

THE SONOMA COUNTY FOLK SOCIETY

September -
October 2015
Volume 20 No.5



<http://www.socofoso.com>

House Concert in Santa Rosa!

from Seattle, Washington—

JIM PAGE!

Saturday evening, October 10th

*The real deal ... storyteller,
genuine, bona fide folk singer,
topical songs & thoughtful songs
pays tribute to Lightnin' Hopkins!
songwriter, singer, activist!*

For details: jandove@comcast.net

~ Who is Jim Page? ~

Jim is an avid student of human social evolution, and he lives in the heart of things. He “pays attention”, as Utah Phillips reminded us all to do, and brings us his insightful observations through his songs. Some great songs about social injustices come from this man, including “Tent City” and “Yang Ru-Men”. He calls out to us to get involved. If you’re a supporter of bicycling, listen to “Ghost Bikes”; it’s a nice thoughtful tune.

Jim also lightens up his repertoire with humor, as in his song about cloning opportunities; he gently brings us to the verge of tears with a song of loss, “Hole in the Air”, and paints a perfectly serene portrait of life in “Meinong”, surely the gentlest and warmest of his creative gifts.

Jim is a great guy to meet and to be around! Check out “Seattle Jim Page” on Facebook or check out his “My Space” page to listen to several of his songs!

Next, reserve a space at the Oct 10th local house concert! jandove@comcast.net



We have lost a friend

Audrey Auld Mezera

Jan 14, 1964 ~ Aug 9, 2015

A Marin County resident for the last few years, this Australian-born singer-songwriter recently lost her battle with cancer. She is known for her charming voice, unique songs, great sense of humor and timing. Also notable is her generosity in hosting songwriting workshops with San Quentin inmates for many years, co-writing songs with them, and managing to produce an album from this collection of songs, even after her diagnosis (“Hey Warden” 2015). To learn more about how she made a difference, check out: audreyauld.com

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Laurie Schaeffer 1955-2015

Remembered by Janet Dove



Laurie Schaeffer moved to Sonoma County in the 1970s to attend "Sonoma State College", as it was then called, and this became her home. She was a dedicated SoCoFoSo volunteer during the 1980s, acting as our Hospitality Chairperson at the annual three-day festivals. (I remember being one of her hospitality "people" at a couple of these events.) Laurie loved John Prine with great passion, praising singer-songwriters leaning toward country and folk. Back in those days, "Americana" was not a description of a musical genre, but Laurie was a fan before it was named. She wasn't involved in the selection of artists brought in for the SoCoFoSo festivals, which eventually frustrated her and led her to develop plans for producing music herself.

I remember finding out that Laurie was as big a Larry Hosford fan as I was, rooted in his 1980s gigs at The Inn of the Beginning in Cotati. This was a little-known singer-songwriter who Laurie felt deserved a bigger audience (Have you heard "Homerun Willie"?!) With Prine the exception, the folks Laurie passionately followed were not top tier musicians commercially, rather personal story-tellers who were loaded with talent.

As early as 1997, Laurie was selecting performers for area house concerts, preferring to host touring singer-songwriters who, in her opinion, deserved exposure. Working as Schaeff-Abel Productions, Greg Abel and Laurie only booked performers they loved, managing to bring dozens of performers here over the years, folks we may not otherwise have ever come across. The venues changed through the years, but the shows stayed true to their promises. Many of us fans developed a confidence in Schaeff-Abel shows and bought seats whether or not we had heard of the performer. They were all winners; Laurie had pre-screened them.

Over the last several years, folk society volunteers sold cookies and beverages at the Schaeff-Abel shows, and built a strong relationship in the process. They promoted folk society membership, and Greg always announced our upcoming events from the stage.

Greg and Laurie definitely helped build the fan base of many Austin-based acts, as well as nurturing independents such as the late Audrey-Auld Mezera. Laurie was a boon to the Sonoma County music scene, as attested to (at a recent Celebration of Life) by local radio personalities Doug Jayne, Bill Bowker, Steve DeLap, Bill Frater, and her long-time dear friend Robin Pressman.

If it hadn't been for Laurie and Greg's passion, I likely would never have heard any of the following wonderful acts: Thad Beckman, Slaid Cleaves, Fur Dixon, Fred Eaglesmith, Kinky Friedman, John Gorka, Tish Hinojosa, Will Kimbrough, Fred Koller, Jimmy LaFave, Gurf Morlix, Gove Scrivenor, Chris Smither, Amy Speace or Kevin Welch.

THANK YOU, LAURIE SCHAEFFER,
FOR THE MUSIC!

