

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



This time of year brings family and friends together to celebrate Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's. On behalf of all the officers, we wish each and every one of you a very blessed and happy Holiday Season.



*Merry
Christmas*



*Happy
New Year*



The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski

It's getting close to the end of my term as club treasurer -- Well, that could be sad, or could be glad -- Maybe now I will have more time to work on articles for our newsletter, plus plan a few workshops for our meetings -- My goal is to get more members "squeezin" in public and at the meetings.

We have an excellent list of candidates for the next board of directors -- Oliver Delaney was nominated for president, Phil Scibelli was nominated for vice-president, Lois Roth was nominated for secretary, Evelyn Albreski was nominated for treasurer, and Diana Richards was nominated for historian -- To date and to my knowledge, these are the only candidates who have come forward -- All candidates will be voted on at the Christmas party to be held December 4th at the Messiah Lutheran Church.

As I mentioned in my previous article, it's **membership time** -- We did have some members renew their memberships at the November meeting -- However, the money received will not be counted in this year's business -- In order to track our membership and the club growth, all funds received will be recorded in the membership year -- That doesn't mean you can't renew at this time -- We need your renewal and, hopefully, the sooner the better.

The annual Christmas party, as we trust you all know, will be from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 4th at the Messiah Lutheran Church -- This really is an appreciation dinner for our members -- All plans were made with the best time and date to accommodate as many members as possible -- Somehow, this plan isn't working too well -- I've since learned that many of you cannot attend for one reason or another -- If anyone has a better way to plan a function for our club, please let us know.

As I mentioned above, 2011 membership funds received this year will be included in next year's business -- That means, financially, we show no income for this month -- Our expenses for the month totaled \$44.87.

I have a dream, and that dream is that all of you will be at the Christmas party -- If you are not there in body, rest assured I will be thinking of you.



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German Bass Notation

Dick Albreski

While adding additional tunes to my library of German music, I learned some interesting facts about how the German accordion arrangers indicate their bass notations -- For example, we show a small line under a bass note to indicate a counter bass -- They use the letter "E".

Here are more examples (for explanation, I will use C bass in all examples):

- Capital C is the fundamental bass -- same as ours.
- Small case "c" is their major chord -- we use capital "M".
- Small case "cm" is their minor chord -- close to us.

- Small case "c7" is their seventh chord -- we would use "C7".
- Small case "cv" is their diminished chord -- we use "dim."

German flats (b) and sharps (#) are indicated by letters: small case "is" is the sharp and small case "es" is the flat -- Example: we would show the fundamental bass C-sharp as "C#" -- They would show it as "Cis" -- We would show the fundamental bass C flat as "Cb" -- They would show this as "Ces" -- There are more exceptions in their rules -- However, the best way to understand their notations is to work with them.



A drummer, sick of all the drummer jokes, decides to change his instrument. After some thought, he decides on the accordion. So he goes to the music store and says to the owner, "I'd like to look at the accordions, please."

The owner gestures to a shelf in the corner and says "All our accordions are over there."

After browsing, the drummer says, "I think I'd like the big red one in the corner."

The store owner looks at him and says, "You're a drummer, aren't you?"

The drummer, crestfallen, says, "How did you know?"

The store owner says, "That 'big red accordion' is the radiator."

"To make a clam play an accordion is to invent, not to discover."

- Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)

Why did the violist marry the accordion player?
Upward mobility.

If you drop an accordion, a set of bagpipes, and a viola off a 20-story building, which one lands first?
Who cares?

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

Bumper Stickers:

1. Play an accordion -- go to jail!
2. Three rows and you're out!

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November Meeting

Beth Henson

Minutes Oklahoma Accordion Club November 14, 2010

- There were 18 members and 3 guests in attendance.
- Vice President Jimmie Woolly called the meeting to order.
- The Christmas party will be held at the church on Saturday, December 4, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm -- The club will provide meat and bread; members are asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts -- Members may bring one guest each -- Members are also asked to bring caps, gloves, socks, etc., which Jimmie will take to downtown shelters for the homeless.
- Elections for new officers will be held at the December meeting -- Those running for office are:
President: Oliver Delaney
Vice President: Phil Scibelli

Treasurer: Evie Albreski
Secretary: Lois Roth
Historian: Diana Richard.

