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AES Audio Engineering Society - Pacific Northwest Section

Around the Puget Sound, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Women Who Worked at Woodstock 1969: In Their Own Words (for the first time) and Election Results Saturday, August 20, 2022, noon PDT (UTC -7)

To attend this FREE event, [Click here](#) to access Eventbrite for this event.

NOTE: Ticket sales end when the meeting begins.

At our June 2022 meeting we conducted an in-depth examination of the Sound and Recording systems used for Woodstock 1969. There's nothing better than getting your information from One Who Was There... and we did one better: we had Four Who Were There: Bill Hanley, John Chester, Chris Langhart, and Harold Cohen. For those who missed the meeting, the recording of the Zoom session will be on the [website](#) shortly.

August Special Event

Following on from the June topic, Section Chair Dan Mortensen, with help from Rhoda Rosenberg, has put together a session with the women who worked at the festival and now, for the first time, they will tell the story in their own words. Women did many jobs to build and carry out the festival; we'll be joined by many to tell of their work and how it affected their lives afterward.

The Pacific Northwest Section of the Audio Engineering Society has had several meetings in the past about the technical aspects of the first Woodstock festival (August 15-17, 1969). Now we're going to fill in some important context by examining the significance of the non-technical roles to the success of the event.

The production of the festival, 53 years ago the week of our meeting, involved a gigantic effort by a huge number of people. At the time and in the years since, the contributions of women who accomplished many jobs to build and carry out the festival were largely overlooked and taken for granted.

Until now.

We will recognize and celebrate the women who invented what needed to be done to put on an unprecedentedly huge event in a location with zero inherent infrastructure and in a very short time period by today's standards. Without their efforts the festival could not possibly have happened at all, let alone have been as successful as it was in negotiating the very fine line between success and abject failure/chaos.

We'll hear about their preparations, the philosophy behind the festival and where it came from, their pirouetting from crisis to crisis and their ultimately adept handling of same, and the effect the experience and culture has had on their lives since.

Remarkably, this will be the first time that their focused voices have been heard as a group and at length.

We'll also remember Michael Lang, the visionary behind the festival and who set the tone for it to be powered by peace, love, and gathering the best available expertise at the time in every area and then letting those people do their best. Michael passed away earlier this year. RIP.



Our Guests

Rona Elliot, Community and Public Relations before and during the festival, and Archivist since, who will also be Moderator for this meeting;

Joyce Mitchell, Office Manager for Woodstock Ventures (producers of the festival);

Ticia Bernuth Agri, Personal Assistant/Bullshit Filter for Michael Lang (who was the visionary behind the festival and tone-setter for it);

Amalie R. Rothschild, unofficial photographer at the Fillmore East and member of The Joshua Light Show, who took many pictures of the technical parts of the festival;

Lisa Law, a photographer with the Hog Farm who thought of and created the free kitchen at the festival, which sustained the Peace and Love vibe and without which a lot of people would have gone hungry, shattering that vibe;

Jeanne Field, during her years in the entertainment industry, Jeanne Field has worked as a distributor, camera assistant, editor, producer (in film and theater), agent, manager and book publisher;

and more who, in the spirit of Woodstock, we're lining up at the last minute with faith that everything will work out.

There will also be men with us who were there, including but not limited to **Bill Hanley:** Audio Provider, **Chris Langhart:** Technical (Infrastructure) Manager, **John Chester:** Sound Manager of the Fillmore East at the time but jack-of-all-trades at the festival.

They will be with us as resources, but the focus will be on the women's roles and activities.

Please join us on Zoom for this unique event.

Note that the unusual start time is to accommodate at least one of the presenters who will join us from Europe, and the unusual day is because this will be a joint Section meeting and an edition of our weekly Tea Time Topics meetings which are not exclusively centered on audio subjects.

About the presenters:

Rona Elliot, Moderator:

- is an American music journalist and interviewer of television, radio, and print.
- She was the first news anchor on music channel VH1 and music correspondent for NBC's Today show for ten years.
- Rona joined KHJ colleague Harvey "Humble Harve" Miller who was hired to promote the 1968 Newport Pop Festival.
- Public relations liaison leading up to show then managed backstage public relations during the event. The Newport Pop Festival was the first music festival to reach attendance of 100,000 people.
- Moved from Los Angeles to Miami, Florida with radio executive, Tom Rounds, and concert promoter, Mel Lawrence, to stage the Miami Pop Festival (December 1968) (not to be confused with the May 1968 festival of the same name). Served as artist and community liaison for the festival.
- Michael Lang hired Elliot to work at the Woodstock Festival in May 1969. She served as a public relations liaison between festival organizers and the local community.
- Along with other show veterans, Elliot stayed with Woodstock performer, Arlo Guthrie, in the months after the festival.
- [Rona's Wikipedia Entry](#)



