From Brian Tottenham
AMP Board Member

December 2021
An Island in a Valley
“It’s not down on a map. True places never are.”
I started playing shows with Captain Fathom for people other than my parents (through the basement floor) in the early 90s, starting with some intimidating open mics in Mt Vernon and Bellingham. It was new, unfamiliar, and I was scared to death. But in the end it was necessary. Growth comes from outside influence and challenges.
The Anacortes scene has as much to do with those outside of it as in.
In our case it was playing Skagit Valley shows in Mount Vernon, Hamilton, Sedro, farm fields on a flatbed trailer. And of course, the Rexville Grange, which was the heart of the all-ages scene with bands Mytslplk, Prozac Staple, Yukon Stove. Or Bellingham area shows with Krusters Kronomid.
Before that, it was Beat Happening bringing great bands from far-off lands to our little island. (The Screaming Trees at the Depot!) And later, What the Heck Fest and the Department of Safety. All bringing a cline of influence to the scene.
And the best part is our homegrown music-makers going out into the world to influence others.
So when you see an unknown band come to town... support them, because they are necessary to continue the exchange and growth.

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More Than Just Music

by Clarity Miller

Winter is not my friend. I’d prefer to sleep through the whole season and be woken up by the soft kiss of a daffodil. But if I did that I’d miss one of my favorite annual events, AMP’s Yule Bizarre!

Yule Bizarre (yes it’s intentionally spelled that way) proclaims that winter is here and it has brought us merriment in the form of music. Eight musical acts will delight us with holiday anthems and original songs. Acts are from Anacortes and the Skagit Valley, plus one from Lopez Island.

Yule is more than just music though. We have a bake sale with goodies of all kinds, coffee from Pelican Bay Bookstore & Coffeehouse, and beer and wine from Anacortes Brewery.

There will be several craft booths featuring wares by local makers, so you can do some last minute holiday shopping between musical sets.

And last but not least, there is an incredible raffle to raise money for AMP’s education programs. We have three great prize packages and tickets are $15. They can be purchased in advance at Pelican Bay Books or at the event.

TUSCAN HARPER

Tuscan is AHS Senior this year. His musical focus has always been in classical piano, so for his Yule performance he’ll be dazzling us with some Romanian Holiday music.

SAVANNA WOODS

Savanna Woods, recently on NBC’s The Voice, is a singer-songwriter from Stanwood, WA who has been writing and performing her entire life all over the PNW, and in her many travels around Europe.

DEREK EISEL & BOBBI JO BLESSINGS

Derek Eisel is a farmer and musician on Lopez Island. He sings original songs and plays guitar with bass player Pablo Paz regularly on Lopez Island, Seattle and surrounding areas.

Known as Minnesota’s Hot Dish, Bobbi Jo Blessings brings the Midwest charm in full force. She has been captivating audiences for almost 10 years with her penchant for live singing, bad choreography, and bold floral prints.

GEMS & GENIES

Jade Carter, John Harrison, Liam Poor, Adam Greenberg and Noah Masten are Gems & Genies. A group of songwriters, multi-instrumentalists and vocalists offering a feast of sound in an inexplicable amalgamation of styles.

The Enthusiasts

Juels Avalon and our very own senator Liz Lovelett sing sweet harmonies over mid-century inspired hard rock played by Andrew Velin, Tony Vecchione, Rob Shapiro and Blind Lemon Pledge.

TRIPPING UPSTAIRS

A rock trio from Anacortes, comprised of drummer Jacob Fry, bassist/keyboards Kellen Murphy, and guitarist Rylan Yonkman. Following a brief hiatus, the 2021 AMP Yule Bizarre will be their first live show in nearly a year.

The Mosstones

Juels Avalon and our very own senator Liz Lovelett sing sweet harmonies over mid-century inspired hard rock played by Andrew Velin, Tony Vecchione, Rob Shapiro and Blind Lemon Pledge.

