

SQUEEZINS

“Our squeezin’...is pleasin’”

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



April showers indeed bring May flowers, plus plenty of fantastic songs played live on accordion! Join us at Oklahoma Accordion Club’s joyous monthly get-together at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Meetup Info for Sunday, April 14, 2024 — 3:30 p.m.

Simultaneous with the Sunday, April 14th Zoom meeting, at 3:30 pm, we’ll be meeting in person 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 you’ll hear accordion music leading you to where we await you in the room on your right..

Snacks are welcome! Bring your accordion, or just come sit down with us and listen to 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 in *Zoom* (the same way they did in previous months). Choose method (1) or (2).

(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 phone, 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 Zoom before that date, call Maggie at 405-201-7867 to give it a test-run.



PREZ SEZ

Maggie Abel

Alert! I'm a new and transformed person since the convention! To experience so much in four short days—affects a person's whole outlook! While driving down to Lewisville, I thought of all of the other squeeze-box players driving from the four corners of the earth to celebrate this beautiful instrument and what we possibly can do with it.

While on the road, I got a phone call from one attendee, who had an amazing report. On her way down there, a semi truck nicked and totaled her car, so she and her two carpoolers waited with their three accordions by the side of the road for an hour until a friend arrived with a loaner car, which they jumped in to continue the rest of their journey to the hotel. Talk about dedication and also divine protection during their mission!

Dick Albreski had many rehearsals lined up that week, some for the youth band, and some for the adult fun band, which my roomie and I were privileged to participate in. A lavish lunch was provided Thursday, and a served banquet on Friday and Saturday nights. The rest of the time we cud peruse the horizon as the hotel was nestled among many restaurants.

The swap room housed a number of accordions whose owners were seeking to trade "up" for cash or some instrument more desirable. I spied one with sparkly golden keys that suited my fancy, and played it in the fun band that night.

Every evening, several jam rooms were provided, and we gathered with those of like musical tastes to let it all hang out. I chose the newcomers room where words and chords to 47 basic songs were shining on the walls for all to follow. In other rooms the headliners for the weekend shows jammed along with attendees.

Workshops were the order of the daytimes, and I chose several by key player Alex Meixner. His narratives and enthusiasm won me over! I played his polka CDs all the way home that Sunday morning. The likes of Gordon Kohl, Mitchell White, and Lori Brooke gave excellent advice and tips along the lines of "Do, indeed, try this at home!"

Sunday at the monthly meetup, we'll rejoin the OKC troops who held down the fort at home, mingle our energies with theirs, and return to basking in the harmonies we've opened the door to with the aid of their companionship.

We'll be playing some footage on the wall, showing the adventures we underwent, and hope you can join us for what has become a very special time to look forward to.

See you at Messiah Lutheran Church (at the corner of Portland and NW Expressway) on Sunday, April 14, at 3:30 pm. (Or arrive earlier if you dig visiting, setting up chairs, and hearing people warming up with tunes of yore!)

Check out the pix that follow!

Maggie Abel, Prez

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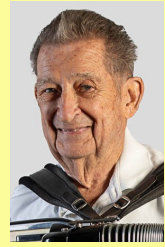
<http://www.okaccordion.club/>

Lifetime Members

Maggie Abel
Jim & June Butricks
William "Rusty" Dolton
Janet Haskin
Roland Lohmann
Frankie Martinez
Bob Mansfield
Tom Phillips
Phil Scibelli
Ophelia Woody

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski



MAY 6TH IS THE 195TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ACCORDION! On May 6th, 1829, Cyrill Demian, an organ and piano maker of Armenian origin, with his two sons, Karl, and Guido, filed a patent in Vienna, Austria for the accordion. Patent No. 1433 listed a new type of portable instrument having metal plates, close to a reed configuration and bellows. Since the first accordion, many changes and improvements have been made to the instrument we all call our main squeeze. What are you doing to improve and advertise the accordion at this time?

HERE'S A NEW WORKSHOP! CNIMA will hold a workshop in New Orleans from May 20-25th, 2024 for piano and button accordions for beginner, intermediate, and advanced students. They are a renowned French Accordion School. With over 60 years of experience, Jacques Monet and Nathalie Boucheix have trained hundreds of professionals, world Champions and amateurs of all ages. The classes and recommended hotel rooms will be at the Maison St. Charles Hotel. The cost for the workshop is \$750 and the early bird registration is \$650. The rooms are from \$119 per night and on Friday and Saturday they are \$109. For more information and registration, go to cnima.com/usa.

The ACCORDION TEACHERS GUILD (ATG) 2024 Accordion Festival will be held at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club in Kansas City Missouri from July 23 to the 27th, 2024. There will be a special Accordion World Cup event that will be held on July 26 & 27th. To compete you must be 32 years old or younger. The first prize is \$5000 and the 2nd prize is \$3000. More to follow on this special event. The fees for attending the festival are: Single day Early Bird for members is

\$120 and non-members \$520. There are other fees to suit your attendance. The current lineup of performers includes Gorka Hermosa, ATG Festival Orchestra under the direction of Joan C. Sommers, Grayson Mansfield, Bridge & Wolak, Nicolay Bine, UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble, Mirco Patarini, Stas Venglevski and Das Kollektiv Duo. For best results go to the ATG website for the 2024 Festival information.

