

SQUEEZINS

“Our squeezin’...is pleasin’”

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

***Transport
another
good
friend
into
another
world, a
musical
world
of joy!***



***Songs even
your parents
enjoyed!
Visit
Oklahoma
Accordion
Club
at Messiah
Lutheran
Church!***

Meetup Info for Sunday, Aug 11, 2024 — 3:30 PM

Oklahoma Accordion Club (founded in 2000) meets in person once again on Sunday, Aug 11, at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, on the SE corner of Portland Avenue and NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. The south entrance to the church (there's a portico at that doorway in case of rain!) takes you into the foyer, where the sound of music (or the sight of signage) will direct you to where we and our accordions await!

Snacks are welcome! Bring your accordion, or just come as you are and sit down with us to drink in the sweet sounds!

Out-of-town members, or anyone who cannot attend the live 3:30 PM meeting in person, may wish to experience it via *Zoom* (the same way and same codes you used in previous years).

On computer, tablet, or smartphone, to join us with both audio and video, go to:

[https://
us02web.zoom.us/
j/5236709799](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799)



PREZ SEZ

Maggie Abel

If you looked into Yukon Czech Hall last weekend, you witnessed some fellow Oklahoma Accordion Club members performing the historic chicken dance with friends. That night celebrated the Hall's 125th anniversary. Looks are deceiving, as this place has been in existence for well over a century providing Saturday night dances, yet its indoor and outdoor décor hasn't changed much over that time. Framed photos on the wall show past Oktoberfest celebs and Czech Royalty, each person wearing his or her elaborate, authentic costume. It's like watching a merry-go-round to see the people polka-ing by in their tennis shoes on the big wood floor. Sister with brother, dad with toddler, a skilled teen showing the girlfriend how it's done. Between songs, kids slide unhindered a hundred miles an hour across the room. Children under 10 are admitted free and adults pay a measly \$5. Snack bar plus popcorn and bevs are on hand.

We all love seeing co-founder Dick sit in with the band. He squeezed the bellows for the Bohemian Knights, while our member Milo Shedeck handled the brass. (See pix page 7.)

Some other things I recall our members doing as a group over the past decade include: attending a Riders in the Sky concert downtown featuring accordionist Joey Misculin; carpooling north to join the Tulsa Accordion Band, whereupon they fed us and let us practice with them; diving into Dick's swimming party (his rule: "No accordions in the pool"); several times playing for a member's funeral; playing an outdoors fundraiser for runners passing by (yes, they bribed us with matching t-shirts!); Frank and I dressed in Bavarian costume to dance with residents at a home for seniors while Diana and Lois kept the German music flowing; playing patriotic and military songs at a senior home on veterans day or flag day.

A juicy part of our monthly meetings is the jam session. Often that consists of two to four people, some experienced and some just brave, playing whatever songs come to mind. We have rote players jamming with note players, some by the book and some by ear. We try and see what goes smooth. Certain people provide warm-up music, that is, they practice while we're setting up the room. Or clean-up music after the meeting. Their playing keeps us in high spirits as we put the room back in order.

You're invited to "czech" us out this Sunday at Messiah Lutheran Church. Optional snack-bringing is encouraged. Small percussions are placed on the tables for spouses and newbies to join in. Be there or be square! ~Maggie

Our next Oklahoma Accordion Club meetup is August 11, Sunday, at 3:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, OKC.

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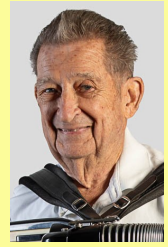
<http://www.okaccordion.club/>

Lifetime Members

Maggie Abel
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William "Rusty" Dolton
Frank Gesinski
Janet Haskin
Roland Lohmann
Frankie Martinez
Bob Mansfield
Tom Phillips
Phil Scibelli
Ophelia Woody

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski



Friends, there is not much happening domestically at this time, except for the ATG and AAA meetings. However, they were just held only a few weeks ago, in July.

BUT! You could attend the 77th Coupe Mondiale in Castelfidardo and Loreda, Italy from September 3rd to the 10th, 2024.

OR! You could attend the 2024 Susquehanna Folk Festival from August 9th to the 11th in York, PA.

But alas that's traveling! So why not plan on attending the next Oklahoma Accordion Club meeting at the Messiah Lutheran Church located at Portland and Northwest Expressway on August 11th at 3:30PM. You can bring a friend and your accordion as well.

See you there! ~ **Dick**

LOU LEBRUN

With great sadness I learned this week of the passing of Lou LeBrun. She was my friend and mentor. She would review and correct my compositions and arrangements plus tell me what a dummy I was. I was a dummy because I didn't spend more time with her.

Lou had it all. She was a great accordionist, a great critic, a great friend and a great lady. I know who she is playing for now. ~Dick



Free Accordion Music Websites

Check out the following sites for new and free accordion music:

Donquattrocchi.com

8notes.com/accordion

Try em! You'll like em!



