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# EAST BAY BANJO CLUB

SINCE 1963

MARCH - APRIL 2026

VOLUME 2

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## Events Calendar

### **Tuesday April 28th 2026**

Oakmont of Concord  
1401 Civic Court  
Concord Ca  
6:30pm - 7:30pm

### **Thursday May 28th 2026**

Kensington Memory Care  
1580 Geary Rd  
Walnut Creek, Ca  
3pm to 4pm

### **Friday June 5th 2026**

Merrill Gardens at Lafayette  
1011 Second St  
Lafayette, Ca  
3:30pm - 4:30pm

### **Wednesday July 1st 2026**

Stoneman Village Pittsburg  
390 East Leland Road  
Pittsburg, Ca  
1:30pm - 2:30pm

### **Monday July 27th 2026**

Pleasant Hill Library  
2 Monticello Ave  
Pleasant Hill, Ca  
6:30pm - 7:30pm

### **Practice: Tuesdays (except for the 1st week of the month**

Mountain Mikes Pizza  
30 Golf Club Rd Suite A  
Pleasant Hill Ca

## President's Message

By Deb Hodson

Hello Everyone! The Board of Directors has moved the format to Zoom now. The entire band is invited to attend. The more participation the band has, the better the band becomes. Remember, its OUR club!! Suggestions are always welcome!! Everyone should be up to date on their music, whether on a digital device or in paper. Reach out to me if you have any questions. Next Board Meeting is on Zoom on May 5th at 1:30pm.

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## **Officers and Board Members**

**President** Deb Hodson

**Vice-President** Bob Malucelli

**Secretary** Diane Malucelli

**Membership** Ardie Jarrett

**Music Director** Rich Combs

**Event Coordinator** Paul Mack

**Treasurer** Chris Doan

**Communication** Coord Sheila Welt

**Webmaster** Bud Pearce

**Digital Librarian** Karen Hefter

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## Paul's Corner

We enjoy playing "Ain't She Sweet" and "Happy Days Are Here Again". Here is some interesting information about these songs. They were both composed by the writing team of Milton Ager and Jack Yellen.

Jack Yellen, (1892-1991), was a lyricist and screen writer. When he was five years old his family came to the U.S and settled in Buffalo, New York. After college he was a reporter for the Buffalo Courier and wrote songs on the side. He and a writing partner composed "Alabama Jubilee." He also collaborated with vaudeville star Sophie Tucker.

Milton Ager, (1893-1979), was one of the top songwriters of the 1920s and 1930s. He was originally from Chicago. He moved to New York in 1914 and started composing music. He provided accompaniment for silent movies.

In 1922 they formed a music publishing company. Milton Ager composed the music and Jack Yellen wrote the lyrics. In 1927 they hit it big with "Ain't She Sweet" and in 1929 they had another enormous hit with "Happy Days Are Here Again." Both men are in the Song Writers Hall of Fame.

## Banjo Tweaks

By Rich Combs

Oh no! I was changing my strings and forgot to mark where the bridge was, and it fell off. What do I do now? Well, no worries. Correctly placing the bridge is a simple, and important part of tuning up your banjo.

First step, measure the distance from the nut to the 12<sup>th</sup> fret. Then measure this same distance from the 12<sup>th</sup> fret towards the general bridge location. Place the bridge there, held in place with one or more of your new strings.

Tension up all the strings to about the correct pitch. Then lightly touch the high pitch string at the 12<sup>th</sup> fret, and play the harmonic note. Then press the string against the 12<sup>th</sup> fret, and play it again. If it sounds higher than the harmonic, move the bridge away from the nut. If it sounds lower, move the bridge towards the nut.

Do the same for the low string. Do a final tune of the strings, and recheck the harmonic and 12<sup>th</sup> fret notes. You can't do much for the inner strings, but they are usually fine. The bridge may not sit perfectly perpendicular to the strings, that's ok. Do take a look and slide the bridge parallel to itself so that the strings are centered over the fretboard, not off to one side.

I find that as my strings age a small adjustment of the bridge is needed, which is a sign that it is time to consider new strings. Happy strummin'. Rich

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## Reutlingers Payout March 19th 2026



The Reutlingers Payout was enjoyed by about 50 residents who sang, danced and marched along with us. The Myers played a few of their favorites, including Hava Nagila and Bei Mir which had the audience singing along. Rabbi Rick was able to join us adding to the fun!! It was a huge success.

## Betty David's banjos

John Buschiazzo, Betty David's nephew is selling two of Betty's beloved vega banjos. Betty was a long time member and led the band after the passing of Bill Cooper, the music director. Betty cherished her banjos. If you are interested, contact me and I will get you in touch with John.

