



A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society

BLUE NOTES!

NOV - DEC
2024
ISSUE 45
VOL. 6



President's Column

By Barbara Katen

Hi Friends,

This issue of the *Blue Notes* is the final issue of 2024 and we're winding down the 45th Anniversary year of the Sacramento Blues Society, the third oldest Blues Society in the Country (YAY US!).



We have one more big event before the year's end: our Anniversary Gala (also our annual membership meeting and party) on December 8 at Harlow's. We know this will be a huge party of joy and celebration. Some of you may have already heard that we will have the fabulous Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling as our Gala entertainment. This is our gift to you, our SBS members. So, mark the date on your calendar now because it will be the SBS party of the year, and you won't want to miss it!

Also, at that Gala, we are holding our annual election for 2025 Board members. In this issue you will find the statements of the SBS members who submitted their names for a two-year term on the 2025 Board of Directors. Ballots for voting with these names will be mailed out to our membership early this month, and I urge you to PLEASE VOTE! You have a say in how your Sacramento Blues Society is run, and this is how you can express that.

Also, I'd like to ask you now, for next year, to give serious consideration to running for the 2026 Board of Directors when we issue the call. It's so important that we bring in new people with fresh ideas to continue the legacy of SBS. Some of us long-term Board members are getting tired (well, I am anyway) and we need you to help get us to our next Anniversary milestone. Food for thought.

And while I'm on the subject of elections, as you read this, we are either about to have, or have just had, our national presidential election. SBS is, and remains, apolitical; our respective views are our

own and it's not my intention to preach or share various opinions here. We have Board members and SBS members on all parts of the political spectrum.

And that's not what this message is about. Rather, my concern is about the extreme polarization we have seen in our country in this election cycle. Regardless of the results of the November 5th election, we're going to need to work together to create an outcome in keeping with the vision our forefathers laid out for us so many years ago.

Because we are all AMERICANS, first and foremost, and believe it or not, we have more in common than we have differences. Obviously, we all share a love for music in general, and specifically the blues! Music soothes and feeds the soul, is one of the

2024 Committee Chairs

Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

Events - Mindy Giles

Membership - Linda McShane

Sponsorships/Fundraising - Open

Public Relations & Social Media - Mindy Giles

Volunteer Coordinator - Lynette Shumway

Blues in the Schools, Big Day of Giving - Rick Snyder

Merchandise - Lynette Shumway

Blue Notes Newsletter - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley

IBC Competition - Renee Erickson Sullivan

Webmaster - Mindy Giles

Board of Directors Development - Open

Help keep the blues alive - Contact a Chair or Board Member to volunteer for the Board or a Committee!

The Sacramento Blues Society (SBS) is one of the oldest blues societies in California, founded in 1979. SBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote blues music as an art form. SBS has kept the blues tradition alive in the Sacramento area by promoting the local blues music scene, bringing internationally renowned artists to the region, educating students with "Blues in the Schools", acknowledging our local blues artists, providing a Musicians' Crisis Fund and publishing the **Blue Notes** six times a year. SBS is an affiliate member of The Blues Foundation (which honored us with a 2015 Keeping the Blues Alive Award) which provides educational opportunities for young people with The Blues Foundation's "Blues in The Schools" Program.

Board of Directors Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of each Month, 7:00 p.m.

All SBS Members in good standing are invited to attend.

Meetings are held via Zoom; to request an invitation, email: president@sacblues.org

2024 Board of Directors

Barbara Katen, President
Renee Erickson Sullivan, Vice President
Rex Smith, Parliamentarian
Shirley McCoy, Secretary
Liz Howell, Treasurer
Cari Chenkin
Rick Snyder
Lynette Shumway
Sally Katen
Julio Covington
Marcel Smith

Sacramento Blues Society Publications

Blue Notes, Bi-Monthly Newsletter -
Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley, Co-Editors

Layout - Cari Chenkin

Cover Design: Bob Cosman

Cover Photo - Bob Cosman

Printing & Mailing by: Premier Print & Mail

Blues Notes Ad Rates:

www.sacblues.org/advertising-rates

Weekly e-newsletter: Jan's Jams - Jan Kelley

Website: www.sacblues.org

**Facebook: facebook.com/sacblues/
Instagram: instagram.com/sacramentobluesociety/
"X", formerly Twitter: [@SacBluesSociety](https://twitter.com/SacBluesSociety)**

President's Message, Con't. from P. 2

highest expressions of human experiences, and provides a platform and a way for us all to come together. So, let's use that power to heal the divide, In the words of the Youngbloods song: "Come on people now, smile on your brother. Everybody get together. Try to love one another right now."

See you at the Music!



Blues In The Schools Fall Update

By Rick Snyder (aka Rico)
Blues in the Schools Committee Chair

As we prepare to celebrate 20 years of the Blues in the Schools (BITS) program, September 2024 was a busy and exciting month for everyone involved. The program has continued

to grow, inspiring young students across the Sacramento area through performances, assemblies, and workshops that introduce the rich tradition of blues music. Here's an update on our recent activities and future plans for the program.

Planning the 20th Anniversary of BITS

A major focus of our discussions this month has been the 20th anniversary of BITS, which we are eager to celebrate in early 2025. We've had a series of meetings with key organizers, including Alicia Fulbright, Mindy Giles, Steve Boettner, Mick Martin, and Rick Snyder, to develop a vision for the event.

Several ideas have emerged about the event structure, including:

- Performances by musician teachers who have been part of the BITS program over the years, with the exciting prospect of having them perform alongside former students who have continued their musical journey. These former students could be involved in music either semi-professionally or professionally, creating a powerful showcase of the program's success and impact.
- Adding a more educational element to the event with breakout rooms, where attendees can dive into specific aspects of blues history, music education, or instrumental techniques. This would offer a hands-on learning experience, further enhancing the blues education BITS has championed.

Securing a Headliner: Billy Branch

Mindy Giles is working on securing a national headliner who's been instrumental in developing a national BITS curriculum.

Venue and Date Selection

While a final decision on the venue has not yet been made, we are exploring several options to ensure the space aligns with our vision for the event. We're looking for a venue that offers flexibility for both performances and educational sessions.

