

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 5, Issue 10

December 18, 2011

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

[www.MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com)

*It takes a lot of work  
to make things look easy*

As you all know by now, our November meeting was a thank you party for Dan and all he has contributed to us through his hard tireless efforts and leadership. I do believe, thanks to all of you, it took Dan totally by surprise.

We have re-scheduled our winter party to our January 22nd meeting. This will allow all our members the time to focus on their families during this holiday season.



For our appreciation to Dan's active leadership with us, we had a slide-show glimpse of his 4 year run and then presented Dan with an inscribed glass sprig of fire plague.

We have an active push to decide on our logo.....There is a separate attachment accompanying this newsletter with our suggestions. Please check off your favorite top 3 and then send it back. We will present the winning logo and will adopt the logo on future membership cards, correspondence



If you are a member of our group, you should definitely join our Yahoo group for members.....Many thanks to Dave Magliozzi for setting up and maintaining the site. Many articles and messages of interests from our members.....It is also a great way to communicate with other members in the club.....go to:

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/maaagrp/>

and brochures on the club. So please vote, with the size of our club still growing I can guarantee that each vote will have a significant impact on the overall decision.....

We are looking for a headcount of our January 22nd winter party....please respond with you and/or spouse/guest can make it by responding to this newsletter.

You may be hearing from one of our Board members asking if you would like to volunteer for one of the committees we have. Please do not feel obligated, but if you are willing, your help will be most appreciated.

Check out James Gerke's article on his and David's trip to the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, great article and makes me not want to miss next year's convention.....

Hope to see you through out our 2011-2012 season....  
Bob



Monthly meetings are the 4th Sunday of every month.....

1:30—4:00 pm

Ciociaro Social Club  
144 Bridge St  
Newton



Mark your calendars for another great year!!!!

**Dec 18**

**Jan 22**

**(winter party)**

Due to the upcoming holidays, Nov and Dec dates have changed from the 4th Sunday.

Notification will be made thru e-mail, the newsletter, the website and the yahoo site

**Come and enjoy the fun!!!!**

No experience is necessary, just a love for the instrument, either playing or listening, or both.

All instrument types, playing styles, and skill levels are welcomed.

The opportunities to perform on a sign up basis

Open forum accordion discussions are chaired to encourage MAAA member participation, involvement and resource sharing



## Some pix of our concert with the N.E. Theatrical Organ Society



One of the greatest things about accordion music..  
*It's still commercial free.....*

### Club Officers

#### President -

**Bob Guenther**

bobguenther@comcast.net

#### Vice-President -

**Jim Avedisian**

vze2v42i@verizon.net

#### Treasurer/Secretary -

**Patty Simmons**

Pattysim@comcast.net

#### Board Member -

**Lewis Howes**

howesfam@comcast.net

**Ed Wawrzynowicz**

edchris@comcast.net

**Al Bacchicchi**

rmbuck@comcast.net

**Penny Yunuba**

PYunuba@comcast.net



Bob Guenther



Jim Avedisian



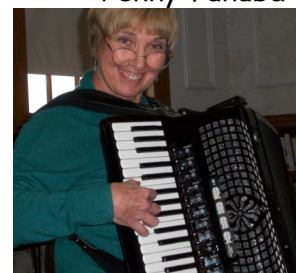
Penny Yunuba



Lewis Howes



Ed Wawrzynowicz



Patty Simmons



Al Bacchicchi



# Our play-a-long ensemble



I'm sending you and others a short video (<1 min) of my participation in this year's Columbus Day (10/10) Parade in Worcester.

This video appeared in the on-line Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

This year's parade theme was "With a Song in My Heart," so I played the tune "A Song in My Heart" (on the video, suing the mandolin setting) when passing by the parade judges. There's a brief shot of me on the "Italian American Victory Club (IAVC)" float playing the FR-7x (mandolin setting), and the editors chose to use this song for the remainder of the video. The parade lasted about 1 hr, so during other times, I played other Italian songs.

As the IAVC is located in Shrewsbury, MA, I also participated in the Shrewsbury Fall Festival parade ( a week before the Worcester parade).

Perhaps you can use this link in the next newsletter.

