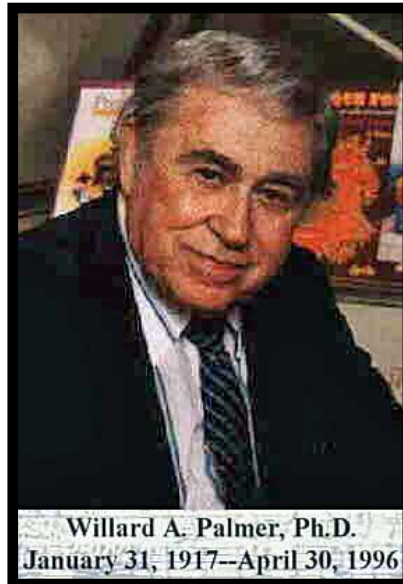


SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



Willard A. Palmer, Ph.D.
January 31, 1917–April 30, 1996

Twenty-five years ago, my father, Dr. Willard A. Palmer, passed away. He was a brilliant man, a musical prodigy, and a wonderful father. Many people know him from his association with the accordion. Many remember him for his contributions to piano pedagogy. He left the world a better place because of his contributions.

He is survived by his eldest son, Willard A. Palmer, III, aka Bill Merlin Palmer; his daughter, Judith Palmer Howard; and a host of grandchildren and one great grandchild.

His lifetime output of written music encompassed nearly 800 books or pieces of sheet music.

His wife, Ruby followed him five years and two months later.

May Hybrid Meeting

Our May meeting will be held on Sunday, May 9.

It will be a "hybrid meeting," and will combine both an "in-person" meeting and a *Zoom* meeting.

If you need instructions for using *Zoom*, please call Maggie Abel and ask her for a trial session on using the *Zoom* meeting features.

For meeting details and instructions, see page 3.



Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

OAC braved new frontiers last week, trying to figure out how to have a pizza party via *Zoom*. Well, those who sat at home watching us consume our pepperoni, supreme, veggie, and Hawaiian pizza probably went to the fridge and found some tasty sandwich makings so they could join us in spirit!

This month we'll meet hybridly again, both in person and via *Zoom*, from our usual site in our great room at *Messiah Lutheran Church*. The "May Flowers" theme should hold true just as last month's "April Showers" surely did come to pass for most of us recently.

Special attendees in April were the very talented teen, Laz Elliott, and his father, Gary. Laz's energy was so abundant that he played for us both before the meeting and, again, later in the meeting, for anyone who tuned in too late for the early set.

Note the special tribute in this issue to the Mr. Palmer who is credited for the creation of the series of *Palmer-Hughes* accordion lesson books that many of us are more than familiar with! His son, Willard (aka Bill) noted on *Facebook* the 25-year passing of his famed father. We see the charming, witty, and mustachioed Bill at the *National Accordion Association* convention in Dallas each [non-pandemic] year. The *NAA* is expected to resume its popular in-person event in March 2022.

Our first international attendee joined us last month -- member Wayne Turgeon -- playing for us from his new home across the pond. I hope members who have accordion-playing friends from far away will recommend they *Zoom* in to us as guests, and share with us their songs!

Okay, just one more bit of *Zoom* talk. Remember that if you have a computer but no webcam, you can still *Zoom* with us. Though we won't see you, you will both see and hear the rest of us!

Let's burst forth with Springy and motherly and other types of tunes when we meet again this Sunday, May 9 at 3:30 pm!

• Maggie Abel, *OAC* President



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- Janet Haskin
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- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips

May Hybrid Meeting

Out-of-town members, or anyone who cannot attend the live meeting in person, may still wish to experience it in *Zoom* (the same way they did in previous months).

(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 telephone, 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 system before that date, just call me at 405/201-7867, and we'll give it a test to make sure all systems are go.

Grab your Ma and bring your Pa, as we broad-jump into that *OAC* squeezebox spirit, anticipating our upcoming meeting!