As for the event date, we are tentatively targeting late February or early March 2025.

Expanding BITS Outreach

In addition to planning the anniversary celebration, we are also focused on expanding the reach of the BITS program. Rick Snyder has been actively contacting high schools across the Greater Sacramento area to involve them in our after-school Artist in Residence program. This outreach will help strengthen relationships with local schools and give more students the chance to experience blues education firsthand.

Although the "Any Given Child" federal grant program has not yet begun - it typically launches around February -we are preparing for its commencement to secure funding and support for BITS activities throughout 2025.

Exciting New Assembly Requests

We're also pleased to report on continued interest from schools in hosting BITS assemblies. Just this week, we received a call from an elementary school requesting an assembly. This is a promising sign of the program's lasting impact and its growing demand in the community.

Looking Ahead

September was a productive month for BITS, and while some areas of the 20th-anniversary event planning are still in development—such as finalizing a venue—we are confident in the direction of the program. Our focus remains on creating a meaningful, impactful event that will celebrate the legacy of BITS while looking ahead to its future.

As always, we appreciate the ongoing support of the Sacramento Blues Society and all those involved in BITS. With your help, we will keep rockin' the blues for another 20 years and beyond!

Stay tuned for further updates and details on the 20th-anniversary celebration!

It's SBS Election Time!

As mandated by our bylaws, the Sacramento Blues Society will hold its Annual Membership Meeting December 8, concurrently with our Holiday Party. This is the time we conduct any business requiring a vote from our overall membership. We will be voting to fill openings on our Board of Directors.

The Elections Committee will mail ballots to all SBS members in November, and ballots must be received by mail NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 8, 2024 to be counted. Ballots have the SBS address right on them, and all you need is an envelope and stamp.

If you plan to attend the Holiday Party, you may also BRING your completed ballot to the party and deposit it into the ballot box

that will be there. All votes, whether mailed or dropped off, will be counted at the party, and the newly elected Board Members will be introduced to the membership at the end of the party.

There are seven BOD positions to fill, with seven candidates up for election. Each candidate has submitted a brief statement for your consideration. Please take a moment to read them over, and when you receive your ballot, please VOTE!

Candidates for the Board of Directors

Cari Chenkin

I'm Cari Chenkin, and I'm running for a seat on the Sacramento Blues Society Board of Directors. I'm a current Board member, and a Past President, so I have the experience necessary to contribute to the Board and the well-being of the Sac Blues Society. As a musician, blues lover, current *Blue Notes* newsletter editor and Chairwoman of the Blue Sunday committee, I believe my experience and skills will be a valuable addition to the plans and projects that the Sacramento Blues Society wants to implement next year.



Laurel Coppess

Greetings fellow blues lovers! My name is Laurel Coppess, and I am running for a position on the Sacramento Blues Society Board of Directors in 2025. I've been a member of SBS for several years now; in fact, I was a member before I ever moved to California. Since arriving in the Sacramento area, I have volunteered for SBS by representing us at the information booth at some live events, and by occasionally writing articles for the *Blue Notes*.

While living in Washington state, I was a member of the Washington Blues Society for many years. Although I didn't serve in any board capacity for them, I was involved one year with helping out with the International Blues Challenge selection process. I also was a board member and treasurer of an unrelated, small 501(c)3 nonprofit organization for a few years, so I have some experience and firsthand knowledge of what is involved in being a board member. Thank you for considering me!

Julio Covington

I have had an absolutely great time being on the SBS Board. The friends I've acquired are lifelong and the members at large have been fantastic. Volunteering has been an educational experience!! I hereby would like to continue on the Sacramento Blues Society Board. Thank you!



Barbara Katen

I've been a member of SBS and served on the BOD for a while now. I would be proud to have your vote to continue serving. However, I also believe in bringing new faces with new ideas onto the SBS Board. So, with that being said, I will remain, but encourage some new and different folks to run in the future. Together we can keep the Sacramento Blues Society going strong another 45 years!



Sally Katen

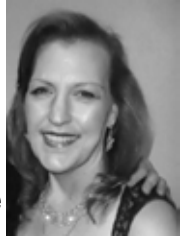
I joined the Sacramento Blues Society in 2006 at which time I joined the Board of Directors and held the position of Secretary for four

consecutive years. In addition, in 2010, I took over the SBS Hall of Fame Committee which I continue to chair to this day. I held the position of President from 2020 through 2023. I am also a member of the SBS Events Committee. I would appreciate your support so I can continue serving the Sacramento Blues Society, an organization near and dear to my heart.



Lynette Shumway

I was introduced to "the blues" by Earl Withycombe in 2014. Upon retirement, I sought to devote time to the worthy cause of the Sacramento Blues Society. I have served on the board for the last few years as the Merchandise Chairperson and Volunteer coordinator. I would very much like to continue in this capacity.



Marcel Smith

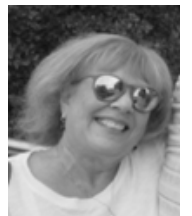


As a Sacramento native, I take great pride in my nearly 40-year involvement in the Sacramento blues music scene. My time performing with the W.D. Gospel Singers and the Soul Prophets gave me the opportunity to participate in numerous events organized by the Sacramento Blues Society. During this journey, I've had the privilege of meeting and performing with iconic Sacramento blues legends like Johnny Heartsman, Arness Williams, Gene Chambers, Marshall Jones, "Big" John Evans, Johnny Knox, Frankie Lee, Jimmy Smith, Mick Martin, and Rick Estrin, to name a few. Their influence has fueled my passion to carry on the blues legacy.

As a member of the SBS, I aspire to be a champion for not only preserving the blues and its many variations but also to be an instrument for fostering growth within the organization. I hope to expand the SBS into a more inclusive community that honors our rich history while cultivating and inspiring a new generation to become a part of this journey. The goal is to attract diverse, homegrown talent that we can proudly showcase to the world while preserving the mission of the Sacramento Blues Society.

"Blue Sunday" Update

By Cari Chenkin Photos by Cari Chenkin
Zola Moon was our featured band for October, but the show will have occurred too late to include a review in this issue, so we'll review it in the Jan-Feb 2025 *Blue Notes*. Val Starr & the Blues Rocket will be our November band. Julie and The Jukes, who last played Blue Sunday in October 2021, will be our featured band for December.



