

Sound Waves

Volume 25
Issue 6
JUNE 2015

1990  2015

An
Interview
with

**JAMES
MONTGOMERY**

**B.B. KING
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NIECIE
SUFJAN STEVENS
WILD SUN
CLUB LISTINGS
BAND LISTINGS
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RESTAURANTS
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	16 Dean Cardinale 5pm	17 James Rice 7pm	18 T Ray 8pm	19 Brannon and Co. 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	20 Guido & Tony 6pm	21 Tony Gabriel The Patrones 5pm
	23 T Ray 5pm	24 Stef Denegre 7pm	25 Sean Rivers 8pm	26 Don & Ethan Cash 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	27 Stuck Local 6pm	28 Jimmy Sips 1pm Fusion 5pm
	30 James Rice 5pm	1 Ethan Cash 7pm	2 Darik & The Funbags 8pm	3 Sean Rivers 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	4 Stef & Chris 6pm	5 Guido 1pm Jamie Junk Show 5pm

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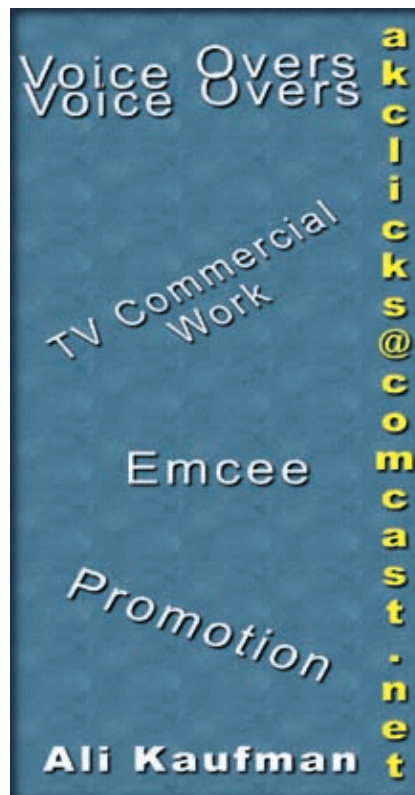
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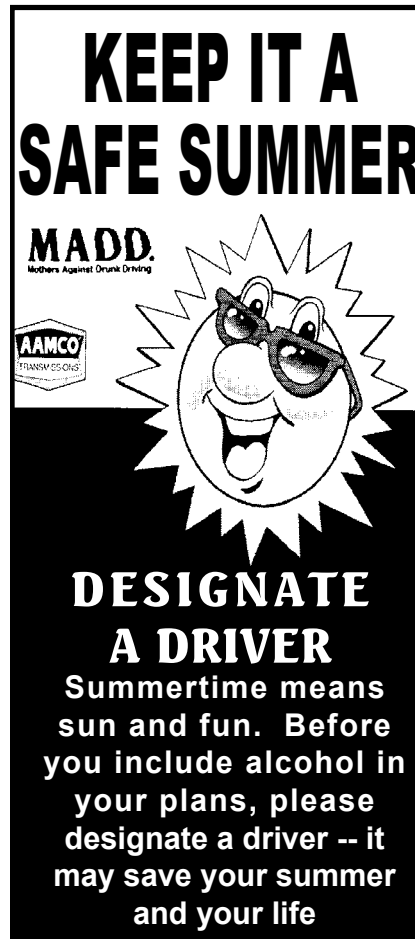
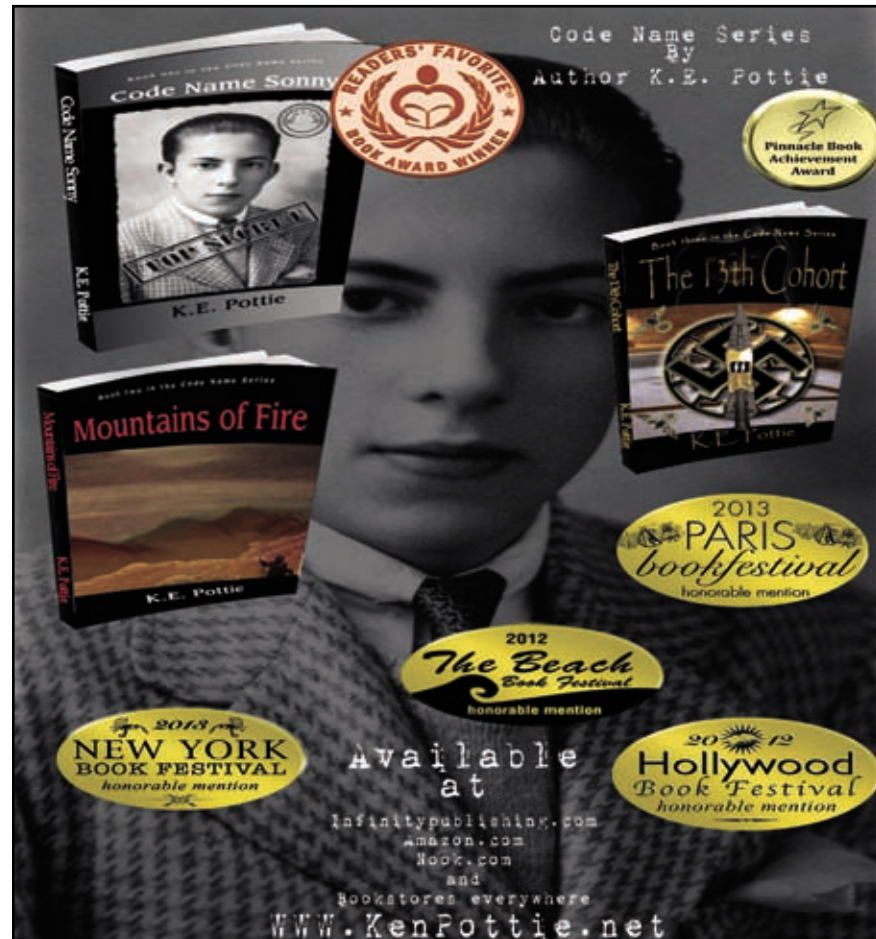
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The Thrill Will Never Be Gone: A Tribute to B.B. King

By Mark T. Gould

I couldn't believe how soft his hand was....

It was in early 1972, I was barely old enough to drive, but a friend and I were attending one of our very first concerts alone, at the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford.



He called it the blues.

To illustrate his new find, he took down one of them from the rack. I was immediately drawn to the picture of an African-American man, arms extended, electric guitar (more on "her" later) dangling from his right side, belting out a song into a microphone on stage.

Above the picture was the singer/guitarist's name, and the album title.

"B.B.King."

"Live at the Regal."

Keith gingerly took the album out of its sleeve, and placed it on the turntable, and moved the tone arm over to the first cut.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the King of the Blues, Mr. B.B. King..."

That was the first sound I heard on a B.B. King record, and truer words were never spoken. The band hit up the intro to "Everyday I Have The Blues," and once I heard that true, trebling, twirling guitar sound, I was hooked, just like his millions of other fans in a more than half-century career that ended with his death last month at age 89.

Riley "B. B." King took the blues from the cotton fields of his native Indianola, Mississippi to world-wide stardom and acclaim. He was arguably the first, and clearly the best, at combining country blues and urban, big city blues. Although he admitted that, for some reason, he couldn't sing and play the guitar at the same time, he nonetheless created an instantly recognizable stinging, shimmering vibrato on the guitar, and a voice that creaked and twisted under the weight of lust, longing, and lost love, aching and perseverance, albeit delivered, at times, with a sly, seemingly all-knowing humor.

As such, B.B. King left an indelible imprint on music, and, with it, influenced just about everyone who heard him play.

"There are not many left that play it in the pure way that B.B. did," said Eric Clapton in a video posted on social media shortly after King's death. "He was a beacon for all of us who loved this kind of music and I thank him from the bottom of my heart.... I want to thank him for all the inspiration and the encouragement he gave me as a player over the years, and the friendship we enjoyed. There's not a lot left to say because his music is

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almost a thing of the past now."

"The tone he got out of that guitar, the way he shook his left wrist, the way he squeezed the strings ... man, he came out with that and it was all new to the whole guitar-playin' world," said Buddy Guy. "He could play so smooth, he didn't have to put on a show. The way B.B. did it is the way we all do it now."

"He was a little bit of a contradiction," said country singer Brad Paisley, who recorded a duet with King for Paisley's 2008 album "Play." "As much as he was known for playing the blues, this is one of the happiest people I've ever met. There was such a light spirit to him, a great sparkle."

"He could do more with a short-stated phrase than most could do with the calendar and the alphabet combined," said ZZ Top guitarist Billy F. Gibbons. "It's uncertain to me if that was a well-calculated, planned posture. I would rather think the naturalness of his gift was honored by just letting it fly ... Myself, all the British guys, the Mike Bloomfields, count 'em -- we're all lucky to be interpreters. B.B. was an originator."

