

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



An Irish Blessing

May the most you wish for be the least you get.

May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearth and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with a joy that long endures and

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

March Hybrid Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Sunday, March 14.

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

Well, the snow did us a good one last month, didn't it? Despite the scenery's deep and pristine beauty, we didn't get to meet in person on Valentine's Day. But we did have a pretty good time *Zooming* and performing for each other for Valentine's Day! This month will be different: we can meet in person as well as *Zooming* for the remote ones.

Our loyal Board members met via *Zoom* this month, and have a few neat plans for the upcoming days. Traditions are a great thing to have, and in April we will have the traditional *Accordion Club* springtime pizza party. Karen will be meticulously taking the reservations for the type of pie you prefer, and we'll remind you closer to the date of Sunday, April 11.

The main thing to remember for the upcoming March 14 meeting is: SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD the night before! (Remember, it's "Spring Forward, Fall Back!"). Arriving by 3:30 is a good thing -- not an hour later! :-D

Of course, our Board peeps arrive at 2:00 to begin setting up the room: arranging the furniture, sanitizing, setting out the snacks, connecting and testing out the *Zoom* devices. Oftentimes some early bird(s) will entertain us during that time with their accordion music! That's very energizing to us! So, feel free to join that faction if you feel the urge!

The *Club* will be making a donation to the *National Accordion Association* in memory of Shelia Lee, who passed away last month. She was a great boon to aspiring accordion students, and will be missed when the *NAA* meets next. Expected dates are March 16-19, 2022.

We'll meet Sunday in our regular and most favorite room, aka "The South Pod." Enter from the south entrance of *Messiah Lutheran Church*. Our room is to the right off of the lobby. Follow the squeezebox sounds!

Our dear member Wayne's departure to live in England has been postponed a couple of weeks, so we might get to high-five him in person one more time before he sets sail!

If you are stuck at home for a while during the social distancing suggestions, hopefully you can sit across the room from a few friends, and add your accordion chords to whatever instruments they are playing. A lot of people are recording and even broadcasting live their at-home harmonies for others to enjoy.

Do play us a ditty during our March get-together. We'll accept all melodies, but I'm guessing we'll also hear a few Irish tunes for St. Patrick's Day, and a couple of spring-themed melodies! Not to mention: Wear a touch of green, if so inclined!!!

See you face-to-face or on-line on March 14! For on-line or on-phone, use the exact same links and numbers as always -- described on page 3.

Let's keep keepin' warm and keepin' in touch!

• Maggie Abel, OAC President



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- William "Rusty" Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips

March 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

Sadly, we were informed that the **National Accordion Association (NAA)** convention scheduled for March 2021 will not be held. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there were not enough members or presenters signed up to attend. Hopefully next year, 2022, there will be one big *NAA* convention.

There is some good news. *OAC* student, Laz Elliott, was chosen to play a solo in the *Accordion Teachers Guild* student recital March 21, 2021. This will be a national event that will be shown to the *ATG* members. Laz will select the solo of his choice, and then have a video prepared that will be sent to the *ATG*. Once the video is available, I will see if it can be shared with *OAC* members as well.

This is a great opportunity for Laz to show his talent to the accordion world.

The Accordionists & Teachers Guild (ATG) is planning their 80th Anniversary Festival in Lisle, Illinois. Join them on July 2021 for a weekend of concerts, workshops, competitions, and great food. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in the *ATG Orchestra* under the direction of Joan C. Sommers. Come and see the special guest, performing artist Michael Bridge, plus many more. Additional information will follow upon release for this event.

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



Happy Birthday Wishes to the following *OAC* members:



Ted Shadid, March 1

Ronald Shearon, March 1

Al Giuntolli, March 4

Janet Haskin, March 8

Becky Rickard, March 25

Dan Hanson, March 28

Barbara Duer, March 30



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

"The Entertainer" (Rag)

"The Entertainer" is a 1902 classic piano rag written by Scott Joplin. The Recording Industry Association of America ranked it #10 on its "Songs of the Century" list.