Bands are booked for the first quarter of 2025. January will feature the Anthony Arya Band, with guest AC Myles; February will showcase Red's Blues, and March will feature Yahmo.

Sunday, August 25, 2024

August's show featured the Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band. They were true to their name and really rocked the house with some great classic blues, originals and rock tunes.

Consisting of Tim Noxon, lead vocals and guitar, John Noxon on keyboards, Rik Pomares on bass, Zane Toberer on drums and George Lydon on percussion, the band added harmonica player Frankie Munz for last half of the show. They were even kind enough

to invite yours truly up onstage to sing "Crossroads" with them in the second set as well.

The band started out with an original tune "Might Be the Last Time", then proceeded



to play an outstanding cover of "Gimme Some Lovin'". They got down and brought da funk when they covered James Brown's "Get On Up". Other tunes included "Shame Shame", original tune "My Wife's Paycheck", and the classics



"You Don't Love Me", "Help Me", "T-Bone Shuffle" and "Statesboro Blues".



Throughout the afternoon, they displayed great musicianship with Tim's searing guitar solos and John's masterful keyboard chops soaring over the exuberant and steady-rocking rhythm section. They played "One Way Out", which they medleyed with "Goin' Down" and ended the show with a rousing version of "Got a Line on



You". The good-sized crowd responded by filling the dance floor and rockin' out 'til the very last note.

Meet SBS Platinum Sponsor Ed Smith of AutoAccident.com

By Cari Chenkin

One of the benefits of being a Sacramento Blues Society Platinum Level sponsor is the opportunity be interviewed for the *Blue Notes*. I recently had the opportunity to speak with attorney Ed Smith, of AutoAccident.com about his law practice and his connection to the blues.

Blue Notes (BN): Ed, why the blues? What attracted you to this type of music, and how did your love for the blues influence your decision to become a personal injury lawyer?

Ed Smith (ES): Blues music has always resonated with me : It's a storytelling genre... stories of struggle, resilience, and the pursuit of justice. I understand struggle and overcoming obstacles. Born in NYC, I came to Sacramento in 1968 during the Vietnam War. I've had SIX near-death experiences in my life, including some harrow-

ing experiences airborne over Cambodia, a close call on the American River rapids, and several others as well. The blues has always helped me get through these hard times.

BN: What lessons from the blues do you apply when representing clients?

ES: Blues songs tell stories. I emphasize to my clients the importance of storytelling, as effectively communicating my clients' stories is crucial to success. If a jury understands the real story, they usually do the right thing and return a fair verdict.

My passion for the blues inspires me to approach each case with empathy and determination, and to use my skills to help my clients find a voice and seek redress for the wrongs they have suffered. More than that I want to be there to encourage them. Just as a blues musician pours emotion and authenticity into their music, I want to bring the same level of commitment and sincerity to my clients' cases.

BN: How long have you been enjoying being involved in the Sacramento blues scene?

ES: For over 20 years, I've been attending blues shows at the Torch Club and the Powerhouse Pub, and other area venues that offer blues. This is a "blues town" which has offered plenty of opportunities to enjoy my favorite music.

BN: How does your involvement with the Sacramento Blues Society enhance your legal practice?

ES: Being a Platinum sponsor of the SBS allows me to give back to the community and support the arts, which are vital for cultural expression and healing. It also provides a platform to raise awareness about the importance of legal advocacy for those who have been wronged, much like the blues raises awareness about social issues through music. Also, being involved with the SBS allows me to connect with the community and understand the diverse backgrounds and stories of the people I represent.

BN: Who are some of your favorite blues artists?

ES: Muddy Waters, B.B. King and Bessie Smith – if they were alive today, I'd go see them! My favorite modern blues artist is Laurie Morvan. I love her energetic style of blues and her storytelling. I not only go to her shows locally, but I bring her in as my featured artist for the blues parties I'm known for throwing.

BN: What artists have you been listening to lately?

ES: I've been listening to Pinkie Rideau's latest album and Laurie Morvan's too.

BN: Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

ES: I love meeting fellow blues enthusiasts and want to invite SBS members to join in the fun at my parties. We have our Christmas party coming up soon with great music. We usually have 200-300 people and no one is a stranger. To get on the invitation list, please email me at: ed@autoaccident.com.

So, dear readers, should you have the misfortune to be injured in an accident, you can be confident that we have in our membership a successful and caring personal injury attorney who will work hard to get you justice for injuries, lend a respectful ear, and invite you to some great blues parties!



SBS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

September 29, 2024

By Sally Katen

Photos by Steve Martarano, Cari Chenkin, Frank Farmer & Julio Covington

Wow! Is all I can say. I sure hope you caught this year's Hall of Fame at Harlow's with our after-party showcase at the Torch Club!



We had a great group of people inducted this year: Bob Jones, Dana Moret, Danny Sandoval, Kyle Rowland and Tim Barnes.



Our band was the Dixie Drifters, comprised of previously inducted HOF member Mick Martin (2010) and soon-to-be inducted Kyle Rowland, along with Todd Morgan

and Andrew Little. Later they were joined on stage by Marcel Smith (2016), Ray "Catfish" Copeland (2012) and new inductees Dana Moret (2024), Danny Sandoval (2024) and Tim Barnes (2024). What a jam! The crowd was great and when we showed the *Gone But Not Forgotten* video there were tears throughout the house. It's sad to realize how many friends we lost this



year.

Following a raffle, we had our amazing induction ceremony.

Bob Jones was inducted by

Marcel Smith (2016),

Dana Moret

was inducted

by Jan Kelley

(2021) and Mindy

order that we knew

growing up! Danny

inducted by Marcel

and Mick Martin (2010),

(2014), Sally Katen Giles (2021) in the her when she was Sandoval was Smith (2016) and Kyle

Rowland was inducted by Mick Martin

(2010). Mick also, along with Ray "Catfish" Copeland (2012), inducted Tim Barnes. It was nice to see all these new upcoming HOF Members



and previous members sharing and joining in with the ceremony that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there.