Take care, Tony

[http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid791154425001?](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid791154425001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAAAE-vADk~,vuSqBN3kbUeZ67DgIkEj1adITQH3OWg9&bclid=0&bctid=1209694035001)

[bckey=AQ~~,AAAAAE-](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid791154425001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAAAE-vADk~,vuSqBN3kbUeZ67DgIkEj1adITQH3OWg9&bclid=0&bctid=1209694035001)

[vADk~,vuSqBN3kbUeZ67DgIkEj1adITQH3OWg9&bclid=0&bctid=1209694035001](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid791154425001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAAAE-vADk~,vuSqBN3kbUeZ67DgIkEj1adITQH3OWg9&bclid=0&bctid=1209694035001)

(copy link to your address bar and hit enter)



Video:

Italian culture is celebrated on Shrewsbury Street during the 2011 Columbus Day Parade.



# Our November meeting....



Thanks to all for a wonderful time....  
Thanks to all for a wonderful time....



# James trip to Las Vegas Accordion Convention



Hi, folks!

Dave Magliozi and I just returned from the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention. What a great week! Thanks to Tony Marini for repeatedly telling us for the past two years, "If there's ONE convention you attend, make it Las Vegas!" As

Tony had promised, we were able to meet and chat with many, many accordion industry luminaries, including Frank Marocco, Angelo DiPippo, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo (Angelo, Frank, and Manny make up The Amazing Accordion Kings), Carl Fortina (who played accordion on over 550 movie scores, including "The Godfather", played along with Frank Marocco on the Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds" album, and has worked with Elton John, Elvis, Barbra Streisand, Frank Sinatra, and many others), Peter and Mady Soave, the phenomenal Russian bayanist Alex Sevastian, Mario Pedone, Mary Tokarski, Gina Branelli, Jerry Cigler, Sylvia Marie Barber, and many, many others. We also heard an excellent concert each night featuring some of these performers.

During Angelo DiPippo's master class, he mentioned the following phrase (with his unique flair, stretching his arm upward and pointing to the heavens like a Roman emperor): "There are many paths... to GREATNESS!" For Dave and me, that expression became a catchphrase for the rest of the convention, and it even came up several times in other master classes.

A friend on Facebook ventured that one of the paths to greatness is "practice, practice, practice", and another is "perform, perform, perform" -- but asked if I knew what some of the others are.

Well, Angelo DiPippo didn't spell them all out for us -- I think he was trying to say that if you don't buy into his particular method, there are many other ways you can become a great musician. But my friend's question motivated me to jot down some of the great tips we heard from these masterful musicians at the convention. I'd like to share these notes here, for those of you who may not be on Facebook:

What are "the paths to GREATNESS"? It depends upon whom you ask. Let's see... Vince Lombardi said, "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." That axiom was stated in various ways by almost all of the workshop leaders. It is not the quantity of the practice, but the quality. How you practice - and practicing daily - will give you the best results. Simply running through pieces you already know or just doodling around on the keys does not count. Effective practice consists of whatever you are doing to advance your skill level. Consistent, daily practice (preferably at the same time) is required to build muscle memory and maintain your progress. Of course, when you add up all the things that most presenters said you should be working on, the time required is substantial. But even 20-30 minutes a day, if used effectively, is better than skipping a day here and there, or spending four hours a day practicing the wrong way. Certain common themes did emerge from all the workshops this week. The list of items to incorporate into your daily routine includes the following (these ideas some from different people; this is not a list endorsed by all the presenters):

- \* Practice all 12 scales, harmonic and melodic scales, arpeggios from each inversion, and chords in each inversion.

- \* Do the exercises in the Hanon books daily. Play the exercises in both hands. Build on the exercises you have already worked on; do all of them each day, not just the new ones.

- \* Learn the circle of fifths inside and out.

- \* Resist the urge to play an entire piece at once; learn it in small sections.

- \* Slow down. Each note must be articulated cleanly. If you are playing sloppily, you are playing too fast. Reduce your speed to the point where you can play the exercise or passage cleanly, and play it at that speed until there are no mistakes.

- \* Use the entire range of your instrument. Practice your exercises not as written, but from the lowest note of the range to the highest.



- \* Play musical phrases as you would sing them.

- \* Use a metronome. Buy a small digital one that you can take with you everywhere.

