

SACRAMENTO

A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society



# BLUE NOTES!

SEPT-OCT  
2024  
ISSUE 45  
VOL. 5



## President's Column

By Barbara Katen

Something has been troubling me, and since I have this forum, I'm going to use it to share it with you.



We are losing valuable blues shows and venues due to poor attendance, lack of ticket sales, and quite frankly, an attitude of "it's not my problem, I have a life and other things to do," "I'm having a bad day, think I'll stay home and watch a movie," or, "It's too hot, I think I'll stay inside". Now, I'm not throwing stones here because I'm as guilty as can be myself. GUILTY. I understand there are justifiable reasons for not turning out for shows, such as fixed income when some ticket prices seem to be soaring out of the stratosphere, and you need to pick and choose carefully what shows you will be attending. Trust me, I am well acquainted with that reason. But that's not always the case, and if it is, we can all still help promote the shows, whether by word of mouth, social media or any other means you can think of. TALK THEM UP! I am hereby authorizing all SBS members to act as promoters for blues events! No compensation of course, we are a non-profit organization. LOL.

And it's not just us here locally. Major blues venues in San Francisco and other cities have also been having a difficult time getting back on their feet. We need to support all live music. Well-known artists having a show cancelled at the last minute for poor ticket sales at small venues, is heartbreaking.

Here's what I want to know: Did hunkering down at home due to Covid for so long make us complacent? Are we having a hard time getting back into the groove of things? What can we do as individuals and collectively to turn this trend around? Please share your thoughts and ideas on this matter by emailing me at [bkaten2@gmail.com](mailto:bkaten2@gmail.com). I really want to hear from you. Until then, see you at the music.

**ONLY YOU CAN  
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*Blues in the Schools, Big Day of Giving* - Rick Snyder

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*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](mailto:president@sacblues.org)

### 2024 Board of Directors

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## Exciting News From Blues In The Schools!

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

Hello blues fans and supporters of Blues in the Schools!

We have some thrilling news to share with you!

We're about to launch a new opportunity for students involved in the Blues in the Schools Program. Soon, they will be able to check out a variety of instruments that have been generously donated to the program. Our collection includes guitars, drums, bass amps, Hammond organs, Leslie speakers, and more, with additional instruments expected to join the lineup.

To make this process smooth, we are currently developing a check-out form and agreements for borrowing these instruments. Plus, we're excited to announce that Ryder Green, a dedicated member of our Blues in the Schools committee, has volunteered to create demonstration videos for each of our guitars. These videos will be available on the "Rico's Blues News" YouTube channel soon, so stay tuned!

In other news, we're compiling a list of potential grants, and I'm personally diving into the process of learning how to apply for and secure these grants. This is a crucial step in ensuring we can continue offering our programs at no cost to schools.

We've also been reaching out to educational institutions across the greater Sacramento area. Letters are being sent to elementary schools to inform them of the opportunities Blues in the Schools offers their students. High schools are also being encouraged to take part in our Artist in Residence after-school program, which we provide entirely free of charge—another reason why securing those grants is so important.

If you have children in school and would like to see our Blues in the Schools assembly program at their school, here's how you can help:

1. Contact me directly at [sacbits@gmail.com](mailto:sacbits@gmail.com).
2. Reach out to the principal of your child's school and encourage them to contact us to schedule an assembly.

Believe it or not, 2025 will mark the 20th anniversary of our Blues in the Schools program! To celebrate this incredible milestone, Mick Martin has graciously offered to collaborate with the Blues in the Schools committee to produce a special **20 Year Celebration**.

We will keep you updated on all the exciting details as they unfold through email, our SBS website, and all our social media platforms. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

## Meet Our New Treasurer! Elizabeth (Liz) Howell

We are delighted to introduce you to the blues-loving member who stepped forward to take on the responsibilities of SBS Treasurer, in addition to filling the vacant seat on the Board of Directors for the remainder of 2024.



Liz's background made her the ideal answer to our prayers for a volunteer who could bring financial expertise to our Board of Directors. She worked as an intern in accounting, compliance or auditing while obtaining her accounting degree from Sacramento State University. After graduating in 1992, she went into public accounting and

became a CPA in 1995. Liz has been with the State of California since 2017 and is currently an Audit Manager at the Employment Development Department.

Liz brings to the position of SBS Treasurer 14 years of auditing and compliance and 18 years of accounting and financial management experience, in addition to being an active CPA for 29 years. We hit the jackpot! Welcome to the Board of Directors Liz!

**BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET**

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**SEPTEMBER 18TH: TERRY HANCK**  
\$22: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

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## What's on your Playlist?

By Barbara Katen

**Matt Rainey**

"Matchbox Blues" - Albert King & Stevie Ray Vaughan

"Make it Rain" - Michael Burks

"Here I Am" - James Cotton

"Never Make Your Move Too Soon" - B.B. King

"Don't Leave Me Here" - Taj Mahal & Keb Mo

**Ken (Obie Dee) Van Crumphautt**

"Back to Louisiana" - Delbert McClinton

"First Time I Met the Blues" - Buddy Guy

"I'll Play the Blues for You" - Albert King

"Dreaming Out Loud" - Gov't Mule (featuring Ivan Neville and Ruthie Foster)

"Hollywood Texas Blues" - Kevin Burton, Live at the Torch Club, Sacramento, CA 2011

**Renee Erickson Sullivan**

"Bohemian Rhapsody" - Queen

"Baby, I Love Your Way" - Peter Frampton

"Angel Eyes" - John Hiatt

"Dance the Night Away" - Van Halen

"Paint it Black" - The Rolling Stones

**Rusty Sterling**

"Rock & Roll Doctor" - Little Feat

"Sam Stone" - John Prine

"Have You Ever Loved A Woman" - Freddie King

"A Change in My Life" - Billy Strauss/Rockapella

"You Can Be My Yoko Ono" - Bare Naked Ladies

**Deb Lubin**

"I'll Play the Blues for You" - Albert King, but the Daniel Castro version without verbiage

"Down Home Girl" - The Welch Ledbetter Connection

"All I Need" - Magic Sam or RJ Mischo

"Fever" - Little Willie John

"Bring It On Home to Me" - Sam Cooke

"Big Blue Mama" - Steve Freund (Bonus Track)

Let us know what's on your Playlist! Send me your top five songs, the songs that you don't have to give any thought to when making up your personal playlist. Your top five can be from any genre, songs that bring you joy, make you cry, music that makes you want to dance, tunes that remind you of a special time in your life. There are no wrong answers here. It's favorite music that sparks something deep in your soul. So, send your selections to [bkaten@gmail.com](mailto:bkaten@gmail.com) and put **PLAYLIST** in the subject line. You, too, can be immortalized in an issue of the *Blue Notes*!

## Ben Rice and the PDX Hustle at the Starlet Room

By Frank Farmer

Photos by Frank Farmer

Ben Rice says, "I want people to enjoy my music on their own terms." This is Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, from Portland Oregon. Fair enough, but with this much talent, passion, and energy, that is not a difficult issue for the listener fan. This guy starts with potent high-energy guitar, and adds in keyboards, horns, and a rock-solid rhythm section. The display before you at a show is amaz-



of "Blues & Bourbon" was my first time seeing Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle, and I hope to see them again soon. The PDX Hustle is Ben Rice (guitar, vocals), Pat McDougall (keyboards, backing vocals), Dave Mills (trumpet), Pete Petersen (saxophone), J Olly Wolcott (bass, backing

ing, with fluid solos being passed around the band. Great vocals, too.