"Oftentimes, people overlook that he (was) such an amazing singer," said singer, guitarist and songwriter Bonnie Raitt. "He (was) as influential as a singer as he was as a guitar player. It's because of his eloquence and his soul as a singer, the way he interpret(ed) a lyric. The way he play(ed) his voice is as intrinsic to who he (was) an artist as who he (was) in his [guitar] playing. Whether it's heartache or anger or joy, it's that passion that he built and built, then pull(ed) back and wait(ed), and then it erupt(ed)."

"B. B." stood for "Beale Street Blues Boy," the name he was given when he first started playing the blues on local radio programs in Memphis in the 1940s. In 1952, after one of his first recordings, "Three O'Clock Blues," reached the top of the rhythm-and-blues charts, he began what became a lifetime of touring and virtually living on the road. He started in tiny juke joints, country dance halls and ghetto nightclubs, played 342 one-night stands in 1956 alone, and some 200 to 300 concert halls a year for a half-century thereafter. He was in the midst of his latest tour when he took ill last month.

Even though he had a huge extended family of children, everywhere he went he was accompanied by the one, absolute, trusty love of his life, his big Gibson solid body electric guitar, which he called Lucille.

Why Lucille? King told the story numerous times.

He was playing a dance hall in Twist, Arkansas in the early 1950s, when two men got into a fight and knocked over a kerosene stove. King fled the fire, and then remembered his \$30 guitar was still inside the burning building.

Risking life and limb, he rushed back inside and rescued it. He later learned that the fight had been about a woman named Lucille. For the rest of his life, Mr. King addressed his guitars as "Lucille."

So, there I was at the Bushnell, after buying, devouring and wearing out a copy of "Live at the Regal," along with equally incredible "Blues Is King," at one of those hundreds of concert halls that King played over his astonishing, lengthy, inspirational career.

We were in about the fifth or sixth row, on the aisle, as I recall. After playing for over two hours, he finished with his signature song, "The Thrill is Gone," and, as he took Lucille off his shoulder, he walked around the microphone to the edge of the stage, and crouched down, as concert goers reached up to shake his hand.

'Now or never,' I said to myself.

I jumped out of my seat, ran up and stuck out my hand.

He grabbed it in his and gave me a hearty shake.

Of course, his hand was soft.

It was the hand of the King.

MUSIC NOTES



“The Greatest Show(s) On Earth”

By Mark T. Gould

A couple of months ago, a good friend of mine, Gary Stoller, wrote an article for No Depression magazine in which he interviewed famous musicians and singers about their all-time favorite concerts.

And, that got me thinking.

It was slightly over 45 years ago when I attended my first concert, Joe Cocker, Mad Dogs & Englishmen in Keaney Gym at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. Since then, I’ve attended hundreds and hundreds of shows in dive bars, small clubs, theatres, arenas and stadiums.

In honor of Gary’s great piece, I will now attempt to list, in order, the best 10 shows I’ve ever seen.

That is, until I change my mind tomorrow.....

1. Bob Dylan/The Band, January 31, 1974, afternoon show, Madison Square Garden, NYC

Would you believe I barely knew Dylan’s music at the time, and went to see the Band? Scout’s honor. Boy, did that change fast. Dylan has since bashed this tour repeatedly, but it remains the best concert I’ve ever seen, two-plus hours of mythic stories and anthems by two of the very best who ever walked on a concert stage.

2. Paul McCartney, April 27, 2002, Madison Square Garden, NYC

We really wanted to go to this one, but it seemed to sell out in minutes. A couple of days before the show, my good friend Dennis Richards told us new seats were released. We ended up literally feet from the stage, in front of the VIP seats. It was as I’ve said many times since, like seeing the greatest Beatles tribute band in the world, fronted by Paul McCartney. There was so much screaming that I thought we were at the Ed Sullivan show in ’64. You name it, he sang it. I’m still smiling about this one. I never saw the Beatles, but, after this, I feel like I did.

3. Rolling Stones, March 28, 1999, Hartford Civic Center

By some amazing luck of the draw, we ended up in the section literally right next to the stage, where we could almost reach out and touch Mick and Keith. This was one of those nights where the moniker “Greatest Rock ‘n’ Roll Band in the World” was truer than ever. Our section went bat crazy all night. As the Stones were walking off the stage at the end, Mick pointed up to our section, and applauded. That was about as cool as it gets.

4. Simon & Garfunkel, November 29, 2003, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

This almost makes it into the Top Three. Never mind how incredible they were, the opening act was the Everly Brothers, who also performed “Bye Bye Love” with the headliners. Watching Art Garfunkel walk out of the

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spotlight and behind the stage to compose himself before “Bridge Over Troubled Water” was one of the most moving things I’ve ever seen on a stage.

5. John Fogerty, July 19, 1997, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut

I was a bit young to see Creedence in their heyday, but, man, this was just as good. Fogerty blew the doors off the place. The whole night was song, standing ovation; song, standing ovation. We’ve seen him three or four times since, and while he’s always good, this night he was on fire, in the bayou.

6. Weather Report, June 1971, Newport Jazz Festival, Avery Fisher Hall, NYC

I fell in love with this seminal jazz band after its founders, Joe Zawinul and Wayne Shorter, split from Miles Davis. At this show, they were in the midst of their first tour, opening for Return to Forever. They played one song, straight, for over an hour, and got one of the loudest, longest standing ovations I’ve ever heard. I don’t even remember Return to Forever playing that night.

7. Poco, August 2, 1975, Palace Theatre, Waterbury, Connecticut

That would be the old Palace Theatre, as in the un-air-conditioned Palace Theatre. By far the hottest I’ve ever been at a rock concert, and, thanks to Poco, most of the heat came from the stage. I’ve seen them over 50 times, and this was the very best. As bassist Timothy B. Schmit said at the outset, “if you’re hot, it’s going to get hotter.” Amen.

8. Richie Furay, July 29, 2006, The Turning Point, Piedmont, NY

Any show by the legendary founder of Buffalo Springfield and Poco is special, but this one surpasses them all. Richie was in New York to do some ministry work in the city, and scheduled this as a one-off. It was just one of those special nights where “there’s just a little magic in the country music” he was singing. Getting a dedication and shout out from the stage before the inspiring “Wake Up My Soul” made it extra special from a very special performer. It was also the night that I became a fan of the amazing bluesman Toby Walker, who opened for Furay.

9. Ringo Starr, July 27, 1995, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut

Local concertgoers will recall this venue had a revolving stage, with nary a bad seat. With that, I was able to say that I was mere feet away from a Beatle!! This was the All-Starr Band with Randy Bachman, Felix Cavaliere, John Entwistle, Mark Farner and Billy Preston. Need I say more?

10. Huey Lewis & The News, October 23, 2012, Ridgefield, Connecticut Playhouse

Thanks to the generosity of News guitarist/saxophonist Johnny Colla, we were treated to backstage passes and free tickets to, by far, one of the smallest venues this remarkable band has played in years. These guys, the best bar band in the world (and I mean that as a compliment), rock every place they play, but seeing them in what amounted to a small club with nearly-perfect acoustics made it a special night. Truly, we had heard the News!!

OK, so I can’t stop at 10.....

Honorable Mention (no particular order): Tom Jones, July 14, 2005, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut; Rod Stewart, February 27, 1999, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut; Kinks, November 25,

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1974, Felt Forum, NYC; Miles Davis, October 17, 1973, Jazz Workshop, Boston; The Band, November 18, 1976, Palladium, NYC; Neil Young, April 25, 1999, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut; Bruce Springsteen, October 25, 2012, XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut; Roy Buchanan, March 10, 1975, Shaboo Inn, Willimantic, Connecticut; Eagles, June 22, 1976, Meadows Music Theatre, Hartford, Connecticut; Emmylou Harris/Hot Band, October 16, 1974, Shaboo Inn, Willimantic, Connecticut; Carole King/James Taylor, June 13, 2010, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut; Poco, August 21, 2009, Bethel Woods, NY Amphitheatre.

That's my Top 10 (and then some...).

What's yours?



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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello My Sweet BarFlies..what a month! Busy, busy busy! But my excitement for this month's WHALIE AWARDS (and the fact that I finally remembered them!) is one of the reasons why! Every year I swear on all that is Holy that I will make it to the AWARDS and each and every year I finally find it listed on FaceBook approximately two weeks after the Event has already happened. So I'm in this year! June 13! HYGENIC ART PARK! 6 O'CLOCK! LOOK FABULOUS! BE THERE! Good Luck to all the nominees!

O.K. let's talk about me. Went to CANCUN with the fam for Wedding



part 2! Had a fabulous time. Got sucked into a "Jungle Adventure" which if you look it up on-line shows a fabulous family adventure, cruising in your own 2 person boat, while you meander down mangrove filled waterways, on your way to crystal clear waters filled with colorful fish, while you snorkel amongst them in the smooth as glass water.