Every year before the afterparty, we invite all previous HOF Members to come onstage and pose for a "class

photo." We are filling up Harlow's stage! Thanks to all previous



members that came that day and stayed for the photo.



From Harlow's, we headed to the Torch Club for the showcase and the wall hanging! We were minus two HOF members due to prior commitments, but we continued with a pretty awesome jam on the Torch Club stage.



Terrie Odabi, a well-known Bay Area blues artist whose band includes Danny Sandoval, drove from Oakland to Sacramento



to honor Danny on this special occasion. She and Danny joined in with Kyle and members for everyone loved! photos of the new were happy to be group on the Hall



Tim and other HOF a hot jam session We then hung the inductees, who joining this special of Fame Wall at the Torch



Club.

And so, the SBS Hall of Fame 2024 is in the books! Thank you to everyone for your support

Over the Finish Line:

The Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship Endowment is Official

By Mindy Giles (SBS Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship Committee Chairwoman)

Photos by Barbara Katen, Mindy Giles & Tyra Sue Domalaog

A full house of forward-looking young folks attended the “Annual Open House Brunch” in Capistrano Hall (The School of Music) at Sacramento State on Sunday, October 13, 2024, Rick Estrin, Barbara Katen, and I were invited to speak about



the Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship to prospective students, parents, current students, and staff.

This was, mind you, the morning after Rick Estrin & The Nightcats’ sold-out 75th Birthday Celebration Concert at the Sofia. Still fired up from that electrifying event, all we needed was strong coffee, (and those scrambled eggs.)

Our hosts and fellow speakers were Dr. Stephen Blumberg, Director of the School of Music, Mark S. Allen, School of Music Admissions Counselor & Program Advisor, plus Dr. Melinda Wilson Ramey, AD of Arts & Letters, Angel Orejel (Admissions), Fatima Ocampo (Financial Aid) and William Masters, a School of Music student.



Barb spoke about our proud 45th Anniversary, our Blues in the Schools program, and our special student membership price. I spoke about how the SBS wanted to create a meaningful working tribute to Charlie, and the evolution of the scholarship idea in 2020, beginning a few months after Charlie’s sudden passing, and how Rick and the Nightcats deeply supported this idea. I wanted Rick to be the finale of our speaking time because he alone could put a human face on the beautiful story of their long friendship. He alone could let prospective students hear a bit about how blues music and their mutual love of the genre completely changed both Charlie and Rick’s lives. He spoke about how blues allowed them to make a living, travel the world and, as the great writer of comparative mythology and religion Joseph Campbell



taught, to “follow their bliss.”

Looking around the room, the young faces I saw were serious, curious, and hopeful. Seeking a path out of their parent’s basement and into adulthood by way of performance and composition in the

music world is surely daunting these days, and so, hearing some real-life stories with a sidebar on figuring out how to find one’s bliss did catch some ears.

We also used this event as a gifting ceremony for the completion of the \$10,000 funding base that now allows the Financial Aid/Scholarship Office to administer and award the first Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship in 2025. Applications are open now until March 2025.

Rick and the Nightcats have been hugely instrumental in both donating and publicizing the endowment with the Annual Little Charlie Celebration Concert held each year in March at Harlow’s. This special concert ALWAYS sells out, and fans come from all over the world to the show. We hope to announce the 2025 concert date in November.

More information about the scholarship here:

<https://www.sacblues.org/the-sacramento-blues-society-little-charlie-baty-memorial-music-scholarship.html>



Matt Rainey & Bert Thomas Memphis Fundraiser Concert

By Barbara Katen, President

Photos by Barbara Katen

On October 10 I headed to charming Old Fair Oaks Village to attend the International Blues Challenge Fundraiser for the SBS IBC Solo/Duo contenders, Matt Rainey &



Bert Thomas. Held at Fair Oaks Coffee House & Deli, it was a well-attended concert held outside on the cozy establishment’s patio.

Upon entering, Matt himself greeted me, gave me a hug and a “thank you for coming.”

No thanks

were necessary because there was nowhere else, I would have rather been than there to show my support and appreciation for these guys. It warmed my heart to see Blues Society members Bo, Zane, Julio, Earl, Lynette, Liz, and Cindy and others there to support Matt & Bert.

It was a swell event totally filled with their cool blues. We are proud they will be representing the Sacramento Blues Society in this particular category, and deservedly so. It was a good turnout and night for these two talented musicians, they are fabulous!



What's On Your Playlist? *By Barbara Katen*

Email your top five playlist songs to me at bkaten2@gmail.com. We want to know what you're listening to!

Tina Abbaszadeh

"Loan Me A Dime" - Boz Scaggs
"Nessun Dorma" - Luciano Pavarotti
"The Chain" - Fleetwood Mac
"Ain't No Sunshine" - Bill Withers
"Sunday Kind of Love" - Etta James

Cynthia Jaynes

"A Change Is Gonna Come" - Sam Cooke
"California Love" - Tupac
"Smokestack Lightning" - Howling Wolf
"Tennessee Whiskey" - Chris Stapleton
"At Last" - Etta James
"Come Together" - The Beatles

Daryl Singh

"Maggie May" - Rod Stewart
"Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)" - Sly & the Family Stone
"Preachin' the Blues" - Son House (newer version by Living Colour)
"Straighten it Out" - Latimore

Earl Withycombe

"99 ½" - Tommy Castro
"Unwind Me" - Yvonne Rose
"Trouble Coming" - The Mothers of Invention
"Back Door Man" - Steppenwolf
"Baby Please Don't Go" - The Amboy Dukes

Frank Farmer

"That's What Love Will Make You Do" - J.P. Soars
"Wide River to Cross" - Blind Boys of Alabama
"All My Love for You" - Bobby Rush
"Greaseland" - Andy Santana & The West Coast Playboys
"I Still Get Excited" - Terry Hanck

Album Review

Red's Blues - Old Diamonds & Uncut Gems

Red's Blues Turns An Electrifying Evening of Music into an Exceptional Live Album

By Steve Cagle

If you live in northern California and enjoy the vibrant music scene here, then you've heard or at least heard of Red's Blues, one of the region's hardest working and beloved bands. Already highly respected world-class musicians when they got together in 2012, they continue to amaze and entertain audiences with every performance.