Blues, Soul, Americana. The Wednesday, June 19th edition



vocals), Adam Carlson (drums). Big Thanks to Mindy Giles of Swell Productions, The Starlet Room, and Sacramento Blues Society for another fantastic evening of music.

## We Need You to Help Guide the Sacramento Blues Society!

On December 8, the Sacramento Blues Society will hold its bylaws-mandated annual Membership Meeting, concurrently with our Annual Holiday Gala. **This is our annual call for volunteers who might be interested in joining our Board of Directors and various committees.**

We have two open slots on our 2025 Board of Directors, and six current Board members with terms expiring January 2025 may also run for reelection, so eight Board positions are up for grabs.

Please consider this your invitation to submit your nomination to the SBS Board of Directors. As a Board Member, you would have a direct hand in running and guiding the future of our Blues Society.

If you have the desire and time to make the required commitment, we'd love to have you! Please contact one of the following Board members with your interest:

President, Barbara Katen ([president@sacblues.org](mailto:president@sacblues.org))

Vice President, Renee Erickson Sullivan ([vicepresident@sacblues.org](mailto:vicepresident@sacblues.org))

Secretary, Shirley McCoy ([Shirley@kzfr.org](mailto:Shirley@kzfr.org))

*Blue Notes* Editor, Cari Chenkin ([editor@sacblues.org](mailto:editor@sacblues.org))

**The deadline to apply is Saturday, October 5, 2024.**

Anyone interested in running for election must submit a brief statement of who they are and why they are interested in running, along with a headshot photo, to be published in the November-December issue of the *Blue Notes*. Any current Board members running for reelection for 2025 must also submit their statement and photo.

**Deadline to get your brief statement and photo to the *Blue Notes* editor is Friday, October 11, 2024.** Ballots will go out to the membership in November.

Join us as we guide and plan for the future of the Sacramento Blues Society and World Domination!

# Remembering Johnny Knox - The 2024 Memorial Jam

Photos by Steve Martarano

By Sally Katen



I hope that everyone was able to make it to Johnny "Guitar" Knox Jam at the Torch Club this year! We had a wonderful time remembering our pal Johnny, who wholeheartedly believed in the value of our Hall of Fame.



Our new emcee this year was Greg Roberts who gathered a great lineup of musicians to celebrate Johnny on Sunday, June 23 at the Torch Club.

Performers included Greg Roberts, Dave Segal and "Ratatat Pat" Balcom on drums, with special guest Aaron King



coming out of retirement to celebrate Johnny and all he gave back to the local musicians in our community.

We also heard from Ray "Cattfish" Copeland, Marilyn Woods, Beth and R.W. Grigsby, Angel Reyes, Marty Deradoordian, Liz Peel,

Dave Croall, Chrissie O'Dell and Marcel Smith, with many more musicians showing up and playing for Johnny.

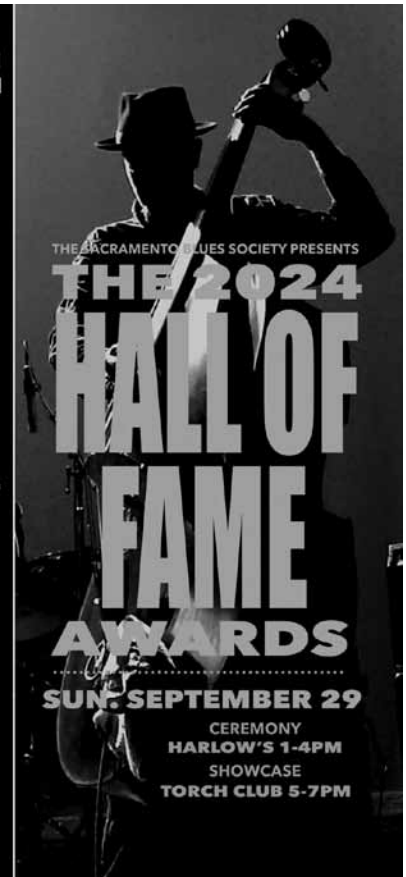
Our successful show raised monies that are going towards the upcoming Hall of Fame on September 29, 2024. Be sure to join us



for that Ceremony and the Afterparty that follows at the Torch Club, when the new HOF members' photos will be ceremoniously hung on the wall, which was something that was very near and dear and special to Johnny.



IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE BLUES IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA FOR 20+ YEARS  
 CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S INDUCTEES:  
**BOB JONES**  
**DANA MORET**  
**DANNY SANDOVAL**  
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**TIM BARNES**  
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# SBS Hall of Fame Welcomes the Class of 2024 Inductees!

By Sally Katen  
 Photos by Bob Cosman

Please come and celebrate with the inductees as they become Hall of Fame Members and hang their photos on the Torch Club wall at the Afterparty!



Putting on this event takes a village, and I want to acknowledge the hard work, time and energy of those who've contributed to producing the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Afterparty.

First, my HOF Committee – let's give a big shout-out and thank you to:

Barbara Katen

Jan Kelley (HOF 2014)

Kelcey Ham

Liz Peel (HOF 2015)

Marcel Smith (HOF 2016)

Mick Martin (HOF 2010)

Ratatat Pat Balcom (HOF 2013)

Ray "Catfish" Copeland (HOF 2012)

As a Hall of Fame member myself (HOF 2021), I know how important this is to you all.

Thanks are also due to Jan Kelley, who edits all the bios, and Bob Cosman, who does our photos for the Torch Club wall and the *Blue Notes*. Thanks to those who'll be working at the event itself:

Steve Martarano (photographer)

Bobbie Armstrong and Donald Jacobsen (Raffle staff)

Liz Walker (Emcee)

Mindy Giles (Stage Manager)

Lynette Shumway (Merchandise)

Ernie & Esther Vasquez (Merchandise Table)

Earl Withycombe

Bill VanHouten

Liz VanHouten

Harlow's and Staff

The Torch Club – Marina Texeira, Mark Mitchell and Dave Segal (thanks for sharing the stage).

If I have inadvertently forgotten anyone, my apologies; I do appreciate you!

It's going to be a great afternoon on Sunday, September 29. The Dixie Drifters, will be the featured band for the event. And of course, there's the Afterparty at the Torch Club from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There is no charge to get into the door, and you won't want to miss it!

It is with great pleasure I introduce this year's 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees (All inductee bios in the current *Blue Notes* are also on our website, [sacblues.org](http://sacblues.org)):

### **Bob Jones**

Bob Jones' musical journey began at an early age of 13, and by age 17 he had learned piano and organ and began performing at various venues. He joined the band "Chameleon" at 19 and began touring with them in Hawaii and other states. The following year the band was renamed "The Real Thing" and toured British Columbia, Canada, and later Japan.

In between, Bob had mastered electronics courses and earned an AA degree, eventually working for Atari, testing parts for the space shuttle. He leveraged his electronics expertise to build his own polyphonic synthesizer from discarded parts, creating a personal instrument at a lower cost.



In 1986, Bob relocated from the Bay Area to Sacramento, furthering his career by playing with notable musicians and opening for such legends as BB King on the "Chitlin' Circuit" and Kris Kristofferson.

He then was musical director for the Temptations Motown Review in Las Vegas for three years, which culminated in creating his own band "Bob Jones and the Chosen Few" in 2011, thus becoming a fixture in the Sacramento and Bay Area to this day.

### **Dana Moret**



Dana Moret has been a dedicated volunteer for the SBS for over 20 years, starting out by performing at her family's nightclub at a young age.

