

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Generosity vs Pandemic

Dick Albreski

First, let me thank those who were more than generous in donating hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to our *OAC* traditional gifts for the homeless. The donations were down from previous years. However, there was a good amount -- we filled one big box.



What I learned in trying to donate the items to a reputable charity was somewhat surprising. No one that I could find would even allow me to enter their facility. The *Jesus House* was my first selection, and they were under lock and key. I tried several other charities, only to learn that they were practicing the same lockdown.

In my car, I had a box of items that would certainly help the homeless, but what do I do with them? Then, I saw a *Salvation Army* volunteer with a kettle, ringing his bell in front of a grocery store. Was this a sign? Yes, I did locate a *Salvation Army* donation center, and they were very pleased to accept your gifts.

Our world is certainly changing, and I pray that 2021 will be more pleasant and civil. Only the LORD knows at this time.

I also want to thank those members who donated money for the *Youth* travel fund. That money will be given to our treasurer, who will keep it, pending the outcome of the *National Accordion Convention*.

• Dick Albreski, OAC Founder



January Hybrid Meeting

**Our January meeting will be held on Sunday, January 10.
It will be a "hybrid meeting." It will combine both an "in-person"
meeting and a *Zoom* meeting.**

**If you need directions to the "in-person" meeting, please call
Maggie Abel.**

For meeting details and instructions, see page 3.



Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

Hallelujah! A fresh new year! 2021 offers another opportunity for fresh ideas and fresh faces for the *Oklahoma Accordion Club!*

This coming meeting, Sunday, January 10, we will enjoy a hybrid meeting -- that is, in-person at *Messiah Lutheran Church* (Portland and NW Expressway), and also on-line via *Zoom*, at the usual address samo-samo link of <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799>. If attending by non-smart phone (audio only), see directions at the top of page 3. Call me anytime, if questions or needing to try it out first!

We'll be in our special favorite room at *Messiah*, the south pod, which has a kitchen. However, snacks are not encouraged this time due to Covid/congregating cautions. We will be sanitized, separately seated, but smiling and souped up for our get-together! Enter through the main church doors on the south side of the building at 3:30! Your welcoming committee will arrive early at 2:00 to set everything up!

We cried a tear to hear Wayne is moving across the pond -- i.e., to England! Yet, what a happy time for him and his family, to be going to such an interesting place after having worked there off and on for quite some time. We are sure some accordion entities will be glad to welcome him and his perseverance and example!

January will be an opportunity for us to nominate and confirm the officers for the year ahead. We missed doing so in December, but Time marches on!

Several people gathered in each other's homes last month in order to do the *Zoom* together! What a great idea if you're not quite sure how that works, and want a brainy partner to help you along. Also, good for duets if attending on-line...

Gracias to Past Prez Dick Albreski for collecting the woolies to donate to those in need. Scarves, gloves, knit caps, socks, etc., will be quite welcome at this time of year. Tiz still snowy where I am today, and it's not gone yet...

I guess we'll be putting our Christmas carol books away and trying out a few other tunes to contribute to the January meeting. It is motivating to hear various members at all skill levels trotting out their stuff for our inspiration.

Thanks to everyone whose New Year's resolutions included some aspect of elevating this valuable *Club*, which has provided musical companionship for so many fine people. We hope to see you all in person (or electronically) at the upcoming meeting!

Happy New Year to all!!
• Maggie Abel, OAC President

PS: Remember to send dues and youth donations to Treasurer Tom, or bring them in January!



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma City, OK 73107

405/201-7867

magster@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ron Shearon

Bison, OK. 73720

580/603-0078

rlshearon@gmail.com

TREASURER

Tom Phillips

3326 NS 367 Road

Holdenville, OK 74844

TomScPh@AOL.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.I.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
- Phil Scibelli

January 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 providing 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)** is planning to hold its 2021 convention at the *Hyatt Regency Hotel* in Richardson, Texas, March 17-20, 2021. A new sentence is added to the announcement. "Social distancing and mask MAY be required." I do want you all to plan on attending. Registration is now open, and payment is not due until February 2021. There are multiple options available that range from a full convention down to

a virtual (on-line) event. I will, once again, direct the FUN BAND, and look forward to those members who will attend and be part of the FUN BAND. Those members who plan on attending can also get the 2021 FUN BAND music in advance.

Keep watch on this column for more accordion happenings in our accordion world.



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

Barbara Yuill, January 12

Donna Dove, November 16

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.



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Barb's Blog

Barbara Duer

This month's Blog will be about **Ragtime** music. I probably heard it first on Lawrence Welk's show with Jo Ann Castle playing the Honky-Tonk piano. I loved it. I played Ragtime on the piano years later, but was not very good, because I found the stride bass very difficult on the left hand.

Many years later, when I took my accordion out of the closet, I found Ragtime was easy on the accordion, with the basses all made for me. "The Old Piano Roll Blues" was actually written and performed in the 1950s, but it's the easiest song I thought many of you could play. Many of the Ragtime songs are hard at first, but once you learn the rhythm it becomes easier. See the next page for the accordion arrangement.

Lou LeBrun and I have a set of Ragtime songs we play, where Lou plays the accordion and I accompany her on the tenor banjo. A few years ago, Lou and I played at the *Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival*, and were well received. The combination was different, and people liked it.

I can't find a decent accordion rendition video of "The Old Piano Roll Blues," so I posted a Honkey-Tonk piano version (see below).

Ragtime, A forerunner of jazz and the predominant style of American popular music from about 1899 to 1917. Ragtime evolved in the playing of honky-tonk pianists along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in the last decades of the nineteenth century. It was influenced by minstrel-show songs, African-American banjo styles, and syncopated (off-beat) dance rhythms of the cakewalk, and also elements of European music. Ragtime found its characteristic expression in formally structured piano compositions. The regularly accented left-hand beat, in 4/4 or 2/4 time, was opposed in the right hand by a fast, bouncingly syncopated melody that gave the music its powerful forward impetus.

