

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezein'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Please Read

It is April, and we will have our fourth meeting this month. It also means that those who have not renewed their memberships will not continue to receive the monthly newsletter or communications regarding OAC issues. Also, we will not have the benefit of your dues to help continue the OAC. This year we gave \$300.00 to our youth to help them afford to attend the National Accordion Association meeting in Dallas last month. There will be more activities, programs, and editorials to enhance both the meetings and the newsletter, as well. Our goal is to make your membership donation a good

investment. We have not raised our dues since the AOC was started back in June 2000. Individual memberships are still only \$16.00 a year, with family memberships an additional \$8.00 for each member.

We hope you will continue to support our accordion club. We are keeping the accordion alive and, with your membership dues, we can guarantee the accordion will live on. We can't do it without your support.

Thank you,
Dick Albreski



April Meeting

2:00 pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Business Meeting
3:15 pm	Individual and Group Performances
5:00 pm	Jam Session (Easter Parade)

The November meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 15, at 3:00 pm**. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Enter the parking lot from Portland and use the south church entrance.

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 using the music on page 4 if this newsletter. All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

I am so proud of our Club. We were without a doubt the largest accordion club group attending the NAA last month. Thank you all.

Well, back to business. We will have a **mystery guest** at our next OAC meeting on April 15. Many of you know this person, or should know him/her. Some may know that this person also plays the accordion. Now who might this person be? Come to the meeting and find out.

It would be **great** if we all played together, the tune "Easter Parade" that was in the March newsletter. How about it? Let's do something never done before: Let's have more playing than listening. Don't forget to bring your accordion.

I was deeply touched by a gentleman who truly enjoyed our Youths' performance at the NAA. He has donated a sum of money that is intended to benefit our youth. Fifty dollars was given to the OAC youth fund, and additional dollars were given that will be spent educating a future ambitious student at my studio. In the May newsletter, I will announce and give the details for a contest that will give a lucky student between the ages of 6 and 13 the opportunity to learn the accordion. If you know of any potential young person who is thinking about learning the accordion, this could be their golden opportunity. This will include an accordion, educational materials, and lessons for a given period of time.

I stumbled onto an additional motto for our Club. I think it really says what we want to do this year and the next. **We want your membership renewal dollars to be a good investment.** If you haven't renewed to date, please do. See you all on the fifteenth.



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The Treasurer Sez

Evie Albreski



Well, we are back. The NAA was great! This convention is more than just accordion, it has become a social community. So many wonderful people attend this event. In fact, I believe that our OAC had the more attendees than all our neighboring states.

Dick conducted the Adult Fun Band and the Youth Band. He was given NAA Musical Achievement Award for his endeavors. He really enjoys what he does.

How about the new members? Included are pictures of Barbara Duer pinning an OAC badge on her friend Magdalena Brantley, and Job Elliott welcoming youth member Luke Adams to the OAC.

We also welcome Robbie Rattan, who will receive his badge at the next OAC meeting. Janet Haskin was given her Lifetime Member badge in



Dallas, too. Check the OAC website for Janet's picture, plus more NAA photos.

Don't forget that we rescheduled the April OAC meeting to the third Sunday because Easter falls on the second Sunday of the month. Anyone who bought an Easter bonnet should come and model it for the members.

I am proud to announce that an anonymous donor has given \$50.00 to our OAC youth. This donor was very impressed with our Youth performance and would like to see it continue. A grateful "thank you" was extended on behalf of the OAC. At this point in time, we have 43 people who have renewed their memberships. If you haven't, please do. Also, our checkbook (less the Youth Fund) shows we have \$1,139.88 to pay future expenses. See you all on April 15.

• Evie



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73162

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 \$16 per year per individual | ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180 |
| ☐ Family Membership is \$8 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 |

Book Review

Submitted by Jackie Mashore

Excerpt from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* article "Accordion File"

"When Marion Jacobson lived in Brooklyn and busked on the accordion at F-line stops, folks would listen, stare, and say, 'Oh my God, I haven't seen one of those in ages,' or 'My grandfather played.' The sight, she says, 'seemed to inspire people to nostalgia, longing, admiration, and small doses of shock and horror.'"

In the accordion is compressed not just a lot of variable, emotive, sometimes explosive sound, but historical riches and baggage, too, which Jacobson, a 49-year-old ethnomusicologist, explores in her new book, *Squeeze This! A Cultural History of the Accordion in America* (University of Illinois Press). The instrument comes with its own narrative arc, she says: "a meteoric rise and humiliating downfall," then "a surprising revival."

Jacobson lost herself one day in an accordion shop on the Lower East Side. And, "like many who began playing accordion in the 20th century," she writes, "I acquired my instrument from someone who didn't want it anymore." She traded a Baldwin spinet piano for a 35-pound, ruby-red Delicia Carmen accordion.

Jacobson found the accordion a tricky instrument to learn. "Pianists can easily master the piano accordion's keyboard" of the right hand, she says, "once they get used to playing one on their lap. But it's a whole other thing to crank your left wrist into the right position to play the bass and chord buttons." She immersed herself in accordion history and culture, too, traveling around the country to clubs, museums, and festivals like those of Cotati, California and Houston, Texas.

