



# MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 9, Issue 9  
November 2015

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.

Ciociaro Social Club  
144 Bridge Street  
Newton, Massachusetts

## Next meeting:

**November 22, 1:30 pm**

Detailed meeting info is available on our website:

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



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## Send news and story ideas to the MAAA newsletter editor

Catherine Coleman  
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## MAAA celebrates Paul Monte

MAAA's annual meeting took place on Sunday, October 25 with a full house and a packed agenda that included Board of Trustee elections (the new MAAA board is listed in the sidebar), a tribute to Paul Monte, and a play-along featuring many of Paul's students from the past several decades.

Launching the celebration of Paul Monte's contributions to the accordion world in general and to MAAA in particular, outgoing MAAA president Tony Marini recalled their conversation at an accordion event in Las Vegas in 2006. "I asked him why we don't have an accordion club in Massachusetts, and Paul said, 'Why don't you start one!'" The first meeting took place at Tony's house, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Fast forward to today. Paul's son, Paul Jr., spoke about his father,

praising him as someone who was able to "Take a hobby and turn it into a career. But he told me, 'You're not going to be a musician—it leaves you no time for your family.'"

The multiple generations of Montes attending Sunday's meeting indicate that Paul indeed did find time for his family. "My dad has been a major influence on the accordion industry, especially in the Boston area," his son noted. "But



*Paul Monte and Tal Shalom-Kobi performed at the October MAAA meeting*



*Under the direction of Gary Morin, ten MAAA members played a program of waltzes. For those of us who love the sound of the accordion, hearing ten playing at once is a heavenly experience. The players were all from different backgrounds and levels of experience, and anyone who is interested is encouraged to join future playalongs and enjoy the accordion orchestra experience.*



*Paul and Lillian Monte performed together--a surprise for Paul!*



*"Paul and I go way back," recalled Rocco Scenna. "He subbed with my band many times. Then I gave up music and became an engineer. Today, for the first time in about six years, I'm playing in public. I've got to do it for Paul, it comes from the heart."*

his biggest accomplishment of all was meeting our mom. He had a music school in Copley Square, then in Brookline, then Wellesley, and then it moved into our house. He was able to grow the business and stay close to home. But he played about three gigs per weekend for fifty years. He was the best teacher I've ever had—he taught me to work very hard." He went on to provide some astonishing statistics to illustrate Paul's career-long contributions:

- 3,500 students taught
- 175,000 lessons given
- 472,500,000 notes played
- 2,000 bellow shakes—enough to travel from Boston to Chicago and back!

The man of the hour then performed three pieces with bassist Tal Shalom-Kobi (another of Paul's students)—the finger-twisting "Accordiana," "Liebesfreud" (written by Fritz Kreisler for violin), and "Dizzy Fingers."

After receiving a standing ovation, the encore came as a surprise to Paul: His wife, Lillian, joined him to play "Flight of the Angels."

## CALENDAR

**Dec.8, 8 pm**

**Contra Dance for All**  
**Student Center 491, 84 Mass.**  
**Ave., MIT, Cambridge**  
<http://web.mit.edu/fdc/contra.html>

The general public is welcome to MIT's dance with live music Music by Heff Kaufman (fiddle) and Alex Cumming (accordion).

**Dec. 12, 8 pm**

**Chan's Restaurant and Jazz**  
**267 Main St., Woonsocket RI**  
[www.chanseggrollsandjazz.com](http://www.chanseggrollsandjazz.com)

Rhode Island's accordion champion, Cory Pesaturo, joins with friends to present a jazz concert.



**Dec.5, 10 am-4 pm**

**Swedish Yuletide: SWEA Fair and Holiday Celebration**  
**Cyclorama/The Boston Center for the Arts**  
**539 Tremont St., Boston**  
[www.sweaboston.org](http://www.sweaboston.org)

Since 1985, SWEA Boston has hosted a Swedish Yuletide to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season with foods, crafts, gifts, Swedish cafés, musical entertainment, and activities for children.

This annual event attracts thousands of visitors and is the largest Scandinavian event in New England.

Lucia is the celebration that takes place in Sweden on the year's darkest day, December 13—the shortest day according to the old calendar, i.e. before 1753.

MAAA member Dan Mackowiac, choral groups, and bands will provide music throughout the events.

Lucia processions featuring the children of Svenska Skolan (the Swedish School of Boston) take place at 11:30 am and 2 pm.

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### Share the music!

**Send info about your gigs or upcoming performances of note to:**

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