She has organized and performed at various events and venues in her career, including the Placer County SPCA BBQ & Blues Festival, the SBS "Women Sing the Blues" events and Quarry Park Amphitheater, among others.

Dana has collaborated with music professionals like Tim Barnes, Mick Martin and

Lydia Pense, resulting in successful albums and bands such as Mr. December, Zenn Vudu and Lydia Pense & Cold Blood.

She has also contributed her skills in event coordination, graphic design, and networking to the SBS, particularly for projects like Blues in the Schools and the "Blue Sunday" events. Dana's passion for the blues genre has led her to continuously improve her vocal talents and cater to diverse audiences with her music.

### **Danny Sandoval**

Danny Sandoval grew up in San Pablo, California and started playing saxophone at the age of eight. When he was in high school, he discovered the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts in Richmond, California, where he was able to explore his passion and dreams of becoming a professional jazz saxophonist.

He started playing semi-professionally when he was sixteen, playing in the Central Valley and Bay Area, and continues to perform there. By the age of 17, Danny was playing up to five nights a week in San Francisco, paying his way through college.

Over the course of his training, Danny has had the honor of studying with Tony Archimedes, Frank Sumares and Mel Martin, all esteemed musicians. In playing the saxophone, Danny expresses all the emotions and inner passions that are discernible in the audience responses. He continues to rise professionally, having played with such notables as the Sista Monica band, Mick Martin's Big Blues Band, the Terrie Odabi Band, many local bands, and his own Danny Sandoval and His Amigos. He is actively involved in touring, recording and playing live jazz, blues, soul, funk and salsa. His repertoire is outstanding!

### **Kyle Rowland**

Kyle Rowland is the youngest member of the SBS Hall of Fame, having played on stage with Mick Martin when he was merely 11 years old. It seemed natural, since his parents had placed a harmonica next to him in his crib when he was first born.

In adolescence, Kyle quickly and naturally developed his own





sound. With help from a few of his heroes through the years, such as James Cotton, Lazy Lester, Hubert Sumlin, Matt "Guitar" Murphy, Billy "Boy" Arnold, Henry Gray and many others, he learned specific techniques of stage presence, the music business, and several highly revered harmonica secrets.

In August 2022, Kyle signed an endorsement deal with Hohner Harmonicas, the brand he has proudly played since the beginning. In

January 2024, he represented the Sacramento Blues Society to compete as a solo artist at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee, where he placed in the semi-finals.

### Tim Barnes



Timothy Warren Barnes (Tim) must have been born under a lucky star on May 13, 1949. When he was 18, his mother Sylvia's vocal coach, the world-renowned Judy Davis, introduced him to music entrepreneur Tom Donahue, whose many accomplishments included pioneering underground radio and being the mastermind behind the Beau Brummels (the Bay Area band that grafted itself onto the British invasion).

The latter fell apart, and Barnes was tapped to play his unique blend of blues and rock guitar behind vocalist Sal Valentino in a 10-piece musical caravan called Stoneground. When the mercurial Valentino left, Barnes joined forces with Jo Baker ("Rockbottom") of Elvin Bishop Band fame to create a second distinct version of the band. That, too, ran its illustrious course.

Barnes met Sacramento bass player Steve Schofer and found himself succeeding Ray "Cattfish" Copeland in the Blue Flames. Rechristened the Fabulous Flames, it rocked and R&B-ed hard until flaming out. This led Barnes and Schofer into a 20-year collaboration with Sacramento's and Hall of Famer Mick Martin and his band the Blues Rockers, recording over 20 CDs, touring worldwide and winning multiple awards.

Locally, the band's appearances at the California State Fair, the Sacramento Music Festival in Old Sacramento and local venues made them a staple of the '90s and early 2000s. Currently, Barnes is collaborating with SBS Hall of Famer Angel Reyes on new ventures.

### Chris O'Leary Brings Houserockin' Music to Harlow's

By Frank Farmer

Photos by Bob Cosman & Frank Farmer

Chris O'Leary and his band brought us a truckload of East Coast swagger from that hotbed of blues, Schenectady, New York. This Sacramento stop was the July 17th edition of "Blues & Bourbon" at Harlow's, part of "The Hard Line Tour."



Chris has a rich background in the blues, including years under the tutelage of Levon Helm, and a big run of time in New Orleans. His appearance at Harlow's was much anticipated, and no one

was disappointed. Powerful and energetic would be an accurate description. Chris' band consists of Chris O'Leary (harmonica & vocals), Pete



Kanaras (bass), Mike Lynch (guitar), Andy Stahl (tenor sax), Chuck Cotton (drums), and Brooks Milgate (piano & organ). Altogether they provided punch and finesse.

At one point in the show, Chris took a moment to seriously address an issue near and dear to his heart. As a Marine veteran, Chris spoke briefly but passionately about the plight of many US veterans who have returned from combat with unresolved trauma, leading to an epidemic of veteran suicides. He addressed the need for support for these vets and urged the audience to consider helping them. The next song he introduced, "I



Cry at Night", was written about this very subject, and he dedicated it to all veterans.



The capper was an encore with Chris' special guest and close friend, Chrissie O'Dell, performing their rendition of a great cover "One Way Out".

Big thanks to Mindy Giles (Swell Productions), Harlow's and the Sacramento Blues Society for another great show.

### See You at Blues & Bones! 9-28-24

BLUES & BONES FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER, 28TH 2024  
ANGELS CAMP, CA

WWW.BLUESANDBONES.COM

# SBS Presents "45 years of Songs That Changed Our Lives"

By Steve Cagle and Jan Kelley

Photos by Bob Cosman, Barbara Katen & Cari Chenkin

Harlow's was the place to be on Sunday, August 11, when the Sacramento Blues Society celebrated its 45th year in existence with an exceptional evening of music spanning those 45 years and performed by a powerhouse quartet of northern California singers backed by a topnotch ensemble of musicians. A "Meet and Greet" with the ladies was held before the show in the outside courtyard, allowing some guests an opportunity to become acquainted personally with the performers in an inviting and relaxing atmosphere.

Expectations were already high for the event, but the ladies and band raised the bar even higher, then pulled off a seamless performance like the stars of a long-running hit Broadway musical. Everyone was in top form and brought their best chops to the stage.

Night club, cabaret-style seating didn't deter some in the audience from dancing to the sounds of the Zenn Vudu Band, led by Cold Blood music director/guitarist/vocalist Steve Dunne, with Larry Davis on keyboard, Jonathan Stoyanoff, bass, Bryan Kilfoil, drums and multi-instrumentalist horn player Otis Mourning.

Instead of performing individual sets, Tia Carroll, Chrissie O'Dell, Pinkie Rideau and Dana Moret shared the stage and spotlight, with plenty of love, respect and vocal support for each other on display.



They took turns belting out the lead vocals on songs that represented each decade of the Blues Society's existence, offering anecdotes and observations on how the songs were part of their own life experiences. Each singer made her own song choices, and they fell fluently into a masterpiece of entertainment.

Tia Carroll has been honing her craft with a "who's who" of the Bay Area's finest musicians, performing with the Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra and recording her 2021 breakout album *You Gotta Have It* with Kid Andersen and Jim Pugh at the helm and many other world-class musicians on board. Tia has become a premier soul artist at the top of her game, and it was a joy to watch her tear through an emotional rendition of the Etta James classic,



"Damn Your Eyes." Dana Moret followed Tia and held nothing back on her take of Tina Turner's "I Don't Want to Lose You."