The Real Deal...Audrey Auld

From Steve Hogle



We have all heard it said, "Life isn't fair" and at times I have to agree. This is truly the case with the very sad passing of our friend and amazing musician Audrey-Auld Mezera. She graced us with her unbelievable presence and energetic spirit for only a short time, but what she left us with will always be memories of her warmth, passion and the gift of her music. Audrey passed in August at age 51 from complications of cancer.

One day when listening to our own KRSH, I heard the most striking, strong voice of a woman singing and playing the style of country music that I have loved for so many years. She had a quality that would melt your heart and touch the deepest places in your soul. I just stopped and consumed each word and every note. I said to myself, Self, she is the real deal. Little did I know at that time, this starlet would burst upon our local scene, all the way from her home in Australia to be the beloved Audrey Auld we were so fortunate to know.

The first time we heard her playing locally was at Petaluma's Mystic Theater. Audrey was the opening act for someone I don't remember, and probably don't remember because we weren't there for that, it was to get a first hand opportunity to hear her live.

That evening in the lobby, I met her husband selling her CDs and whatnot. I introduced myself and he came back with, "I'm Mez, nice to meet ya." Hell of a good man!

After Audrey's performance, I had a chance to meet her and share how my first encounter with her music had brought me to my knees. I said, "You are country, the real deal and I appreciate it more than words can say." She thanked me and with a wink and a sparkle in her eyes, she said, "Tell me about country." And boy, oh boy did we talk about country music.

Our last encounter with Audrey was when I had a chance to work with her when she played a set for Laurie Schaeffer's memorial at Sebastopol's Grange hall this past May 31st. She displayed so much strength, courage and commitment, in spite of her condition, to show up, and in true style and her fashion, she absolutely blew everyone away with her performance.

Even though I didn't really know her well, I feel I knew Audrey through her music as she always made personal connection and a bond with her audiences. Her outside work by way of the Bread and Roses Foundation shows what a beautiful place she had in her heart for humanitarian aid for some less fortunate beings. A testament in her final album "Hey Warden."

http://www.audreyauld.com/aa_music.html)

There is a real sense of sadness and loss, yet I am very grateful for the time she played this earthly space and shared her gifts with us all.

Audrey, you are the real deal!



CD Reviews

by Steve DeLap

Part 2. continued from last issue...

Also worth checking out: the "T Sisters" and their first full CD Kindred Lines. Produced by Laurie Lewis and with a solid lineup of Bay Area musicians, the CD is bound to be a keeper, though live and in person is really an unforgettable experience. These three sisters (two are twins), born and raised in the East Bay, began singing and song-writing as far back as they can remember. They claim to be full of sass which is certainly true, but they are also full of heart and soul. I saw them at the Occidental Center for the Arts where they gave the full-house crowd a show to remember.

The T Sisters have/had performances at the First Annual Santa Rosa Railroad Square celebration in early June, the Kate Wolf Festival June 25-28, and the High Sierra Festival July 2nd thru the 5th, and a number of other places as well around Northern California in the coming months. Check their website <www.tsisters.com> for lots of information about this up-and-coming authentic family band of wonderful singers and harmonizers.

All these CDs are available on itunes with the understanding that some great information and pictures are lost to you when downloading that way. All of the artists' websites allow CD orders, or better yet, go see these folks perform, buy a CD at the show, and get it signed. You'll have music and memories both. That's valuable stuff.

(*Another Canadian Neil Young, from Nova Scotia, paralyzed from the waist down from a dive into an underwater piling at beach in Bolinas. His studio was in Canyon, five miles due east of downtown Oakland. He sold it several years ago. -Riggy Rackin)



SAVE THESE DATES!

Friday, September 11, 2015

Hills to Hollers
(Laurie Lewis, Linda Tillery & Barbara Higbie)
Sebastopol Community Center (SCCC)

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Jim Page, House Concert at Janet's
Check out jimpage.net

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Bill Evans, "The Banjo in America", OCA
Check out billevansbanjo.com

Friday, October 23, 2015

The Bombadils, Booster House Concert
Check out http://thebombadils.com

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Bill Amatneek, Storyteller/Wordsmith, OCA
Check out amatneek.com

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Chris Smither, an American original!
Sebastopol Community Center (SCCC)

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FOLK NOTES

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SUNDAY September 13

An evening with three outstanding songwriters:

CLIFF EBERHARDT - ROD MacDONALD -

JIM BRUNO in the round

Cliff Eberhardt has performed three times at our house with his riveting songs, stand-up comedy introductions, and kick ass guitar licks.

Cliff and Jim Bruno are old friends from college days in Carbondale Illinois. - Cliff honing his songwriting craft, and Jim singing his songs with his then partner, Shawn Colvin.