On October 4, 2023, Red's Blues appeared at "Bourbon & Blues" at The Starlet Room in Sacramento to record a live album, and the final product, released in April, captures the spirit of the quartet's crowd-pleasing performances as they bring the party to your speakers or headphones. The generous hour-plus, 15-song set is impressive both musically and technically. Lead vocalist Beth Reid-Grigsby (aka Red), bassist extraordinaire R.W. Grigsby, guitarist/harmonica player Doug Crumpacker and drummer Tim Wilbur were joined by an array of highly skilled musicians to sweeten the pie.

The playlist is an equal mix of new originals, cover songs and songs from their three previous albums. Things get off to a fine start with the title tune from 2020's "Broke Down In the Fast Lane," followed by new originals from Beth and R.W. "Singing a New Song" rolls on a NOLA rhythm buoyed by guitar solos from Doug and guest Robert Sidwell, who played the entire show. R.W. takes the lead vocals on his self-penned "Looking For a Hustle." "Poor Girl" has a stylish, late-night groove that evokes the soundtrack to a 1940's film noir.

Tim handles lead vocals on R.W.'s retro-rocking "Road Scholar," featuring a wild piano solo from guest keyboard maestro Sid Morris. Doug takes the vocal reigns on his composition, "Putting My Foot Down," with a melody akin to Jimmy Reed's classic, "Shame, Shame, Shame." "Black-Eyed Sally's" is one of Beth's new originals, another steady-roller with classic Stones-style guitar in the mix. "Forty Years of Trouble" showcases Marty Deradoorian on saxophone for this throwback Tex-Mex tune. Bay area blues veteran Dave Earl joins Doug for a harmonica duet on the Rice Miller classic "Mighty Long Time." R.W. revisits his time backing Gary Primich on "Stonebroke," and his stint with Mike Morgan on "Ain't Worried No More," with Beth on lead vocals (both songs) and Jon Lawton playing slide guitar on "Ain't Worried."

Beth's original song, "Lizzie's Blues," is a standout of the outstanding set, a heartfelt tribute to Memphis Minnie that flows like the Mississippi River, with Lawton accompanying on guitar and Doug on harmonica. On the songs, "Sally Lou" and "Sherry Ann," John Cocuzzi takes over on piano, putting the tempo into Drive, and Sid Morris returns to the ivories and sings lead on the closing "San Francisco Blues."

This album is a steady rollin', honky tonkin' and dance-inducing good time from first note to last. The exceptional songs and performances are enough to put it in the upper echelons of live recordings, but it shines beyond most thanks to Greg Hain, who recorded and co-mixed with Grub Mitchell at Dog Yard Studio in Sacramento, and thanks to the Master of Mastering, Chris "Kid" Andersen, who gave the final product a classy sheen of perfection that most studio albums never manage to achieve. Enjoy!

Torch Club
NOVEMBER

FRI 1ST - BILL MYLAR @ 6PM
SAT 9TH - PETER PETTY @ 9PM
THU 14TH - DANNY SANDOVAL @ 9PM
FRI 15TH - RED'S BLUES @ 6PM ELEMENT BRASS BAND @ 9PM
FRI 23RD - DARYL ROWLAND BLUES BAND @ 6PM / TEN FOOT TIGER @ 9PM
SUN 24TH - VALSTARR & THE BLUES ROCKETS @ 4PM
SAT 30TH - MERCY ME @ 9PM

DECEMBER

FRI 6TH - MYLAR & FRIENDS @ 6PM
SAT 7TH - THE HUCKLEBUCKS @ 9PM
SAT 14TH - ELVIS CANTU @ 9PM
THU 19TH - CHICKENBONE SLIM @ 9PM
SAT 21ST - STACIE EAKES & THE SUPERFREAKES @ 9PM
FRI 27TH - LEAPING BLENNIES @ 6PM
SAT 28TH - DARYL ROWLAND @ 6PM / THE COFFIS BROS @ 9PM
SUN 29TH - JULIE & THE JUKES @ 4PM

www.torchclub.net

Love for Andy

By Jan Kelley

Photos by Bob Cosman & Mindy Giles



Mark Hummel is a stand-up guy! He is the epitome of a true friend, a kind-hearted man who is an award-winning blues artist himself and who felt the need to organize

a series of benefits for a dear friend/musician who needs some financial help due to a devastating illness.



Andy Santana is one of our most talented, sweet, generous, gracious musicians in NorCal and deserves

our love and care. Andy has started off and employed most of the top guys in the San Jose, Sacramento, Santa Cruz & Sonoma blues scenes. Folks like Mike Schermer, Rusty Zinn, June Core, Kedar Roy, Junior Watson, Johnny Cat Soubrand, RW Grigsby, Kyle Rowland, Paul Durkett, Aki Kumar - can all say Andy was



part of their musical history here.



On September 26, 2024, a Benefit for Andy occurred at The Starlet Room in Sacramento, CA produced by Mindy Giles and the SBS for the "Blues & Bourbon" series. A plethora of people came out to hear some great blues music by many blues artists who volunteered their time and talent for their friend. The

room was packed, and it quickly became a lovefest for Andy.

On board was our beloved Mick Martin as



emcee, in addition to Mark Hummel, the host, and artists from all around the States. Mark introduced Sid Morris on keys along with Mike Phillips, bass, both of whom played nearly the whole evening, along with Kenny



Marchese on guitar and Miles Silveira on drums.

Kenny, along with Kyle Rowland and RJ Mischo taking turns with lead guitar and harmonica, joined up with Andy to do some outstanding songs, followed by the always entertaining Red's Blues. Beth Grigsby, vocalist,

hubby RW Grigsby on bass, Doug Crumpacker, guitar and vocals, and Tim Wilbur, drums and vocals, together known as Red's Blues, is a HOF member band and are always a delight to see and hear! Bob Welsh then laid out



some great key playing with Mark Hummel on harp, Terry Hanck on sax and Kedar Roy on bass, joining in.