Scott Joplin was "the King of Ragtime Writers," a composer who elevated "banjo piano

playing," a lowly entertainment associated with saloons and brothels, into an American art form loved by millions. Born in Texas in either 1867 or 1868, Joplin was raised in Texarkana, the son of a laborer and former slave. As a child, Joplin taught himself piano on an instrument belonging to a white family that granted him access to it, and ultimately studied with a local, German-born teacher who introduced Joplin to classical music. Joplin attended high school in Sedalia, Missouri, a town that would serve as Joplin's home base during his most prosperous years, and where a museum now bears his name.

"Maple Leaf Rag" by Joplin remained a constant in popular music throughout the Jazz Age, but the better part of Joplin's work remained unknown until the "Ragtime revival" of the early '70s, during which "Scott Joplin" became a household name, and "Treemonishia" was finally staged by the *Houston Grand Opera*. Although primary sources on Joplin's music were still extant as late as the late '40s, today not a single manuscript page in Joplin's hand still exists, and only three photographs of him have survived, along with precious few first-hand quotations. Were he alive today, Joplin would be astounded to learn that, a century after his work was first printed, he is the most successful African-American composer of serious music that ever lived -- by far. Some of his works have been recorded hundreds of times, and arranged for practically every conceivable instrumental combination, played by everything from symphony orchestras to ice cream trucks. For a couple of generations of Americans who have even never heard of Stephen Foster, the music of Scott Joplin represents the old, traditional order of all things American.

The Old Piano Roll Blues on Honky-Tonk Piano:

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

• Barbra Duer, OAC Historian/Librarian



1/1/2021

THE OLD PIANO ROLL BLUES

Ragtime

1

Measures 1-6 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). Measure 1 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a first ending bracket. Chords are indicated as C7, F, and C7.

7

Measures 7-11. Chords are indicated as F, G7, C7, C7, and C7.

12

Measures 12-17. Chords are indicated as F, D7, Gm, Bb, F, and D7.

18

Measures 18-23. The piece concludes with a first ending (measures 18-21) and a second ending (measures 22-23). Chords are indicated as C7, C7, C7, F, C, and F.

1/1/2021

December Zoom Meeting

Oklahoma Accordion Club Meeting Minutes December 13, 2020

The *OAC* Christmas meeting was held on Sunday, December 13, 2020, as a *Zoom* meeting. There were fourteen members and four guests present.

- Before the meeting, Dick Albreski entertained us with some great accordion music.
- Then he played and sang "Happy Birthday" for Lucy Shedeck, following with "I Love Paris."
- We were called to order at 3:30 by President Maggie Abel. She reminded us to mail checks for dues and Youth donations to Treasurer Tom Phillips.
- Dick made several announcements:
 - He will be collecting winter accessories for charity until Friday, December 18.
 - If the *Youth* group (three members) do not attend the *NAC* in March, the *Club's* donations will be held for the next convention.
 - The convention band music will be released soon.
 - He also told us that his granddaughter, Becca, recently played the starring role of Maria in "The Sound Of Music," and gave a fantastic performance!
- Maggie read aloud a lovely tribute to Evie Albreski.
- Maggie said that current Club officers will remain in office until our January meeting, when we meet in person and hold the election.

Then it was time for music!

- Barbara Yuill and Dick played an original composition by Dick: "I Love To Dance."

- Dick performed a medley of Christmas favorites: "Santa Claus is Coming To Town," "Jingle Bells," and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." He had made the arrangement for *The Bohemian Knights*.
- Barbara Yuill soloed with "Corrine."
- Dick played "Let It Snow."
- Karen West performed "Santa Baby." She dedicated the song to Phyllis and Steve, her friends from Maryland. Phyllis was attending the meeting, and loved the song.
- Ron Shearon played "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," using the pipe organ voice on his electronic accordion. He followed it with "Silent Night."
- Anne Lopez treated us to three songs of the season: "Jingle Bell Rock," "Winter Wonderland," and "Silent Night," with key changes on the last two songs.
- Maggie read an e-mail from Wayne Turgeon, saying that he is moving to England. We will all miss Wayne very much!
- Dick played a lively jazz version of "White Christmas."
- Barbara and Dick concluded the music program with a waltz titled "Bavarian Nights."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2021. It will be a "hybrid" meeting as we are allowed to use the church room.

Please join in the fun at the first meeting of the New Year!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, Secretary



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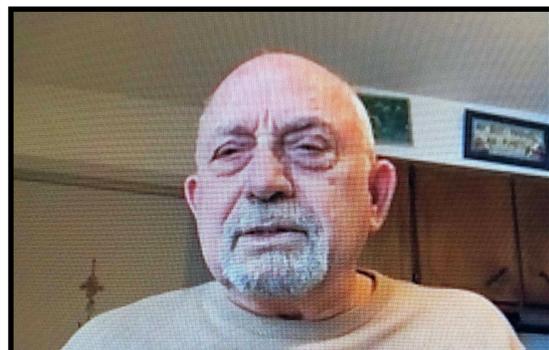
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December Zoom Meeting



December Zoom Meeting



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&
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**Elena & Gregory Fainshtein
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**Sunday, February 21, 2021
3:00 – 4:00 PM Central Time**

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<https://www.facebook.com/elena.fainshtein.5>



Concert is FREE, but Virtual Tips are encouraged!

For More Information and Details, CONTACT:

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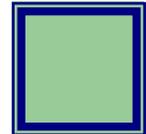
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7109 NW 102 Street

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