Ahhhhhhh. No. We arrived at the pier with 10 other hapless victims, to be given our ill fitting life vest and flipper fins. We were assigned boats and instructed to follow our cheery Mexican guide, OSCAR to parts unknown. I had my niece SAM with me and my nephew DEAN followed us out into the harbor with my son RICKY as his copilot. Well, Ol' OSCAR hit the gas and within 2 minutes I knew we were in trouble.

The harbor was filled with white caps and OSCAR showed no sign of slowing down. So much water was slamming me in the face that it felt like a firehose of warm salt water blasting directly into my nose and mouth and from there down into my soon to be waterlogged lungs. I actually became hysterical, laughing and choking uncontrollably because my fear was so deep that I was going to drown, sitting up in a boat. I just could not believe that this was how I was going to die. I was out of control!

And then the fear that my son was out there with us?? OMG!!!! It was horrific! We made it out to the deep gray roiling, frothing ocean, after a 45 minute ride from hell with burning salt crusted eyes, bobbing up and down, as Sweet Freakin' OSCAR was darting back and forth over the bows of our boats courageously trying to lash a bunch of incompetent boaters together in 10 ft. swells! Seasickness was spreading amongst us. The Japanese couple in the boat next to me were clinging desperately together, wrapped in each others arms, silently crying. The Chinese guy on the other side of me was speaking broken Spanglish, but the gist of his arm flailing sign language was "get me the hell back to freakin land now, please? on all that is holy" or something like that. It was right up there as one of the scariest/nauseating trips of my life. Best part is when we finally reached the pier again, crawling onto the dock on hands and knees to kiss the ground and one of the little Cancunians followed us around cheerfully, ignoring our bedraggled appearance and thoroughly disgruntled looks as we shakily attempted to get our things together, persistently attempting to sign us up for another excursion. Really? I think not.

So.. that was exciting! But I also had many other adventures this month, **8 SOUND WAVES**



including our first POKER RUN/WADE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. Whoot whoot! Was so much fun! We started at the HBC then myself and 28 of my Bessies headed over to see RON SIPOLSKI at TWO BROTHERS! But he wasn't there! Luckily, he left 2 hot looking bartenders in his place! Thanks, RON! From there we headed over to BILLY HILLS ROADHOUSE in Hope Valley, where ROSE ordered a delicious looking Nacho plate, yummy! We picked up MARK and MICHELLE and ROCKY and JOHNNY and headed down to PADDY'S and SANDY'S LIGHTHOUSE! Thank you to ANGELA, DAWN, SANDY and DON for putting up with us! And of course, MIKE ROGOFF for serenading us on the outdoor deck. Yay! I love it when a plan comes together! We ended the night with me dancing on the Bar Top, warbling classic duets with ARTHUR, while DJ DAVE CHRISTINA, patiently searched for each song I drunkenly asked him to play! Thanks, Dave!!

Also managed to hit up the HARBOUR HOUSE to see FRANKEN-PHIL! Finally! They were awesome! Full house, amazing musicians and a lot of fun. Met up with ALBAN and TRACEE and we had a couple cock-

tails, took some band groupie pix with FRANK and PHIL, then headed over to PIER 27 to see DAN WATSON! Met up with KRIS, LISA and BRIAN...OH, what a night!!

Now we will talk about You!! Lot's happened in this last month and a Lot will be happening this summer. BOB GLADUE hosted his "THREE HOUR SHOW" with talented PJ TAUTKUS as a guest musician on Memorial Day. TINA BOURDEN held on to her crown at the NEW LONDON-WATERFORD SPEED-BOWL, ROWDY RANDY JOHNSTON came in 7th, at the track. NOAH FELDMAN in the running

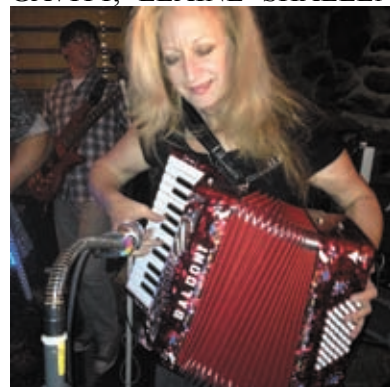
for WHALIE'S BEST SINGER, ANN GAVITT-SERVICE marching with her fellow VFWER'S, ALLIE KAUFMAN UP FOR BEST DJ (IAMFEST.ORG), MYSTIC BLUE'S FESTIVAL at the MYSTIC SHIPYARD in West Mystic at the end of June.

Talented SUSAN MACKAY was spotted by some Secret Spies with Barfly Eyes rockin' the HARBOUR HOUSE with her awesome accordion playing, along with CHRIS MACKAY & THE TONESHIFTERS! Also happening this month, WEST END BLEND will be playing the OLD ROADHOUSE in NEW London, (happy birthday CJ!) Also NICK JOHNS & FRIENDS will be performing "THE DOORS" @ THE STRANGE BREW PUB on June 13 at 8:30! Love the DOORS!! OPEN MIC NIGHT at NIGHTINGALES for Teens! And stops by Tuesday nights to see local musicians at the WATCH HILL SUNSET CONCERT Series or many other local parks or beaches which provide weekly shows. JON CAMPBELL with EVERET BROWN on June 30!

Romper Bomper Time!! Happy Birthday to BOBBY BRENNAN, BOBBY CRASH, MISS CHRISTINE MISTO, ROCCO SORRENTI, AMANDA CHOLAKIS, BRIAN MERRITT, CATHY PALMER WHEELER, MICHAEL SULLIVAN, ANDY BICKFORD, CHRISTOPHER OSBORNE, SARAH STAMM :0), CHRIS LEIGH, DONNY BANKS, MAURENE



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MAN (30!!!)...WHOOOOWEEEE...anyone see that one coming?

So another month gone by and i'm feeling that summer clock tick tick ticking! Get out, enjoy this beautiful weather! Shop local, drive carefully, enjoy some amazing music from some of our local masters of the craft! And absolutely make sure to tell your father Happy Father's Day (Hi Dad!) or any man in your life who has made you feel special (John! Charlie) I love you all! Have a wonderful month! Love you long time, my sweet, sweet Flies!!



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26 SUGAR \$10 Cover	27 1-5 Jason Cardinal 9:30 OUTSIDE CHANCE	28 GROUND CONTROL 1-5
3 AQUANETT \$10 Cover	4 1-5 Rum & Steel 9:30 NEVER ENUFF	5 CABANA BOYS 1-5

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AC/JD

2 – Angies Lounge, Mystic, CT 5-8
22 – Daniel Packer, Mytic, CT

ANDY & BETHANY

4-Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 6:30-10:30
14 - Captains Cove, Bridgeport, CT 12-3
19,28 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6-9
20 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic CT 7-10
30 - The Andrea, Westerly, RI 7-10

AZALEA DRIVE

20 - Vineyards, Stonington, CT 12-3

BEBOBALOUBOB

6 - Toyo Lounge, Colchester, CT 8-11
19 - Angies Lounge, Mystic, CT
26 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8:30pm

BEN KANE

6 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 7:30
12 - La vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT 8:30
13,25 - Sunfox Campground, Lisbon, CT 8
14 - Arrigoni Winery, Portland, CT 2:30
16 - Old Roadhouse, New London, CT 8
19 - Ridge Winery, Preston, CT 5:30
20 - The Crossings, Putnam, CT 8
26 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6
27 - Landsdowne Pub, Uncasville, CT 5:30

BILL'S GARAGE ALLSTARS

8,15,22,29 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT 7pm

BOHEMIAN PICNIC

26 - Old Roadhouse, New London, CT

BRANDT TAYLOR

3,10,24 - Pub on Park, Cranston, RI 8pm
4,5,6,11,18,25 - Maury's, Danielson, CT 7pm
7 - Dunny's, N.Brookfield, MA 3pm
8 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT 7pm
12 - CJ Sparrows, Cheshire, CT 8pm
13 - Hannon Hatch, W.Hartford, CT 3:45pm
13 - Particle Accelerator, Putnam, CT 5:30pm
13 - The Cannery, Southbridge, MA
19 - World of Beer, W. Hartford, CT
20 - Lake Tavern, Dayville, CT
10 SOUND WAVES

26 - Blue Back Square, W.Hartford, CT 5pm
27 - Camp Nahaco, Eastford, CT 11am
27 - JD Coopers, Putnam, CT
29,30 - Ballard's, Block Island, RI 2pm

THE CARTELLS

5 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 8:30pm
12,26 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
13 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30pm
17 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
19 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 6:30pm
21 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
22,29 - Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT 6pm
28 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 3:30pm

DAN STEVENS

2,9,16,23,30 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT
3,10 - Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme, CT
4 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
6 - Sheffield Auditorium, Old Lyme, CT
11 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
12 - The Grange, Providence, RI
14 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT
17 - Publick House, Newcastle, ME
18 - Acoustic Artisans, Portland, ME
19 - The Old Goat, Richmond, ME
20 - Coveside, South Bristol, ME
22 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, ME
24 - Town Green, Old Saybrook, CT
26 - Black Hall Grille, Old Lyme, CT
27 - Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, CT