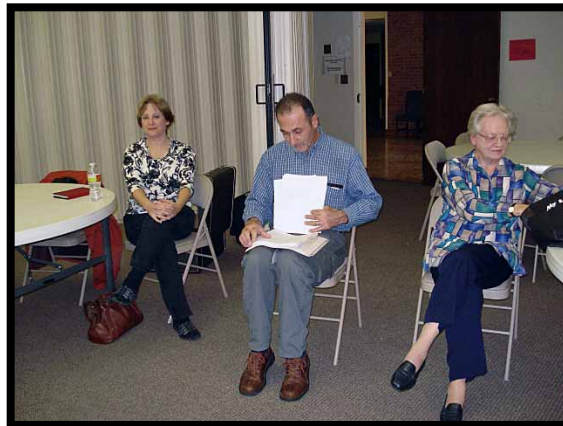
- An addendum will be made to the bylaws to add a limit to the amount that can be spent without board approval -- This will also be voted on at the December meeting.
- The orchestra performed "The Missouri Waltz" and "Waltz Across Texas."
- Bob Mansfield performed "Tora Ora" and "Up Doc."
- Dick Albreski performed a Christmas medley and a piece titled "Tulips from Amsterdam."
- Members were reminded to renew their memberships.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



November Meeting

Beth Henson



CAPA

Albuquerque Journal, Thursday, September 8, 1994

By Gwen Gibson
MATURITY NEWS SERVICE

FORT COLLINS, Colo. - Cheri Thurston, a part-time accordionist, dreams that one day she will step onto a stage, announce that she is going to play an accordion solo and, instead of laughing, the audience will actually applaud.

That day may not be far off -- Thurston has been working for the advancement of accordionists since 1992, when she first formed the Closet Accordion Players of America (CAPA) -- Thanks to the enthusiasm she has pumped up, CAPA now has some 1,200 members, most of them older musicians.

"We don't inquire about age but we believe, based on their background and experience, that the majority of our members are over 50," Thurston said -- "Some are in their 40s -- There are almost none in the 25-to-35 age group, but there are a surprising number younger than 25."

Members are urged, but not required, to "admit openly" that they play the accordion, a much-maligned instrument that has been the brunt of endless jokes and puns.

"You don't even have to think to do an accordion joke; you can just say the word and you get a laugh," said Thurston, laughing heartily herself.

Thurston, a petite and green-eyed redhead, formed CAPA shortly after her own "outing." Born on a melon ranch near La Junta, Colo., she started playing accordion at age 4, and continued to perform through high school.

"It was not until I went to college (at the University of Northern Colorado) that I learned the accordion wasn't cool," she said -- "So I put mine in the closet and only played in secret."

Years later, a friend discovered that Thurston was an excellent amateur accordionist "and she was shocked that I had kept something so basic from her."

The incident convinced Thurston, owner of Cottonwood Press here and a former English teacher, that the image of the accordionist had to be improved.

Almost on a lark, she wrote some news releases urging accordionists to come out of the closet for a variety of reasons, including: (1) "It's a tight squeeze in there" and (2) "You'll find out who your real friends are."

Thurston and colleagues at Cottonwood Press sent the releases to newspapers and to a computer bulletin board -- Within three days, Thurston's phone was ringing off the wall.

"I had pushed the right buttons," said Thurston -- "People just wanted someone to say that it's OK to play the accordion -- They also apparently wanted a place to vent their frustrations, because we get tons of mail."

David DiGiuseppe of Chapel Hill, N.C., for instance, wrote to CAPA complaining that he had been "undervalued, underpaid, defamed, maligned, misunderstood, and discriminated against -- all because I like to squeeze the big one."

"Together," DiGiuseppe declared with flourish, "we can smash these oppressive closet doors and flash our bellows with pride."

Thurston said most accordion players have a lively sense of humor -- "They have to," she chuckled -- "But we also use humor to get across a serious message: that the accordion is a wonderful instrument, adaptable to all kinds of music, and not just 'Lady of Spain.'"

Thurston, a young-looking 45, said the accordion, which enjoys great popularity in Europe, fell into disfavor in this country when baby boomers like herself rebelled against their parents.

"We rejected it because it represented the Lawrence Welk type of music our parents loved," she explained -- Today, CAPA is reaching across the generations -- Proud senior members include Myron Floren, who played accordion on the Welk show for three decades, and polka king Frank Yankovic.

Younger people are discovering the accordion, Thurston said, through the zydeco, Cajun, and mail stream rock 'n' roll groups that increasingly feature the instrument.

Membership in CAPA costs \$12.95 -- For this you receive a certificate, a membership card, an accordion-pleated information brochure, a lapel button with the CAPA logo (a man in a trench coat "flashing" his accordion), a special arrangement of the "Jesus Loves Me Polka," and a subscription to CAPA's quarterly newsletter.

"We function basically as a clearinghouse of information," said Thurston -- Membership is open, she said, to anyone who plays the accordion, who wishes they played accordion, or who has a significant other who plays the instrument.

Musicians who play other underappreciated instruments -- like the kazoo, bassoon, bagpipes, and tuba -- are also accepted -- But CAPA's main mission is to enhance the image of the accordion player, and members are expected to act accordingly.

To learn more: call 303/493-1286, or write: Close Accordion Players of America, 305 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, Colo. 80521.



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
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