In November 1970, Joshua Rifkin released a recording called "Scott Joplin: Piano Rags" on the classical label *Nonesuch*, which featured as its second track "The Entertainer." It sold 100,000 copies in its first year, and eventually became *Nonesuch's* first million-selling record. The *Billboard* "Best-Selling Classical LPs" chart for September 28, 1974, has the record at #5, with the follow-up "Volume 2" at #4, and a combined set of both volumes at #3. Separately, both volumes had been on the chart for 64 weeks. The album was nominated in 1971 for two *Grammy Award* categories, *Best Album Notes* and *Best Instrumental Soloist Performance* (without orchestra), but at the ceremony on March 14, 1972, Rifkin did not win in any category. In 1979, Alan Rich in the *New York Magazine*, wrote that by giving artists like Rifkin the opportunity to put

Joplin's music on disk, *Nonesuch Records* "created, almost alone, the Scott Joplin revival."

Marvin Hamlisch lightly adapted and orchestrated Joplin's music for the 1973 film *The Sting*, for which he won an *Academy Award* for *Best Original Song Score and Adaptation* on April 2, 1974. His version of "The Entertainer" reached #3 on the *Billboard Hot 100* and the *American Top 40* music chart on May 18, 1974, prompting the *New York Times* to write, "the whole nation has begun to take notice." Thanks to the film and its score, Joplin's work became appreciated in both the popular and classical music worlds, becoming (in the words of music magazine *Record World*), the "classical phenomenon of the decade." In the United States, "The Entertainer" is one of many songs commonly played by ice cream trucks, in order to attract attention.

See the next page for an accordion arrangement.

"The Entertainer" on Accordion (faster):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2NPqjIipSg&list=RDN2NPqjIipSg&index=2>

"The Entertainer" on Accordion (slower):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ewbovHEWUI>

• Barbra Duer, OAC Historian/Librarian



Advertisements

The Bohemian Knights

Featuring Master Accordionist Dick Albreski



Music for your Party or Special Occasion
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7-07



The ENTERTAINER

Accordion

Acc.

Acc.

Acc.

February Zoom Meeting

Oklahoma Accordion Club

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2021

The OAC meeting was held on Sunday, February 14, 2021. Because of a winter storm, it was

a Zoom meeting -- not the hybrid meeting we had planned.

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Ten members and one guest attended.

We began with business and announcements:

- Ron Shearon is both *Club* vice president and treasurer.
- On March 14 we plan on having a hybrid meeting with snacks.
- On April 11 we will try to have the annual pizza party. Details have not been worked out yet.
- We would like to put Lou LeBrun's biography in the *Squeezin's* newsletter. It would be done in parts, as space allows. Lou is making easy song arrangements for our jam sessions: "Ragtime Cowboy Joe" and others.
- Frank Gesinski can't join us today. He says "Hello" to everybody.
- T. Z. Wright will be performing at *The Round Barn* in spring. There will be a virtual show in April, and an outdoor show in June. These events are fund raisers for *The Barn*.
- Mike Clarke has moved to Minnesota.

• It was suggested that we put a writeup about Shelia Lee in the *Squeezin's* newsletter.

• The music began with Ron playing "Just A Closer Walk with Thee." His accordion is a *Roland FR-4x*. Ron said it has many different sounds and is fun to play. Maggie has a similar instrument.

• T. Z. played and sang a traditional Mardi Gras song for us, "Meet the Boys on the Battlefront," and said there were no Mardi Gras parades this year. He usually performs at the Norman celebration. T. Z. followed with a Bob Dylan piece called "On a Night Like This."

• Barbara Duer performed "Ragtime Cowboy Joe," as arranged by Lou and Barbara. Her second song was "Creole Belles."

• Wayne Turgeon played "La Donna Mobile." Wayne is moving to England next month -- to the Stratford-on-Avon locale.

• Barbara told us more about Shelia Lee. Shelia gave lessons on-line, and there are many easy songs on her free website. She was wonderful at teaching and helping everyone. She was an important part of the *NAA*, with a dance band and contests.

• Wayne concluded the music with "Let's Dance the Polka."

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 14. We plan on having a hybrid meeting.

Please join us for some good music and a good time!

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 & 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.

Shelia Lee



Shelia Ann Lee, of Alto, Texas, passed away on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at the age of 71, surrounded by her family.