Outside Group Policy Messiah Lutheran Church Open Up and Recover Safely Plan:



- We ask that everyone who is entering the building wears a mask. The rule of thumb is:

IF YOU'RE MOVING, YOU'RE MASKING

- Once you are in place and safely distanced, you may remove your mask if you desire
- Groups are responsible for providing masks for their group members if they do not have their own
- Groups are responsible for providing their own hand sanitizer, gloves and disinfecting wipes to do the wipe down of touch points on the doors, bathrooms and surfaces used by their group during their activities.

Sanitation & Disinfecting of touch points: Wipe down all touchpoints used by group including but not limited to:

- Inside and outside door handles on all doors touched by group members
- Restroom touchpoints including faucet handles and stall door touchpoints
- Any chairs and or tables used by the group

Maintain Social Distancing

- Groups are asked to abstain from shaking hands and we encourage doing non-contact greetings.
- Seating should be set up to maintain proper spacing (family members from same household may sit together)
- If distancing cannot be assured, then masks should be worn
- It is recommended that group members use hand sanitizer before your group activity begins and again before leaving

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

In a previous column, I stated that I would play and furnish the music for a waltz, composed by a Finnish accordionist, arranger, and composer by the name of Veikko Akvenainen. He wrote the tune to commemorate the Pandemic, and named the tune "Covid-19." Well, that is what I said would happen, but it won't because I can't find where I hid the music. So, when I do find it, I will then keep my word.

May 6, 2021 is World Accordion Day, and is promoted by the *Confederation Internationale Des Accordeonistes (CIA)*. This event began on May 6, 2009, to celebrate the 180th birthday of the accordion, which was patented on May 6, 1829, by Cyrill Demian and his two sons, Karl and Guido. *Patent 1433* listed a new type of instrument, consisting of a small box with "feathers of metal plates and bellows fixed to it," making it easy to play and carry. The accordion was seven to nine inches long, three and one-half wide, and two inches high. The bellows were fixed above the box. The makers claimed it was easy to play even with little practice and/or knowledge. The patent was approved on May 23, 1829. Since 2009, *World Accordion Day* has been very successful generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion, which

now leads to you, the accordionists. What will you do in May to support and promote the accordion?

May 28-30, 2021. If you feel the need to get out and have some fun, think about going to the *National Polka Festival* in Ennis, Texas. There will be three days of polka music: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with terrific bands like *Molly-B* and *Squeezebox*, *Gary Meisner*, and *Czech and Then Some*. For a complete listing of events and polka bands, go to <http://www.nationalpolkafestival.com/>.

The **Accordionists & Teachers Guild (ATG)** reluctantly has cancelled the *80th Anniversary Festival* in Lisle, Illinois that was to be held in July 2021. Definite plans are being made to reschedule the *Festival* for next year, 2022, with many of this year's scheduled artists to perform. We all know the reason for this year's cancellation! COVID!!

I have seen an increase in calls pertaining to accordion players for the remainder of this year. As I learn of future events, I will list them for you, and hopefully the list will be long. Please keep this column in your watch list.



**Happy Birthday Wishes to
the following OAC members:**

Toni Paulding, May 2

Rusty Dalton, May 2

Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it. If your birthdate is not listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please contact Karen West at 405/949-0394, or at accordion_karen@yahoo.com.



Barb's Blog

Barbara Duer

One of the fun things about writing this blog is listening to the wonderful arrangements of songs I haven't heard for years. The patriotic songs are especially beautiful. For the next few months, we'll cover the patriotic songs of our country, and I am looking forward to listening to all the different version that have been recorded for each one.

Song of the Month:

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

To have implicit trust in God's faithful care and protection is never easy in times of danger or strife. Yet, even in the midst of the terrible Civil War between the Northern and Southern states, a remarkable woman named Julia Ward Howe proclaimed her confidence in God's triumphant power in this inspiring text.

Deeply anguished at the growing conflict between the two sections of the country, Mrs. Howe watched troops marching off to war singing "John Brown's Body," a song about a man who had been hanged in his efforts to free the slaves. Julia felt that the catchy camp meeting tune should have better words. In a desire to phrase her own feelings about the dreadful events of the time, she "scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper." The national hymn first appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly Magazine* in 1862, as a battle song for the republic. Before long, the entire nation became inspired by her text, and united in singing the new words with the old tune.

