

# Let It Bleed rocks with new blood on V-Day at Lucky Dog



By Craig S. Semon TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

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**When:** 9 p.m. Feb. 14

**Where:** Lucky Dog Music Hall, 89 Green St., Worcester

**How much:** \$7. Must be 21 or older

WORCESTER -- Let It Bleed - A Dirty Stones Jam has gotten some new blood and this rock 'n' roll transfusion has revitalized and, quite possibly, reinvented the best Rolling Stones tribute band in the area and made them even better.

Worcester native and current Berklee student Giuliano D'Orazio, 22, is Let It Bleed's newest member, filling in for the band's founder, Mike Revelli, who has taken an extended hiatus for personal reasons.

"This is my hometown Worcester, which I love, and I really want to help foster the music scene and be a part of it. I still love to play here. This is where my roots are and know so many people from this scene," D'Orazio said. "So I said, how can I pass up an opportunity to play the music I love in the city that I love with what appears to be some really cool people that I have heard good things about?"

The evening is a perfect chance for Central Mass. to get their collective ya-ya's out, especially those reeling from the winter blahs, according to D'Orazio and lead and rhythm guitarist Derek Varnum (who is also in the Gov't

Mule/Allman Brothers tribute band Gov't Surplus and the Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band Petty Larceny).

"This is good for people who have a date or who are not with a date, either," D'Orazio insisted. "This is going to be an opportunity to feel the true spirit of rock 'n' roll. Who knows? Maybe you will find your Valentine's that night at the Lucky Dog."

"Lucky Dog is our home away from home," Varnum interjected. "Our very first show was at The Lucky Dog. We do the Rolling Stones anniversary shows (marking the band's 1981 performance at the former Sir Morgan's Cove) there. The last three gigs we played there, no less than 15 audience members were up on stage, dancing around with us. Worcester crowds are the best. It's going to be a lovefest."

"Audience participation is big with us and we want people to come and really party," D'Orazio added.

"We put out the party vibe and we encourage them to do the same," Varnum continued. "Nobody brings the party vibe like Worcester."

As for the music, the audience can expect plenty of Stones and nothing but Stones music and plenty of unexpected Stones songs, including a rumored, rarely played and notorious raunchy number for the set's opener (that is, if snowfall doesn't interrupt this week's practices).

"There're Rolling Stones songs that are obviously more fun to play but we try to spread it all over the map, throw in a couple B-sides in there," Varnum said. "But you will hear all your favorites and your hardcore Stones fans that are sick of the favorites will come away with something, too."

"The sets are geared to make people dance and move and also take them through the decades a little bit," D'Orazio added. "We're going to give them a little bit of the oldies stuff from the early '60s, hit them with the funky '70s stuff and then some of the quasi-disco stuff."

In addition to Varnum and D'Orazio, Let It Bleed also features drummer Carman Malgeri (of Jumbled Mess), lead and rhythm guitarist Chris Tello (of Auntie Trainwreck and Gov't Surplus fame), bassist Chris Santini, singer Karen Draleaus and keyboardist Bob Dec (of Petty Larceny).

When founder Revelli left, the rest of the band was ready to pack it in, Varnum said.

"He (Revelli) was the cheerleader. He was the one who kept everyone from killing me, when he cracked the whip. He was the good ying to the yang," Varnum said.

When Varnum found out one of his other bands, Gov't Surplus, was going to be playing with D'Orazio's band Hot Letter at the Pulse's "Worcester Music Awards," Varnum checked out the competition and liked what he saw.

When he heard that D'Orazio was interested in fronting Let It Bleed, Varnum was thrilled. Despite his young age, Varnum knew D'Orazio -- who also writes songs, as well as plays guitar and keyboards -- had the rock 'n' roll chops to front the band.

And, at the audition, D'Orazio blew the other band members away and is packing them in the clubs with an undeniable sex-appeal, stage-presence and unabashed, Jagger-like swagger.

"My dad was a huge Stones fan growing up in the '60s and '70s, and that was always on the radio when I was growing up in the '90s," D'Orazio recalled. "I really got into the Stones later because you need a little bit of

adolescent fervor, angst to boil up that desire for that naughty, bad boy image. As soon as I hit 9th grade (at Burncoat High School), I was like, I like these guys and I really dove into it.”