As the show progressed, it was clear that a definite rapport existed between the ladies and the band, in particular Tia Carroll and horn player Otis Mourning, who was a real plus in entertaining the crowd. He interjected a little unplanned humor that at one point had him strolling into the audience while playing his horn. What a fun and unexpected note (pun intended) that added to the audience's pleasure!

A steady stream of highlights and magical moments continued to flow all the way to the final notes of the evening. Both Dana and Pinkie Rideau gave fresh workouts to popular songs by Bonnie Raitt, and Chrissie O'Dell delivered a rousing version of Gaye Adegbalola's "Big Ovaries Baby," with the audience easily persuaded to sing along.

It was clear from the song selection that all four vocalists had no intention of coasting through their spotlight moments by performing light material. Every song challenged the lead singer to push her talents to the limit and each of them did so with flare and finesse. Tia brought a classic R&B groove to Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You," giving a whole new sound and



feel to the soul anthem that was a mega-hit for Whitney Houston. Likewise, she put her own touch to Solomon Burke's "Cry To Me" and Junior Wells' "Little By Little," and wrapped up her portion of the proceedings with her own composition, the funky and infectious "Move On."

Pinky Rideau is a first-class act and a longtime fixture on the northern California music landscape, endeared to her audience by her powerful voice, song-



craft and stage presence, as well as her fearless advocacy for a myriad of social causes. Her contributions to the event included songs by Ruth Brown, Tracy Chapman, and Beth Hart, and concluded with her own "Mercy" and "Bayou Comes to You."

Dana Moret has also been a familiar and beloved face and voice in northern CA for years, initially building the foundation of her vocal and stage skills by sitting in with virtually every artist who came through Constable Jack's in Newcastle, where she lived and worked. She's written for and fronted several popular bands and contributes her vocal talents to the current lineup of Bay Area legends Lydia Pense and Cold Blood. Besides her interpretations of Bonnie



and Tina, Dana put her personal stamp on tunes by Stevie Wonder, Kathleen Cairns and a couple of her own songs.

The new kid on the block is a seasoned veteran in her own right, with the distinguished achievement of successfully launching her career in New York City (remember what Mr. Sinatra said about that feat?). Now well-established in the northern CA music community, she's become a much-lauded performer with a killer band of local heroes. On this occasion she put her energetic spin on classic blues rock songs by Buddy Guy and Johnny Winter, also paying tribute to the new blues rockers Albert Castiglia and Chris O'Leary and throwing in her own "Simple Kinda Woman."

The show ended with the ensemble-friendly anthem, "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," giving everybody on stage one last moment to shine and leaving the already satiated audience blissfully satisfied, their souls nourished, spirits fulfilled, and with their sights set on the next forty-five years with the Sacramento Blues Society family.

Kudos to Liz Walker, Producer, Mindy Giles, SBS Events Chair and Publicity Director, the staff and management of Harlow's Night Club and the SBS volunteers.



**Torch Club**  
**SEPTEMBER**

SUN 15TH - KAMALA FEST @ 3PM  
SAT 21ST - PETER PETTY @ 9PM  
THU 26TH - ZACH WATERS @ 9PM  
FRI 27TH - LEAPING BLENNIES @ 6PM  
SUN 29TH - SBS HOF AFTER PARTY @ 6PM

**OCTOBER**

SAT 5TH - DARYL ROWLAND + BLUES ALL STARS @ 6PM  
THU 10TH - LEW FRATIS @ 9PM  
FRI 11TH - RICHARD MARCH @ 6PM / BONESHAKERS @ 9PM  
FRI 18TH - TOD MANY SQUIRRELS @ 6PM  
SAT 19TH - GEOFFREY MILLER & DEKE DICKERSON @ 5PM  
SUN 20TH - SBS BLUES W/ YAHMO @ 4PM  
FRI 25TH - LEAPING BLENNIES @ 6PM / JR. DEVILLE @ 9PM  
THU 31ST - DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS @ 9PM

www.torchclub.net

## International Blues Challenge Update

By Liz Walker

Photo by Cari Chenkin & Tina Abbaszadeh

Louie's Cocktail Lounge was hopping July 11 when SBS hosted its local competition for the International Blues Challenge (IBC). A mixed bag of performers brought their A game and we all benefited.

Bringing his solo acoustic style, Johnny Domino (from Redwood City) started the afternoon, followed by Matt Rainey, with his keyboardist Bert Thomas. Local Rusty Sterling stepped in with his unique songwriting style. Rowland and Tumblin' shook up the house, then another out-of-towner, Yahmo (from Chico) brought his band to



finish out the



finish out the

day. They all had fun and so did we!

But alas it was a competition so there had to be a winner and the judges decreed that it would be ROWLAND & TUMBLIN'! Since each



blues society can also send a solo/duo act, the IBC committee decided to go ahead and sponsor the runners-up Matt Rainey & Bert Thomas.

Both acts will be raising funds to pay for their travel to Beale Street, so when you can, be sure to support them both at their individual shows. There will also be a GoFund Me account set up for direct donations.



Big thanks to all the participants, our judges, our sound techs Rick Snyder and Ryder Green, Louie's Cocktail Lounge and the Sacramento Blues Society for all the good times. And congratulations to all the Memphis-bound winners. Y'all are gonna have a blast!



## Here are the QR Codes for Kyle's & Matt's GoFundMe Accounts

Kyle's QR Code



Matt's QR Code



## Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship Timeline Update

By Mindy Giles

With the summer arrival of Sacramento State's new Director of Development for the College of Arts and Letters, Tami Dawley, the timeline for awarding the first Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music scholarship moves ahead.

Dr. Stephen Blumberg, Ph.D., Director, School of Music and Dr. Steve Roach, Director of Jazz Studies, School of Music



are co-leads on the process. The normal student application period begins October 1, 2024 and closes on March 2, 2025. The review period generally follows in April.

We are planning a public event in mid-October on campus with this committee for the final handover of the GIANT check that will put us over the \$10,000 requirement. Stay tuned for details on the SBS website and our social media.

For more information on the scholarship, go to: <https://www.sacblues.org/the-sacramento-blues-society-little-charlie-baty-memorial-music-scholarship.html>.



**BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET**

IN MIDTOWN (ABOVE HARLOW'S) (2708 J ST. SACRAMENTO)

**OCTOBER 2024 SCHEDULE**

**OCTOBER 2ND:**  
**J.P. SOARS & THE RED HOTS**  
\$22: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

**OCTOBER 30TH:**  
**JOHN PRIMER & BOB CORRITORE ALL STAR BAND**  
\$30: GA / \$25: SBS MEMBERS

UPTOWN & LOWDOWN. 2 SETS OF BLUES. DRINKS/FOOD & DANCE FLOOR. 5:30PM DOORS / 6:30PM SHOW

## “Who Is Elizabeth Reid??”

By Mindy Giles

Sunday afternoon at the July 14 “Powerhouse of Blues” series (at the Powerhouse Pub) in Folsom was, of course, sold out, elbow to elbow, clink to drink, for our internationally renowned “hometown” band, Rick Estrin & The Nightcats. That’s not unusual. But this particular afternoon was squeezed in the blistering middle of the hottest 21 days on record in July in northern California.



The band was dazzling and went toe-to-toe with the heat. But when break time came, hardly anyone ventured out to the wide wrap-around veranda—the heat?? Well yes, but also, more importantly the big Facebook livestreamed raffle drawing to win a tony ocean view cabin for two on the always sold-out Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise this coming October! Estrin & the Nightcats are one of the top headliners this year, and a portion of the raffle proceeds is being donated to the Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholar-

ship.

