

# SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



## October Meeting

**The October meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14 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.

**Please make your reservations now.**

After the individual and group performances, we will have a jam session.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



# Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

I love this Club. I've made so many long-lasting friends over the half-dozen years I've been in it.

October is a great month to appreciate the accordion. There are so many events here in town honoring *Oktoberfest*. This unique instrument draws attention wherever it is heard. And compared to many other instruments I've tried, the accordion has great advantages. For instance, if you've had few piano lessons in your background, you don't have a big learning curve before you can play a tune. Unlike the electric guitar, you don't have to tote an amplifier around with it. Unlike the analog theremin, you don't have to plug it in and wait 30 minutes for it to warm up. Unlike the pedal steel, you don't need an elaborate stand to put it on while you're playing. Unlike the piano, you don't have to also learn to use your feet at the same time to do things like sustain. You can pull it in a case or bag on wheels, so you don't need a manservant to transport it for you. You don't have to get your lips adjusted and trained to play it using a special mouthpiece as with the trumpet, tuba, or trombone. Unlike the piano, you don't have to rearrange your furniture to move it across the room. Your lungs don't have to produce a lot of airflow like the flute and tuba require. No needs to purchase and continually adjust, like on the clarinet. If the electricity goes off, while your band members regroup, you can keep on playing your accordion. The list goes on and on!!

Hope you'll take family and friends out to enjoy some of the accordion events going on this month! Some of our members are likely the ones playing! And not only this month, but throughout the year, a number of local musical ensembles feature the accordion. T. Z. Wright of our Club plays his *Giulietti* at many of the *Blue Door's* events. Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg have a beautiful red accordion on their stage. The *Red Dirt Rangers* incorporate a small accordion in their numbers. I must credit accordionist Buffalo Rogers from the *Blue Door* as the one who first referred me to Past Prez Dick Albreski, who brought me into this accordion world.

Who will be the next music lover that YOU will introduce to the unique and multifaceted accordion?

• Maggie Abel, President



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## Lifetime Members

- Jim & June Butricks
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- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli
- Ophelia Woody

# Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

**19th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention** will be held October 15-19, 2018, at the *Gold Coast Hotel and Casino*, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. Among the accordion celebrities attending will be Paul Betken, Jerry Cigler, Pete Barbutti, Gina Brannelli, Kim and Dan Christian, the *Europa Trio*, Liz Finch, Gordon Kohl, Grayson Masfield, Cory Presaturo, Joan Sommers, Mary Tokarski, *The Truccos*, Stas Venglevski, Linda Warren, and Mike Zampiceni. For information or registration, call

800/472-1695, or view <http://www.accordionstars.com/Home.aspx>.

**National Accordion Association Convention** will be held March 7-9, 2019 at the *Hyatt Regency Hotel* in Richardson, Texas. Mark your calendars for this great event. Much more info to follow.

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



When I got a new accordion from Italy, it came with a bag of silica pinned inside the bellows. This is a good idea, but has its problems. The problem with silica is that, once it absorbs the maximum amount of moisture, it is no good. To deal with that, you need to dry out the bags occasionally. I don't recommend pulling the bellows pins every month or so to do this though! What I did was purchase a tin box that contains the silica. The box is made of aluminum and is about 1/2" thick and about 3"x5" wide. The silica is blue when still active, and turns pink when it is full of moisture. I simply put this box loose in my accordion case. When it turns pink, you throw it in an oven at 300 degrees for about 4 hours or so. Or, if you have a gas oven with a pilot light, just leave it sitting in the oven overnight. These boxes of silica are sold through the bigger photography stores. I bought a bunch of them for my camera cases (I am also a professional photographer) as well as my accordion cases. The cost is about \$5 each -- cheap insurance.

There are some who recommend NOT leaving the accordion in a case for storage. I agree with this, unless you have the silica container in it. When your accordion is exposed to the air, it is

going to pick up the humidity if you live in a humid climate. In addition, environmental contamination like cigarette smoke, etc., can cause problems. And, of course, an accordion not protected by the case is going to be subject to getting knocked around, food and drink spills, and dog or cat scratches, hair, and so on. The worst thing you can do is to store your accordion in the case without any absorbent, in a damp, dark, warm area, i.e. under the garage stairs or in an attic. These all make for an environment for rust on the reeds, mildew, etc. These all can spell the end for an accordion, or at least require expensive repairs. This is the reason I always look at garage sale accordions as likely ruined or subject to expensive repairs greater than the value of the accordion. One of the first tests of a suspect accordion is to pull the bellows out, and then push them in, with the air button depressed, smell the air coming from the inside of the accordion. If it smells like mildew, forget that one.