- \* Practice in front of a mirror, so you can observe your form.

Another good tip (not required daily) is to record yourself, either on video or audio recorder, and listen to your performance. Playing a piece and observing it being played are two distinct activities.

- \* Oh, and then work on whatever pieces you are learning. Peter and Mary Soave said, no matter how much you practice, it is never enough. (This is not to imply that our practice will never measure up to some impossible standard; rather, that there is always more we could work on.) The amount of time you spend each day is what will propel you toward GREATNESS more quickly, if you are practicing effectively during that time.

Many approaches offered this week appeared to contradict one another:

- \* "Practice with the football game on, to build your ability to ignore distractions."/"Practice in a quiet, isolated environment."

- \* "It's OK to look at the keys before an important passage, so you will hit the right notes."/"NEVER look at the keys -- you should play the instrument as if you were a blind person."

The "many paths" refers to the myriad methods, books, and approaches advocated by different teachers.

Each of the performers this week is great in his or her own way, and each has a unique history.

I hope you find these suggestions useful. As I was leaving Las Vegas, I certainly felt highly motivated to practice with renewed vigor, and now I have some excellent direction on how to make my practice more concentrated and effective.

Best,

James

*Editor's note ....James article from Las Vegas was re-formatted to fit the newsletter columns by the editor. Great piece James, looking forward to future articles ....Bob*

### Where knowledge and fun meet

WWW.MAaccordion.com

4th Sunday of every month  
Check the newsletter or  
website for locations

MAaccordion phone:  
(508) 529-6163

E-mail: use our website for  
direct contact

► Your music club where  
fellow accordionists meet  
for an afternoon of music  
and discussions.



Chanteuse Tara Linda joins 13 musicians to present the new generation of accordionista and the accordions who love them- in this special 2012 Pin-Up Calendar. Showcasing the talented, fun, sensual, often underground, and always entertaining Accordion Babes, the calendar includes a compilation CD- with music performed by all the women of the Babes Calendar.

<http://www.taralinda.com/accordionbabescalendar.html>

just \$15.00 and \$4.00 shipping.

### Local Resources for New and Pre-Owned Accordions

- [Accordion Connection](#) (Gilmanton, NH)
- [Luca Music](#) (North Providence, RI)
- [Monte School of Music](#) (Wellesley Hills, MA)
- [The Button Box](#) (Sunderland, MA)



### Accordion Teachers throughout New England

- [Janet Borelli](#) - 508-752-6213 (Paxton, MA)
- [Donna LaRue](#)—781-646-3013 (Arlington, MA)
- [Paul Monte](#)—781-237-0554 (Wellesley Hills, MA)
- [Joe Maciejowski](#) —508-529-6065 (Upton, MA)
- [Bill LaPollai](#) —401-245-5209 (Barrington, R.I.)
- [Roberto Cassan](#) —617-413-8199 (Roslindale, MA)
- [Emilian Badea](#) —508-653-8441 (Natick, MA)
- [Inessa Gilmore](#) —[inessagilmore@yahoo.com](mailto:inessagilmore@yahoo.com)
- [A.T.A.M.](#)—Accordion Teachers of Massachusetts
- [CCE Boston Music School](#) Irish B/C Button Box classes at  
Boston College & Harvard University



### Additional resources for Accordion Music & Lesson Books

- [Accordion Connection](#) (Gilmanton, NH)
- [Mel Bay Publications](#) (Web)
- [The Button Box](#) (Sunderland, MA)

We're on the web:  
[MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com)

### Other New England based Accor- dion Clubs

- [Connecticut](#) (Cheshire/Plantsville, CT) <http://www.ctaccordion.com>
- [New Hampshire Accordion Assoc](#) (Gilmanton, NH) 1-800-328-5227
- [Central Mass Accordion Club](#) (Rutland, MA) 1-508-885-2083



### Our own Jerry Tramontozzi

Appeared and performed at this year's Florida Accordion Association Annual "SMASH" November 11th thru the 13th. Hopefully some pictures will be available in the near future.....

*We invite all our members and friends to join in the fun!!!*

Remember, our meetings are scheduled on the 4th Sunday of each month.

*Special dates around national holidays....*

**Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: Dec 18th**