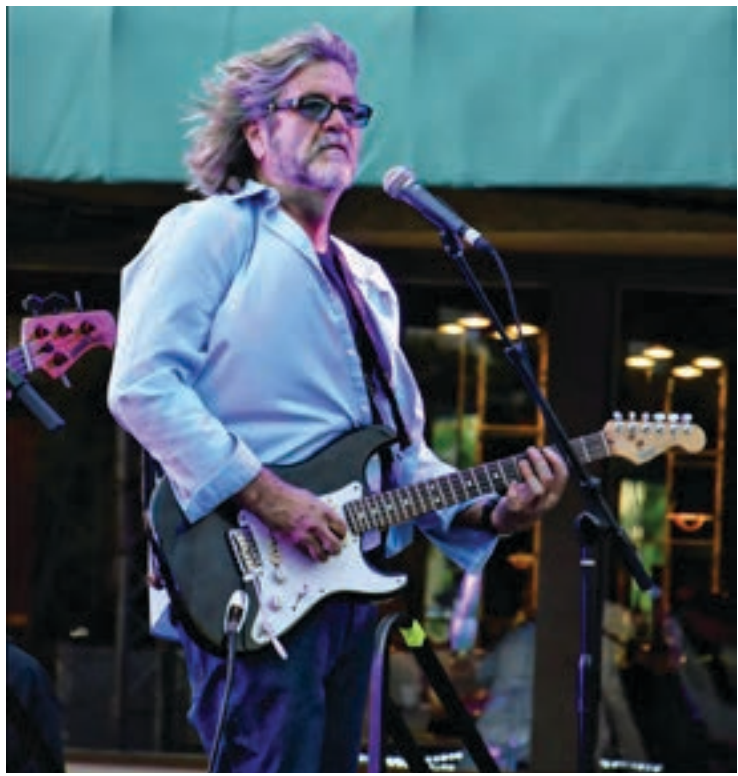


# Live music at Town Hall

By Sharon K. Sobotta



Jeff Tamelier

Photo provided

If you've got a hankering for some live music but the idea of traveling to the city or even a bar is not quite what you're in the mood for, Peter Sabine is curating and producing what may be just the thing for you, as he brings some concerts back to the Town Hall Theatre. The concerts kicked off on Nov. 3 and the next one, featuring The Sunday Paper, is just days away on Sunday, Nov. 12.

Sabine says that outside of a few concerts that happen in

the summer and in early fall during the Lafayette Art & Wine festival, there's very little live music during fall and winter. "The Town Hall Theatre is the perfect venue to host live music events because it's centrally located," Sabine says. On top of that, he says, the theatre's rich history makes it perfect. "The theatre capacity is 180, which makes it large enough for ticket sale proceeds to cover the event and the cost of top-notch musicians."

Sabine is particularly ex-

cited for The Sunday Paper's performance because, he says, it's been a long time coming. It'll represent their first concert since March 2020, at which time they were the featured final performance at a Martinez venue called Armando's. "This is their come-back performance to showcase the phenomenal talent of the musicians."

Sabine describes The Sunday Paper as a musical force backed by tight arrangements by powerful musicians with a special Bay Area Funk style. The group includes and has included the likes of members of Tower of Power, Cold Blood, Sly & The Family Stone, Santana and Herbie Hancock, guitarist Jeff Tamelier, keyboardist Tony Stead, bass player David Margen, drummer T Moran, saxophonist Daniel Casares, trumpet player Mike Olmos, and vocalists Tony Lindsay and Alex Ligertwood.

For guitarist Jeff Tamelier, playing in Lafayette at the Town Hall Theatre is a homecoming of sorts. "Lafayette is where I learned to play music," Tamelier recalls. "We moved from San Francisco to Lafayette in 1964. I went to Burton Valley Elementary School, Fairview Middle School and Acalanes High School. I'm very sentimental about Lafayette. I have a lot of great memories here."

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Tamelier describes the band's music as "all over the map," but says there will be some special musical surprises for partakers. "We play rock, funk, fusion and we have two former Santana vocalists joining us so you'll get some Latin rock as well. The crowd can definitely get their groove on."

Although Tamelier is in his early 60s, he says his fiery passion is still burning strong. "I've been playing with some of these guys for 50 years. I'm still trying to play as often as

possible, whether it's live or making records," he says. "I'm very grateful that people still come out and watch us play and now kids and grandkids come too."