JUST ACCORDIONS
7109 N.W. 102nd Street
OKC, OK 73162
juaccord@hotmail.com

Dick Albreski
Sales - Repairs - Instruction
(405) 721-0564



July Meeting Minutes

Secretary Lois Roth

The Oklahoma Accordion Club held its July meeting on Sunday the 14th. We met in the large south room of Messiah Lutheran Church in OKC. From 3 to 3:30, Welcome Music was provided by Anne Lopez and Secretary Lois Roth. Member Janet Haskin played "Pennsylvania Polka" to get us in a party mood.

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order. There were seventeen attendees—thirteen members and four guests.

VP and Treasurer Ron Shearon led The Pledge of Allegiance. We sang the first verse of "America the Beautiful." Ron said he is interested in forming a band of small accordions. A Christmas band is another possibility. Please contact Ron if you have a small accordion and would like to be in a band.

Music began with member Myke Dixon playing two solos: "Arkansas Traveler" and "Danube Waves." Janet performed "Battle Hymn of The Republic" and "Jambalaya." She also played "Wonderful Words of Life" and several other gospel/revival songs. She said she plays these songs when she entertains at retirement homes.

Maggie said she was told in a workshop that to play for an audience at a retirement or nursing home, just have 10 familiar songs ready that you can play well.

Anne and Lois performed "Somewhere My Love" and "Never On Sunday." Then it was singalong time! We sang some patriotic songs for Independence Day: "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," "Anchors Aweigh," "The Marines' Hymn," and "America." Anne and Lois provided accordion accompaniment.

Ron played "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes," "Over The Waves," and "Danube Waves."

Two guests brought a set of harmonicas and an accordion that they offered for sale. The harps were sold and the accordion was sent home with a member for evaluation.

After the meeting was adjourned, there was a lively jam session—"Sentimental Journey," "Rain Rain Polka," and anything else we could think of.

The next meeting will be Sunday, August 11, starting at 3:30 pm. There will be some hot summer-time music. Come and join in the fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, OAC Secretary

Birthday Greetings to OAC Members!



John Buchanan, August 1

Kris Anderson, August 20



Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it.

If your birthdate isn't listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please contact Karen West at 405-949-0394, or at accordion_karen@yahoo.com



OAC Meetup
July 14, 2024
 Pix by Diana L. Richard





**OAC Meetup
July 14, 2024**



Pix by Diana L. Richard



OAC peeps spotted at Yukon Czech Hall's 125th Anniversary Dance Party

Pix by Maggie Abel



The Bavarian Knights



Milo & Lucy



Milo & Son



Frank B.



Barbara & Dick

Chuck & Linda Vodicka

**Sadly, ROSA MARIA GESINSKI has
passed away, the loving wife
of OAC's longtime newsletter
editor, life member Frank Gesinski.**

With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Rosa Maria Gesinski of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who passed away on July 9, 2024 at the age of 75.

She was predeceased by: her parents, Mateo Marquez and Victoria Algeria Marquez; and her sister Vicky Trejo.

She is survived by: her husband Frank; her children, Eric Gesinski and Marni Gesinski; her granddaughter Isabel Stilson; her siblings, Mateo Marquez, Luis Marquez, Javier Marquez, Madre Angelica Trejo and Madre Alma Trejo; and also Carly.

A rosary was held Monday evening, July 15, at the St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish in Tulsa. A funeral Mass was held Tuesday morning, July 16, at the same location.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Xavier Medical Clinic.



Lou LeBrun

1930 - 2024



OAC member Louise Faye LeBrun, 93, of Wilmington, formerly of Springfield, Missouri, peacefully passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2024. She was born in Los Angeles, California, on September 26, 1930. Lou worked as a computer programmer for many years, particularly in an era where women did not work in that profession. But her love in life was playing her accordion. At 7 years old, her uncle purchased her first accordion and lessons. At 12 years old she joined an LA-based USO troop that traveled on weekends to military bases and hospitals in California and adjoining states. She eventually worked for the Ferraro Accordion Studios. In the late 40s, the era of the Women's Clubs, she began playing in beautiful homes where meetings convened. It was during this time that Lou learned to tap dance as well.

After her retirement in 2021 she continued to entertain many audiences in multiple venues with her singing, dancing, and playing the accordion. She was truly a shining star to all who knew her. A highlight of her career was appearing as a guest in 2018 on "The Mystery Hour" in Springfield, Missouri. In 2020 she was honored as an inductee into the American Accordion Hall of Fame of the Federation of American Musicians, Singers and Performing Artists (FAMSPA). She was featured as a cover page guest artist on the April 2021 special edition of "Accordion Stars Illustrated" magazine.

She is survived by her daughter Penny of Wilmington (Jerome), son Jeffrey of Ocala, Florida (Patti), and son Jeffrey of Columbus, Ohio. She is also survived by her many accordion friends from all over the country.

A private family ceremony was held. Contributions may be made in her name to Innovative Accordion Music productions at <https://innovativeaccordion.org/>. Contributions are tax deductible and used to bring quality accordion music to entertain, educate, and inspire.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 209 South 2nd; Bison, OK 7370

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 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

Oklahoma Accordion Club
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