DAN WATSON

2,30 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6pm
4,11,18 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
5 - Landsdowne Pub, Uncasville, CT 6pm
7,21,28 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5pm
9,23 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
10,24 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT 7pm
12 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm
14 - Tara's Pub, Matunuck, RI 3:30pm
16 - Angie's Pier 27, Mystic, CT 5pm
17, Mystic Pizza II, Mystic, CT 7:30pm
19 - Harbor House, Mystic, CT 8:30pm
25 - Spring House, Block Island, RI
26 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT

THE DRAGONITES

5 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

5 - Wistaria Mansion, Holyoke, MA 7-10pm
13 - Youth Center, Cambridge, MA
16 - Gatehouse, Southbury, CT 6:30-8:30pm
25 - Esker Point, Groton, CT 6-8pm
28 - The Cove, Southwick, MA 2-5pm

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

6 - Dodd Stadium, Norwich, CT 6pm

27 – Harp N Hound, Mystic, CT

FRANKENPHIL

5,27 - Glass House, Norwich, CT 7pm
6 - Granite Farm, N. Scituate, RI 6pm
7 - Tara's, Matunuck, RI 3:30pm
12 - McBride's, Providence, RI 7pm
13 - Hyland Orchard, Sturbridge, MA 11:45am
13 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm
14 - Busker's, Newport, RI 12pm
14 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 6pm
19 - Vines On Church, Middletown, CT 4pm
20 - Seehund, New London, CT 6pm
26 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5:30pm
28 - Midtown Oyster Bar, Newport, RI 4pm

GOPHERBROKE

5 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT
13 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
17 - Town Green, Litchfield, CT 6:30-8:30
18 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7-10
20 - Blackthorn, Easton, MA 8-11
26 - Cassidy Hill, Coventry, CT 6-8pm
22 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

GREEN TEA

13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT 11am-1pm
18 - The Spot, Providence, RI
25 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI 7-10
26 - Blues Fest, Mystic, CT 6-10

HIT PLAY

26 - Atrium, Mashentucket, CT

HOPE ROAD

13 - Taste Of Mystic, Mystic, CT 12-2:30
20 - Paddy's, Misquamicut, RI

KATIE PERKINS

12 - Turnpike Cafe, Uncasville, CT
13,19 - Sandy's, Misquamicut, RI

KEEP IT ROLLING BAND

6 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT

KEVIN MANZELLA

27 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

4 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7:30-10:30
5 - Twisted Vine, Westerly, RI
12 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
14 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT
19 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10

MINDSET

5 - Sandy's, Misquamicut, RI
6 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI

20 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI

NO SHAME

6 - Old Roadhouse, New London, CT
13 - Particle Accelerator, Putnam, CT 6pm
13 - JD Cooper's, Putnam, CT
27 - Sandy's, Misquamicut, RI

PIRATES FOR PEACE

5 - The Cannery, Southbridge, MA
23 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI
26 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

RED LIGHT

5 - Upper Deck, Westbrook, CT 10pm
7 - Sunset Ribs, Niantic, CT 5pm
12 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
13 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
14 - VFW, Plainfield, CT 12pm
20 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT 10pm
27 - Lansdowne Pub, Uncasville, CT 10pm

RIPTIDE Jr.

27 - Backtracks, Westerly, RI

RIVERGODS

6 - Elks Lodge, S. Glastonbury, CT 12:15-1pm
9 - Capt. Nick's, Block Island, RI
13 - Hygienic Park, New London, CT
19 - Arboretum, New London, CT 6:30-9:30pm
27 - Lyman Allyn, New London, CT 2pm

ROB BRANNON

4 - Hard Rock, Foxwoods, CT 8pm
11 - Headhouse, Boston, MA 7pm
19 - Sunset Ribs, Niantic, CT 6pm
26 - Glass House, Norwich, CT 7pm

SAM E. JAMES

10 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 7:30
20 - Backtracks Bar, Westerly, RI

STYFF KITTY

6 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT
14 - Taste of Mystic, Mystic, CT
20 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

13 - Olde Mistick Village, Mystic, CT 5pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

6 - Jonathan Edwards, N. Stonington, CT 12-2:30
6 - Paddy's, Misquamicut, RI
11 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
14 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT
19 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI
27 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI 1-5
28 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 7:30-10

VERTIGO

12 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & THE NEXT FUN THING

6 - Chamard Vineyard, Clinton, CT 4-7
9 - Capt. Nicks, Block Island, RI 6pm
20 - Gazebo, Olde Mystick, CT 2-4
21 - Bishops Castle, Exeter, RI 2pm
26 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10

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7,14,21,28 - VFW, Preston, CT 3pm

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18 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Bette Midler

13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Dave Matthews Band

12 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

John Fogerty

24 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Jonny Lang/ Kenny Wayne Shepherd

17 - College St. Hall, New Haven, CT

Kid Rock

24 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

Martin Sexton

6 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Mike Gordon

20 - College St. Hall, New Haven, CT

Rascal Flatts

14 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

Rob Zombie

18 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Sheryl Crow

20 - Grand Theater, Mashantucket, CT

Steve Miller Band

20 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

Third Eye Blind

12 - Grand Theater, Mashantucket, CT

Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga

29 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

Zac Brown Band

6 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

Zach Deputy

24 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT
27 - The Spot, Providence, RI



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Chicken & Broccoli	7.05	10.15
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Supremo (beef, jalapeños, tomato, & onions)	8.30	12.05
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LOCAL BEAT



Wild Sun Releases Epic Album About Small Town Claustrophobia and Relationship Woes

By Andrew Krebs

Wild Sun's debut album Little Truths is a sentimental pastiche of

songs about the pains of idealized love and about the claustrophobia of living in a small town with lots of gossip. The album is produced by Bruce Goggin (from Phish and Pavement fame) and features such musicians as Glenn Kendzia (guitar and vocals), Paul Fazio (bass and vocals) and Cameron Raubeson (drums and vocals). Little Truths starts out with the song "Shy Hinges," whose chorus tells a story but doesn't force attention with catchy hooks or shouting. Glenn's tuneful guitar hammer-ons are grounded by Paul and Cameron's back bass beat thomp and the album concerns the upset and ambivalence of relationships with past lovers and overfamiliar friends. Time marches on as the band struggles to reconcile the idealized life with reality of life not ending up as they expected.

The songs "Windowless Room" and "Fishbowl Town" prove that it's hard not to feel trapped by the overfamiliarity and gossip associated with small-town life in today's world of Facebook and other "paper trails." People can know things about each other before they even meet. The band poetically describes how word gets around about lovers before they're even under the covers "like a newscast who knows more about you than you know about you." There's a lot of he-said-she-said bullshit and life can be like a small room with burning floorboards if one doesn't get out quick: "I'm tired of people in this goddam town concerned about what I have done. . I want to wake up and not give a damn (about what people think)" exclaims Glenn on Windowless Room and Amatureland. Windowless Room also despairs of getting older and watching life's "greatest moments" get stolen by the younger generation. Wild Sun sings about "watching your secrets become her lines" but the pessimism associated with such lack of privacy is in no way reflected in the melody of Fishbowl Town, whose "ba da da" chorus is strangely playful and bouncy in ways that create a good-time feel.

However, such great songs as "Amatureland" and "Vacation" prove that life can fall short of our ideals as people find that demons follow them after moving to a new place in search of more excitement and anonymity: "Maybe next year will be better. Where are you wild sun? I can't remember how I got here in the 1st place. It's not like I pictures in the back of my head" Glen Kendzia laments upon visiting a new city to get away from it all only to find himself staring at the kitchen floor and checking out as soon as he arrives. Amatureland also shows off Glenn Kendzia's strident guitar strums that pick up then slow down at key points during the song. Glenn takes a juicy little solo at the end of the tune, and sings with the sweet eloquence of Bono or Chris Issac.

The band also sings of ambivalence and masochism in relationships with women who, like new places, can fall short of a man's ideals whether he's

14 SOUND WAVES

in a fishbowl town or off on vacation: "I tried to love who you are . . . Where would I be if you were who I thought?" Glenn sings in "Strictly Vernacular:" probably the most poignant relationship song on the album. His voice ascends to triumphant heights as he exclaims "Watch how they explode!" Nevertheless, the latent themes of anger and masochism are apparent in the religious allusions about being cut and blinded by the silent delicacy of a woman's eyes so you cower and stay by her side instead of standing up and fighting. He also hangs himself once more during "Lonely Lips" as he submits to being a "sucker" for bad women sinking their teeth and dragging their nails across his flesh. The song is dark and echoey but catchy, with Kendzia's fast clean guitar solos sounding like Mark Knopfler. On a less violent note, "Monteray" is a slow piano song about hooking up with a young gal in a way that is as pessimistic as Lonely Lips but less violent. The singer leaves unturned stones in their place but can't leave Monterey without leaving notes she won't read anyway. Regardless, the relationship themes prevalent in Little Truths are worthy of further analysis.

