

At the Georgetown Saloon

'Two fer Tuesday' widens local live music spectrum

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The Georgetown Saloon is known all over the area as a friendly place to eat, drink and hear live rock and roll and blues music. Beginning Tuesday, May 6, it may start to be known as a place to eat, drink and hear live jazz and piano.

Owner Adam Lubarsky said the 25-year-old Main Street restaurant is looking to fill what he sees as a local live-entertainment gap with two well known performers and their friends.

Rob Fried and Friends will kick off the saloon's expanded Two fer Tuesdays next month, which will feature two for one dinner specials. The music will start at 7:45pm and last until 10:30.

Mr. Fried will play with various jazz players from the tri-state area the first two Tuesdays of each month through at least August.

The last two Tuesdays of each month will feature piano player John Gould known to many as "The Man of A Thousand Tunes."

"I'm experimenting," Mr. Lubarsky said. "I think that there is a real void in this area. We have a reputation here for high quality live music. And I'm fortunate to have some incredible contacts in the music field. Therefore, I'm going to see if I can make a match with the public's needs."

"John has a huge following," Mr. Lubarsky said. Mr. Gould regularly plays at Westport's Pepper Mill restaurant and most recently played at the saloon on St. Patrick's Day.

"Rob plays with jazz masters," he said. "Fairfield County is full of monstrous musicians."

Julie Cown, the saloon's office manager, said Mr. Fried will play with two to four other musicians each Tuesday he is at the saloon. "They are pretty much going to be jamming and playing jazz standards," she said. "It will be kind of laid

back. We've never done this so we don't know exactly how it will go."

On May 6, Mr. Fried will be joined by drummer Chris Parker, guitarist Chris Morrison and saxophone player Mike Leventhal. Mr. Parker has played with Miles Davis, Aretha Franklin and The Brecker Brothers. Mr. Morrison has played with Joe Beck and John Patitucci. Mr. Leventhal has played with Lionel Hampton, Frank Sinatra Jr. and The Manhattan Transfer.

On May 13, Mr. Fried will perform with drummer Tyger MacNeal, drummer Bill Bickford and vocalist Nicole Pasternak. Mr. MacNeal has played with Jose Feliciano, The Average White Band and Billy Eckstein. Mr. Bickford has played with Donald Byrd, Billy Cobham and Lonnie Smith. Ms. Pasternak has sung with Pete Levin and Gil Paris.

Ms. Cown said Mr. Gould will perform with others as well. "He will play everything from Beatles to show tunes" during his Tuesday performances, she said.

At the saloon on St. Patrick's Day, Mr. Gould had a packed audience as he sat at the piano and played Irish tunes. He is a self-taught piano player who has played for The Rolling Stones' Keith Richards, The Gaelic American Club in Fairfield and Gov. John G. Rowland.

Two fer Tuesday dinner specials will include five standard entrées and three or four additional specials, Ms. Cown said. "It will be \$21.95 for two entrées," she said.

The five standards are broiled tilapia with capers, tomato and Chardonnay served with rice; teriyaki sirloin tips sautéed with capers, lemon, mushrooms, white wine and butter served with spaghetti topped with lemon butter; prime rib au jus served with horseradish sauce and baked potato; and barbecued beef brisket and barbecued quarter chicken with french fries.

All entrées are also served with rolls and house salads.

The saloon opens at 11:30 every day. Dinner is served until 9:30 and the bar closes at 12:30am. "But until 11:30, you can always get a cold sandwich, salads and chips and salsa," Ms. Cown said.

The regular menu features standard American cooking, including salads, grilled chicken sandwiches, burgers, fried chicken, beer battered chicken and shrimp, steaks and barbecued beef, chicken and ribs.

"We also have a south of the border selection, soups — always clam chowder, always fresh seafood and every night we have different dinner specials.

Salads start at \$3, sandwiches at \$4.75, larger dishes like fish and chips and pork chops start at \$13.75 and the selection of steaks and other entrées are around \$21.95.

A popular night at the saloon is Thursdays, Ms. Cown said. Every Thursday is open mike night at the saloon. The house band plays and anyone can get up on stage to sing and play. And often it is not just anybody.

"Last week Jose Feliciano showed up and played on stage," Ms. Cown said. "And Keith Richards popped in the week before. You just never know who is going to come in.

There is also live music on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday evenings are family nights, which feature contemporary music.

Now that the warm weather is back, the saloon will again hold its weekly Wednesday pig roasts. Over the colder months, the pig roast was just once a week. "In the summer we have buffet of smoked pig and one or two other meats," Ms. Cown said. Along with the meats, for \$18.95 — \$10.95 for children — customers get salad, grilled vegetables, Louisiana dirty rice, and other fixings.