She was a world-renowned accordion teacher and player who spent many years in Galveston, Texas, and experienced a love for the city's rich cultural history. Shelia enjoyed reading fiction, gardening, and traveling. She held a deep love for creative endeavors, and sought to cultivate her lifelong passions and encouraged her family and friends to do the same.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the *National Accordion Association, Inc.*

<https://www.lawsonfuneralhome.net/obituary/Shelia-Lee>

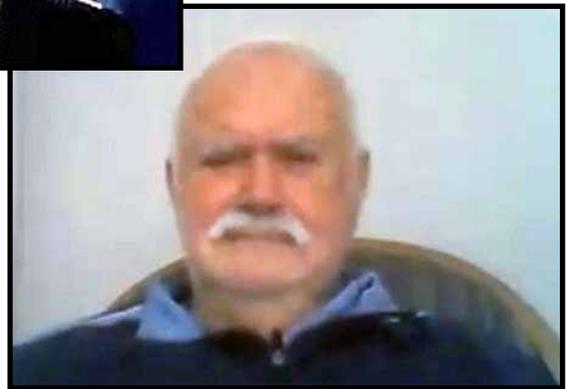
Shelia Lee was the leader of one of the bands at the last, in-person *National Accordion Association* convention in Dallas. For a number of years at the conventions, I had enjoyed seeing her colorful displays of fancy accordions. She held many workshops and contests for the youth. Our young accordionist friend, Rebecca Huck won a *Roland FR-X1* one year. I joined Shelia's band for several rehearsals in 2019, and we "performed" a day later.

Her witty enthusiasm was foremost as she cultivated our ability to play in harmony and with expression. I especially am grateful that many of Shelia's arrangements have been used by Barbara Duer in conducting our *Oklahoma Accordion Club's* jamming band. Her larger-than-life presence at future conventions will undoubtedly be missed.

• Maggie Abel, *OAC* President



February Zoom Meeting





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)

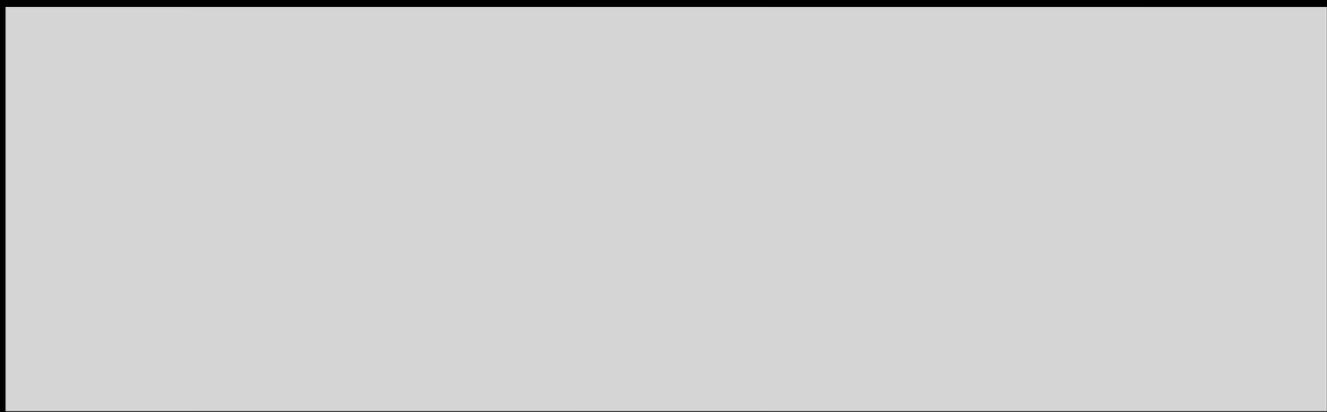
I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins', by: E-mail Conventional mail

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Membership is \$20 per year per individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership is \$10 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18 |

Your status (please check all that apply):

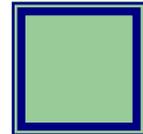
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Repairman	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	<input type="checkbox"/> Hobby	<input type="checkbox"/> Amateur	<input type="checkbox"/> Other



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