Joyce Mitchell

- Born in Chicago, started college at U of Miami (FL) and Sorbonne in French Literature. Later, in other universities, studied Communications.
- Moved to NY in 1957. Mother to 2 daughters, 1 son, wife to 4 husbands; currently a widow.
- First important work was with Douglas Media where she edited a Lenny Bruce dialogue album. Worked on the Mailer/Breslin Mayoral candidacy, Robert Kennedy's tragic Presidential primary.
- In 1969 hired by Michael Lang for the Woodstock Festival. Managed the Production Office, prepared budgets, handled finances, acted as a barricade to Michael's office.
- After the festival, Joyce traveled to communes, lived on a hippie bus and the Hippie Trail to Europe, the Middle East, India, Nepal, Australia, and Bali. She served as a consultant to the United Nations Development Project in communications in Afghanistan, remaining overseas from '72 to '77. Consulted with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in NY, lived and traveled on a sailboat for 2 years and then returned to NYC where she trained to be a mediator and had a private practice in family and community mediation for 10 years before retiring.
- Had a career in finance as a stockbroker and marketed annuities.
- More about [Joyce Mitchell](#)



Ticia Bernuth Agri

- Traveled 72 countries with a sleeping bag at age 19-21
- Went to Columbia NYU and SUNY Universities got her Bachelor of Science
- She was 24 in the summer of '69, when she worked at Woodstock
- Became a Rolfer and worked for 30 years as a healer also IMT Therapist and also did Plant spirit Medicine and Shamanic healing
- Married with two kids and two grandkids
- More about [Ticia Bernuth Agri](#)



Amalie R. Rothschild

- Award winning filmmaker and photographer noted for her documentaries about social issues as revealed through the lives of people in the arts, and for her music photographs from the Fillmore East, Woodstock, Isle of Wight, and other seminal rock events from 1968 to 1974.
- Member of the Joshua Light Show, and on staff at the Fillmore East and the original Woodstock festival. Her 1969 picture of Bob Dylan at the Isle of Wight graced the cover of issue #43 of Rolling Stone.
- Co-founder of New Day Films, the now 50 year-old independent social issue distribution co-operative, and author of *Live at the Fillmore East: A Photographic Memoir*.
- Currently represented by 5 galleries, including Morrison Hotel, her fine art limited edition prints show, and sell, in many exhibitions both in the U.S. and internationally.
- Married to her 2nd husband Angelo Pontecorboli, an Italian-Chilean publisher, graphic designer and painter.
- Currently based professionally in New York City, she has lived and worked in Italy 7 to 8 months of the year since 1983.
- More about [Amalie Rothschild](#)



Lisa Law

Over the past five decades Lisa Law's still, movie, and video images have chronicled the social and cultural changes in America, from her film documentary of the vibrant '60s to her moving contemporary still photographs of the indigenous people of the Americas as they struggle for sovereignty and survival.

In 1969 she traveled with the Hog Farm collective (~80 people) from New Mexico to work on the Woodstock festival, where she quickly realized that huge numbers of people without other resources would need to be fed throughout the festival days as well as prior to it, since hundreds and then thousands were arriving daily. She took it upon herself to meet that need, and spent most of her time at the festival with Jahanara Romney, the Hog Farm, and volunteers feeding over 200,000 people.



She also managed to capture both still pictures and motion picture footage which have been used in more than twenty-five news and documentary presentations honoring many anniversaries of that event, now including ours.

Lisa lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico in an adobe house surrounded by a vegetable garden, fruit trees, a tipi, and her hippie bus Silver. She spends most of her time working with her photographs and visiting with her children and five grandchildren.