Five hundred raffle tickets were sold beginning in late March for four months online, primarily at the band’s live concerts around the United States.

So, many in the crowd were hoping to hear their name called out. With a drum roll flourish from D’Mar, and the giant clear glass jar held in guitarist Kid Andersen’s slippery hands, Rick swished and stirred the folded paper entries, yelled out “I’m sceered!!” ...and drew the name. Without opening it, he handed it over to keyboard/bassist and business manager, Lorenzo Farrell. He read the name, “Elizabeth Reid.” Some Allman Brothers fans whooped. (one wag quipped ‘she’s dead, she can’t win.’)



“Is she here? Who is this? Does anyone know her?”

I was shooting up front with my cell phone, and it suddenly registered to me that the name he had drawn, the name that Lorenzo had read out loud-- was Beth Reid-Grigsby AKA Sacramento Red, band leader of our own Red’s Blues!! Still shooting, I yelled “That’s Beth Reid-Grigsby!! That’s Beth!!”

“WHAT??” Rick didn’t believe me. He never knew her real name, only her hyphenated married name.

You dear reader, can see it all happen in real time on my YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/ch109187FPg>

This happy tale ends with my fast call to Beth, who was home with music partner and husband of 45 years, RW Grigsby. Red’s Blues had played outdoors the day before, and Sunday was their day to recover from the 104-degree heat. Normally, they would have been there to see their long-time friends/music colleagues.

“Beth, you sitting down? You won! You won the raffle!” She said, “Wha..what raffle?” I woke her up.

Minutes later she posted this shocked selfie on their FB page...

This is one doozie story Rick & Nightcats and Red and RW will be able to regale fellow blues-lovin’ passengers in the audience within a few short months.



# "Blue Sunday" Update

By Cari Chenkin Photos by Cari Chenkin

As we head into the last quarter of 2024, I'm grateful to all our member bands who've performed at our "Blue Sunday" events. Now in our third year (we started in August, 2021) we've gone through almost every member band that wanted to play!



In this article, I review the June and July shows; the August show which starred Tim Noxon's Rockin' Blues Band occurred too late to review for this issue - you'll see it in our next one.

As you probably know, we don't have a "Blue Sunday" event in September, due to that last September Sunday being devoted to our annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. So that leaves only October, November and December of 2024 for our remaining "Blue Sunday" shows. I'm happy to say we have booked the last three shows of 2024. Coming in October is Yahmo, from Chico, whose band competed in our IBC competition. We'd like to see a big crowd come out for him - he lost his entire home (including his home recording studio) in the recent Park fire, and a good turnout is bound to lift his spirits. November brings us the fabulous Val Starr & the Blues Rocket and closing out the year will be Matt Rainey & the Dippin' Sauce.

## June 30, 2024



June's show starred Modesto-based duo Chaz & Jess. Chaz and Jess are Charlie Wheeler on guitars and Jess Zabala on harmonica and vocals.

They specialize in OG-style Delta blues, like it's been played for almost a century. They played a variety of classic tunes,

interspersed with some of their own original songs, including "Too Big", with which they started the second set. Charlie switched between an acoustic guitar and a beautiful metal resonator, both

of which ably showcased his excellent picking styles. Jess' voice was well-suited to their material, with a "creamy" tone that ranged from smooth to rough-edged depending upon the song. Their third set included another original tune "Say



You Don't Love Me".

Between songs, both Jess and Charlie entertained the audience with anecdotes and a few jokes. Charlie is a



native of the UK, and you can sure tell from his (to us) accent! We blues fans owe a lot to our cousins "across the pond" like Charlie, for their embracing of the blues in the 60s. According to B.B. King, Buddy Guy and other blues artists, they felt their music was fading away until the British musicians like John Mayall, the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Mick



Fleetwood, Peter Green, Jeff Beck and other rock icons of the 60s brought renewed interest in the blues to young American audiences.



While the turnout for this show was smaller than I'd hoped it would be (I blame the brutal July heat and a conflicting show at the Powerhouse Pub!), those who attended enjoyed the show. This band would be an excellent addition to our Blues In the Schools program!

## July 28, 2024

I'm very grateful to July's "Blue Sunday" band, the Midtown Creepers, who agreed to play the date on short notice after the originally booked band had to cancel. I'm happy to say the Creepers absolutely tore it UP!



With Jerry McGuire on guitar and lead vocals, Liz Peel Van-Houten on bass, new drummer Eric



Parkinson and Stan Powell on harmonica, this four-piece band had a big, bold sound that rocked the Torch Club.

They kicked off their show with an instrumental titled "Rock-A-Bucket", then played an original tune called "Talk to My Baby".

Their sets included some blues classics like "Don't Start Me Talkin'", "Caledonia", "All Your Love (I Miss Lovin')" and "Let the Good Times Roll".



The second set started off with the Freddy King instrumental "Hideaway" (one of my favorites!) which had Jerry displaying his guitar-slinging showmanship, playing his guitar behind his head!

The set included some more great blues covers as well as originals "Eyes Open" and "Creepin'". They did a great cover of Otis Rush's "Homework" and more. I enjoyed the mix of covers, originals and different tempos - from shuffles to rumbas to slow blues.



The third (and final) set contained some more great blues classics like "T-Bone Shuffle", "Let Me Love You" and more, even a cover of Booker T & the MGs'

"Green Onions" - without a keyboard! The crowd boogied and cheered and it was clearly a great time.



# A Casual Conversation with Albert Castiglia

By Daryl Hawkins

Photo by Tina Abbaszadeh, Photoshop Editing by Bob Hakens

I met Albert Castiglia right after he signed with Ruff Records and put out his album 'Solid Ground.' I instantly fell in love with him—not just because he's an amazing musician, but also because he's such a genuine person. In May 2020, he won a Blues Music Award in the 'Blues Rock Album of the Year' category for his album 'Masterpiece.' Then in 2023, he won two more Blues Music Awards: one for 'Blues Rock Artist of the Year' and another for 'Blues Rock Album of the Year' for 'I Got Love.' In 2024, he released 'Blood Brothers,' a collaborative album with Mike Zito, and won yet another Blues Music Award.

**Blue Notes (BN):** Who are your biggest musical influences?

**Albert Castiglia (AC):** Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Freddie King, Eric Clapton, Johnny Winter, Luther Allison and Jimmy Page are the ones that come to mind. There are so many that you come across during a career, but these gentlemen were the ones that influenced and molded my style the most.



**BN:** What do you think you would be doing now if you weren't a musician?

**AC:** Working in an office, doing the daily grind. I used to be a welfare case worker for the State of Florida. I wasn't very good at it. Sometimes I have nightmares about it and wake up in a cold sweat thinking it was 6:00 am and I had to hustle for work. I have that recurring dream at least three times a year. LOL

**BN:** What were some of the first blues songs you learned?

**AC:** "Sweet Sixteen" (BB King), "Mannish Boy" (Muddy Waters), "Hideaway" (Freddie King), "Further On Up The Road" (Bobby Bland). Those were the first ones that I recollect.

**BN:** What does the blues mean to you?

**AC:** It means everything to me. It fills my soul, it gave my life meaning. This amazing life that I have is because of the blues and I didn't choose it, it chose me. I'm very grateful.

**BN:** What have you learned about yourself from music?

**AC:** I learned that I'm not very good at anything else but music. I'm no musical genius or virtuoso but it's what I do best.