The AMERICAN ACCORDION ASSOCIATION has announced that it will hold its annual convention from July 12-14th, 2024 in West Conshohocken (Philadelphia area), PA. They ask that you hold the date and visit (www.ameraccord.com) for news releases concerning this event. Joe Natoli will be one of the featured artists! More data to follow as released.

As future events happen, hopefully we will see them in advance, so you can make plans to attend. Keep checkin' this article!

Free Accordion Music Websites

For new and free accordion music, check out the following sites:

Todoaccordion.com

Donquattrocchi.com

8notes.com/accordion

Try them! You'll like them!



March Meeting Minutes

Lois Roth

The Oklahoma Accordion Club met on Sunday afternoon, March 10, 2024. The location was the music room of Messiah Lutheran Church in OKC. There were sixteen members and six guests present.

Before the meeting Anne Lopez and Lois Roth played "welcome in" music. President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30. Ron Shearon, VP and Treasurer, led us in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance. We sang the first verse of "America The Beautiful."

Dick Albreski told us a few highlights of the upcoming convention. The Youth Band will perform Saturday at noon. There will be jam sessions every night. The convention has a new location this year: Hilton Garden

Inn, Lewisville, Texas, a little north of Dallas.

Matthew Medley and Dick began the music with the Youth Band's 2024 convention songs. They performed "Faded Love," "Polish Polka Medley," "Come Do The Polka," "La Petite Blanc," and "Skater's Waltz."

Dick soloed with his arrangement of "Skater's Waltz" – in swingtime!

Elias Lansford, Bob Mansfield's student, played several solos, including "Going Up and Going Down," "Good Vibes," "Carefree Boogie," and "Beautiful Brown Eyes."

Then it was time to sing along! Anne and Lois provided the music for "Easter Parade" and "Macnamara's Band."

The duo continued by playing "Peg O My Heart," "Danny Boy," and "Just A Closer Walk With Thee." Anne soloed with several Irish songs: "The Kerry Dance," "Givens Waltz," and "O'Malley's Song."

Anne and Lois finished the afternoon of music with a trio of polkas: "Barbara," "Helena," and "The Lucky Polka." They also played a request from the audience – "Edelweiss."

The meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be Sunday, 3:30 p.m., April 14. Come and celebrate Spring!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth
OAC Secretary

Birthday Greetings to OAC Members!



Milo Shedeck, April 14

Annette Zongker-Smith, April 18

Beth Henson, April 25

Ophelia Woody, April 27



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



Entertainers
& Presenters

Peek into this year's pics from

National Accordion Assoc.

Convention in Lewisville, March 2024

View hundreds more & CLOSE-UPS at:

<https://www.accordions.com/naa/c2024Images.html>



Oklahoma Players
from Dick Albreski's Youth Band

Dick Albreski's
"Grown-up" Fun Band
Participants



Tulsa Accordion Band





OAC Meetup
March 10, 2024
by Diana L. Richard

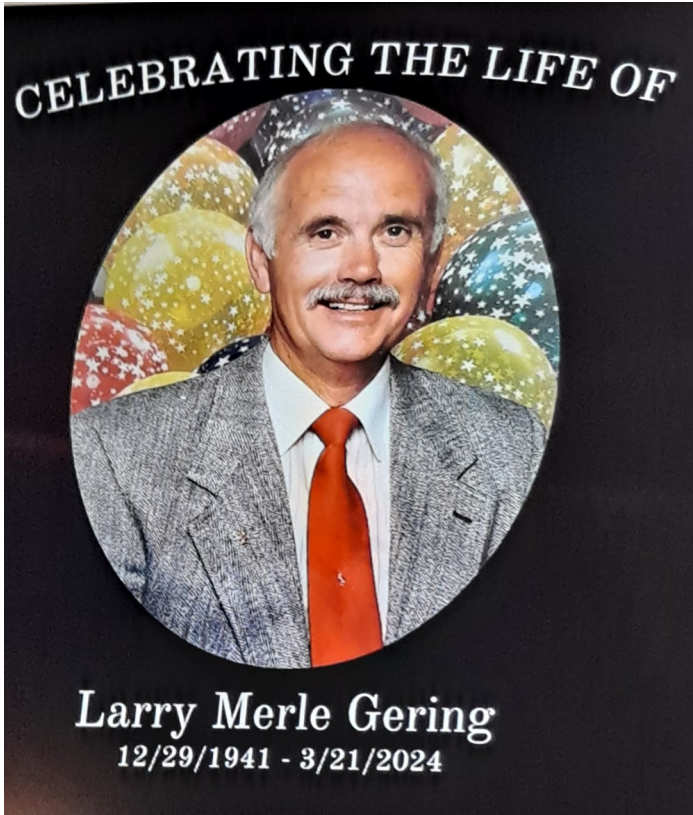




**OAC Meetup
March 10, 2024
by Maggie Abel**



Larry Gering in Memoriam



URL to Larry Gering's obituary

<https://www.aefuneralservices.com/obituaries/larry-gering>

Lois, Diana, and Anne attended the Shawnee service for Larry to provide accordion music as requested by the family.



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

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