TURN & TALK

Carole Leander and Tina Martin head up the Anacortes School District band Turn and Talk for a holiday set you won’t want to miss! Beloved teachers you may have never known were rock stars. They know music!

THE ENTHUSIASTS

The Enthusiasts! Feet stomping, homemade and heartfelt rock and roll, celebrating the absurd beauty of life. Check out their recently released album, Old Home New Home, at The Business in downtown Anacortes.

PEARL TOTTENHAM

Writer and singer of true songs, Pearl Tottenham is an Olympia-based, Anacortes-born and raised indie pop singer songwriter.

Come one, come all, to the glorious Yule Bizarre.
Yule Bizarre Raffle

**Prize 1**
- Crosley velvet turntable
- 6 new pieces of vinyl curated and donated by The Business
- AMP hat
- $50 gift card for Village Pizza/Wheelhouse

**Prize 2**
- Kala Surf concert ukulele
- Denim soft uke case
- Instructional book
- Felt uke picks
- $50 gift card for Village Pizza/Wheelhouse

**Prize 3**
- Propane fire pit
- 2 Hydroflask mugs
- Sherpa throw blanket
- S'mores and cocoa supplies
- Metal roasting forks
- $50 gift card for Village Pizza/Wheelhouse

Saturday, December 18

- You can purchase the tickets any time during regular business hours at Pelican Bay Books until Dec 18th. Tickets may also be purchased at the event until 8:00 pm.
- The proceeds will go toward funding AMP’s upcoming youth-centered educational programs. Funds will help pay instructors, space rental, supplies, and provide scholarships.
- The drawing will take place on December 18th at our annual Yule Bizarre at the Depot.

**Tickets $15**

Sponsored by: Village Pizza, The Business, Salt and Vine, Ace Hardware, Barrett Financial, Schaffner Pharmacy
December

Cover Artist

Yma Lovelett

Yma Lovelett is a 6th generation Anacortesian and a 9th grader at Anacortes High School. Her talent for art has been evident since she was a little one. She says, “I’ve been creating art since I could hold a pencil.” Her favorite subjects to draw are living things, and she admires the work of Yoshitomo Nara and Zdzislaw Beksinski. She hopes to have a career in art, and we are all rooting for her.

Live Music Calendar

December 2021

**Wednesday, December 1**
- 6:00 PM: RockFish Grill
- Children of the Blues
  - Album Release Party
  - Blues Fusion
  - All Ages

**Thursday, December 2**
- 8:30 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Open Mic
  - Local Talent
  - 21+

**Friday, December 3**
- 6:00 PM: Anacortes Chamber of Commerce
  - Anacortes High School Choir
  - Coastal Christmas Tree Lighting
  - Holiday Carols
  - All Ages

**Saturday, December 4**
- 6:00 PM: RockFish Grill
  - Harp Attack
  - w/ Mark Dufrense Band
  - Blues Harp
  - All Ages

**Tuesday, December 7**
- 6:00 PM: Farmstrong Brewery
  - Larry & Diane
  - Country Blues
  - All Ages

**Thursday, December 9**
- 8:30 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Open Mic
  - Local Talent
  - 21+

**Sunday, December 12**
- 5:00 PM: Lincoln Theater
  - Magical Strings
  - Celtic Yuletide
  - All Ages

**Tuesday, December 14**
- 6:00 PM: Farmstrong Brewery
  - Nathaniel Talbot
  - Northwest Folk
  - All Ages

**Wednesday, December 15**
- 6:00 PM: RockFish Grill
  - Joan Penny
  - Jazz Vocals
  - All Ages

**Thursday, December 16**
- 8:00 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Open Mic
  - Local Talent
  - 21+

**Saturday, December 18**
- 7:30 PM: The Depot
  - Rockin’ Yule Bizarre
  - AMP Holiday Showcase
  - Seasonal Tunes
  - All Ages
  - RockFish Grill
  - Gretta Matassa
  - Jazz Vocals
  - All Ages

