



# MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 7, Issue 11  
January 2014

The MAAA is a group of accordion enthusiasts that welcomes players of all skill levels and accordion types, as well as interested non-players.

**Join us! Open to the public!**  
**4th Sunday of every month**

1:30-4 pm  
Ciociaro Social Club  
144 Bridge Street  
Newton, Massachusetts

**Next meeting**  
January 26, 2014

**Stay connected**  
[www.MAAccordion.org](http://www.MAAccordion.org)



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Please email your news and items of interest to Catherine Coleman, newsletter editor:  
[catherine.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.coleman@gmail.com)

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## **MAAA holiday meeting January 26**

This meeting is a good time to talk to old friends and make new ones. There will be socialization and refreshments from beginning to end. After a play-along of Christmas-themed songs (originally scheduled for our snowed-out December meeting), Gary Morin will emcee an informal open mic session and everyone who feels comfortable is invited to join in.

We look forward to seeing you!



## 2014 MAAA meetings

Mark these upcoming MAAA meetings in your calendar!

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27
- May 25
- June 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 23
- December 21

Meetings are free and everyone is welcome, players from beginner to professional, and nonplayers who love hearing accordion music.

## MAAA Board of Directors

### Officers

Tony Marini, President  
 Jim Avedisian, Vice-President  
 Patty Simmons, Treasurer/Clerk

### Board Members

Al Bacchiocchi  
 Jan Borelli  
 Carmen D'Angelo  
 Lewis Howes  
 Gary Morin  
 Ed Wawrzynowicz

## 2014 accordion calendars

Consider one of these calendars for keeping track of MAAA meetings and other musical events in the new year!

### Collectors Edition Accordion 2014 Calendar

This calendar highlights bands—new and nostalgic—that feature the accordion, from Nirvana to John Melancamp. Proceeds from sales are donated to accordion scholarship funds.

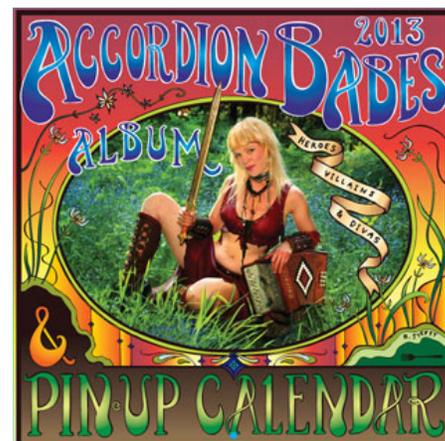
[www.petosa.com](http://www.petosa.com)



### 6th edition of the Accordion Babes Pin-Up Calendar and CD

No X-rated images here—just fun photos celebrating real-life musicians and their accordions, with a CD of their music.

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



## What are your Accordion New Year's Resolutions?

Rita Barnea (who has performed at MAAA) has ten suggestions for us in the online accordion newsletter she has been editing for more than six years. [Check them out](#), get inspired, and make your own!

My favorite is: #2: "I promise to play my accordion for friends and family at least once a month (more often would be even better)!" This past holiday season was a happy reminder of how much people love listening to music that others make for them.



**MAAA members make merry during the 2013 holiday season**

**Gary Morin performs Christmas Concert in Lunenburg**

Jim and Carol Avedisian were among the appreciative audience members who attended Gary Morin’s Christmas Concert on December 17 at the Drawbridge Puppet Theatre in Lunenburg. His program included Christmas favorites like “Rudolph,” “Sleigh Ride,” “White Christmas,” “Christmastime is Here” (from A Charlie Brown Christmas) and many more.

“It was great! Most of the evening was by request from the audience. Whatever they wanted to hear, he played,” reports Jim. “He didn’t limit their requests just to Christmas music. All from memory, not knowing in advance what songs would be requested,



*Gary Morin with his Acctone and Bulgari accordions (photo by Jim Avedisian)*

he played standards like “Here’s that Rainy Day,” French songs, Italian songs, even a couple of polkas. He played so many songs I couldn’t keep track of them all!”