For those people who tire of the pains of small-town gossip and whom fret over the highs and lows of relationships will enjoy the poetry and melody prevalent in Wild Sun's Little Truths album. You won't find a more convincing probe of troubled relationships in today's privacy-less 21st century world.



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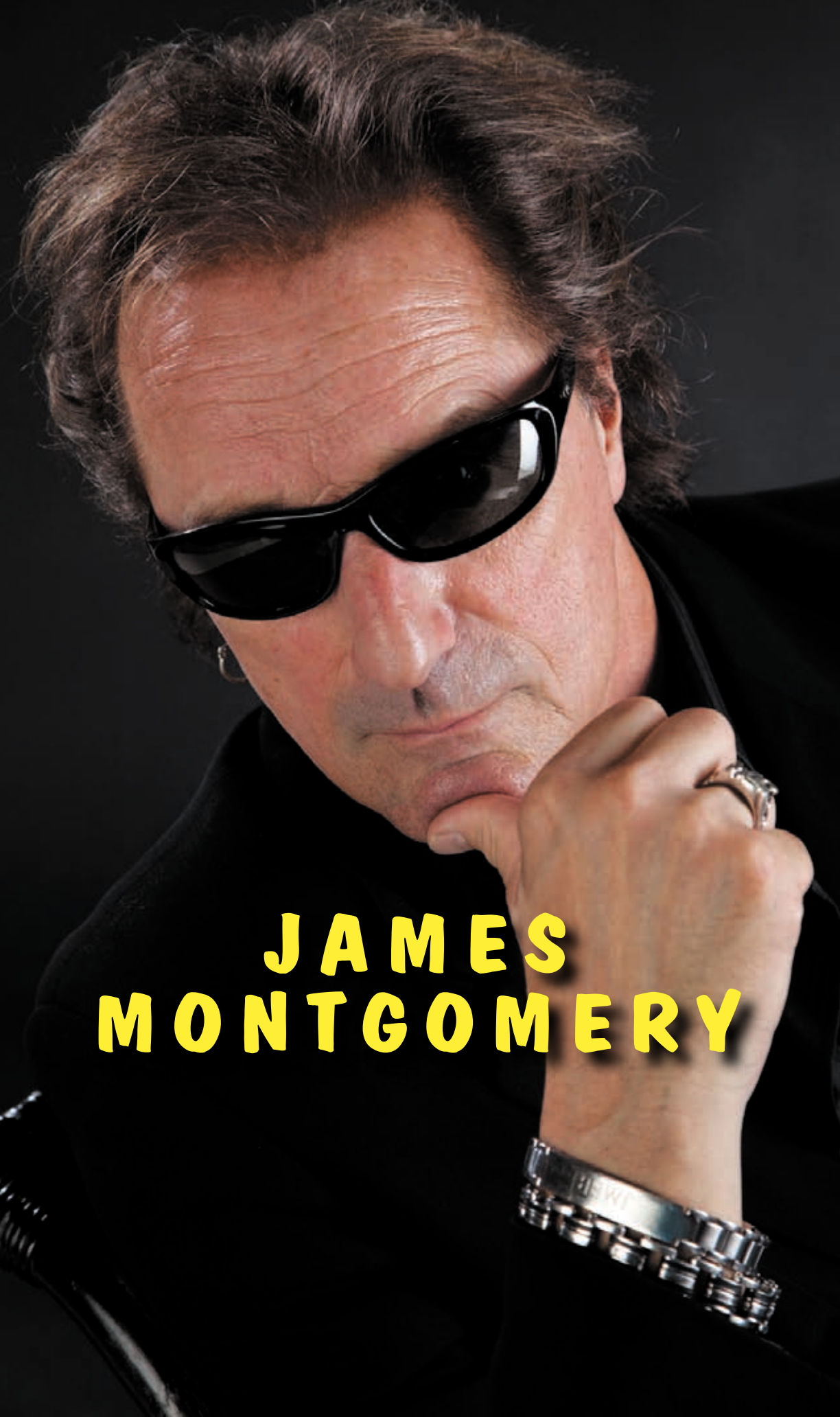
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JAMES MONTGOMERY

This Guy Has Got Kick a conversation with James Montgomery

By Ali Kaufman

James Montgomery is a man on the move....literally. I tried my best to keep up with his long legged strides as we traversed the private areas below Foxwoods Casino to a spot where we could have a conversation. He was here at the Atrium Lounge to kick off a series of Blues shows that will take the stage the first Thursday of each month. That night he and his band appeared with special guest Claudette King, BB's youngest daughter. The performance was especially poignant, as BB neared the end of his physical journey, Claudette shared her love for her Dad and her gifted voice with us. James will be inviting many of his talented friends to join him as the series progresses, next up, Thursday, June 4th with Joe Louis Walker and Paul Nelson. Surrounding himself with terrific talent has been a constant theme in James Montgomery's life, and his audiences have reaped the benefits. His collaborations have led to shows that people still talk about years later while continuing put out new music and stretch in new directions.

In every blues musicians life there are those "moments", one of Montgomery's first came when he saw Crispin Cioe, of the Uptown Horns, playing harmonica live. It resonated with James and set him on a path that he still travels today. Incidentally, Cioe was on stage with the band that night at the Atrium, another testament to the strength of the friendships Montgomery has made throughout the almost 50 years in the music business. Greats like, James Cotton, Junior Wells and John Lee Hooker, became not only inspiration, they became mentors and life long friends. You can hear their influence and the admiration James has for these masters in every show he does. You can also feel the affect early Rock & Roll had on him as a young kid, as James noted, "who could NOT be inspired by the Rolling Stones". As well as wanting to know who had strong influence on him, I wanted to ask about the many artists that he, himself has inspired. The Steven Tyler connection from the early days back in Boston is well known to many but you may be surprised by several of the talented musicians that have spent time as members of the James Montgomery Band, Jeff Golub, also of Rod Stewarts band, Jeff Pevar, member of Ray Charles and Crosby, Stills & Nash and songwriter with "Wind Beneath my Wings" to his credit and Billy Squire. Billy started his stint with the band one day after they had been sitting around listening to James complain about having to audition a series of guitarists. Billy chimed in and suggested he take the spot until they found

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a more permanent replacement, saving James from the long series of try outs. Thus began his run with the band that Squire later referred to as one of his favorite gigs ever. When pressed for a reason by Montgomery, Billy Squire responded that he alway knew he could show up and just play, a testament to James's reputation as a consummate professional. Currently James Montgomery's band consists of David Hull, bassist for the Joe Perry Project and sub for Aerosmith on 3 of their tours, George McGann on guitar and Jeff Thompson on Drums.

"As illustrious as Montgomery's history is, he is not resting on his laurels for a moment, just look to his latest release, Detroit to the Delta, an album that came to life after spending some time in the south with actor, longtime blues supporter and friend Morgan Freeman."

As extensive as the list of his former band members has been, it pales in comparison to the who's who of legends Montgomery has toured or sat in with. From BB to Bonnie Raitt, The Allman Brothers to Bruce Springsteen, it's as impressive as it is lengthy. Johnny Winter is a standout on the list as James called him "boss" for a number of years. The affection and admiration James had and still has for Johnny is palpable as he speaks of his long time friend. What's also evident is how as he begins to speak, he is careful to remind me that what he is telling me is already out there, he would never "out" anyone's private life. That being said, he emotionally recalled the night that Johnny Winter was honored at BB Kings in Time Square on the occasion of his 70th birthday. "When they handed Johnny the award that night for his induction into the NY Blues Hall of Fame, he cried.....when I joined his band all those years ago he would have been incapable of shedding a tear he was so messed up from the drugs he had been on." James went on to speak glowingly about Johnny's guitarist, manager and friend Paul Nelson who truly had Johnny's best interest at heart as he brought him back from the brink. The last years of Johnny's life saw a resurgence....I hesitate to say comeback because I know first hand that Johnny felt he never went away. On the evening of July 31st, Windham Arts is bringing the remaining members of Johnny's band back together with James filling the gaping hole left by Winter's absence, to headline the Once in a Blue Moon Jam. Guitarist Paul Nelson, Tommy Curiale on Drums and Scott Spray on Bass will take the stage on Willimantic's Jillson Square to celebrate the musical legacy and the Grammy winning last album of the Johnny Winter Band, "Step Back".