**Sunday, December 19**
- 6:00 PM: Farmstrong Brewery
  - Michael Bonds
  - Country
  - All Ages

**Wednesday, December 23**
- 6:00 PM: RockFish Grill
- Janett West
  - Rich Vocals
  - All Ages

**Thursday, December 23**
- 8:30 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Open Mic
  - Local Talent
  - 21+

**Tuesday, December 28**
- 6:00 PM: Farmstrong Brewery
  - Sandy Rowe
  - Folk Americana
  - All Ages

**Thursday, December 30**
- 8:30 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Doug Schmude
  - Americana
  - All Ages

**Friday, December 31**
- 10:00 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Min Far
  - Psychedelic
  - 21+

**Sunday, December 12**
- 3:00 PM: Lincoln Theater
  - Magical Strings
  - Celtic Yuletide
  - All Ages

**Wednesday, December 21**
- 6:00 PM: Farmstrong Brewery
  - Michael Bonds
  - Country
  - All Ages

**Thursday, December 23**
- 8:30 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Open Mic
  - Local Talent
  - 21+

**Saturday, December 31**
- 10:00 PM: Brown Lantern Tavern
  - Min Far
  - Psychedelic
  - 21+
Red Snapper Gifts
An Anacortes Institution
by Joel Askey

For those with a love of the quirky and arcane, the Red Snapper Gift Shop at 501 Commercial Avenue, is a treasured retail institution. The offbeat humor reflected in the merchandise is a direct extension of the personality of Mugsy Duryee, the owner of Red Snapper for almost 30 years. Ms. Duryee has long been a champion of local music performance in and around her establishment and is a financial supporter of the Anacortes Music Project. Show Chime recently spoke with Mugsy via phone from her north Guemes Island home.

What was your original location when you opened the business?

We started at 402 Commercial, in the Platt building, the old bank building. I had been working at Dewey, Inkum, and Howe. When they vacated, Linda Porter and I started the Red Snapper.

Linda was my original partner, we started it in 1992. She passed away in 2003, which was very sad. In 2006, we moved up to 501. Linda was a fabric designer—she had an art background. We thought that there was something missing in Anacortes.

We opened on April Fool’s Day so that everybody would have fun. We really believe in people coming in and enjoying their time. This next April Fool’s is our 30th anniversary. Moving down to 501 was a good move for us. Johnny Picasso has one half and we have the other half.

How did you get started and how did you choose the name Red Snapper?

Linda had gone out and caught a red snapper - she put it on a piece of paper and printed it. She actually inked the fish, put it on paper and that became our logo. For the first couple of weeks, people called to ask what was the fresh fish for the day. They thought we were a restaurant.

Your store has a great, fun vibe to it. What are the most frequent comments made by visitors?

[Tourists] absolutely love it. The people that come for the Arts and Crafts Festival and Oyster Run come back for Christmas stocking stuffers. We do our best month in December. They come back for this great experience at Christmas. They all make a point of coming back as repeat customers. Kids come in and say “Can I work here?”.

The parents and grandparents have stories of things they have bought at Red Snapper.

What gift ideas are looking popular this year?

We’ve added socks for kids, men, and women. We have the best supply of socks this year. Funny socks, wool socks.

We also have cards, books, and journals. The puzzle industry has had a good year or two during Covid because everyone is staying home. We have wonderful puzzles. Most are jigsaw, or labyrinth puzzles. There are even scratch ‘n sniff puzzles!

We also have some great local calendars.

What else do you plan on featuring this holiday season?

We have the old-fashioned games, like Yahtzee. Our games are limited, like card games and cribbage.

Red Snapper has Ray Troll shirts. He’s out of Alaska. He has a following you wouldn’t believe. All of them are fish related, very humorous. He has a great sense of humor.