Gary donated all of the ticket sales to the American Cancer Society.



*Jim Avedisian and Dan Mackowiak performing at Newton’s Christmas Crafts Fair (photo by Carol Avedisian)*

**MAAA members volunteer Christmas cheer at crafts fair**

On December 8, MAAA members Dan Mackowiak and Jim Avedisian played holiday music at the Christmas Crafts Fair at Newton South High School in Newton MA. Throughout the day, they and other volunteer performers provided entertainment to add to the fair’s festive atmosphere.

Jim reports that fairgoer’s favorites from their hour-long performance included “The Chipmunk Song,” “Feliz Navidad,” “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” and “White Christmas.”

## Vicki

by Dave Magliozzi

I own several instruments but in a tan leather soft case rests Vicky.

Vicky is an auburn Victoria Poeta, an Italian masterpiece carved and shaped of birdseye maple and made in Castelfidardo, Italy. When I put her on my body, her bellows become my lungs and the accordion becomes an extension of myself. To ease air through her reeds with a squeeze, to push her buttons with my left while fingers cascade down her right, is an unmatched unity of rhythm, harmony, and melody.

Even my fellow MAA members who are acoustic players--Lewis, Penny, Tony, and James--tell me they like the sound and feeling of the accordion and are mesmerized by the vibrations it causes against the chest.

Acoustic accordion seamlessly fits in with Polish, Balkan, Jewish, Swedish, French, Brazilian, and Irish music. It sounds just as exceptional playing jazz or an Argentine tango. It is a world instrument for all to behold and admire.

I first saw a Poeta in the hands of Frank Marocco and later met



*Dave and Vicki at the 2013 New England Squeeze in (Photo: Stewart Dean)*

up with a Poeta on the streets of New Jersey when I traveled there with Tony Marini and James Gerke. On that trip I flirted with others—a Midi Siwa, a Roland Fr7x, a Scandalli, a Borsini, an Excelsior, a Bell. They all sounded wonderful to me, but not as good as the Poeta.

In my head I was hearing Frank Marocco's "With a Song in my Heart."

To me, the pleasure and sound created by the accordion free reed cannot be matched. You can't imitate Toninho Ferraguti's "Migo," Renzo Ruggieri's "Terre," Richard Galliano's "Valse e Margeaux," Ricardo Taddei's "Tu Novembre," Cathie Traver's "Oblivion," or Zoe Tiganoria's "Antigoni" on any instrument other than an acoustic accordion.

My Vicky puts a song in my heart.

## Of notes: Accordions in the news

### Happy anniversary!



The accordion, which was patented on Friday, January 13, 1854, was included in one of the UK’s leading newspaper’s list of “Eight good things that happened on Friday the 13th.”

### Performance art

Andreas Buchwaldt, a Canadian artist, has built a wearable mobile accordion for Toronto’s Long Winter festival. Made out of wood and cardboard, it requires three people to pump and play it. “I’m going to be walking around, bumping into people and saying, ‘Hey, play me!’” he



said in an [interview](#). Buchwaldt previously built a giant accordion into a walk-in closet. When the doors opened and closed, they produced music out of the sound box in the middle.

### Mindfulness

Accordianist Ivan Klopfens keeps an accordion at the Grappone Toyota dealership in Bow, MA where he works. He and other employees get together regularly to jam as part of the dealership’s mindfulness initiative. His



employer’s innovative approach to employee wellness was featured in a recent Concord Monitor article about increased corporate interest in offering employees mindfulness activities like meditation, yoga, and massage therapy.

### Cultural symbolism

Louisiana has a new [license plate](#) that features an accordion and a crawfish atop a fleur-de-lis as a way to sustain the French language in the state. The plate



reads “I’m Cajun ... and Proud” but any resident who wants to

support Cajun culture (the plate is a response to Governor Jindal’s cuts to language program budgets in 2012) can purchase one.