Anson Funderburgh, hailing from Texas, stepped up to lay out some great tunes



along with Hummel and the band and it just kept getting better! The place really got jumpin' when Terry



Hanck, sax man extraordinaire, along with Steve



Ehrmann on bass and Bob Welsh on keys took the stage while the crowd cried for more. And more is what they got when Tommy Castro joined in the fun and frolic on stage to the crowd's delight. An unbelievable encore

with all the artists ended the evening with well-wishers embracing Andy and showing their love and appreciation for all the artists.

Other benefits for Andy by Mark and the fellas occurred on September 8 at the Club Fox in Redwood City and October 9 at The Empress Theatre in Vallejo. Kudos to all!

To donate to Andy: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stand-with-andy-santana-in-his-health-battle>.

December Gala Announced! Get Your Back Into It!!

By Mindy Giles

We've got the 2024 BLUES MUSIC AWARD WINNER-"BAND OF THE YEAR" for Our Annual SBS December Membership Gala on Sunday, Dec. 8 @ Harlow's!

We hope you've noticed how, year after year, the Events Committee bring the goods for our annual Membership Party and Gala. 2024's event will be no exception!

Here's how Living Blues Magazine aptly described this tough band's new release on Alligator Records: "Modern day Chicago blues warriors present 14 original songs inspired by the electrifying blues sounds of 1940s through 1960s, and performed with taste, sly humor and pure joy. From locomotive shuffles to deep, slow blues, Moss shines with a Willie Dixon-like ability to write and sing the blues' honest truth. "An incendiary brew...fiery fretwork and wailing harmonica...soulful, playful and exuberant."

Since first forming The Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling in 2016, master blues guitarist Nick Moss and world class harmonica virtuoso Dennis Gruenling have become torchbearers for traditional electric blues. But rather than repeating what's come before, the band's high-energy take on old school Chicago, Texas and West Coast sounds is completely their own. With their new Alligator Records album, *Get Your Back Into It!*, Chicago native Moss and New Jersey native Gruenling—together with Rodrigo Mantovani on bass, Taylor Streiff on keyboards and Pierce Downer on drums—deliver a deeply rooted, timeless blue collar blues album.

AllMusic says the band, winners of the 2020 Blues Music Award for Blues Band Of The Year, "makes the case for the vitality of old-fashioned Chicago electric blues in the 21st century." They are among the world's very best old school blues ensembles, with each musician expertly playing off the others.

"We are a rare breed as far as how authentic we like to keep the music," says Moss. The guitarist proudly represents the city of Chicago as one of the few bluesmen working today to have learned his craft firsthand, directly from many of the genre's original creators.

A year-end electrifying finale to the year! Renew your membership, bring a friend to join. Cocktails, food, vote for the new SBS Board members, buy your raffle tickets. Dress up, dress down. We are all in this together. Yes, there will be a dance floor!

FREE: Current SBS Members with membership card. For your non-member friends: Encourage them to JOIN NOW via our website:

<https://www.sacblues.org/support-us.html#member>

And here is the info and tix link on the Harlow's website:

<https://www.harlows.com/event/2024-sbs-annual-membership-gala-the-nick-moss-band-feat-dennis-gruenling/harlows/sacramento-california/>

SEVEN Blues Music Award Nominations for 2024!!

*Band Of The Year

*Song Of The Year

*Album Of The Year

*Traditional Blues Male

*Traditional Blues Album Of The Year

*Instrumentalist Of The Year – Harmonica

*Instrumentalist Of The Year – Bass

A Casual Conversation With Nick Moss

By Laurel Coppess

Photo by Howard Greenblatt

Nick Moss has been a stalwart on the blues scene for over 30 years. I recently caught up with Nick over the phone one morning as he was traveling through Ohio, touring as half of a double bill with Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. Despite being short on sleep, he good-humoredly answered the questions I posed.

Blue Notes (BN): How long has it been since you were last in Sacramento?

Nick Moss (NM): The last time we played there was right before Covid hit, in late 2019 or maybe January of 2020. We played at the Torch Club.

BN: Are there any changes to your band's lineup since the last time you were here?

NM: Yes, we have a new drummer, named Pierce Downer. He's been with us for about two and a half years now, and played on our latest release on Alligator, *Get Your Back Into It*.

BN: What are you looking forward to the most about coming here and playing the SBS holiday party in December?

NM: I'm looking forward to seeing our friends and fans that live in Northern California, specifically around Sacramento and in the Bay Area. We've been to SoCal a lot since things opened back up after Covid, but we haven't made it back to NorCal until now. I lived in the Bay Area for a short time, and I actually have pretty deep connections in the Sacramento area as well. In fact, one of my biggest inspirations to play blues and become a musician came from the time when I was 18 years old, stuck in the Children's Hospital in Chicago with hoses and tubes coming out of me all over, and my

older brother bundled me up in a large overcoat and smuggled me across the street to a club to see Little Charlie and the Nightcats play. So, it's going to be great to finally have the chance to see old friends, make new friends, and just hang out

(BN addendum: for the rest of the story on Nick being smuggled out of the hospital, check out his May 1, 2016 interview in Blues Blast magazine. It's definitely an entertaining read.)

BN: You've been a blues musician for a long time. Do you think that it has changed you in ways that might not have happened if you had followed a different profession?

NM: I think it has. Probably other professions – at least the ones I might have chosen to pursue – wouldn't have taken me around the world like music has. I think that having the opportunity to travel and meet a wide variety of people and experience other cultures has made me much more aware, compassionate, and accepting of others. We are all a lot more alike than we are different. That's not the message that's being pushed right now in this country, at least by some, but it's the truth. I wish that everybody had the opportunity to travel and see it for themselves.

BN: Many blues fans typically only see what might be called the glamorous side of the job. But there is a lot of hard work and long, sometimes uncomfortable hours that go on behind the scenes. What is the worst part about being a touring musician or, what is the one thing that you wish more people knew about what you and other musicians go through in order to be able to bring the music to us?

NM: The worst part by far is having to spend so much time away from my family. I have a wonderful daughter, who is a junior in college this year, and a wife whom I love dearly. I always make my family my top priority the entire time when I'm home, and hope that it's enough to make up for the times that I'm gone. I don't know if it does, but I try.