**BN:** Who are the blues musicians you would most like to meet (that you haven't already) and why?

**AC:** Hmm... I'd love to meet Derek Trucks, Warren Haynes, and Gary Clark Jr. Those guys have really done a lot to bring recognition to the blues through their music and I respect them deeply.

**BN:** How has music changed your life?

**AC:** It saved me from a life of eternal drudgery. I have an amazing life. I get to tour the world and share my music with my fans and family. I couldn't have asked for a better life. I just can't see myself doing anything else. I do have hobbies that fulfill me as well. I'm into boxing and kung fu, I have a 2007 Ford Mustang that I tinker with. Those things helped me along in my journey but none of those things would've come along had it not been for music.

**BN:** How/Where do you get inspiration for your songs?

**AC:** Simply by living life and observing. If I'm not living the songs I write, then they won't connect with anyone, just sayin'.

**BN:** What advice would you give to aspiring musicians thinking of pursuing a career in blues music?

**AC:** Never give up on your dream. It's a long road and it is an endless rollercoaster with a lot of great accomplishments and a lot of obstacles. The obstacles and hard times involved are only temporary but the accomplishments and memories last forever. If you love it, you'll stick with it and good things will happen. Luther Allison told me to keep on pickin'. Those three words served me well my whole life.

**BN:** Who do you consider to be your mentors (musical or otherwise)?

**AC:** My life mentor would have to be my dad. He was tough on me a lot when I was a kid, and I didn't always appreciate it back then, but it made me who I am. The work ethic I have is because of my father.

Musically, it would definitely be Junior Wells and Graham Wood Drout. I learned so much about stage presence, connecting with an audience and running a band from Junior. His influence is all over me when I take the stage. Graham Drout is a legendary singer/songwriter, bassist, guitarist and front man for Miami-based blues band, Iko Iko. The early lessons that I learned from him prepared me for the next level; how to carry myself, songwriting, living the songs I sing, perseverance. He was so important to my development as a musician.

There was also a gentleman named Pat DeLeon, a guitarist and songster from Miami. He taught me how to develop my vibrato and encouraged me to be original and stay true to myself and my art. There were so many mentors in my life but these three made the biggest impact on me.

**BN:** What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?

**AC:** Being a father and a grandfather. I just played in Norway with the Blood Brothers. We opened for Deep Purple in front of eight thousand people. It was one of the great moments in my career. It pales in comparison to the moments I get to spend with my daughter and grandchildren. I'm taking my 14-year-old granddaughter to her first boxing fitness class followed by an ice cream date at the mall. It doesn't get any better than that.

**BN:** What is your most treasured possession?

**AC:** Family.

**BN:** If you have a life motto, what is it?

**AC:** My motto is "Life is too short to let someone else dictate it for you. Live your best life."

**BN:** If you were to have a dinner party and could invite any four (4) people, living or dead, who would you invite and why?

**AC:** Muddy Waters, Grandmaster Yip Man, Charles Bukowski and Hunter S. Thompson. The mayhem would be epic!

**BN:** Now, just for fun, please answer these rapid-fire trivia questions

**BN:** Favorite Album of all time?

**AC:** *Hard Again* by Muddy Waters

**BN:** Favorite movie?

**AC:** *The Godfather*

**BN:** Favorite Food?

**AC:** Italian

For more information on Albert Castiglia please visit [www.albertcastiglia.net](http://www.albertcastiglia.net)

## Biscuits and Sugaray

**June 7, 2024 - Biscuits & Blues, San Francisco**

By Shirley McCoy, with notes by Cari Chenkin

Photos by Cari Chenkin

I was ecstatic when the news came that Biscuits and Blues would be reopening. I had many memories of going there with my Dad when we lived in the Bay Area when I was in middle/high school. For me, I hadn't been to Biscuits and Blues since I made the move up to Paradise in 2015 and Biscuits closed in 2019.



I was really stoked when I heard that a few of the Board members of the Blues Society would be going to show our support in the reopening. I jumped at the chance to see Sugaray Rayford and the band again since they had entertained our membership in Sacramento on two different occasions.



Right when I walked in the doors, I could see that nothing much had really changed from what I remembered of the place. It was total nostalgia for me. I'd always loved sitting right next to the stage and the intimate atmosphere; it did not lose

that charm.

There wasn't much attendance for the early show; our Sacramento group was most of it, but Sugar Ray and the band absolutely brought it anyway.



The keyboardist,

Drake, was feeling a little under the weather but was a trouper and still played with soul and Danny Avila is an amazing guitarist. To sit there right in front of them was a powerful

experience for me. It was obvious to me the whole band was enjoying themselves as well.

I'm glad that Biscuits & Blues is back and I wish them great success! I think they're one of the best, if not THE best, blues clubs in the San Francisco/Bay Area.

## Sugaray Brings It!

By Cari Chenkin

Sugaray and his band brought the funk, straight from the get-go! Backed by a six-piece band – drums, bass, guitar and keys with a sax and trumpet horn section, Sugaray is one of the most soulful

and powerful singers out there. The band was tight, loud and totally in the pocket. Because of the small crowd, Sugaray told us he wasn't going to talk as much as he usually does, just focus on the music. And did he ever!



The set included mostly Sugaray's original songs, with just one or two classics. The arrangements were spot-on and included some great harmonies with Danny and Drake joining Sugaray. Danny broke



out some badass slide guitar on one of the songs, and on another played at low, low volume – but kept the licks hot. Not every guitarist can do that, and Danny does it better than most.

One tune (which I didn't catch the name of, but think it might've been "It's Just Me" or "Is It Just Me") was such a full-on soul rocker with echoes of Motown and Muscle Shoals that I got goose bumps – especially when the band morphed it into "Baby Don't Put Your Love On Me So Strong". Toward the end of the set, Sugaray challenged



the band to do the songs from his (at that time unreleased) new album *Human Decency*. But alas, time was running out and they couldn't do it all. About one week after the show, the new album was officially released, and it's one well worth owning.



## Lucinda Williams at the Crest

By Frank Farmer



Lucinda Williams performed at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento on August 16, 2024. Lucinda defines the term "Music Hero" by not letting a perilous 2020 pandemic, tornado-damaged house and a debilitating stroke stop her. She's unable to play her beloved guitar anymore, but still in possession of a clear, powerful voice.

Performing with Lucinda are Doug Pettibone (guitar), Mark Ford (guitar), David Sutton (bass) and Brady Blade (drums).



Lucinda appreciated being carried on the shoulders of her talented band and welcoming, supportive audience. This was an unforgettable evening.

## A Casual Conversation with Christone “Kingfish” Ingram

By Lynette Shumway-Withycombe

After the sound check, I met with Kingfish in the green room. His manager Ric and all his bandmates were in the room and respectfully quiet.

**Blue Notes (BN):** Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak with you.

**Kingfish (CI):** Yes. Ma'am, thank you.

**BN:** Congratulations on your recent BMA wins!

**CI:** Yes, Ma'am; thank you very much. We're all very excited about that.

**BN:** How did you get your start in music and why the blues?

**CI:** I was born in the music. From my mother, Princess Pride, to all the aunts, uncles and cousins (including Charley Pride), the whole family was always singing and playing, especially in church. When I was five years old, my dad showed me a documentary on Muddy Waters. I was hooked! That was my beginning in the blues.

**BN:** Who were your mentors?

**CI:** I learned the blues from Big A, “Howl N Mad” Perry, “Daddy Rich Crisman and Pinetop Perkins at the Delta Blues Museum. Being from Clarksdale, that was the place to go.

