

A World of Accordions Museum Newsletter

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March – April 2015
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Put these dates into your calendar—the events are not to be missed!

Plans for the **2015 Palmer Festival and Fundraiser** (July 15/16-17/18) are coming along well. At this point the scheduled events include Alex Meixner's Workshop and Concert, "Music and Magic" by Bill Palmer, III, readings by famed folklorist Dr. Anthony Bukoski, special music by our own Paul Vargason, and other "stars" still working out their own scheduling issues. Helmi will offer selections on the Palmer harpsichord and on historic accordions preceding a tour of the museum that includes details of the monumental growth of *HARTS* and *AWAM* during 2014. She'll also offer a workshop on interpretation entitled "It's Not Written in the Notes." We'll have a jam session and open mike for all who bring their accordions or choose to use one from the museum collection. We'll also have a members' open meeting. Watch our website for the complete schedule of events.

Immediately following the Palmer Festival, I'm offering an **Advanced Piano Accordion Repair Seminar** (July 18-21) focusing on tuning, machine alignments, bellows, cosmetics and much more. Register right away if you are interested in participating.

David Maki, editor of *The Finnish American Reporter* published a fine article about us in the April 15 edition. It focused on our commitment to preserving Finnish heritages. A second generation Finn, Marian Syrjamaki-Kuchta happened to be volunteering the day of the interview and was also quoted in the article. Thank you Mr. Maki for the opportunity to reach out to this readership.

The *American Accordion Musicological Society Extravaganza*, headed by friends-of-long-standing Stan and Joanna Darrow, was held March 27-29 in Whippany, NJ. They graciously gave us a full page ad in the festival journal, and reprinted our January-February *AWAM Newsletter* as an insert. Many thanks, to these important people in the accordion scene.

Progress in compiling newly acquired materials

We've done a lot of work, thanks to regular volunteers Marian Syrjamaki-Kuchta, Robin Floyd, and Mary Carlson, among others.

Palmer's music and educational editions have all been organized in the third-floor library. His musicological reference books, some of which are extremely rare, have been placed in the books library room. Sylvia Prior's music titles (amassed at 1,300 lbs) have been filed in the second floor library. Faithe Deffner's uncat boxes are now down to 10 in number. Sifting and final organization will take longer than preliminary differentiations of content; analysis of her preserved materials will come later in order to shed light on American accordion history during the last century. Thus far, dozens of 8"x10" publicity pictures of *PanCordion* and *Titano* artists are now organized into special albums and individual files. More assets and surprises are fated for discovery soon.

Many items from both Palmer and Deffner estates supplement the *American Accordionists' Association Archival Collection* resources. We'll gradually publicize segments in our *AWAM Newsletters* and in the *AAA Newsletters*.

Upcoming Events

As members of the **Northland History Museums Coalition**, *AWAM* periodically hosts meeting at the Museum, as was the case on April 14. We've planned a major event called **Discover History Fair** on May 8, at the *Duluth Railroad Museum (The Depot)*, a building that has recently been designated a national landmark. The event will showcase tourist

attractions that focus on the preservation of regional cultures and sites. *AWAM* will participate with displays of accordions, items of local significance, and me playing ethnic pieces. The event is free and open to the public. This coalition has been functional for many years, but is now networking really well in support of 100+ allied organizations through information-sharing and by encouraging visitors to investigate all the resources of the area.

July 4th Parade and Concert

The *Accordion Concertina Music Band* is looking forward to performing traditional patriotic tunes on the float we have lavishly redecorated and enjoyed for years. Our enthusiasm for the event has been boosted by plaques and trophies received each year. After the parade at 4:00 PM, we'll continue festivities through our annual concert at the *Carlton County Historical Society* in Cloquet, MN.



(Our 2014 entry—with our huge mascot Knute II who attracts much petting) (Amanda with Donald Hulme's unique Hohner)

Accordionists' and Teachers' Guild Appearances: Traveling Museum, Workshop, Performances

Our summer activities are proving to be tightly scheduled. *ACM* students, Band, soloists, combos, and ensembles will participate in the festival held in Lisle, IL, July 22-25. Helmi will set up the museum displays on July 23, and offer her performance demonstration on historic accordion-family instruments featuring early Flutinas, English- and Anglo Concertinas, Piano- and Chromatic Button accordions along with hybrids, rare and unique examples. Helmi will fit their histories into the ongoing development of musical technologies graded from "student" to "world class."

The *ACM Band* is comprised of students ranging in skills from PH book 2 to virtuoso, and in ages from mid-20s to mid-70s. The photo below was taken after a recent recital, though some members left beforehand.



Visiting scholar and musicologist **Dr. Herbert Scheibenreif** of Austria will spend a few days at the museum after the *ATG Festival* in Lisle, IL. His first visit occurred nine years ago. I expect he will be greatly astonished by our growth. Dr. Scheibenreif is an expert in many areas associated with accordion history, and is especially well-known for his work with Russian artists, compositions, and discographies.

A more complete schedule of our exciting summer events will be emailed separately and will be posted on our website.

Watch www.accordionworld.org for new announcements !