022, with many of this year's scheduled artists to perform. We all know the reason for this year's cancellation! COVID!!

Something of Interest! Finnish accordionist, arranger, and composer, Veikko Ahvenainen, has composed a waltz entitled "Civid-19" that will be published in the May *OAC Squeezins*' newsletter, if there is room. I will also play this tune at the May meeting for your enjoyment.

My intent with this monthly column is to keep you informed of all local accordion happenings. Hopefully we will have some in the near future. Keep checking this column to see what I can find.



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

Milo Shedeck, April 14

Annette Zongker, April 18

Beth Henson, April 25

Ophelia Woody, Aril 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.



Barb's Blog

Barbara Duer

Best Songs About Spring

Besides summer, Spring is the most inspirational season of the year for musicians and artists -- following the cold winter with trees barren of leaves -- Spring brings back the warmth and beauty of nature. It also symbolizes rekindling the flames of love, as the warming weather symbolizes the warming of the heart.

The following are the best songs about Spring, which gives musicians plenty of different things to celebrate: nature, the warm weather, and love.

There's also room for other views of Spring, as well. Some musicians have a jaded view of the season. Either way, we as humans all view Spring differently, and this is reflected in our music.

See the accordion arrangement on the next page.

Not many songs that I like are on the Internet, and played on the accordion. So, I chose just two very different songs for this blog.

1. "Easter Parade": song of the month. Not on the best songs list, but we like it.
(For us Oldies) May be slow to open. No accordion players, Judy Garland sings:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKt54TFrxMc>

1. Vivaldi: "The Four Seasons" on accordion. This is gorgeous:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SE222v1eyM>

- Barbra Duer, OAC Historian/Librarian



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The Bohemian Knights
Featuring Master Accordionist Dick Albreski



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Tulsa, OK 74136-8404

918/492-1715

AccordionFrank@att.net



JUST ACCORDIONS

Sales • Repairs • Instruction

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(405) 721-0564
7109 N.W. 102nd St., OKC, OK 73162
juaccord@hotmail.com

7-07

EASTER PARADE

By: Irving Berlin

4

In Your Eas-ter Bon-nett With all the frills up - on it You'll be the gran-dest La-dy In The Eas-ter Pa-

C G7 C7 G7 F F C G7 C Am D7

8

Acc. rade. I'll be all in clo-ver and when they look you o-ver We'll be the gran-dest cou-ple in the

Dm G7 C G7 C7 F F C G7 C Am

15

Acc. Eas-ter Pa-rade. On the av-en-ue Fifth av-en-ue The Pho - to-graph-ers will

D7 G7 C C7 C7 F F Am

22

Acc. snap us And you'll find that you're in the Ro-to grav ure Oh. I Could Write a son-net a bout your Eas-ter

D7 G F Em G7 C G7 C7 F

28

Acc. bon-net and of the girl I'm tak-ing to the Eas-ter Par - ade.

F Dm C C Am D7 G7

1. 2.

3/1/2021

March Hybrid Meeting

The *OAC* meeting was held on Sunday, March 14. This was a hybrid meeting. Eight members attended in person, and six members and one guest attended on *Zoom*.

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm.

- The first performer was Laz Elliott, a member of the *Youth Group*.

He played “Olive Blossoms” by Frosini, “The Accordion Serenade,” and “Autumn Breezes.” Frank Gesinski declared his performance “Fantastic!” and we all agreed!

•Dick Albreski entertained us with a medley that included “Country Gardens,” “Rakes of Marlow,” and “The Arkansas Traveler.”

•Barbara Duer (on *Zoom*) played “Galway Hornpipe,” “The Entertainer,” and “O’Malley’s Song.”

•Anne Lopez (on *Zoom*) performed “The Kerry Dance” and “Givens Waltz.”

•Frank (on *Zoom*) played “Sunrise, Sunset” from *Fiddler on the Roof*, followed by “Too Fat Polka.”