As illustrious as Montgomery's history is, he is not resting on his laurels for a moment, just look to his latest release, Detroit to the Delta, an album that came to life after spending some time in the south with actor, longtime blues supporter and friend Morgan Freeman. It had been quite a while since James had played anywhere south of Memphis and on that trip down to Clarksdale Mississippi, Freeman, owner of the much loved blues club Ground Zero, set things in motion. "You gotta remember this is where it all came from", Freeman reminded James with a wink and a nod. Thus he set out to create an album that honored the tradition but celebrated the future as well. "The idea was to include all the permutations of the blues since it started in the Delta." It doesn't hurt that the CD has some terrific musicians lending their voices to the well received offering. Johnny Winter, The Uptown Horns, Joey Kramer and Brad Whitford, both from Aerosmith plus Super Harp James Cotton.

I asked about my favorite song on the album, "Black Cadillac" and got **www.Swaves.com**



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this answer, "James Cotton used to play Porch Style and I played Jug Band style years back so we literally pulled a trash can in from outside the studio, set up and hit record. I counted it off and after a little falter, which we kept in there, we played it through, just that one time and that is the cut on the record....can't get more authentic than that!" I would agree, the song captures a playfulness combined with talent that can't be beat. While the legends on the album are impressive the most surprising guest might be DMC that collaborates with the James Montgomery Band on "Who Do You Love". A nod to the future of the genre and how it's come a long way baby. This pairing came about after the two met at a charity event of guitar smashing at a Hard Rock Cafe, proving you just never know when inspiration is going to strike.

Montgomery keeps an incredibly busy schedule filled with dates for public, private and charity events. One cause that he has championed since the 70's has been veteran affairs. He got involved at a time when supporting our troops was not popular, especially with many of the young people coming to see his shows. Not one to shy away from what he believes in he has partnered with several well known musicians, Bonnie Raitt being one, and veterans groups to show our returning service men and woman the respect they deserve. Most recently I caught him at the Infinity Music Hall in Hartford with D. A. Foster's Shaboo Allstars playing a fundraiser for Vessels for Veterans to an appreciative crowd. September will see the release of a live recording made at the Larcom Theater in Beverly Massachusetts, the proceeds will go to fund the foundation he started, "V is for Veteran's", a non-profit that is the culmination of years of experience working with veterans groups. "We want to find out where the need is greatest and the where the least amount of money is coming in...that's where we want to help. Paralyzed Vets of America is currently what I want to concentrate on. We also want to be able to go in and make a difference for individuals returning from service. If a vet needs a handicap ramp to make his home accessible, we want to be able to provide that...without having to cut through a ton of red tape" James explained.

There are so many sides to this multi-talented man, his mastery of the Harmonica is but one. James has served as president of the New England Blues Society, had a syndicated radio program for years and even wrote for Sound Waves at the beginning! Coming up on the horizon there is another album in the works to watch for. He kept his cards close to the vest on this one but I can tell you it will be out on Cleopatra Records and the work of recent Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Paul Butterfield's Blues Band will have a lot to do with it.

With all the famous friends, incredible experiences and myriad of honors James Montgomery has amassed over the years, he has kept a remarkable humility and kindness that is both endearing and magnetic. Chicks still dig him and guys still want to be him.....some things never change, thank goodness.

You can find dates and keep up with all the new music coming out on his website, especially of note on the shoreline is Montgomery's return to the Mystic Blues Festival on June 28th when he sits in with Christine Ohlman and the Knickerbocker All Stars

<http://www.jamesmontgomery.com>

also on Facebook and V is for Veterans.

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1:30-2:30 Lisa Marie and Johnny Juxo
2:30-3:00 Student Spotlight
3:00-4:00 Bad News Barnes and the Brethren of the Blues
4:00-4:30 Student Spotlight
4:30-5:30 Greg Sherrod Blues Band
5:30-6:00 Student Spotlight
6:00-7:00 Neal Vitullo and the Vipers w/ Dave Howard
7:30-8:30 Jay Stollman w/ special guest Debbie Davies
9:00-10:30 The Weight: Playing songs of The Band
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Sunday, June 28

12:00-1:00 Muzzy Horn (a.k.a. Geezer Young)
w/ Wooly Mammoth
(Gray Hallberg, Eric Lasai, Dan Jacobsen & Toby Halsey)
1:00-1:30 Student Spotlight
1:30-2:30 Paul Gabriel
2:30-3:00 Student Spotlight
3:00-4:00 Greg Piccolo and Heavy Juice
4:30-7:30 The Knickerbocker All Stars Featuring:
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It is really in the last 5 years, they have taken the programming up a notch with prominent National acts for their Summer Sunday Concert Series

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This unique venue in North Stonington has been bringing in national music acts for the past three years, and this year promises to be better than ever. With a Tanglewood feel (you can bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, and even your own tables), past year performers include Taj Mahal, Ben Taylor, Joan Osborne, and many others. Featuring folk, rock and blues, the Jonathan Edwards Winery is becoming a notable venue for music in the area. According to Erica Cyr, Director of Marketing & Events, "We're becoming a fly-in date for these artists, and then they continue touring." Concert goers can enjoy music, acres of vineyards in an open rural setting, and wine – of course. The stage is set up under a massive tent and concerts are held rain or shine.

On Saturday July 18, the winery hosts G. Love and Special Sauce (an alternative hip-hop band from Philadelphia with a laid back blues sound.) Their appearance marks a stop between shows at Riverfest in Florida, California Roots Music and Arts Festival, GoPro Mountain Games in Colorado, Brit Music and Arts Festival in Oregon, and the Peach Music Festival in Pennsylvania in support of their latest album "Sugar."

The winery's successful Summer Sunday Concert Series kicks off July 19 with Martin Sexton. Sexton's songs have been featured in many films and television shows including NBC's Scrubs, Parenthood and Showtime's series Brotherhood. He'll make a stop at the



winery while touring in support of his latest album "Mixtape of the Open Road." The actual singer-songwriter Jonathan Edwards (no relation), a folk-Americana icon from Virginia, has been releasing albums since 1971. He'll perform on July 26. Singer-songwriter and surfer Donavon Frankenreiter appears August 9 amidst a packed U.S. tour in support of his latest release "Start Livin'." Donavon has also toured worldwide and often with musician pal Jack Johnson. Local Mystic, CT favorites Barefoot Truth appear on August 16. This acoustic folk-rock band is known as a symbol of independent music success with over seven million spins on Pandora.

But that's not all the music planned at the winery. Thursday nights are "JE Cares Concerts," featuring regional bands where 100 percent of the

20 SOUND WAVES

proceeds go to local area non-profits. On May 17 their "Culinary Show-down" raised funds for New England Farms. Five restaurants from Rhode Island and five from Connecticut prepared a signature dish sourcing an ingredient from a local farm or purveyor. Ticket price included wine tasting, 10 small plate dishes (one from each restaurant represented) and live music. Additionally, their annual "Spring Festival" will be held on June 6 & 7. This is a two day festival with ticket price including wine tasting and logo glass, two bands each day, free activities (airbrush tattoo artist, face painting, barrel roll contest, etc.), with food trucks and gourmet food vendors. Kids are free. Their very popular annual "Lobster Bake" with the local band "Sugar" happens on July 12.

Tickets for the concerts and events are available now at the winery's web site, <http://www.jedwardswinery.com>, or by calling their office directly. The national act concerts usually sell out, though occasionally tickets can be purchased at the door. The winery is located at 74 Chester Main Road in North Stonington, CT.

- Sue Menhart





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HEARING AID



The Cash Box Kings "Holding Court" Blind Pig Records

The title of this disc says it all... "The Cash Box Kings, Holding Court." If they were the last blues band on earth, I wouldn't worry about the present or the future; I know they would keep the blues alive! This band consists of a cast of artists that are more than qualified to carry the torch for the blues! They are musicians who are well known in the blues circuit. Joe Nosek, on harmonica, percussion and backing vocals and Oscar Wilson on vocals and backing vocals are the main components of this group and principal writers. Nosek and Wilson composed one tune on this disc and there are six out of thirteen songs that were penned solely by Nosek.

Right out of the gate, The Cash Box Kings hit the right notes with "Monkey Man," written by Big Smokey Smothers. Flynn opens this song on guitar while Nosek and Joel Patterson embellish this tune with some fine solos! Wilson sings this one, declaring that he, "Ain't gonna be a monkey man no mo', an' follow you around everywhere you go!" Wilson sings again on track two. In "Download Blues," Wilson bemoans being cheated out of money from his royalties and songs; being ripped off in one way or the other. I know many musicians know about this personally and say, "Amen," to these sentiments!

The third cut, "Gotta Move Out To The Suburbs," is a song I could quote pretty much line-for-line, but I'll give you the gist of it. This Nosek composition proclaims that the old neighbor-

hood has become over-run with Starbucks and high-end housing where the projects used to be, and the low end got too high!

You may as well call track four a theme song. Another Nosek tune, "Cash Box Boogie" is actually a shuffle; a very danceable one at that! He even states, "I got all the women dancin' in the bar doing the cash box boogie!" Cut five is a cover written by John Lee Hooker. Wilson channels Hooker in, "Hobo Blues" without "copying" him. This is old school done right! The tempo comes out swinging in, "Baby Without You." In this Nosek tune, he makes it known that he's, "Only half a man," without his woman; even though he's got a brand new band and they're makin' the women scream. A fine harmonica solo by Nosek and Barrelhouse Chuck bangin' out the boogie in the background add a genuine touch.