**BN:** You play such a variety of styles in your music; who were your biggest musical influences?

**CI:** Oh, wow! Where to start and when to stop? I guess it started with studying Muddy Waters, Son House, Robert Johnson and B.B. King. Listening to Buddy Guy, Jimi Hendrix, Prince, Stevie Ray Vaughan and so many others. All these guys are so talented. I just want to bring their best into my style.

**BN:** What does the blues mean to you?

**CI:** Life. The blues is life. And it's part of our culture. From the workers in the fields to the OGs who refined it and now teaching it to my generation; it's our culture.

**BN:** Speaking of the OGs, what was it like to tour with Buddy Guy?

**CI:** That was such a privilege. He is the ultimate OG. I tried to learn everything I could. He has the audience in the palm of his hand. That sustains his longevity.

**BN:** Your music really shows how you have incorporated what you have learned from the OGs. You have that “old soul” vibe. Yet you are still so young, a rising star. How do you get young people interested in the blues? And as your star rises, who are you taking with you?

**CI:** Kids my age would tease me for listening and playing that “old stuff.” But I tell them that the blues is the grandfather of any of the music they are listening to. Without the blues, there would be no rock and roll, no country, no hip-hop or rap. As for fostering young talent, I'm very impressed with Mathias Lattin and DK Harrell. We spent time together on the Blues Cruise. I look forward to



working with them.

**BN:** What advice would you give to aspiring musicians thinking of a career in the blues?

**CI:** Follow your heart and find a teacher that can help you do that. You have to play from your heart to be successful.

**BN:** What do you consider your greatest achievement so far?

**CI:** Well, Ma'am, the Grammy was pretty cool! (All nodding and saying “yeah”)

**BN:** What is your greatest possession?

**CI:** My guitars. Some I saved up and bought myself, some were gifts, and some were custom-made for me.

**BN:** What is the one thing you can't live without?

**CI:** My music. No doubt.

**BN:** Do you have a life motto?

**CI:** (In unison) the entire room said, “Do the work!”

**BN:** Of all the songs you have written, which is your favorite?

**CI:** 662, it's all about home.

**BN:** What's your favorite city?

**CI:** Home, Clarksdale.

**BN:** Tell me about your song “Life Outside of This Town.”

**CI:** The Mississippi Delta is my home. It's in my blood and in my soul. It's in my music. That's my culture. Much of life there is still in poverty and strife. I have been blessed with this musical ability. Music is my path up, outside of this town.

**BN:** If the Kingfish magic could change anything in the world, what would you change?

**CI:** Affordable instruments for everyone. Music can change so much in a person's life. Music can bring a positive change in the way you feel about yourself and the way you relate to others. Unfortunately, the cost of musical instruments stops a lot of people from having that musical opportunity for themselves.

**BN:** OK, I've been asking a lot of questions; now it's your turn to say your piece. What is it that YOU want your fans to know about you?

**CI:** I'm doing the work! It's more than a motto, it's a rule of order in my life. I keep my head down and do all the work that good music production requires. So, we have a new CD coming out this fall.

**BN:** It has been a delight to spend time talking with you. Thank you very much.

**CI:** Yes, Ma'am. Thank you.

For more information on Kingfish visit his website at [www.christonekingfishingram.com](http://www.christonekingfishingram.com)



## SBS Archives Opens at the Sacramento Main Public Library Downtown!

By Mindy Giles

Remember 1979- the year that the SBS was born? The same year as Monty Python's "Life of Brian" came out. John Wayne, Sid Vicious and Mr. Ed died. Margaret Thatcher became the first woman to be elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Three Mile Island. The same year Shemekia Copeland, Derek Trucks and Pink were born. 1979.

As part of our ongoing celebration of the 45th year anniversary of the Sacramento Blue Society, we are pleased to announce the very timely opening of the official SBS Archives in the Sacramento Room at the central Sacramento Public Library. 828 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814

The SBS Board met Devon Miller, librarian at the Sacramento Public Library, in January of this year at a monthly Board meeting. A friend of Little Charlie Baty, she had worked diligently for four years following his passing, researching, collecting, and archiving what became the official Little Charlie Baty Collection. It is now housed in the Sacramento Room at the downtown main Sacramento Public Library and opened to the public days before the 3rd Annual Little Charlie Baty Celebration concert here in town on March 28, 2024.

That fortuitous happy January Board meeting led quickly to Miller's offer in the moment to bring the SBS Archives to the library for its permanent home alongside the Charlie Baty Collection.

Jan Kelley, longtime SBS archivist, HOF member (inducted 2014) and two-time SBS President (2000-2001, 2013) met with Miller and determined this was a great offer and perfect home.

According to Miller, "The Sacramento Blues Society Collection will maintain an open-ended posture so as to make room for further additions. We will be happy to accept photos, videos, articles, and other memorabilia."



Here is the link to the finding aid: [https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8gq74k1/entire\\_text/?query=Sacramento%20Blues%20Society](https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8gq74k1/entire_text/?query=Sacramento%20Blues%20Society)

Here is a link to material scanned that is available online: <https://sacroom.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/search/searchterm/sacramento%20blues%20society>

So, reflect on your memorabilia of your love of the blues here in NorCal, and what you may have that should be recognized for 45 more years and on and on for the people who come after us. Honor our music shamans and makers and what they contributed to how you turned out. That is what the songs, the stories and live music can do.

Anyone wishing to add to the collection should email Devon Miller: [d.miller@saclibrary.org](mailto:d.miller@saclibrary.org), or James Scott: [j.scott@saclibrary.org](mailto:j.scott@saclibrary.org).

\*The Sacramento Room is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1 PM to 6 PM and is CLOSED Sunday, Monday, and Friday.

## Casual Conversation with Sue Foley

By Shirley McCoy

Photo by Mark Abernathy

Sue Foley has been on tour promoting her latest all-acoustic release, *One Guitar Woman*, which pays tribute to some of the female pioneers of the guitar. I was glad to get the chance to catch her show in Nevada City at the Miner's Foundry and to sit and have a lively chat with her.



**Blue Notes (BN):** Tell us more about this album; what speaks to you about these women and their music?

**Sue Foley (SF):** I grew up in a family of guitar players, my older brothers and my dad, so I was always curious about who the females were that played guitar. I figured I would play guitar too, because I just took to music really early so I figured guitar would be the path and it was.

But I was looking for role models, really, at the time. And now, we take for granted that there's a lot of female pickers, a lot of great women shredders of all genres of music and every instrument, really, not just guitar. It's much more common, but back when I was a little kid it wasn't. So, throughout my life and my career, I've kept track of them as I went along- I made this tribute to the pioneering women because I'm basically a traditional [blues] artist. So I went with the tradition, I went with the history, I went back all the way to find the women who really started it- Memphis Minnie in blues, Maybelle Carter in country, Ida Presti in classical, Sister Rosetta Tharpe in gospel, Elizabeth in Piedmont folk... these are specific women who really changed the game as far as their musical impact and their cultural impact.

**BN:** As the blues is evolving and modernizing, why do you think it's important to honor the originals?

**SF:** I'm just that kind of artist. I've just always looked back. It's just sort of the way I am, it's the thing that's interesting to me... it gets my imagination going. I love the purity of sound of real simplicity, just the guitar and voice, something that just seems really pure that harkens back to- you can hear the past, you can also hear the future and where things are going, and you can see the evolution.

I love the Rolling Stones and that's how I found blues music, I was like "Well, what were they listening to?" And then I was listening to blues albums and going "Well, who was Muddy Waters listening to?" It's an interesting journey.