Probably the best maintenance for an accordion is to play it!

• Bob Berta  
Former President SF Bay Area Accordion Club



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

**Karen West, Oktober 8**

**Anne Lopez, Oktober 22**

**Jocelyn Pedersen, Oktober 25**

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](mailto:accordion_karen@yahoo.com).





## Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (mm/dd) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (optional)

### Newsletter

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):

- ☐ Professional      ☐ Semi-Professional      ☐ Amateur      ☐ Student
- ☐ Associate      ☐ Hobby      ☐ Teacher      ☐ Repairman/Repairwoman
- ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Oklahoma Accordion Club

Mail your membership dues TODAY to:

Oklahoma Accordion Club  
c/o 7109 NW 102<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162



# September Meeting

Anne Lopez

## OAC Meeting Minutes September 9, 2018

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. Present were 19 members and 4 guests. The first happening was an impromptu polka and waltz jam session with Lois Roth, Bob Mansfield, Anne Lopez, Barbara Mahar, and Dick Albreski. Dick and Anne also jammed with a couple of energetic polkas.

The first order of business was the result of our survey for our concert. Word of mouth, Lucas Ross's TV ads, and the *Daily Oklahoman* were prominent in spreading the word about our concert. The attendees enjoyed Lou LeBrun's ragtime, the variety on the program, and the Youth Band best. Other miscellaneous information will help us improve the 2019 concert.

Ron Shearon is in the process of editing the video he took, and he will get back to us when it is done. He also invited us all to his birthday party in March at the *Iglesias Christiana El Shaddai*. He also asked if anyone would care to play for dancers in an *Oktoberfest* in Enid on September 29, at the

local Lutheran church. Please contact Ron if interested.

Lois and Anne started our *Septemberfest* with two beautiful waltzes: "The Blue Skirt Waltz" and "You Can't Be True Dear." "The Country Musician" and "Isabella Waltz" completed their selections.

*Septemberfest* wouldn't be the same without a good polka. Dick stirred us with "The Beer Barrel Polka" and "The Pennsylvania Polka." Then he entertained us with his own composition, "I Love to Dance."

Bob and Karen West followed with the lovely "Mein Yiddish Meidele."

About this time, we were drooling over the bratwurst, Nathan's hot dogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, and apple pie, so we took a break to eat. While we ate, Bob serenaded us with "Auf Wiedersehen," "You Couldn't Please Me More," and "Tomorrow Belongs to Me."

We're looking forward to next year's *Septemberfest* already!!

• Anne Lopez, Secretary



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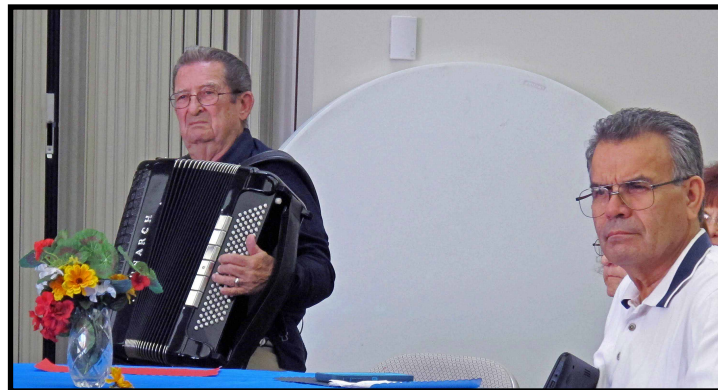
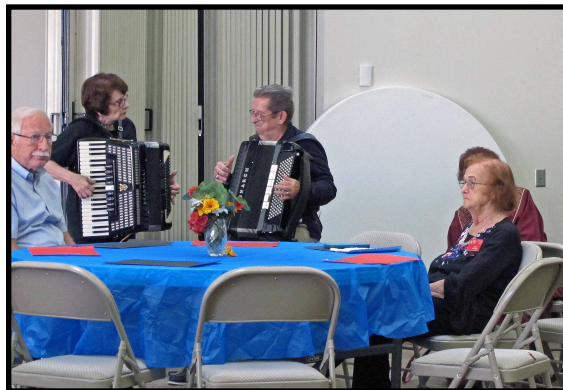
### Dick Albreski

(405) 721-0564  
7109 N.W. 102<sup>nd</sup> St., OKC, OK 73162  
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7-07

# September Meeting

Diana Richard



# September Meeting

Diana Richard



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