The accordion, Jacobson says, was "the iPod of the nineteenth century," through which average people could "download" in their own homes not just a rich array of European ethnic music, but also

symphonies and operas. For all that, rock 'n' roll sent the accordion to the ICU for a couple of decades. Guitar was king. As one writer put it, "It was in the early 1960s, with the rise of rock 'n' roll, that Western teenagers came to view the squeezebox as the embodiment of all that was hackneyed, dorky, and terminally kitsch about their parents' culture."

But just when it seemed to be flatlining, the accordion -- for several reasons -- made a gradual, inconspicuous, unlikely recovery, Jacobson says. First, from Springsteen's "E Street Band" to "Brave Combo" and, more recently, women retaking their squeezebox territory, harking back to the "sexy accordion queens of 100 years ago." And finally, says Jacobson, the instrument has packed ethnic punch for conjunto players like Flaco Jiménez and zydeco wizards like Clifton Chenier.

On the fleshy flip side of today's drum-boxed, auto-tuned radio robots, the accordion's fold bellows can still breathe into us a comforting air of home, wherever home may be. When she plays in nursing homes, with a flip of the timbre switch, Jacobson can offer a Parisian-infused musette meditation, an exotic minor-keyed sliver of Scandinavia, an Italian aria, a Christmas carol or, for the Irish-inclined, "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen."

Loaded with dozens of images of gorgeous instruments and enthusiastic performers and fans, *Squeeze This! A Cultural History of the Accordion in America* represents the accordion in a wide range of popular and traditional musical styles, revealing the richness and diversity of accordion culture in America.

"There's nothing," says Jacobson, "that doesn't sound good on the accordion."

• Alexander C. Kafka



April Birthdays



Happy Birthday Wishes to
the following OAC members:

Nina Dunham (4/7)

Beth Henson (4/25)

Roland Lohman (4/14)

Ophelia Woody (4/27)

Annette Zongker (4/18)



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

May 17 to 19, 2012

Branson Accordion Festival at the Welk Resort, Branson, Missouri, featuring JoAnn Castle along with the Lennon Sisters. This is a new opportunity to enjoy the accordion close to home. This event will feature accordion greats, competition, workshops, and FUN. Check the [Branson Accordion Festival](http://www.bransonaccordionfestival.com) website for more information.

May 20, 2012

Branson Zydeco Fest, which will be held at the Branson Convention Center, Branson, Missouri. If you like Zydeco, this is where you want to be. Check www.bransonzydecofest.com for more information.

President's Choice (I like this next one!)

June 20 to 23, 2012

Accordion Heroes Convention to be held at the Hospitality House in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This event will honor Anthony Galla-Rini and Dick Contino. Youth will be the focus of this event, plus

workshops, concerts, jammin' and FUN. Check out www.accordionheroes.com for more information.

July 11 to 15, 2012

American Accordion Association Convention at the Sheraton City Center, in Baltimore, Maryland. Guest artist is Stas Venglevski, who is one of the best in performance and personality. There will be competition, workshops, concerts, and FUN. Check out www.ameraccord.com for more information.

July 25 to 29, 2012

Accordion Teachers Guild Convention at the Lisle (Chicago) Hyatt, Illinois. They will feature 19-year-old Alicia Baker from Milwaukie, Oregon, who plays fabulous accordion, and Cory Pesatoro who has won two international accordion championships.

The OAC will continue to monitor these events and forward additional information when available.



March Meeting Minutes

Lois Roth

March 11, 2012

OAC Minutes

President Dick Albreski called the meeting to order. There were eighteen members and two guests present.

- Dick announced that we now have 49 club members.
- Honorary members include the National Accordion Association and our Youth Group.
- Treasurer Evie Albreski reported a checkbook balance of \$1,083.23.
- We were reminded that active members who have not paid their 2012 dues will not be carried after April.
- Karen West is helping design new business cards for the club. She will work with an OAC printer, Robbie Rattan, to create the cards.
- Our next meeting will be on April 15 because Easter is the second Sunday (April 8).
- May is National Accordion month, and May 6 is National Accordion Day. Dick told us that the accordion was patented on May 6, 1829. Members who have ideas for celebrating this great occasion at the May 13 meeting please contact Dick.
- A wonderful variety of accordion music followed

the business meeting:

- Anne Lopez and Dick played a collection of Anne's parents' favorites: "Pennsylvania Polka," "Harbor Lights," "San Antonio Rose," "Tennessee Waltz," and "Blue Skirt Waltz."
- Dick directed four members of the Adult Fun Band: Barbara Duer, Beth Henson, Rob Rattan, and Lois Roth in a preview of the NAA music that will be played next week in Dallas. The songs are "Cruisin' the Oj Dana," "Of Thee I Sing," "Prune Song," "J'Attendrai," "Irish Medley," and "My Angel Polka."
- The Orchestra -- Dan Orza, Karen West, and Lois Roth -- presented some Irish songs, including "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," and "Galway Bay."
- Dick played a group of songs: "La Paloma," "Helena Polka," "The Chicken Dance," and others from many different countries.
- Bob Mansfield and Dick treated us to the "Liechtensteiner" and "Beer Barrel" Polkas.
- Bob concluded the music with a "Gypsy Waltz" and "Mischievous Swing."

We hope to see you all at the next meeting on April 15. The jam song will be "Easter Parade," key of C Major.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, Secretary.



Dick's NAA Award



NAA Photos

Diana Richard





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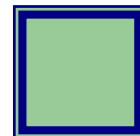
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