Shawn Colvin, Mary Lou Lord, Cliff, Maurice Tani, have covered Jim's songs, he's co-written songs released by Chick Prophet and Thad Cockrell.

To make it an even more extraordinary evening, they're bringing along another friend, stellar songwriter, Rod MacDonald, who was a big part of the "New Folk" renaissance in NYC in the late 80's. Doors 5:30 Potluck 6:00 Music 7:00

\$20 - donation to artists

SUNDAY October 11,

TRACY GRAMMER will play in this beautiful setting.

Doors 5:30 Potluck 6:00 Music 7:00 \$20 - donation

For details to both of these great concerts and to RSVP, go to robinpressman@gmail.com

Occidental Center for the Arts presents:

Sept. 20, 2015 at 5 pm

The Colleen Raney Trio

Celtic traditional songstress Colleen Raney with flute player/singer Hanz Araki and folk singer/storyteller Ryan Davidson play contemporary and traditional Irish and Scottish music. \$15 General.

Sunday, October 18 @ 5 pm

Bill Evans brings his knowledge and passion for all things banjo to a virtuosic performance which traces the instrument from its West African roots to the New World.

Saturday, October 24 @ 8 pm

Bill Amatneek, noted storyteller and wordsmith, will be telling some "Acoustic Stories" All of his great stories of encounters with notable musicians will feature his expert bass /or banjo accompaniment plus some audience sing-a-long. \$15 General.

The OCA is located at 3850 Doris Murphy Ct. Occidental, CA. 95465. Bohemian Hwy @ Graton Rd. in Harmony Village. \$20 General. Reservations advised.

occidentalcenterforthearts.org. 707-874-9392.

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This double header of deep, soul-diving musical duos promises to open hearts and increase the general level of goodness. Bay Area artists, Lisa Ferraro and Erika Luckett team up with New York based troubadours, The Levins, for an evening of sonic splendor.

Oakland Center for Spiritual Living

5000 Clarewood Dr, Oakland CA.

7 PM show, \$20 www.oaklandcsl.org 510-547-1979

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2091146>



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Sign-ups start @ 6:30, performing begins @ 7:00.
Hosts: Mark Rafferty & Jay Gottlieb.
For more info about W.C.S., see our website,
www.westcoastsongwriters.org.



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to the next

SoCoFoSo's PICKIN' POTLUCK

Sunday November 29th.

1:00 to 5:00 PM

At the Sebastopol Grange

6000 Sebastopol Ave. (Hwy 12)

**Enjoy some good friends, some good music,
some good food and a good time!**



Kevin Russel Presents:

September 9th- The Old School Country Band
The Twin Oaks Tavern in Penngrove, 7pm to 10pm.

September 13th - Kevin Russell & his So Called Friends perform at Murphy's in Sonoma, 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

September 18th - Kevin Russell & his So Called Friends return to Ruth McGowans in Cloverdale, 8:00 to 10:30pm.

September 19th - Tony Marcus, Patrice Haan, Paul Anastasio and Bobby Black play at The Sebastopol Community Center Annex, 8:00pm, tickets are \$20 in advance via krussellmft@aol.com or \$25 at the door.

September 26th- Kevin Russell, Markie Sanders & Rick Cutler will back up Alabama singer-songwriter Amy McCarly, The Twin Oaks Tavern in Penngrove, 7 -10pm.

September 26th- Kevin Russell, Markie Sanders & Rick Cutler will back up Alabama singer-songwriter Amy McCarly at Earle Fest in Santa Rosa [Earle Baum Center for the Blind].

October 9th - Richard Smith plays at The Sebastopol Community Center Annex, 8:00pm, tickets are \$20 in advance via krussellmft@aol.com or \$25 at the door. Don't miss this one!

October 14th- The Old School Country Band plays classic country & western swing music at The Twin Oaks Tavern in Penngrove, 7pm to 10pm.



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Ukulele Undercurrents- by Gary Sugiyama

Sonoma County Ukulele groups

Ukulelians/Santa Rosa Beginner & Intermediate classes meet at the Person Senior Wing Auditorium of the Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue. Weekly email listing songs for sessions <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ukulelians>.

Ukulelians Beginner/Intermediate class/jam "Bill's Beginners and Beyond". Learn to play & perform songs. Each session starts out easy and progresses to slightly harder. Mondays 11-12. Teacher: Bill Spence Ukulelians Intermediate class/jam meets Wednesdays 1-3. Some instruction. Performance Focus. Moderator: James Freund. 500 songs at https://drive.google.com/drive/#folders/0B_wzKWBG-XrBaFITTOtrM0o0R0U

Ukestars/Sebastopol Kanikapila (jam session) meets Friday from 9:45-11:45 at the Community Church in Sebastopol, 1000 Gravenstein Highway North. Turn into Danmar Drive and park behind the complex in the parking lot or on Danmar. Group book to buy and handouts. Director: Vicki Reno.

