

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

November Meeting

Our November meeting is **A VERY IMPORTANT ONE**, because it is the time for our annual nomination of 2011 club officers. We need "newer blood" to run our club in the coming year, people with a different outlook and new ideas.

Customarily, as with most organizations, the same people lead, year after year. It is now time for you to step up and volunteer. Please give this some serious thought, and put your name in the hat. Being on the board generally takes little time, but contributes much to the OAC.

The November meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14, at the Messiah

Lutheran Church, which is located at the intersection of NW Expressway and Portland Ave., just west of I-44 and Baptist Hospital, and across the street from Deaconess Hospital on Portland Ave. Festivities begin at 2:30, when the orchestra rehearsal starts. At 3:30 our meeting begins, followed by individual and group performances, and then a "jam session" follows until 5:00 or 5:30 pm. 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.



Christmas Party

The 2010 OAC Christmas party will replace our regularly scheduled, second-Sunday-of-the-month meeting. It will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2010, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 3600 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK.

This is a member-only party, and not open to the public. Each OAC member can bring one guest. However, advanced reservations are required, so the proper food and related items can be determined.

Each attending member is requested to bring a side dish that may include chips, relish trays, vegetables or vegetable trays, specialty foods of your choice, and desserts. The OAC will furnish the meat, bread, drinks, and paper products.

We request that each member also bring a pair of gloves, a scarf, or socks that can be collected at the party and given to a local charity. There will be no gift exchange among members.

Evie Albreski will take all reservations. She can be reached at 405/721-0564, or you can e-mail her at evrich@swbell.net. When you make your reservation with Evie, please tell her if you are bringing a side dish. Make your reservations no later than Monday, November 29, 2010.

The OAC Christmas party has always been a success because you have been a part of it. Our talented accordion club members will fill the room with music of the season and bring joy to the world. Make sure that you will be there.



The Prez Sez

Bill Henson

By the time you read this, Halloween will have passed and we will be getting ready for Thanksgiving.

The other night Beth attended orchestra practice at Dan's home, and when she got home I asked her if she needed help carrying her accordion in. Beth told me that she had left it on the front porch to make it easier to bring into the house.

I quickly ran to the front door, but I was too late, there was another accordion there beside hers. Jackie would understand how I feel about this, she to has experienced this.

Bring your favorite tune to the November meeting and share it with us.

Also, remember it is time for elections, and the only office that is confirmed for the New Year is my new position as past president. So, be prepared to help your club.



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The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski

What you don't want to hear at this time is another political speech. Well, you will have to. All OAC board members will leave office at the end of this year. We need new officers, and that means you. The Club is like a second family, and you certainly wouldn't let your family down. We need you to stand up and take responsibility. Make sure you attend the November meeting and be prepared to serve.

This is also the most important time of the year. Our membership drive is our first and foremost fundraiser. Without members and their continuing financial support through renewing their memberships, our Club would cease. We can't close our bellows. The dues are the same. Only \$16.00 per year for the primary member, and the family membership allows each additional member to be added at \$8.00.

Please plan to attend the OAC December Christmas party. This will be a fun time, but it will be a serious time as well. I hope that the

new candidates for the Board will be determined at the November meeting, and that the Club will vote their approval at the December meeting. The new officers will take charge at the January 2011 meeting.

I had several items that I wanted to bring to your attention concerning the accordion. They will have to wait until next year. Trust me, they are good. Evie will take reservations for the party and has already said that I will be her backup. We both want this to be the best OAC party ever. Make sure you go over the Christmas party description in a separate article in this newsletter. We can afford the party, but please pay attention to the membership fundraiser to fill the decreasing contents of the piggy bank. Our expenses for the month were \$187.38, and there was no income. At this time, we have \$577.49 in the checkbook.

I am planning to see a majority of the members at the November 14 meeting. Please don't let me down.