Also, as a musician who has spent years out on the road, I can tell you it takes a tremendous physical toll on your body. Sitting for long periods on planes and in tour vans, and in airports during weather delays and other issues, often for eight to ten hours at a time, really takes a toll on your back and your hips, not to mention your buttocks. I have back problems, and I attribute them in large part to all that time my body has had to spend in an L-shaped position.

And you're right, there's a whole lot that has to go on behind the scenes in order for us to get there and do a good job of playing for you all. I often get asked at shows, usually by a guy in a suit, "So, is this all you do for a living?" Other guys will say, "Wow, what a great life you lead!" To whom I want to say, come sit with us crowded into the tour van for the next ten hours or so, and see what it's really like. Travel in all weathers, practicing and rehearsing, booking, and more – there's a lot that has to happen behind the scenes in order for us to bring the show to you.

BN: As a guitar player, do you have a particular instrument that is your regular go-to, or do you switch them up? If you do have a tried-and-true instrument, what is it about that guitar that makes it so special?

NM: My choice of guitar to play is whatever I feel like at the moment! I do have a lot of guitars, but each one has a value to it that is more than its purchase price. They are exquisite works of art. Guitars can be incredibly artistic, sexy, or beautiful. I love the way guitars feel, the way they look, the way they sound. I even love the

smell of opening an old guitar case.

I base my choice of guitar to play on the specifics of the song I'm playing, what kind of sound I am going for and how well suited the guitar is for the task. But I do have a guitar that I often take with me out on the road because of what it represents; it has a comet on the headstock for Mike Ledbetter, my daughter's name inscribed at the twelfth fret, and a custom strap that was originally made for my wife and has her name stitched onto it. So, when I bring that guitar with me, I feel like I am bringing friends and family along, in a way.



BN: Changing subjects for a moment, I know that you are a founding member of the Facebook group, Cooking With the Blues. I've seen you post some amazing photos of dishes you prepared. Where does your love of cooking come from?

NM: My brother Joe and I both learned to cook at a young age. My mother was Italian, and she and both of my grandmothers frequently taught us about cooking. Cooking is one of my favorite things to do – it relaxes me every time. I do all the cooking when I'm home. I love to cook for parties, and I think I'm incapable of preparing a meal for less than forty people (laughs)! I love trying new recipes – it's similar to learning to play something new on the guitar, and the more difficult and challenging the recipe, the better I like it. I learn something new every time.

BN: If someone is thinking of coming to the holiday party and wasn't familiar with your background or catalog, what would you most want them to know about you, and what would you recommend they listen to first, in order to get an idea of your style and sound?

NM: I try to be as true and accurate as possible to the style of 1940s to 1960s blues. Mainly hardcore, Chicago-style stuff, with a little West Coast swing from the 40s and 50s thrown in. I really want my sound to be a "throwback" to artists like Little Walter, Jimmy Rogers, and Pee Wee Crayton. Dennis (Gruenling, the band's harmonica player) comes from more of a swing background than I do. He loves to listen to those old guys, just like me. And he often plays the clarinet parts from old swing tunes on his harmonica. It sounds so cool!

BN: What is the best way for SBS members to support you? I know that streaming services pay artists practically nothing. Is the best thing to do to buy a CD, a shirt, or other merchandise? What is your website address?

NM: Come out to the live shows! Seriously, that is the best way to support us. Yes, if you like what you hear, buy a CD or vinyl or a shirt at the show, or later from our website, but definitely the best way to support us is to attend a live show. I cannot emphasize that enough.

BN: The Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling will be the band for this year's SBS holiday party, on December 8 at Harlow's in Sacramento. Come join us to see and hear Nick and his band up close and in person. If you aren't a member, you can join at the event; SBS members get in for free. Hope to see you there!

And in the meantime, check out Nick Moss at his website: <https://www.nickmossband.com>.

Blues and Bones Festival Angels Camp, September 28, 2024

By Rick Snyder

Photos by Barbara Katen & Julio Covington

This year's Blues and Bones Festival at Angels Camp was nothing short of spectacular. As the sun shone brightly over a sea of blues fans, the day was



filled with some of the best blues musicianship and energy I've seen in years. The 2024 lineup brought in both seasoned pros and fresh talent, all of whom delivered unforgettable performances.



Kicking off the festival, Pinkie Rideau & Blioux Gumbo set the tone for a day of powerful blues. With Brandon McCullough shredding on guitar, TJ Furtado holding down bass, Zane Toberer driving the rhythm on drums, and Pinkie captivating the audience with her vocals, the band opened with a blues jam that had the crowd moving right



from the start. A standout moment came when Brandon's guitar solo took center stage, his sharp yet soulful riffs earning rapturous applause. When Sacramento Blues Society Hall of Fame vocalist Pinkie Rideau took the mic, the energy soared even higher. Her rendition of "Blue Bayou" was a showstopper, her voice dripping with both power and emotion. The set closed with Tessie Sell singing a few tunes

with the band then joining Pinkie for an electrifying duet on "Be A Hoe", a fitting finale to an outstanding performance.

Next on stage were Jeremy Norris & The Blues Cartel, who brought their signature blend of traditional blues with a modern twist. This three-piece outfit knows how to rock a blues crowd, and Jeremy's engaging stage presence only added to the magic. The audience was treated to a range of original tunes that showcased Jeremy's deep appreciation for the blues, peppered with classic influences like Muddy Waters and Johnny Winter. It was his wife's birthday, and the band kicked off their set with a heartfelt rendition of "Happy Birthday", setting a personal tone to the show. Chip Yeager delivered a solid bass performance, even taking the lead vocals on "Slow Down", while Keith Hackett kept the pulse steady on drums. Jeremy's intricate guitar work, coupled with his raw, bluesy voice, made for a set that kept the crowd fully engaged from start to finish.

The Maxx Cabello, Jr. Band followed, delivering a truly eclectic set that blended blues with Motown, Latin influences, and even a dash of classic rock. As a three-piece, the band packed a punch that belied their size. Maxx's ability to seamlessly blend powerful blues riffs with sweet, melodic vocals made for an extraordinary performance.