Sebastopol Singing Ukulele Circle/Sebastopol Open song circle with shared leadership. 1st Tuesday 6:30-8:30, Coffee Catz, 6761 Sebastopol Ave. Facilitator: Dan Gurney, no fee. 3rd Tuesday jam 7-9 pm, Sequoia Village Common House, 459 Sequoia Lane, park on Covert, no fee, donations welcome. Facilitator: Marilyn Read, 477-1356 Daily Uke & Santa Cruz books. <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sebastopolsingingukuleles/files>

West County Uke Club/Occidental Union Hotel/Pizzeria in Occidental every 3rd Thursday. Dinner 6-7 pm to thank the Union Hotel for hosting. Sing play 7-9 with a microphone. See details of the meeting format at <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/westcountyukeclub/files> Contact Jerri Miller, No fee but donations gratefully accepted.

Petalukes/Petaluma Petaluma Jumping Fleas meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m. at the Petaluma Senior Center, 211 Novak Drive, off East Madison Street. off McDowell. Song circle format. No fee. Get monthly songs at the yahoo site <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Petaluke/files>

Healdsburg Senior Center/Healdsburg Intermediate/Advanced jam. Healdsburg Senior Center, 113 Matheson St, 431-3572. Fridays 12:30-2:30. Use the yellow and blue Daily Ukulele books. No fee. Leaderless.

Oakmont/Santa Rosa Oakmont Ukesters Tuesdays, 10:30-12:30 at Oakmont Gardens. Beginner-Intermediate levels encouraged. Contact, Linda Webster, 707-978-2790; tree7@sonic.net.

Sonoma Vintage House Senior Center, 264 First St. 996-0311, Tuesdays 3-4:30, \$5 fee, Alan Friedman

CLASSES

Vicki Reno Intermediate Uke class Wednesdays in her Sebastopol home. 827-3668 vreno@comcast.net Marilyn Read 7-8 p.m. Thursdays, Sebastopol Community Center Youth Annex, Morris St., not drop-in. Beginners & Intermediate classes sign up at www.seb.org Private lessons call 477-1356, readmh@sonic.net



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Steve Wharton teaches Bluegrass: banjo, Old Time banjo, dulcimer, and autoharp For details, 707-887-2518.

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•At 10:00 Stay tuned for Folk Alley

•Tuesday Evening, 9:00 - 11:00 Lady Spins the Blues with Mary Carroll.

Wednesday Evening 7:00 -8:00 Reprise of New Music Hour with Doug & Brian.

•Friday 12:00 - 2:00 American Routes

•Saturdays, 10:00 to 12:00, West Coast Live, Lots of live Folk & Singer/Songwriter

•At 12:00 to 1:00 Thistle & Shamrock, Celtic Music

•At 1:00 - 5:00 Our Roots are Showing Steve DeLap & Doug Jayne alternating

Sunday, 11:00 - 1:00 New Orleans By The Bay, Basin Street et. al, Linda Seabright

At 1:00 - 3:00 Crossing Borders with Amy Contardi, Glen Alpert & David Sharpe. Great World Music



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•"The Evening Muse" Mondays 7-10 PM

Hosted by Robin Pressman

•"Freight Train Boogie" Tuesdays 7-9 PM

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Acoustic Music Jams :

• THE REDWOOD CAFE

8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati

The Celtic Sessions, led by Janette Duncan
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2nd Sunday of the month from 3 to 5 PM.

For details call: 585-3138

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Hosted by Janette, Steve and Chris

4th Sunday of the month, 3 to 5 PM. Details, 570-2745

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• BLUEGRASS AND OLD-TIME JAM

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• SANTA ROSA TRADITIONAL FRENCH SESSION.

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• Celtic and Old Timey jam

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• SANTA ROSA SLOW CELTIC SESSION

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• CELTIC AND OLD TIMEY JAM.

Fourth Thursdays, starting May 22nd at

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kalia@sbcglobal.net

• SANTA ROSA SCOTTISH DANCERS

Scottish Country Dance

Weekly--Mondays 7:00 p.m. Monroe Hall

Beginners welcome

Cape Breton Step and ladies step Thursdays 7:15

Ellington Hall Information: ronaldwallace@gmail.com



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October 10th
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