

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Walter Kuehr

Walter Kuehr, the inspiration for the Main Squeeze Orchestra, died this past weekend after a long battle with cancer. Originally from Frankfurt, Germany, Kuehr opened an accordion shop at 19 Essex St. in 1996. In 2002, he created the orchestra, an all-female ensemble, the only one of its kind.

The idea for the orchestra came to him in a dream. "I thought that was like a sign from God," Kuehr told NPR a few years ago. "The most beautiful thing I've ever dreamt of, and I immediately felt like this is what I have to do." Here's more about his professional life from Main Squeeze's website:

Main Squeeze proprietor Walter Kuehr began wrestling with the unwieldy squeezebox as a six-



year old in Germany under the tutelage of his mother. Later, he studied classical music in Frankfurt, and played piano in a jazz quartet, as well as performing polkas and tangos with his accordion in local clubs. In 1988, he received a scholarship to study at Jazzmobile in Harlem. He moved to America and has lived in NYC ever since. Since then, Kuehr has been a central figure to both the

accordion and New York City music scenes. Kuehr and various partners have cranked out polkas and tangos in smaller clubs and nightspots. With his band The Last of the International Playboys, a nine-piece Latin jazz and lounge act, he plays in the big clubs of New York and Florida.

February Meeting

The February meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, at 3:30 pm. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church. The church is located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone is encouraged to perform. If you are

shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you.

After the individual and group performances, we will have a Jam Session.

Members are invited to bring snacks for everyone.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

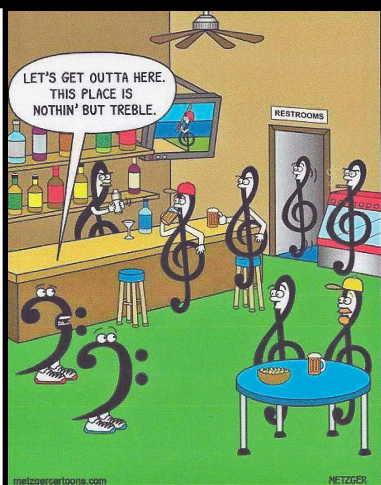
Barbara Duer

It's time to think about the *National Accordion Association* Convention coming up the 5th, 6th, and 7th of March. I've attended the Convention the last three years, and had a wonderful time. I become aware of Klezmer music a couple years ago from one of Gordon Kohl's workshops, and started searching on-line for more. I now have enough Klezmer music to keep me challenged for a long time. Every year, I meet new people and renew friendships, so each year it's more fun. I use the time at the Convention to play my accordion. I take music I've wanted to work on, and new music I buy from Mario Pedone, then play in my room first thing in the morning and during breaks all day long.

I've played in Dick Albreski's *Fun Band* every year at the Convention. It's fun playing at the Convention, but as much fun is the practicing at Dick's house to learn the music. We fill up Dick's living room and have a good time. I started playing the banjo in the *Fun Band* the second year as a rhythm instrument to keep the group together. Didn't think I'd get to play the banjo again when I joined the Accordion Club. There are probably 20 or more people from Oklahoma City going to the Convention, not counting the youth. So, come and join us if you can.

• Barbara Duer

I'm including the second half of the Russia song, "Volga Boat Song" in another part of this newsletter.



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The Treasurer Sez

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Dues are now due for 2015:
\$16 per member and an additional \$8 for
each family member

Happy Belated Birthday to:

Dan OrzaJanuary 8
Tom PhillipsJanuary 19
Maxine GunterJanuary 30

Happy Birthday to:

Evelyn Albreski.....February 2
Christopher Darr...February 3
Margaret Oldham .February 13
Bob MansfieldFebruary 24

• Milo

Happy Valentine's Day from your Treasurer!



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

Valentine Dance, February 14, 2015 at
the *Czech Hall* in Yukon, Oklahoma. The
dance will be held from 8:00 pm until
11:30 pm, and will feature the *Bohemian
Knights* for your dancing pleasure.

National Accordion Association
Convention will be held March 5-7, 2015
at the *Southfork Hotel* in Plano, Texas.
Don't miss this accordion-packed event
that will start your 2015 accordion year.
More information to follow.

American Accordion Association will
host their *2015 National Convention*
July 8-12, 2015 at the *Holiday Inn Hotel*,
Alexandria, Virginia.

Accordion Teachers Guild will have their
75th Anniversary Festival in Lisle
(Chicago), Illinois at the *Hyatt Lisle*
July 22-25, 2015

*Look for more accordion events in
future issues of Squeezins.*



What do you call ten accordions at the
bottom of the ocean?
A good start.