Track seven, "Juju" takes the sound to NOLA. Trust me; you have to hear the holler Nosek does in his song. This woman clearly has a spell on him; "That girl is hotter than a solar flare!" Track eight is a cover of, "Everybody's Fishing" written by Willie Love. This some serious jump-blues sung by Wilson. The "call & response" vocal format makes you wanna join in! Jimmy Rogers penned track nine, "Out On The Road," a slow blues that gets down 'n' dirty! Track ten, penned by Nosek, "Sugar Pea" is a sweet shuffle about his sweet little thing. I envy the woman he wrote this for! The tempo comes up a notch on, "I Miss You Anne;" a flat-tire rhythm (think of the sound that makes; tha-thump, tha-thump) written by Nosek. The twelfth cut; a Honey Boy Allen tune is sung by Wilson. "I'm A Real Lover" is a list of sweet talkin pick-up lines set to music. If a guy came on to me like this, I might give him a shot. Come to think of it, I think that's how my husband hooked me, lol! The thirteenth and final track, "Quarter To Blue," is a lazy rhythm harmonica instrumental; bump 'n' grind style. Nosek really shines in this one. He plays his heart out!

Acting as a sort of courtroom clerk, the evidence is in and I declare that The Cash Box Kings are guilty of nothing but keeping the blues alive; case dismissed!

The entire "King"dome; Joe Nosek-harmonica, vocals (4, 6, 7, 10, 11), percussion (7), backing vocals (8); Oscar Wilson: vocals (1-3, 5, 8, 9, 10) backing vocals (4); Joel Patterson: lead guitar, backing vocals (2, 8); Mark Haines: drums (2, 3, 5-8), backing vocals (8); Beau Sample: upright bass (6-8, 10, 12, 13), electric bass (2, 3, 11), backing vocals (8); Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith: drums (1, 4, 9); Barrelhouse Chuck: piano, organ, backing vocals; Billy Flynn: rhythm guitar (1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11-13), lead guitar (1st solo, 1); Brad Ber: upright bass (1, 4, 9); Alex Hall percussion (7)

- Ms Marci



Sufjan Stevens "Carrie & Lowell" Asthmatic Kitty

There are few albums that have moved me as deeply as this recent release by Sufjan Stevens. It is a subtle masterpiece, a work of art, and a true reflection of the real struggles that we all deal with in our lives – love, loss, confusion, and trying to find one's direction in the world.

The first few times I listened, it was too quiet and slow for me to jump into and really enjoy. I kept hearing stellar reviews about it from other musicians who I respect, so I found some quiet time to sit and listen. It really paid off. It is a beautiful, sparse album decorated with quiet acoustic guitar and banjo, with Sufjan's airy voice dancing lightly over the top.

As light as the music is, the words carry some heavy weight. This is part of why the album is such a masterpiece. "Carrie & Lowell" is largely about the recent loss of his somewhat estranged mother. She was sparsely present in his life to begin with before dying of cancer in 2012, and the album is dotted with memories of her, both the pain and

the love he feels.

The way he articulates his feelings is so poignant and so real. That's one of the things I really appreciate in music – when an artist can produce not just a great sounding song but actually convey a sense of reality to you through the music. There's nothing fake, phony, or pretentious about this work. He seems to bare his soul naked to the world as he examines the pain in his life.

The whole album works together as a cohesive whole, but a few songs stand out to me as particularly strong. "Drawn to the Blood" has a dirge-like element to it with shards of light interspersed. Biblical references are woven throughout the album: "How? God of Elijah, How? As fire to the sun, tell me what I have done. How? Heart of a dragon, How? For my prayer has always been love; What did I do to deserve this?" Another brilliant song is "Fourth of July". He tenderly and sadly sings about his lost mother, remembering her as "my firefly" and "my little hawk", and reflecting on how we're all bound to die eventually. Rather than coming off as morbid, the gentle singing and playing just comes off as real tender feelings, and almost a numbness in the midst of puzzling thoughts and feelings.

The timing of this review is apropos, as many of us in the New England music community are feeling the loss of New Haven native Todd "Demse" Zullo, drummer and producer of The Alchemystics, a popular regional reggae band. The sudden loss of Demse and his best friend Budzy in a tragic car accident has left shock waves throughout the community, and somehow hearing this album and diving into those feelings has helped me cope with the atmosphere of loss that we're all coming through right now.

At this point, it stands at the top of my list for best album of the year. It's not party music, it's not beach music, but it is a real work of art. I recommend listening as I did – somewhere quiet and calm, listen deeply, and float down the gentle river of music Sufjan Stevens provides for you. After "Carrie & Lowell", appreciate your own life and the lives of the ones you love, for we all have to say goodbye sometime.

- Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music





Niecie “Wanted Woman”

Ride The Tiger Records

Hailing from Detroit, MI, Niecie is the lead vocalist and penned three tunes on this disc. Included in that list is the title track, “Wanted Woman.” This disc’s producer, Johnny Neel co-wrote eight of the ten tracks on this recording, including the title track. Johnny Neel, a former Allman Brothers keyboardist/songwriter, is a Nashville based musician.

This CD begins with, “Traffic Light,” a robust, rockin’ boogie-blues! It starts with a similar sound to ZZ Top’s, “La Grange,” but takes on a life of its own in the chorus, “Stuck here at this traffic light!” (great hook!) Let’s face it, we’ve ALL been there. Lines like, “Get off the freakin’ phone an’ drive,” and, “It don’t get no greener,” are often said in such situations. I’ve found myself yelling, “It’s the pedal on the right” a few times myself!

Track two, “You Wouldn’t Know It Now,” reveals a vocal quality in Niecie’s voice that is reminiscent of Janis Joplin in the way her voice decays at the end of a word or phrase. Many women emulate Joplin’s style with rasps and screams...sometimes a little too much. Niecie captures the legend’s style in a unique way. Nice organ solo by Neel.

Many blues/rock artists at one time or another project an evil or powerful image in a song, i.e. “Bad To The Bone” or Koko Taylor/Willie Dixon’s “Wang Dang Doodle.” Such is the case with the title track of this CD. Set in the key of Am, she proclaims that she’ll be, “On the run ‘till the judgment day comes!” The recording changes channels from the seductive to the ruckus on track four, “Crying For My Baby.” This song comes in crashing with confidence then settles in with a rockin’ shuffle! Niecie flaunts her high notes at the end of the chorus. Neel once again contributes a

fine solo. Chris Anderson provides slide guitar accents, too!

Throughout this CD the tracks switch blues rooted genres. The fifth cut, “Strange Way” is more rock, and track six, “Blues Ain’t Nothin’” takes you to L.O.L.A. Track seven, “Just Can’t Walk Away” is more soulful. I must say, the intro bears an eerie resemblance to Al Green’s, “Love and Happiness.” Cut eight is another Niecie composition. “Typical Chick” has southern blues/rock energy. She shows some of her risqué side as she declares, “You might ride, but this trip ain’t free. Pull out your wad an’ show it to me!”

Guitarist, Jon Conley gets his chance to do some serious shredding on the intro of track nine, Milton Campbell’s, “Mother Nature.” This cut, I was informed by Niecie herself, was written by Little Milton for Koko Taylor. Rock steady bass and drums form a foundation for Neel on keys and Jon Conley and Chris Anderson taking turns on guitar. Niecie delivers some bad-ass attitude in the vocals, “Don’t mess with Mother Nature, you’ll be sorry of you do!” The final track, “God’s Got This” gets funky with it with a spiritual message that, “If you got a problem, no matter what it is. It makes no difference ‘cause God’s got this!” A great “note” to end this recording on!

Band members; Niecie (vocals), Johnny Neel (keyboards, B3, percussion), Chris Anderson (guitar), Dennis Gulley (bass), Daryl Burgess (drums). Kim Morrison (backing vocals), Danny Hamelin/Jon Conley (additional guitars)

Composing artists; Johnny Neel penned track 1- 3, 5 – 8 & 10. Niecie co-wrote tracks 3, 8 & 10, Doug Jones co-wrote tracks 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, & 10, Randy Russell- co- wrote of tracks 1 & 7, Angie Thompson co- wrote track 2, Chris Anderson co- wrote track 5 and Harold Burrage penned track 4.