- Maggie made two announcements:

- The April 11 meeting will be our annual Pizza Party. Contact Karen West for reservations
- *The Accordion Teachers Guild* convention will be held July 22-24. Laz Elliott will perform there.

•Karen and Lois concluded the music with more Irish songs: “The Band Played On,” “I’m Looking Over A Four-Leaf Clover,” and “MacNamara’s Band.”

- Lois played “Rose of Tralee.”

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Join us for music and pizza on April 11. Song suggestions: Italian, Spring, Easter, or whatever you want to play.

Respectfully submitted,
• Lois Roth, *OAC* Secretary



Maggie plays with the Will Rogers Senior Center's "Garage Band" that meets twice-a-week under band director Don Munday



Maggie sat in at the VFW Hall last month with the Shades of Gray band

March Hybrid Meeting



HARTS and AWAM Host 3-Day Accordion Festival, May 6-8, 2021

by Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D. Curator, Executive Director HARTS and AWAM

Harrington ARTS Center (HARTS) and A World of Accordions Museum (AWAM) will be hosting a live-music accordion festival at 1401 Belknap St., Superior, WI. Music and lectures will be ongoing from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM with refreshments available on May 6-7. A polka service will held on May 8. AWAM's large concert hall allows for 6' seating distances, masks will be required. Tickets can be ordered or paid at the door for \$75 per day, or \$125 for the first two days. The polka service is free. Many of the performances will be live-streamed on AWAM's Facebook and YouTube channels. The links and schedules will be posted soon on AWAM's Facebook page and web site: <http://www.worldofaccordions.org>. For more information call (218) 393-0245 or email: aworldofaccordions@gmail.com.



Stas Venglevski, Bayan
Virtuoso and AWAM
Artistic Director

May 6 AWAM events align with international celebrations of World Accordion Day and will be emceed by Kevin Friedrich, CIA Ambassador. AWAM presents Stas Venglevski in concert premiering his "Full Moon Suite" composed for Joan Cochran Sommers, UMKC Professor Emerita. Stas will also perform solo and in duet with Joan. Joan will also perform in a trio with accordionists Betty Jo Simon and Jane Christison. Via video lecture, Judy Campbell Contino will pay tribute to her legendary husband Dick Contino. Dick Contino's estate displays will be opening at AWAM by 2022. Accordion star, Dr. Michael Middleton, will perform a concert of Contino favorites. Because the Pandemic prevents international travel, guest Japanese artists, Mihoko Goto and Chiharu Ebihara, will be live-streamed. Dr. Brett Jones, Chairman of the University of Wisconsin Music Department, AWAM's new Artistic Director, Stas Venglevski and Alex Sandor, UW-Superior Piano Instructor will perform William Susman's original work "Three for Keyboard," for bayan, marimba, and piano.

May 7 HARTS will host the Ninth Annual Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival featuring Willard A. Palmer III, Dance Attic: Susi and Jimi, Joanna Darrow (NJ) and Dee Langley (MN), Paul Vargason (WI), and a roundtable discussion on composing and arranging music for accordion including J. Sommers, S. Venglevski, T. Gibbens, D. Langley, H. Harrington and Megumi Hada. The day closes with a performance by the World Accordion Music Band conducted by Tracey Gibbens.

May 8 The World Accordion Day program ends with a special hour of folk music in the format of a polka service. The Norsk Høstfest Polka Service Band (a subgroup of the Norsk Høstfest Accordion Club of Minot, ND) will perform. This informal and fun experience is free and open to the public.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 3326 NS 367 Road, Holdenville, OK 74844

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone (_____) _____

Birthday (MM/DD) _____ / _____ (optional)

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

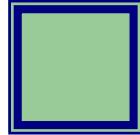
The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- Primary Membership is \$20 per year per individual Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300
 Family Membership is \$10 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18
Membership

Your status (please check all that apply): Professional Teacher Repairman Student

Semi-Professional Associate Hobby Amateur Other

Oklahoma Accordion Club
7109 NW 102 Street
Oklahoma City OK 73162



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