The music of the group streams on all major platforms. The live concert will be at Lafayette's very own Town Hall Theatre at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. For more information about this and other plays, performances and educational opportunities, visit townhalltheatre.com.

# As others see us

By Alison Burns

I recently read about a fellow expat who, despite having lived in Orinda five times longer than I have, still feels that she is regarded as a foreigner. Whilst in no way wishing to belittle her sentiments, I'd like to reassure Orindans – with just one exception – that my own experience has always been entirely different.

I first moved to the U.S. in the mid-70s, three days after my wedding (my husband, already working in Detroit, had told his employers he had a dentist appointment around the Fourth of July ... but hopped onto a London-bound plane instead).

America was a different country back in 1975 – the dust was still settling from the fall of Saigon, the grass on the White House South Lawn, flattened by Nixon's departing helicopter the previous August, had finally

sprung back, and beach attendance all across the U.S., after the release of "Jaws," had plummeted to unprecedented numbers.

Americans were delighted with these young English newlyweds who had suddenly turned up in their midst.

My Michigan years found me hovering at many a deli counter while I listened to some man 30 years my senior waxing lyrical about his escapades in wartime England. We met their kind again on flights home to England as they rampaged up and down the aisle, thrilled as kids to be going back to military reunions. I hope that all those faraway places with strange sounding names were every bit as good as they remembered. And that not too many of their buddies were missing.

Michiganders who'd never met any Brits used to ask us to

"say something English" and we'd always reply (in magisterial tones) "this is the 9 o'clock news." Their questions were so unvaried that we joked we should hold up boards with phrases already printed on them, like "I'm from Surrey, he's from Yorkshire," "since 1975," and "yes, we love it here."

Almost 50 years after leaving Britain, I still have the accent, despite having lived in several other countries along the way. And maybe that's not such a bad thing since I've been told that anyone with an English accent appears at least 25% more intelligent than your average American. Not true!

I have never felt that other people's enquiries about my birthplace are intrusive or ill-mannered, knowing that their interest is borne out of genuine curiosity and enthusiasm: inno-

cence rather than guile. Nor have I ever considered those questions to be confrontational (except for that one exception). In fact it's rather endearing.

I, in my turn, love to pinpoint the subtleties of American accents, having lived not only in the Midwest, but also the East coast, South Carolina and California.

And that one exception when a stranger yelled at me to go back to my own country? It happened one Friday afternoon earlier this year, when I opened my front door to insistent bell-ringing and found a man videoing me, laughing maniacally and informing me it was 5 p.m.

When you're a guest in someone else's country, you're very careful to abide by the rules – I have the Orinda Noise Ordinance emblazoned on my heart – but I felt it best not to argue. He obviously didn't like

the sound of chainsaws. Neither do I, but since I had a massive live oak (rather an oxymoronic term at that stage) straddling both my house and cottage roofs, and its three conjoined tree trunks hovering on the brink of crashing down at any moment, I was anxious to get the problem solved before 6 p.m. Personally, I'd think twice about including a chainsaw-wielding tree feller in my abusive rant, but our uninvited guest continued his tirade, totally unaware of the foolhardiness of recording every offensive word and gesture on his phone. Apparently, I had to go back to where I came from, "back to the United Kingdom," because "nobody wants you here."

But as I told him: I'm not going anywhere, thanks. I like it here.

# CAIFF begins Nov. 9 in Orinda

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The first double feature couples the documentary "Sean Connery vs. James Bond" with "The Hill," Connery's favorite film. The second double feature combines the documentary about Maurice Chevalier, "A Straw Hat in Hollywood" with the movie "Gigi" featuring Leslie Caron with Chevalier. The third double feature connects two documentaries that are extraordinary tales of two women, one a very young Mongolian girl who wants to become an Eagle Huntress, while the other is an accomplished mountaineer in search of meaning in "Beyond

the Summit."

Music will also be heard during the festival. "Il Boemo," a Czech movie in Italian, tells the true story of Czech composer Josef Mysliveček in 18th century Venice. The festival director said that since "Amadeus" he had not seen a movie like this. "Piano Forte" is set during the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw where the best young pianists from around the world showcase their virtuosic talent. The Israeli movie "Karaoke" is a bittersweet comedy about a couple in their late 60s who meet a glamorous neighbor who is going to shake their world. The projection will

be followed by a karaoke experience offered to the movie goers in the Orinda Theatre lobby. Finally, in the musical genre, the festival will once again present a marvelous singalong version of "Grease." Lubliner says that this is going to be an annual event as people really enjoy it. Last year, 200 to 300 attended, singing -- and some even dancing.