**BN:** You got to play with some of the legends down in Austin at Antone's. How do you think that experience shaped your playing?

**SF:** It was really awesome. We were lucky; there were a lot of blues artists on the circuit at that time. Talking late 80s through the 90s, even into the early 2000s. And then there were a lot of people dying off so I'm really lucky I got to see them and hear them and interact with them because this is the kind of music that's really impacted by direct transmission, let's say. So, I was lucky to see and play with a lot of great blues artists like Albert Collins, and Jimmy Rogers, and tour with Koko Taylor, and a lot of people who have passed on now. I really, really, value that time for sure. There are still great people out now, and I think it's just important to go out to clubs and to support music- live music- it's special!

**BN:** You usually play (your guitar) "Pinkey", but there's a special guitar you're playing on this tour. Would you say your guitars are

Casual Conversation w. Sue Foley, Con't. from P. 16  
your most prized possession(s)?

**SF:** It's a handmade flamenco guitar that was made in Paracho, Mexico from a builder named Salvador Castille. A couple of my guitars are definitely up there.

**BN:** Do you have any advice for up-and-coming blues musicians?

**SF:** Just keep it going, play as much as you can! We were lucky because we played a LOT of gigs, we were on the road a LOT. And you really get good that way, technically. Play as many gigs as you can. Play the opening of an envelope! If you're not established yet, especially, just play everywhere and with everybody.

## "Love for Andy": Our Andy Santana

**Benefit Concert** By Mindy Giles Photo by Bob Hakins



This fundraiser is for our friend - guitarist, harp blower, vocalist, and bandleader Andy Santana. Andy has been ill with a devastating disease and is struggling financially as a result. It's one of three planned for northern California. The blues family shows up for each other.

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

and care. Andy has started and employed most of the top musicians in the San Jose, Sacramento, Santa Cruz & Sonoma blues scenes for decades. Folks like Mike Schermer, Rusty Zinn, June Core, Kedar Roy, Junior Watson, Johnny Cat Soubrand, RW Grigsby, Kyle Rowland, Paul Durkett, and Aki Kumar can all say Andy was part of their musical history here.

The talent gathered at this fundraiser to play fantastic music and support him is epic! Players committed to appear include: **Tommy Castro, Anson Funderburgh, Terry Hanck, Mark Hummel, Red's Blues, Kyle Rowland, Bob Welsh, Sid Morris, Kedar Roy, Ed Mann, Steve Ehrmann, R.J. Mischo, and Mick Martin, emcee.**

**Thursday, September 26, The Starlet Room (upstairs of Harlow's), 2708 J St./Sacramento. Doors: 5:30pm; Music: 6:30 -10pm.**

**Admission: For a seat: \$40 advance + fees // \$45 + tax DOS (if there are any tix left); For standing: \$35 advance + fees // \$40 + tax DOS (if there are any tix left)**

As most of you know the Starlet Room is a great sounding room with a swell vibe, but smaller than Harlow's (which was not available to us.) So be smart and please buy advance tickets- it's limited seating. There will be advance standing tickets too. Tickets will have gone on sale prior to the street date of this issue, so don't dawdle.

Come enjoy the show. If you can't make this night, please contribute to his gofundme page here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stand-with-andy-santana-in-his-health-battle>. LOVE FOR ANDY!!

## SBS Member Bands Appear at CA State Fair!

Photos by Phil Kampel

July was not only one of the hottest months on record, but it was also CA State Fair time. Along with some great headliner shows, a number of SBS member bands made appearances at the Fair. We commissioned photographer Phil Kampel to photograph our member bands in action. Here are some great shots of the Katie

Knipp Band, Red's Blues, Rowland & Tumblin', Todd Morgan and Zola Moon.



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## Thank You Donors!

Our donors and members are the life blood of our organization. Without you we would be unable to accomplish our mission. Please join these major donors by making a tax deductible contribution on our website: [www.sacblues.org](http://www.sacblues.org) or by sending a check made out to "The Sacramento Blues Society" to SBS, PO Box 60580, Sacramento, CA 95860-0580. We need your continued support. When you renew your membership, why not add an additional contribution? Every little bit helps!

Gordon & Vida Adelman

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Yvonne "Pinkie" Rideau  
Varner

Liz Walker

Charlie Wheeler

Steven White

# Sacramento Blues Society Member Bands

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

**Amy Celeste & the Best**  
amycelestemusic.com

**The Angel Reyes Band**  
m.angelreyes53@gmail.com

**The Anthony Arya Band**  
www.anthonryarya.com

**The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra**  
www.anthonypaule.com

**Big Earl & the Cryin' Shame**  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Earl>

**The Bluez Houndz**  
nmurray22@att.net

**The Bobby Young Project**  
www.bobbyyoungproject.com

**The Carmen Ratti Band**  
www.carmenrattiband.com/

**Chaz and Jess**  
www.chazandjess.com

**Chicken & Dumpling**  
www.chickenanddumpling.net

**Chrissie O'Dell & The Real Deal**  
chrissieodell@gmail.com

**Danny Sandoval & His Amigos**  
https://dannysandoval.com

**Dave Croall & The Soothers**  
www.soothersblues.com

**Dr. Rock & The Stuff**  
www.bookthestuff.com

**Gloria T & The Master Groovers**  
www.mzgloriat.com

**Herald Sessions**  
goatburglar@gmail.com

**The Hucklebucks**  
www.thehucklebucks.com

**Jazz Cowgirl**  
www.avadupree.com

**Jeramy Norris & The Blues Cartel**  
www.dangerousblues.com

**Jonny Domino**  
jogorelskin@gmail.com

**Julie & the Jukes**  
<http://julieandthejukes.com>

**The Katie Knipp Band**  
katieknipp.com

**Matt Rainey & The Dippin' Sauce**  
<https://mattraineymusic.com/>

**The Melonnee Desiree Band**  
cometruemusic@aol.com

**The Mick Martin Big Blues Band**  
[www.reverbnation.com/mick-martinsbigbluesband](http://www.reverbnation.com/mick-martinsbigbluesband)

**The Midtown Creepers**  
jm McGuire@comcast.net

**Nedra & Julio NJR Music**  
www.njrmusic.com

**Papa Day Blues Band**  
www.oldbluesdude.com

**Pascal Bokar AfroBlueGraaz Band**  
www.pascalbokar.com

**Pinkie Rideau & Blioux Gumbo**  
<https://pinkie-rideau-1.ueniweb.com>

**The Ray "Catfish" Copeland Band**  
www.raycatfishcopeland.com

**Red's Blues**  
www.redsbluesband.com

**Rick Estrin & The Nightcats**  
www.rickestrin.com

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**Rooster**  
<https://roosterrockandroll.com>

**Rowland & Tumblin'**  
www.kylerowlandblues.com

**Rube & The Rhythm Rockers**  
<https://www.facebook.com/steve.rubenstein.39>

**The Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band**  
[www.facebook.com/TimNoxon-RockinBluesBand](http://www.facebook.com/TimNoxon-RockinBluesBand)

**Todd Morgan & The Emblems**  
toddmorganmusic.com

**Tony & The Tuff Times**  
[www.facebook.com/tattblues](http://www.facebook.com/tattblues)

**Val Starr**  
www.valstarr.com

**The West Coast Playboys w. Andy Santana**  
<https://westcoastplayboys.com>

**The William Mylar Band**  
www.mylarville.com

**Yahmo**  
mountainlionwaters@gmail.com

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