



## Newsletter

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### President's Message

by Chris Doan

The year is starting to wind down leading to planning for 2026. For the Club that means, among other things, thinking about leadership roles that support our membership and that nurture its continuing growth. If you are interested in being a part of the leadership team, please let Paul Mack or me know in the next few weeks. We would particularly like to have a dedicated Newsletter Editor, a backup Webmaster, and a dedicated Treasurer added to the team in 2026.

On October 9, the Club had a wonderful playout at the Kensington Memory Care Center in Walnut Creek. Details follow on page 2 of the Newsletter. It is always rewarding at a Memory Care Center to witness the positive effect of lively and nostalgic music on much of the audience as they perk up and join in the singing.

At this playout, we did implement on of "suggestions for improvement" that were submitted by one of our members - specifically, we had a purposeful warm-up prior to starting to assure the sound equipment was set-up and working well for everyone, that all could hear the others in the club, that the singers mics were adjusted properly, etc. The warm-up resulted in several adjustments which resulted in a tuned and optimal experience for the Kensington audience. Great suggestion ... thank you!



### AL JOLSON

by Paul Mack

The East Bay Banjo Club performs a number of songs by Al Jolson, so let's find out a little bit about him and his career.

Jolson was one of the greatest entertainers during the Tin Pan Alley Days and long after. He was born in 1886 in Lithuania, then part of the Russian Empire. He was one of the highest paid stars of the 1910s and 1920s. In 1927 he starred in the first talking motion picture, "The Jazz Singer."

On numerous occasions Jolson sang in blackface which "evokes memories of the most unpleasant side of racial relations" and has been labeled racist for a very long time. Music historians Bruce Crowther and Mike Pinfold wrote, "He opened the ears of white audiences to the existence of musical forms alien to their previous understanding and experience."

Besides starring in films, he performed in a number of Broadway musicals. In the 1930s and 1940s Jolson was very popular on the radio and co-hosted "Kraft Music Hall." He was also voted "Most Popular Male Vocalist" (1948) and "Personality of the Year." (1949). He entertained American troops during World War 11 and the Korean War.

Some of his songs include "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" (1918), "Swanee" (1919), "Toot, Toot, Tootsie" (1922), and "California Here I Come" (1924). He passed away in 1950 at the age of 64 at the St. Francis Hotel on Powell Street.



### Pleasant Hills Night Market Playout

September 19, 2025

The Club was invited to play at the Pleasant Hill Night Market as a result of practicing at Mountain Mike's Pizza. Paul Mack was introduced to the Night Market manager at a Tuesday night practice and arrangements were crafted and agreed to soon thereafter. The pictures were taken during our setup. We shared the "stage" with a rock band (an interesting mix) so we were pleased that the audience responded very enthusiastically to our music.



### Kensington Memory Care Center Playout

October 9, 2025

For the second time in 2025, the East Bay Banjo Club was invited to play at Kensington Memory Care Center. Rick Winer (seated second from right) came in from Fresno to join 11 other Club members for the playout. Rick's father lives there so was part of a great audience that really perked up and joined in singing many of the familiar tunes associated with their younger years. The pictures captured Bud Pearce singing "Hello Dolly".





## Newsletter

### Christmas Party Scheduled

The EBBC Annual family Christmas Party has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Pleasant Hill. Please put this on your calendar now to reserve the date. Prior to starting the party, we will have a short Annual Business Meeting to elect Club Officers for 2026.

### Playouts for your Calendar

November 6 - Tentative - Oakmont of Concord in the afternoon. Paul Mack is working on details and will confirm once finalized. In the meantime, please hold the date.

### EBBC Practice Sessions

Practice sessions are scheduled on the 2nd through the 5th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 30 Golf Club Road in Pleasant Hill.

### Club Members Handbook

As a Club Member, you probably have an old paper copy of the EBBC Member Handbook tucked away in a file someplace, The Handbook has been updated with a copy now posted on the Club website ([www.eastbaybanjo.org](http://www.eastbaybanjo.org)) under the "Club Info" tab. The Handbook is filled with information about the club ... take a look!

### Club Leadership 2025

President .....	Chris Doan
Vice President .....	Bob Malucelli
Secretary .....	Diane Malucelli
Membership .....	Ardi Jarrett
Treasurer & Music Director...	Rich Combs
Event Coordinator .....	Paul Mack
Digital Librarian .....	Karen Heffer
Communication Coord .....	Sheila Welt
Webmaster .....	Bud Pearce