Jeanne Field

- Jeanne's production work includes documentaries Academy Award winner "Woodstock," Academy Award winner, "Marjoe," Martin Scorsese's "The Last Waltz."
- She worked on four feature-length films and videos with Neil Young, "Journey Through the Past," "Rust Never Sleeps," "Human Highway," "Solo Trans," two one-hour videos with Joni Mitchell, "Shadows and Light" and "Refuge of the Roads".
- Other productions are "The TVTV Show" (NBC), feature films "Eraserhead," (directed by David Lynch), "Uforia" (directed by John Binder), and many other films, television shows and music videos.
- At the American Film Institute, Field produced "The Horse Dealer's Daughter" from a short story by D.H. Lawrence.
- Produced the theatrical plays "Neon," "Tarantula" adapted from Bob Dylan's book and "Dreams Die Hard," based on the book by David Harris, play written by John Binder, directed by him and Darrell Larson.
- In 1991, Field began work as an agent representing writers and below the line production crew. She now runs Windfall Management where she works with a client list of writers, directors and novelists. Projects done include "A Texas Funeral," "Animal Factory," "Ripley Underground," "The Lazarus Man," "Dog Eat Dog" and "City of Lies."
- A recent venture is publishing company [F-Stop books](#).
- Born in Madison, Wisconsin, she made her way to New York City to begin her career. A circuitous path led her to the film business and Los Angeles where she still lives with her husband, John Binder. Step-sons, Josh and John Henry, live near-by with their wives and daughters.



Bibliography

If this has your curiosity stirred up, then good! You can find additional references here:

<https://www.aes-media.org/sections/pnw/pnwrecaps/2022/jun2022/hanley.pdf>

RSVP

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Election Results

The June meeting is also where we conduct our annual business meeting and election of Officers and the Program Committee. The following were elected by acclamation of the membership quorum present at the meeting.

Officers

Officers serve for a one-year term.

- Chair - Dan Mortensen
- Vice Chair - Bob Smith
- Treasurer - Lawrence Schwedler
- Secretary - Gary Louie

Committee

Our Section has a large program committee. Their function is to suggest, plan, and produce our monthly meetings. This list is the entire committee. Committee members serve for 2 years, and half elect each year, providing continuity across the committee.

- Jess Berg
- Dr. Angela Dane
- Greg Dixon *
- Micah Hayes
- James D. (jj) Johnston *
- Dr. Michael Matesky
- Gordon McGregor *
- Luke Pacholski *
- Jim Rondinelli *
- Jayney Wallick *

* denotes newly elected committee members.

THIS EVENT IS FREE, OPEN TO ALL, AND AES MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED

Dan Mortensen

AES PNW 2022-2023 Section Chair

n.b. *The material presented at our meetings is the opinion of the presenter and not necessarily that of the Society. You are encouraged to conduct your own*

research and to form your own opinions before adopting the presented material as Truth.

Bibliography for Bill Hanley / Woodstock June 2022 PNW AES Meeting

revised 8/1/2022, rev c2.

Books

Comments here are from Dan Mortensen.

“*The Road to Woodstock*” Michael Lang with Holly George-Warren, ecco -an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2009.

First person, doesn't get any more “horse's mouth”

“*Barefoot in Babylon*” Bob Spitz, Plume -an imprint of Penguin Random House 1979.

Very good technical descriptions, best of all the books that I and John Chester have read (he told me about it).

“*Young Men with Unlimited Capital*” Joel Rosenman, John Roberts, Robert Pilpel, Harcourt Brace Jovanovitch 1974.

The guys who financed the whole thing despite clearly getting ripped off at many points in the process and who made good on all debts from a festival with no ticket takers or gates. They were gems.

“*Rock Concert*” Marc Myers, Grove Press 2021.

Similar format to Joel Makover's book and uses quotes from it, but lots of original research and interviews and has a nice Woodstock section.

“*Back to the Garden*” Pete Fornatale, Touchstone, a division of Simon and Schuster 2009.

I don't remember much of this one but I enjoyed reading it and found things not in other places. True of every book.

“*The Last Seat in the House - The Story of Hanley Sound*” John Kane, University Press of Mississippi 2020.

Comprehensive, well-researched, shows Bill's career and highlights many of his innovations which are used daily all over the world. Big Woodstock section.

“*Aquarius Rising -The Rock Festival Years*” Robert Santelli, Delta Publishing 1980.

Modestly detailed look at early rock festivals, includes Sky River but completely leaves out Seattle Pops, which I was at and worked on ahead of time, so this book sucks despite being the first one to examine the phenomenon. Has a Woodstock section, of course.

“*Woodstock -The Oral History*” Joel Makover, Doubleday 1989.

Really a great book, oral histories in their own words of people from all categories who were there, who put it on in some way, and who were affected by it. Everybody has indelible memories that they treasure.

“*Woodstock Back to Yasgur's Farm*” Mike Greenblatt, Krause Publications 2019.