Several films from France are presented at the festival. The opening night features "Driving Madeleine," a true treasure of a movie featuring French singer and actress Line Renaud, now 94 years old, playing the role of 92-year-old Madeleine

who is driven from the house she loves to a retirement community where she will end her life. The entire movie is about the taxi drive that will take unexpected turns down memory lane. The taxi driver is played by Dany Boone, who is in real life Renaud's spiritual son. Because of Renaud's age, and because of her long life in show business and fighting for feminist causes, this film has the feel of a testament; a sweet and tender farewell to the public she loved and who loved her so much.

Another great film from France will be shown during the festival, "Full Time," a poignant

thriller with Laure Calamy about a hard-working woman trying to make her way in a society that is very harsh to the disenfranchised. It is one of the amazing portraits of women presented in the festival along with "LA Civil" taking place in Mexico and "Gyeong-ah's Daughter" from South Korea.

There are many other fantastic films to be seen during the eight days of the festival. You can get a pass for the entire festival, or part of it, or also to buy individual tickets. The program is available online at www.caiff.org and includes trailers for all the films as well as links to buy tickets.

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆ **Not to be missed** ◆ **Not to be missed** ◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

**Other ... continued**

**Join the community** for the 2nd Annual Lafayette Community Sunrise Stroll on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 8 a.m. Organized by everyday citizens, this casual, walk-at-your-own-risk, family-friendly walk is a great way to start the day, get in your steps and enjoy the beauty of the Lafayette Reservoir. The walk starts at 8 a.m. on the path across from the gate house. Donuts and coffee will be served courtesy of local Dunkin' owner and Lafayette resident Matt Cobo. Dogs on leash, bicycles, and scooters are also welcome during this time of day according to EBMUD and the Lafayette Reservoir. If you think you will be joining, especially to ensure plenty of donuts, please go to

bit.ly/SunriseStroll2023

**Hospice East Bay** is offering their workshop Coping with Grief During the Holidays on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 10-11:30 a.m. In-person option: Large Community Room, Pleasant Hill City Hill, 100 Gregory Lane (pre-registration requested); Virtual option: Please pre-register by Wednesday, Nov. 15. Pre-register at CommissionOnAging@pleasanthillca.org or by calling Juanita Davalos (925)671-5283. Walk-ins will be accommodated on a space available basis.

**The Lafayette Hillside Memorial Service and Conservation Opportunity** to paint, replace fallen crosses and other symbols, and generally spruce up the site. This

is a chance to gather with the community, honor the fallen, and with your time and energy acknowledge the tragic costs of war. The event will be on Veterans Day, Saturday Nov. 11 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Open to volunteers 12 years or older. Minors must be accompanied by chaperones (4 volunteers per 1 adult) Wear old clothes, long pants, long sleeves, and close-toed shoes. Participants will have to fill out a waiver required at check-in. For more information email info@lafayettehillside.com

**Community Thanksgiving Breakfast.** On Thursday, Nov. 16 from 7-8:30 a.m. at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The

Lafayette Chamber invites everyone to all come together to share in a breakfast and enjoy the special speakers. Michael Collier, Co President of the Las Trampas Board of Directors will present Las Trampas, Success Beyond Disability. Invocation by Rev. Jimmy Macalinalao, St. Perpetua Church. Benediction by Rev. Stephen M. Siproth, Rector, St. Anselm's Episcopal Church. Music by Wendy Tamis, Harpist. Tickets are \$40 each; table of 8 for \$300. Registration required, no walk-ups. Tickets will only be available until 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10 unless sold out prior to this date. This is an indoor event, maximum 150 persons. Catering by Sunrise Bistro. Register at https://lafayettechamber.org/breakfast.

**Garden**

**Lafayette Garden Club** monthly meeting begins on Nov. 9 at 9:30 a.m. for social time and nibbles before a short business meeting at 10 a.m. This week's guest speaker is Marissa Zoeteway, who is the owner of The Wild Fleur Company based in Concord. Marissa is committed to sourcing sustainable, locally grown flowers. She will prepare a holiday wreath, arrangements and a tablescape with a Thanksgiving and Christmas theme. The meeting takes place at the Lafayette Veterans Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. It is free to attend, and guests are welcomed. Please visit www.lafayettegardenclub.com for more information.