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October Meeting

Beth Henson

Minutes

Oklahoma Accordion Club October 10, 2010

- There were 19 members and 9 visitors in attendance.
- Vice President Jimmie Woolly called the meeting to order.
- New member Rinato Gladio was presented his OAC name badge.
- Members were reminded that the election of all club members is coming up in November. The new officers will be announced in December at the Christmas party, and will begin serving in January 2011.
- Both Janet Haskin and Frank Gesinski attended from Tulsa. Several visitors attended, including Mike Clark; Gary and Stephany Elliott; and Clem, Paul, Sara, and David Braden, as well as June Butricks.
- Dan Orza played a piece he wrote 53 years ago, while a junior in high school, titled "Fantasy."



- We were entertained by two of our student members, Hannah Braden and Job Elliott. They began with a duet of "The Lawrence Welk Tribute." Hannah performed "Let's Dance the Polka" with Dick Albreski. Job and Dick followed with "The Accordion Jump." Hannah played a solo, "Autumn Breeze." Job played "Fascination." They closed out their concert with a duet, "Sparkling." Both Hannah and Job are talented accordionists, and all in attendance enjoyed their performances.



- The OAC orchestra performed "Carnival of Venice" and "Under Paris Skies."



- Frank Gesinski performed Oktoberfest music, "Bauernhauser Walzer" and "In Heaven There Is No Beer."



- Jimmie Woolly played accordion, and his friend Mike Clark played ukulele on duets, "Tick Tock Polka" and "I'll Fly Away." This was an unusual but very enjoyable performance.



- Bob Mansfield performed "Italian Themes Suite," "Up Doc," and "French Sojourn with Psychotic Reaction," written by his son Beau.



October Meeting

Beth Henson

- Dick closed the meeting by playing some Oktoberfest music.



- It was announced that the Christmas party will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 4, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The Club will provide the meat, and members are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. Members should also bring gloves, scarves, caps, etc., to be donated to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



Charles Nunzio

Charles Nunzio, 97, of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, died on October 19, 2010. Born in Sicily, he came to the U.S. at the age of eight, where his parents settled in Newark. He became a world-famous accordionist, teacher, composer, and arranger. He had a music studio in

Newark and later in Nutley where he trained many champion accordionists who became successful professional artists.

He made his debut in a recital at Town Hall in 1933, and an appearance in Carnegie Hall the following year. In 1938 Charles Nunzio became a founding board member of the American Accordionists' Association, along with Pietro Frosini, Abe Goldman, Sydney Dawson, Anthony Galla-Rini, Charles Magnante, Pietro Deiro, Gene Von Hallberg, Joe Biviano, John Gart, Sam Roland, and Byron Streep.

In the late 1930s he was doing an average of 35 radio shows a week on WOR, NBC, and CBS, and making commercial recordings for Decca, Victor, and Columbia. His 40-piece accordion orchestra won first prize at the 1939 New York World's Fair. He also performed with Guy Lombardo, Rudy Vallee, Meyer Davis, and Lester Lanin.

During WW II, he enlisted in the US Navy, where he played on coast-to-coast programs with the "Blue Jackets." Later,



stationed at Bunker Hill Naval Air Station in Peru, Indiana, he assembled a six-piece orchestra, the "Melody Mates." They played three radio broadcasts weekly and all the dances for the Navy

personnel.

A consummate performer, he received many awards, one of which summarized his 70-year career: "Presented to The Legendary Charles Nunzio in recognition of your contributions in developing the accordion's American Evolution as artist, teacher, composer, and innovator, and as an inspiring idol to so many accordionists. The impact of your contributions will forever be felt."

He was predeceased by his wife Helen (Vitiello) Nunzio, and is survived by two sons, John of Montville and Charles of Nutley, many nieces and nephews, and long-time companion Jean Garzione of Basking Ridge.

Donations to the American Accordionists' Association, c/o Corresponding Secretary -- M. Kendrick, 120 Valley View Road, Stratford, CT 06614 or to the Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated.

• *Courtesy of the American Accordionists' Association*



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

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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.

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