Another I don't remember much of this one but I enjoyed reading it and found things not in other places. True of every book in this list (and more).

“*Woodstock -50 Years of Peace and Music*” Daniel Bukszpan, Hourglass Press 2019.

Many photos by Amalie Rothschild, good ones, too.

“*Pilgrims of Woodstock*” John Kane, Red Lightning Books 2019.

Photos by a guy (not John Kane) who was there and took pictures but died before anything happened with the pics. All away from the stage. Interesting view of that part of the monster gathering, not much interesting to someone with a stage-related focus.

“*Woodstock -The 1969 Rock & Roll Revolution*” Ernesto Assante, becker&mayer! books 2018. Originally published as “Woodstock ’69: The Rock & Roll Revolution” by Whitestar Publishers. Another I don’t remember much of this one but I enjoyed reading it and found things not in other places. True of every book.

“*Live at the Fillmore East*” Amalie Rothschild with Ruth Ellen Gruber, Thunder’s Mouth Press. Published 1999-2000. Great shots of the Fillmore East shows and a complete list of shows and dates. Has a Woodstock section.

“**Woodstock** - an inside look at the movie that shook the world and defined a generation” by Dale Bell, with an introduction by Martin Scorsese, photographs by Henry Diltz and Barry Z. Levine. A Genuine Barnacle book, an imprint of Rare Bird Books. 2019. Allegedly 176 pages (the page numbering is sketchy)

A thin but action-packed look behind the scenes of the entire process of the making, editing, and distribution of the movie, which started about 2 weeks before the start of the festival and went through various permutations afterward, with first hand descriptions of who what when where and why. Details and photos not to be found elsewhere, with first-person accounts of what they did. John Chester was the first of our group to read and recommend it, accurately. There is a LOT of detail left out, including who people are in pictures and why the last 20 pages or so seems to be lifted from another source and color shifted and cropped to be more edgy without adding anything to the story, as near as I could tell. But despite the minor flaws, it tells a very believable story on an important aspect of the festival with focus and content that is not found anywhere else.

From Chris Myring

“*Small Town Talk*” by Barney Hoskyns, Da Capo Press 2016.

Mostly about the music scene in the town of Woodstock, it has a chapter about the festival and describes the effect on the local community of the influx of 'hippies' and, subsequently, of tourists trying to find the festival site.

Videos:

Comments by Dan Mortensen

“*Taking Woodstock*” Ang Lee, Focus Features 2009.

DM: This is a controversial pick but it’s one of my favorite movies. It’s the whole festival from the (fictional on some levels and probably real on others) viewpoint of Elliot Tiber, who everyone seems to agree called Woodstock Ventures to suggest they have their festival in White Lake and use the permit he already had to play records outdoors for an annual community gathering.

When Michael sees Tiber’s family property is a swamp, he drives around and finds Yasgur’s farm. The last phrase is subject to argument about who actually found the site, but the phone call is widely accepted as fact and is the direct reason WV found the site. The rest of the story is about the growing up of a gay man, and while I like Demetri Martin as an actor in the couple things I’ve seen with him, he seems like he might be a lot more empathetic than the real Elliott. I have the book of the same title but haven’t read it yet. Ang Lee is an incredible director (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”, “The Life of Pi”, and many others) and the movie is

painstakingly true to reality with many visuals taken from photos at the time, while at the same time somewhat exaggerating reality for dramatic effect.

It vividly shows how it must have been to be in White Lake (on the road to Bethel) and have the people-flood come to town. It shows the positive and negative sides of humanity. Like I said, it's one of my favorite films.

"Creating Woodstock" Mick Richards, Cinema Libre, 2019.

The most informative of all possible videos about the people who put the festival together, with extensive interviews with all the producers, many production people, a few fans, some artists.

The only way it could have been better is if it were longer than its 111 minutes. Lots of the footage seems to be amateur and the color grading could use some help, but it looks directly at length at the parts that we could only get glimpses in the background in the other videos. Highly recommended.

<https://cinemalibrestudio.com/creating-woodstock/>

From Chris Myring

"Woodstock Diary 1969 Friday Saturday Sunday" Pennebaker/Hegedus 1994 [single DVD]

"Woodstock - 3 Days of Peace and Music, Director's Cut, Ultimate Collector's Edition"

Maurice/Wadleigh 1994 [4-DVD set]

"Once Were Brothers" Scorsese/Grazer/Howard 2019

CM: [presumably has Woodstock references - I can't remember!]