Thank you for supporting AMP. What drew you into partnership with the local music scene?

If a kids group from high school wanted to play outside, we would let them. Phil Elverum and Karl Blau started the What the Heck Fest. All the musicians would swing by the Red Snapper. I was not a musician but we loved music. If anyone wanted to come by and play music they could. There was always music playing in the store. I’ve always loved the music scene in Anacortes.

Tell us your hours for holiday shoppers.

We’ll be open in December from Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-3. We will be closed on Mondays.

The Red Snapper is at 501 Commercial Avenue, and can also be found on Facebook as redsnappergifts.
Anyone who has ever gotten lost in the liner notes knows that reading the lyrics of a song can give you a whole new perspective on a band or musician. Here we highlight the words of one song. Each piece of writing featured here has a unique Anacortes connection.

This year we have been featuring lyrics from AMP’s forthcoming release, Terribly Quiet, a collection of songs from women of Fidalgo Island that came out of this turbulent year. For December we have lyrics from Neesha Blanchett, the Anacortes duo Sarah Wight and Mia Starner.

**Maybe Things’ll Be The Same**
by Neesha Blanchett

The whale watchers watched all day  
The waves were strong and crashed on deck  
And with no land in sight to see  
Osprey flying overhead  
The undertow drug souvenirs  
Yeah oh yeah  
How red we turn when we feel the air

From Derek Eisel & Pablo Paz:
**Live from Lopez Uncovered**

Derek Eisel is a farmer and musician on Lopez Island. He sings original songs and plays guitar with bass player Pablo Paz regularly on Lopez, in Seattle and surrounding areas, and holiday shows with Tacoma’s sweetheart Bobbi Jo Blessings. Check out his latest recording Last Resort Fire Department on Spotify and other streaming services. He and Pablo are releasing a live album, Live From Lopez Uncovered, this December. This is a live recording of their full set at the first annual Lopez Uncovered Music Festival presented by the Field Boats on Lopez Island, on September 4, 2021.

December 17, 2021

Derek Eisel: Songs, vocals, guitar  
Pablo Paz: bass and mixing  
Aaron Stephenson: recording

From Children of the Blues:
**Space Lounge**

Don Bird has been a musician and composer for a lifetime. Rooted in Seattle, seasoned in LA and the Bay Area, and now working from his studio on Guemes Island with collaborators both locally and abroad. His compositions range from jazz and prog rock to blues, orchestral works, and even some jingles and commercials for Seattle businesses and radio stations. He is inspired by the energy and talent of so many local players, singers and venues, providing the vision for the Children of the Blues project; a blues-fusion experience designed to showcase a broad range of artists and contributors willing to stretch and cross boundaries of musical forms. Check out the album release party on Wednesday, December 1st to hear live performances of Space Lounge tracks.

December 1, 2021

Players: Don Bird, Organ, Keyboards, Bass, Lead and Backing Vocals; Andrew Cloutier, Drums; Tom Savage, Harp; Tyler Boley, Guitar; Aria, Lead Vocals; The Bournemouth Bathing Belles, Backing Vocals

**New Releases**
Chime Chat with Cherry

In the tradition of the great personal advice column, Show Chime presents Chime Chat with Cherry. Cherry doesn’t just dish out advice, she peers deeply into your soul to find the answers within you. She also specializes in naming bands, boats, and babies. Write to Cherry at theshowchime@gmail.com.

DEAREST CHERRY:
I always dread this time of year because my husband turns into Clark Criswold on steroids. He puts up all of our outdoor lights while wearing a baseball hat with reindeer antlers and bright red onesie pajamas WITH A BUTT FLAP. How do I tell him it’s horribly embarrassing for me without breaking his holiday spirit? —Feelin’ Scroogy

DEAR IT:
Unfortunately we are powerless against the Christmas Industrial Complex, so my suggestion is foam earplugs and then noise cancelling headphones to drown out the grocery store songs. As far as getting those song ear worms out, I have a friend who swears that when something is stuck in your head, you break the repetition by saying “By Mennen” like the old commercials. It’s weirdly effective.