Mrs. Howe's hymn has been acclaimed through the years as one of our finest patriotic songs. At one time, it was sung as a solo at a large rally

attended by President Abraham Lincoln. After the audience had responded with loud applause, the President, with tears in his eyes, cried out, "Sing it again!" It was sung again. And, after more than a hundred years, Americans still join often in proclaiming, "Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!"

See an accordion arrangement on the next page;

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword

His truth is marching on.

- "Battle Hymn of the Republic" by the *US Army Field Band* (This is beautiful!):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy6AOGRsR80>

- "Battle Hymn" by our very own Job Elliott:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0rnPNINEwQ>

- "Battle Hymn" by Myron Floren (and Orchestra):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNH20is5TZ4>

- Barbara Duer, *OAC* Historian/Librarian



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BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord; He is tramp - ling out the vint - age where the

grapes of wrath are stor'd He hath loos'd the fate - ful light - ning of His ter - ri - ble swift sword; His

CHORUS

truth is march - ing on. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! His

truth is march - ing on.

Acc.

April Hybrid Meeting

Oklahoma Accordion Club Meeting Minutes April 11, 2021

The *OAC* met on Sunday, April 11, 2021, for our annual Pizza Party. There were fourteen people present: Seven members and one guest in-person, and five members and one guest on *Zoom*.

■ President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. She introduced the people in the room.

— Diana Richard is in charge of the Club website.

— Ron Shearon is Vice President and Treasurer. He drives from Bison (Oklahoma) to attend meetings.

— Karen West is refreshment and table-set-up organizer.

— Lois Roth is Secretary — and a music provider before meetings.

— Tom Phillips is our previous Treasurer. He drives two hours from Holdenville to attend meetings.

— Laz Elliott is one of our outstanding Youth players.

— Gary Elliott, guest, is Laz's father.

■ Karen and Lois began the music with some traditional spring tunes: "April Showers," "Easter Parade," "When You Wore a Tulip," and "Peter Cottontail."

■ Wayne Turgeon played "Mexican Hat Dance." He attended on *Zoom* from his new home in England. The time there is six hours ahead of ours. He said the weather was cold and rainy -- a typical English Spring.

■ Ron Shearon played "Danube Waves." He told us that he is starting *Palmer-Hughes* Book 3.

■ Barbara Duer performed on *Zoom*: "Monday Morning Blues" from 1920, and "That Banjo Rag." She said she loves playing Rags!

■ Lou LeBrun (on *Zoom*) treated us to: "Accordion Boogie" and "Crazy," a song written by Willy Nelson made famous by Patsy Cline.

■ Laz performed "Come Back to Sorrento." He concluded the music and put us in a party mood with "Beer Barrel Polka" as arranged by Dick Albreski.

Then it was time to enjoy the pizza and dessert. Thanks to Karen for ordering the pizza! The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 9. Please join us -- in person or on *Zoom*. Mother's Day songs will be especially welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, *OAC* Secretary



Advertisement

An advertisement for Frank Gesinski, featuring a photo of him playing an accordion. The text includes his name, business name, address, phone number, and email. The background is dark with a blue and orange graphic on the right.

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April Hybrid Meeting





World Accordion Day Festival 2021

May 6-8, 2021



**Stas Venglevski's
Introduction as
Artistic Director of A World
Accordions Museum**



Program includes:

5/6: **Stas Venglevski** (World Premiere of Stas' Newest Composition "Full Moon Suite"), **Joan Sommers and Stas in duets**, **Joan in trio** (with Jane Christison & Betty Jo Simon), **Dr. Mike Middleton** (honoring Dick Contino), **Mihoko Goto and Chiharu Ebihara** (Live stream from Japan), **Stas in trio** (an original composition "Three for Keyboard" by Wm Susman performed by Stas, Dr. Brett Jones, marimba & piano Hector Landa)

5/7: **Willard A. Palmer III**, **Dance Attic**, **Dee Langley**, **Paul Vargason** and **World Accordion Music Band** (Conductor Tracey Gibbens)

5/8: **The Norski Hostfest Polka Service Band** and many more.....An awesome, enviable slate!

Detailed Schedule and broadcast info
<http://www.worldofaccordions.org/>

A World of Accordions Museum

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Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
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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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