### Sexiness

Cory Pesaturo, the 25-year-old World Jazz Accordion Champion from Rhode Island, discusses his one-man campaign to imbue the accordion with sexiness in a recent article in the Providence Monthly. “It’s basically like wearing an air conditioner,” he says in the article, “An Accordion Champion with Sex Appeal.”



### Quirkiness

The 2013 Squeezebox Slam which took place in June (MAAA was there, sharing information about our Association) was selected as one of Boston’s “Favorite Quirky Events of 2013,” along with No Pants Day, the Boston Zombie Walk, and a dozen others. The 2014 Squeezebox Slam is scheduled for June 14—you can follow them on Facebook for updates.

## Calendar

### JANUARY

**Angelo DiPippo**  
**Master Class at NHAA**  
**January 18, 1 pm, Accordion**  
**Connection, Gilmanton, NH**

Angelo DiPippo, world-renowned accordionist, will present a Master Class at the New Hampshire Accordion Association January meeting.

Angelo will not be performing—he will evaluate accordionists who volunteer to play in front of the class. Following a break for refreshments, Angelo will talk about his storied career as a performer, arranger, composer, producer, and conductor. He will also take questions from the audience.

After the meeting, Angelo DiPippo will be the guest of honor at the first Annual NHAA Membership Kickoff Dinner, to be held at Firefly American Bistro & Bar, 22 Concord Street, Manchester (approximately 45 minutes south of Gilmanton). Non-NHAA members are welcome to attend, space permitting. Each attendee is responsible for his/her own restaurant expenses.

Accordionists interested in playing, or non-NHAA members interested in attending, should contact [DonnaRegis@comcast.net](mailto:DonnaRegis@comcast.net).

The Master Class is free and open to the public but registration is required as space is limited.

**Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe**  
**January 19, 4-7 pm, Watertown**  
**VFW, 295 Arsenal Street,**  
**Watertown**

[www.bostonzydeco.org](http://www.bostonzydeco.org)

Dikki Du performs classic zydeco songs with a fresh, funky approach.

**Klezmer Jam**  
**January 26, 4-6 pm, Boston**  
**Workmen's Circle Building, 1762**  
**Beacon Street, Brookline, MA**

[www.klezmershack.com/calendar/](http://www.klezmershack.com/calendar/)

The monthly Permanent Floating Klezmer Jam welcomes musicians of all instruments and of varying levels. Classics and originals are played from sheet music and by ear.

### FEBRUARY

**Buckwheat Zydeco**  
**February 27, 7:30 pm**  
**Regattabar, Cambridge**  
[www.regattabarjazz.com/](http://www.regattabarjazz.com/)

Contemporary zydeco accordionist Stanley "Buckwheat" Zydeco brings his bouncy band to town for some partying.

### MARCH

**March 5-9**  
**28th 2014 National Accordion**  
**Convention**  
**Southfork Hotel, Plano, Texas**  
[www.accordions.com/naa/](http://www.accordions.com/naa/)

### APRIL

**New England Music Festival**  
**April 4-5**  
**Boston Newton Marriott**  
<http://atamnemusicfestival.com/>



### JUNE

**Django in June: Gypsy Jazz Camp**  
**June 16-22**  
**Smith College, Northampton, MA**  
[www.djangoinjune.com/](http://www.djangoinjune.com/)

### JULY

**AAA 2014 Festival**  
**July 9-13, Tarrytown, NY**  
[www.ameraccord.com/](http://www.ameraccord.com/)

### AUGUST

**24th Annual Cotati Accordion**  
**Festival**  
**August 16-17, Coati, CA**  
[www.cotatifest.com/](http://www.cotatifest.com/)

### SEPTEMBER

**New England Squeeze-In**  
**September 12-14 (tentative),**  
**Becket, MA**  
[www.squeeze-in.org/](http://www.squeeze-in.org/)