DEAR SCROOGY:
There’s no way you’re going to win this one, so if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em. But first, get yourself a needle and industrial strength thread and sew that butt flap shut. Those things can spring open with the slightest breeze. Then hitch up your light up Christmas suspenders and go shopping for some embarrassing holiday garb.

HI CHERRY:
Can we talk about holiday music for a minute? The fact that we all hate it but are relentlessly subjected to it starting the day after Halloween. I mean, it’s impossible to avoid “Santa Baby” for a full two months out of the year! I love the holiday season, I’m not a grinch, I promise. But I need a way to get through this year without taking a slingshot to all of the speakers in the grocery store. Please help! —Seriously Over It

DEAR DYLAN:
Personally I’d ditch the brother and keep the Dylan, because that harmonica loving crooner is a national treasure and brothers are over rated. But that’s just me.

Share the Local Music Love!

Call for Contributors
Show Chime is looking for volunteer contributors to help us cover the local music scene. Cover one show or become a regular contributor. Contact us at theshowchime@gmail.com to start the conversation.

Get in Touch!
Want your music projects or shows mentioned in the Show Chime? Want to submit a piece of art or an article? Have ideas for Show Chime you’d like to share? Show Chime only happens because of people like you. We would love to hear from you! theshowchime@gmail.com

Anacortes Music Channel
Do you know about the Anacortes Music Channel? One great pool of Anacortes music just churning away—24/7! Tune in day and night at anacortesmusicproject.org.

Call for Band Bios
The AMP archive of Bands, Venues, Shows, Compilations, Events, and Players is just getting started! We are compiling photos, videos, and music, along with details of each artist/band. We need help from the community to build out this amazing resource. If you want to have your band included, just fill out our Archive Questionnaire!

Represent!

Here at AMP we have big plans for the future. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the SHOW CHIME music calendar, AMP is committed to creating events that feature local musicians, developing a scholarship and mentoring program, continuing the development and collection of archives past and present, and shaping exciting visions for the future, such as a physical space for our community’s very own radio station and music space. Your support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes.

GO TO ANACORTESMUSICPROJECT.ORG AND CLICK ON THE SPONSORSHIP BUTTON.

Become an Amplifier!

Becoming a monthly donor is easy, you can scan this code with your phone and choose the amount you would like to contribute to AMP each month. Your donation helps us pay our musicians and artists, fund our events and festivals, offer AMP music camps, and move into an amazing new venue space for all to enjoy!

Stay in Anacortes

Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the night! Check out the range of options at Anacortes.org/stay

Thank You!

Special thank you this month to our Yule Bizarre Raffle Sponsors; Village Pizza, The Business, Salt and Vine, Ace Hardware, Barrett Financial, and Schaffner Pharmacy. Thank you to Katherine Williams Photography for raffle photography and organization. Thank you to our monthly donors: Jessica Redman, Brenda Treadwell, Jenn White, Carrie Velin, Lisa Jackson, and Jensen Lovelett! Thank you to our sponsoring businesses: Mugsy at The Red Snapper, Hal and Sheryl at The Brown Lantern, Nick and Carolyn at Bikespot, Mark and Willie at Guemes Island General Store, Clay Christofferson at Farmstrong Brewing Company, Rick Star at Rockfish Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project, and the good folks at the Anacortes Food Coop. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Terrell, and Keith Eyer at How It Works. Thank you to Laurie Racinot for editing and design. This December issue of Show Chime was printed by How It Works and made possible by a grant from the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment. Getting the Show Chime to you each month is a community effort! This issue was written, edited, printed, distributed, and probably read on the traditional lands of Samish, Skagit, Swinomish, and Duget Sound Salish people.