- Ms Marci



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COOKING WITH THE BLUES



By Luci & Jack Chaplin

We have had a busy start to the summer season with the 2015 Spring Food Stroll, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Bar Tour, and a surprise 90th birthday party for the beautiful Mary Venditti. I always love this time of year because everyone comes back to life. We love sitting outside of the restaurant and people watching at the end of a busy night, taking a walk down to Berry's Ice Cream to occasionally indulge, and, of course, getting deliveries of fresh fish from local fishermen. It seemed apropos, with the warm months upon us, to interview our friends at Bomster Scallops (Stonington, Connecticut) for our June Issue. When I first came to this area, all anyone talked about

were Bomster Scallops. "They're frozen, but they are still the best," they would say. I was skeptical but one day, I took a trip out to Stonington and met with Joe Bomster, one of the three Bomster brothers. He gave me a one-pound bag of scallops with specific instructions: thaw, sear, and enjoy. I took them home that night and cooked them like I normally do at the restaurant: lightly floured, seared, and served with a squeeze of lemon or tarter sauce. I can genuinely say that those scallops from Joe were the best scallops that I have ever had, and I've had a lot of scallops in my life. Here is one of my scallop recipes for you to enjoy: <https://youtu.be/9pP7ZjNQ3Io>

The thing with scallops is that you never know what you're getting. Most scallops are soaked in sodium tripolyphosphate, which is a preservative. These scallops are commonly referred to as "wet scallops" but the issue with wet scallops is that it is hard to get a good sear off of them because they are so saturated with water and preservatives. I oftentimes have people tell me that they are allergic to scallops but I would wager that they are, in reality, allergic to the sodium tripolyphosphate that most scallops are soaked in. The difference with Bomster Scallops is that they are harvested and shucked within an hour of being caught. They are then vacuum-packed and frozen, which ensures the freshness of each scallop. When you sear Bomster Scallops, you get a beautiful sear on them because they aren't loaded with water, but rather, with meat; they never stick to the bottom of the pan.

Over the years, I have developed a great relationship with the Bomsters. They are easily some of the most down-to-earth people that I have ever met. They are well known in their community and have created an incredible name for themselves as the best scallopers in this area. In my experience, I have always found that scallops are either hit or miss but Bomster Scallops are the exception. I never worry about the quality of scallops that they are bringing me, which brings me the greatest peace of mind. They are dedicated to their trade, and consistently deliver the highest quality product

available. Luci and I took a trip down to Stonington last week to talk with Bill and Joe about their experience running the family business. We also had the brief pleasure of meeting Mr. Bomster himself and his beautiful German Shorthaired Pointer, Shiloh.

Jack: Thank you both for meeting with us today. As second-generation scallopers, what has your experience with the family business been like? How did your dad get into this industry?

Bill: My dad began as an oysterman out of New Haven. He was running oyster boats by the time he was 19 years old and then progressed into scalloping. The business was then passed down through the generations. I started going out on overnight fishing trips well before I graduated high school but once I graduated, I started working full time on the boat. My brother Joe also spent his fair share of time out on the boat but he and I both tend to stay on land these days; we leave the seafaring to our brother, Mike. He captains the boat now, which he relishes. When we were all fishing together, we used to go out for 12 days, come in on the 13th day, unload, clean the boat, and then go back out again. At that time, it was a real struggle; we had to do everything ourselves, but then the fishing started to get better and better and our business grew. It was at that point that we bought our second boat, the Stonington Jo. These days, we go out with a crew of seven people: a captain, a captain's mate, a cook, and four fishermen. When they get scallops in, they all take turns shucking. They work eight hours on and then four hours off. A lot of times when they're shucking, they'll work 20-hour days but they can usually bring in 2,000 pounds of scallops on those days.

Jack: What do you think of the moratorium on scalloping? Is it improving the grounds?

Continued Page 26

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Bill: The way I see it, even though we are fishing less, we are catching more. We still have a good amount of work but we are now down to 30 days of open-bottom fishing per year. Each boat has 30 open-bottom days and three closed area trips each year. The open bottom days tend to bring a couple thousand pounds a day, but it all depends on where you go and how you use them. Ultimately, we aren't getting any younger, so this moratorium actually forces us to slow down which is never a bad thing.

Jack: Do you outsource to a lot of local businesses?

Joe: We like to keep it local by only selling to local restaurants like you at Daddy Jack's and Chaplin's, and to a few other distributors and farmer's markets like Hope Street Farmer's Market (Providence, Rhode Island) and Hope Artist Farmer's Market (Pawtucket, Rhode Island). We also have our stand here at Bomster Scallops, which is open until 9:00 every night during the summer. Every morning we stock the coolers with scallops, chowder, and whatever else is fresh: flounder filets, swordfish, haddock filets, tuna steaks, calamari rings. People are welcomed to come and pick up as much seafood as they want—we run on the honor system. Every Saturday during the summer, we cook up some scallops for everyone at the Stonington Village Farmer's Market (9:00 AM – Noon). There's nothing wrong with scallops for breakfast!

Jack: Are you tired of eating scallops yet? What other types of seafood do you like to eat?

Bill: I could never get sick of scallops. When you are getting them this fresh, there is no greater taste in the world. My wife keeps it really simple—she pan sears them with garlic and lemon. I can't get enough of them! We also really like red shrimp. My favorite way to eat them is to take them out of their shell, leave the tail on, and then sauté them with garlic, olive oil, and some crispy bread. It is tremendous!

Joe: I love red shrimp too. I tend to think that deep-water shrimp are the most delicate. They live in 200 fathoms of water. To give you perspective, we usually fish for scallops in 20-40 fathoms. When you get about 150 fathoms deep, it goes straight down at a 45-degree angle. Those red shrimp live right on that drop-off, 1,200 feet down. It amazes me that anything is even capable of living that far down! As far as other seafood goes, I have always loved eating lobster and clams. As Bill said, there is no greater taste than fresh seafood, right off the boat. It's hard work, but we love this business.

After our interview, Luci picked up a one-pound bag of scallops and seared them up at home for dinner. She lightly floured them, seared them on high heat, and then garnished them with fresh squeezed lemon. She said that they were the best scallops, bar none. We always serve Bomster Scallops at Daddy Jack's so if you're curious, come visit us at 181 Bank Street (New London, Connecticut) or take a trip over to Bomster Scallops! They are well worth the trip.

Until next month,
Jack & Luci



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Taste of Mystic Blends Food and Live Music at New Location

The Taste of Mystic promises a much more energetic and festive event than past years as it moves from downtown Mystic to the Olde Mistick Village, and takes place in June instead of September. It's as much a music festival as it is a food festival this year. And the band lineup proves it.

On Friday June 12, the Northeast's premier country rock band "Branded" starts the music off at 5pm. At 7:30pm local powerhouse disco, funk, hip-hop, soul, and R&B band "Sugar" performs.

On Saturday June 13, the Bob Marley tribute band "Hope Road" will showcase their 10-piece reggae ensemble at 11:30am. Then at 2pm legendary guitarist and front man Neil Vitullo brings his band "Neil and the Vipers" featuring blues, rockabilly, R & B, Surf and American roots rock. Vitullo has shared the stage with the likes of Roy Buchanan, B.B. King, Albert Collins, Jimmie Vaughan, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Willie Dixon, Bonnie Raitt, Robert Plant, and Johnny Copeland. At 5pm, regional blues-rockers the "Sue Menhart Band" perform. Singer-songwriter and guitarist Menhart has drawn comparisons to Bonnie Raitt, Susan Tedeschi, Janis Joplin, Lucinda Williams, Diana Krall and Adele. At 7:30pm, don't miss the impeccable Sugar Ray & The Bluetones. Ray and the band have been bringing Chicago-style blues to the world for 35 years and have performed on other artists' recordings including Hubert Sumlin, John Hammond, Johnny Winter, Otis Grand, Pinetop Perkins, The Mannish Boys, Sugaray Rayford, Debbie Davies, Duke Robillard, and Ronnie Earl.

On Sunday June 14, local dance and party band "Rock-n-Soul Review" take the stage at 11:30am featuring Motown, swing, pop, Latin and rock-n-roll. Then to close out the festival, local pop rockers "Styff Kitty" perform.

Logistically, a 60'x170' big top-type tent will house a stage for the bands and will be split in half between a beer and wine garden with tables for dining, and the other half with a family fun area and room for dancing. Food vendors will be stationed around the tent so everyone, including vendors, volunteers, music listeners and tasters can all enjoy the music, all weekend long. There are already over 120 volunteers signed on for the event. The Taste of Mystic is rain or shine. There will be plenty of parking at the Olde Mistick Village and at locations around the area. Passersby will be able to see the tent right off the highway. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit the Mystic YMCA and the Mystic Aquarium. Entrance to the entire event is FREE with food tickets sold for \$1. The max vendors can charge for a "taste" is 5 tickets. Beer and wine will also be sold separately.

The owner of the Olde Mistick Village, Joyce Olson Resnikoff, had this to say about the event: "Music lifts the soul and fills our lives with love and happiness. I want you all to come and enjoy all the different types of music. There will be something for everyone to enjoy."

Hours for the Taste of Mystic are: Friday 5-10pm, Saturday 11am-10pm, and Sunday 11am-5pm. The Olde Mistick Village is located at 27 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, CT. The web site for the event is:

www.tasteofmystic.com.

- Sue Menhart
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