They paid tribute to The Doors with a rendition of "Light My Fire" that had Maxx's guitar work rivaling Robbie Krieger, while James Michael Day on keys brought out a depth of sound reminiscent of Ray Manzarek's signature style. The set's finale was particularly memorable when Maxx, without a bottleneck slide in hand, made a call to the audience for a beer bottle to substitute—and with that bottle in hand, he delivered a fiery slide guitar performance that left the audience awestruck.

As the day cooled down, Shane Dwight took the stage with his unassuming presence, dressed in jeans and a trucker hat. But the second he struck his guitar; the crowd knew they were in for something special. Blending rock, blues, and a hint of country, Shane's performance was filled with raw energy. His guitar tones were some of the coolest I've heard, and his original tunes had the crowd up and dancing throughout the set. Backed by the impressive rhythm section of Chris Greaney on drums and Edgar SanGabriel on bass, Shane Dwight's set had a gritty, soulful feel that was anything but ordinary. His all-original setlist was a crowd-pleaser, and the chemistry between him and his bandmates was palpable, creating a fitting climax to an incredible day of blues.



All in all, the 2024 Blues and Bones Festival delivered once again, bringing together top-tier talent for a day of soul-stirring blues. Despite the scorching heat, the audience was lively, the performances were stellar, and the vibe was pure blues through and through. Can't wait for next year!

Thank You Mindy!

By Barbara Katen

In October 2017, Mindy Giles, of Swell Productions, who is also the SBS PR & Event Coordinator Extraordinaire, brought the first "Blues & Bourbon" production to Sacramento. In the next seven years, Mindy showcased much of the best in blues, including big names and up-and-comers, as well as the best local artists every Wednesday night. That's an average of 52 shows per year!

Sadly, as I write this, her Blues & Bourbon musical series will end, with the final show October 30 featuring John Primer and Bob Corritore. As the current SBS President, I want to acknowledge Mindy's contribution to our blues community.

So, when you see Mindy out and about at various events, please thank her for bringing us so many fabulous artists and so much music with her "Blues & Bourbon" series. Mindy, we love you and thank you from the bottom of our blues-loving hearts. YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!



International Blues Challenge Coming Up Fast!

By Liz Walker

If you've never been, you might give a thought to joining some of your fellow blues lovers on Beale Street this coming January. The International Blues Challenge is an opportunity to experience blues from around the world and it's amazing. Four days, multiple venues and hundreds of musicians playing their hearts out. Great fun!

SBS is sponsoring two acts, Rowland and Tumblin in the Band

Story Continues on Next Page

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Steven White

IBC Coming Soon, Con't. from P. 13

category and Matt Rainey/Bert Thomas in the Solo/Duo category. It adds to the experience for our musicians to know they have friends in the club when they look out at the audience AND it adds to your experience to cheer on a local favorite. There are lots of historical and fascinating sites to keep you engaged during the day, then it's on to Beale Street to rock your night. It would be wonderful to see you there!

Please consider donating to the cause by scanning the QR codes on the next page. Every little bit helps get'em there. Thank you.

Sacramento Blues Society Member Bands

Need music for an event or an occasion? Hire an SBS Member Band! And buy their CDs!

Almost Blue

<https://www.almostbluesacramento.com/>

Amy Celeste & the Best

amycelestemusic.com

The Angel Reyes Band

m.angelreyes53@gmail.com

The Anthony Arya Band

www.anthonaryana.com

The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra

www.anthonypaule.com

Big Earl & the Cryin' Shame

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Earl>

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www.bobbyyoungproject.com

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www.carmenrattiband.com/

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www.chazandjess.com

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www.chickenanddumpling.net

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www.dangerousblues.com

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jpogorelskin@gmail.com

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The Katie Knipp Band

katieknipp.com

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<https://mattraineymusic.com/>

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Val Starr

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The West Coast Playboys w. Andy Santana

<https://westcoastplayboys.com>

The William Mylar Band

www.mylarville.com

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Blue Notes is the official bi-monthly newsletter of the Sacramento Blues Society.

Editor: Cari Chenkin

Send information for the newsletter to:

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Sisters in Blues: Mary & Paulette Cuilla

By Mindy Giles

“I Want You To Want Me.”

That is this guitar talking to you, readers. It's autographed personally by the very legendary, hugely influential band, Cheap Trick, who wrote that song and were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2016.

Earlier this year, SBS member Mary Cuilla decided she wanted to help the Society raise some money. She wanted to do this fundraising in the name of her sister, her blues sister, Paulette Cuilla. “I wanted to donate this guitar on behalf of my sister Paulette who introduced me to the blues many years ago. She passed in the same year I won this guitar in 2015.”

Mary remembers Paulette, a long-time blues fan and SBS member, bringing her to the verdant, rolling grassy lawn in Old Sacramento. “Afterwards we would attend the Jazz Jubilee and listen to the blues under the freeway. I recall always seeing the Blues Society tables set up - also we would go to the Torch Club in its “old location.” My love for the blues was created from these musical events with my sister Paulette. We saw BB King together twice and Buddy Guy.”

In June of 2015, Mary had driven her classic turquoise and white 1956 Chevy to the Lincoln Classic Car Show hosted at Thunder Valley, (some of you may have feasted your eyes on this rare two tone, 2-door wagon parked in front of Harlow's at this year's SBS Hall of Fame Awards!) Cheap Trick was playing that weekend and had donated the guitar, signed it—and Mary won the raffle!

This year, it seemed right that Mary, who learned her love of the blues from her sister, would donate this to the SBS to raise money.

“Now that she has passed, when I hear the first blues note “I look up” and feel her surround me. It is a love that I feel deeply in my heart and soul! It's when I feel the closest to her.”

Mary has shared the love of the music too. “Both my longtime friend Debra and I try to come as often as we can to “Blues & Bourbon” shows and SBS shows at Harlow's and we are now both members of the SBS. My younger sister Eileen joins us as often as she can. It's been wonderful!”

So, at our Annual Membership Gala on Sunday, December 8 at Harlow's, be sure to stroll over to the Silent Auction table, say hey to Mary and take a long look at this very special autographed guitar and remember the power of music that connects these sisters in blues.