What's a bassoon good for?
Kindling for an accordion fire.

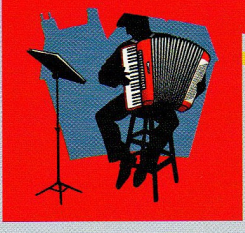
What's an accordion good for?
Learning how to fold a map.

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January Meeting

January OAC Meeting January 11, 2015

President Barbara Duer offered New Year's greetings as the Club opened its first 2015 meeting. In attendance were 16 members and 5 guests.

Club members are invited to bring snacks and beverages to the meetings.

- Past president Dick Albreski noted that Club members Nina Dunham of Tulsa passed away, and that member Annette Zongker-Smith's husband, Karl Smith, passed away. It was Karl's wish that the *Accordionaires* play at his funeral.

- Dick has sent out the band music that can be downloaded from the NAA Convention website. Those who are playing in the *Fun Band* will perform six songs at the Convention. The pieces are "My Wife Is Happy," "My Favorite Things," "The Bavarian Knights Waltz Medley," "The Syncopated Clock," "Those Were the Days," and "Marie."

- Dick will conduct the first weekly rehearsal on Saturday. The songs have three-part harmony, except for "The Syncopated Clock," which has two parts. Therefore, band members can span a wide range of ability. Members do not have to be planning to go to the Convention in order to practice with the *Fun Band* in the coming weeks.

- The *Accordionaires* (Director Dan Orza, along with John Buchanan, Karen West, and Maggie Abel) performed "Schneewalzer."



- Wayne Turgeon played "Marianne," "She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain," and "The Big Parade," which were enjoyed by Wayne's three guests.

- Barbara performed "Herrliche Wolga," a piece that was featured in the recent OAC newsletter.

- Dick showed "Volga Boatman #1" in the newsletter that had notations on the sheet music where horns would normally be played.

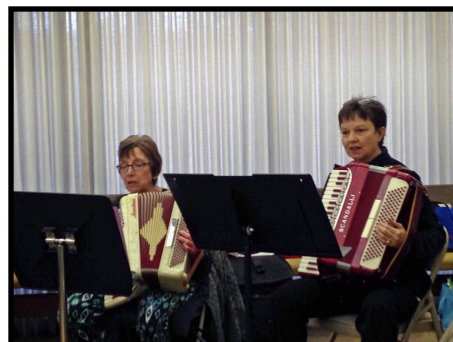
- A trio of Bob Mansfield, Karen West, and Barbara Duer performed a song in 7/4 time, entitled "Long Ago in Mikhailov."

- Bob Mansfield and George Secor then played a duet. They performed two songs: "Canzona per Sonare N 2" (Venice, 1608), and "Prelude in C Minor for Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier," which sounded like "Ave Maria."

- George then performed three versions of "Jerusalem, Jerusalem." He took requests during his encore, which included Gershwin's "The Lady is a Tramp," a polka medley, an Elvis medley ("Blue Christmas," "Love Me Tender," and "Can't Help Falling in Love"), the polka "Schwande," and a little Sinatra.

The February meeting will include some sample performances by the youth and a song by the *Fun Band*.

Submitted by
OAC Secretary Maggie Abel



January Meeting

Maggie Abel & Diana Richard



Volga Boatmen #2

2. Wol - ga, sei mir ge - grüßt, o Wol - ga! Sehn wir im
 3. Wol - ga, sei mir ge - grüßt, o Wol - ga! Sehn wir im

2. Früh-rot dei - ne Ne - bel stei - gen, sind wir der Hei-mat wie-der nah!
 3. Son-nenglast die U - fer schim-mern, sind wir der Hei-mat wie-der nah!

*1. x crescendo
 2. x decresc.*

pp A *ppp*

D. S. ♯ - ♯

*) Eigentum und Verlag: APOLLÓ-VERLAG Paul Lincke

Garfield





Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____ Birthday (mm/dd) ____/____ (optional)

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I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins, by:

- ☐ E-mail at address (above) or at _____
☐ Conventional post (snail mail)

Membership Dues

The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- ☐ Primary Membership is \$16.00 per year per individual.
☐ Family Membership is \$8.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.
☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180.
☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18.

Your Status (please check all that apply):

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☐ Associate ☐ Hobby ☐ Teacher ☐ Repairman/Repairwoman
☐ Other (specify) _____

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