

SACRAMENTO

A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society



# BLUE NOTES!

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VOL. 5



## President's Column

By Sally Katen



I want to thank everyone for all the many prayers and good wishes for my speedy recovery. I feel loved and know the prayers are working because I feel a little better every day. I am grateful to be a part of this wonderful blues family and my cup runneth over!

My cousin, Barbara, has been calling me the "Ticket Whisperer" for a while now, and I've been asked to share some of the tricks on how I am able to often get great seats to concerts. When it is a show, you REALLY want to go to, you need a plan on how you will be able to get good seats without paying the resell cost.

First, I recommend you follow your favorite artists on social media and periodically check their website for tour announcements. Once you know or hear your favorite artist or band is going out on tour, you need to start watching for dates. Join their fan club (most of them are free nowadays), which in turn will give you that much needed pre-sale code. You can also search the web and sometimes find them. But why worry about that when the fan club will usually send them to you?

So now you have the date (and friends you are going with), and you have a mission to get the best tickets you can. The day the presale tickets are scheduled to go on sale, log into the ticket seller web-page ahead of time to make sure the site is working and read the information to see if there might be special instructions to follow.

Once on the site, to set it up, all you must do is add the pre-sale code and when it lets you in, choose your tickets! And just so you know, good seats and many tickets costs \$\$\$...so be prepared and know your spending limit.

Recently, the news has been reporting a trend of items being thrown up on stage at Artists. It's apparent that some audiences need to be

reminded of concert etiquette. Emily Post and even *Rolling Stone* magazine have published standards of concert etiquette. So dear blues buddies, that will be the subject of my next President's Message. Until then, I hope to see you at the next musical event!

## Get Ready for the Blues in the Schools Extravaganza!

by Rick Snyder, BITS Chairman

Hey there, music enthusiasts!

As we gear up for an exciting new school year, we are thrilled to announce that our Blues in the Schools program is back and better than ever!



### 2022 Committee Chairs

*Blues in the Schools* - Rick Snyder

*Hall of Fame* - Sally Katen

*Events* - Mindy Giles

*Membership* - Linda McShane

*Sponsorships/Fundraising* - Barbara Ray

*Public Relations & Social Media* - Mindy Giles

*Volunteer Coordinator* - Lynette Shumway

*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](mailto:president@sacblues.org)

### 2023 Board of Directors

Sally Katen, President

Barbara Katen, Vice President

Jim Coats, Secretary

Renee Erickson Sullivan,  
Treasurer

Rex Smith, Parliamentarian

Cari Chenkin

Rick Snyder

Lynette Shumway

Julio Covington

Marcel Smith

### Sacramento Blues Society Publications

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**Twitter: [@SacBluesSociety](https://twitter.com/SacBluesSociety)**

Brace yourself for an extraordinary lineup of artist-in-residence programs and assembly shows that will bring the magic of blues music to elementary, middle, and high schools across the greater Sacramento area.

Our dedicated committee has been hard at work curating an unforgettable concert event scheduled to take place in March or April of 2024. Get ready to be blown away by talented musicians who will ignite your passion for blues and leave you craving more!

Here's a sneak peek of what's in store:

1. Artist-in-Residence Programs:

Prepare to be inspired as renowned blues artists spend dedicated time with students, sharing their expertise, knowledge, and love for this incredible genre. Our interactive workshops will encourage creativity, self-expression, and a deep appreciation for the power of music.

2. Assembly Shows:

Get ready to groove as our dynamic assembly shows hit your school stage! These energetic performances will entertain and educate students about the rich history and cultural significance of blues music. Brace yourself for toe-tapping rhythms, soulful melodies, and infectious enthusiasm that will have everyone on their feet.

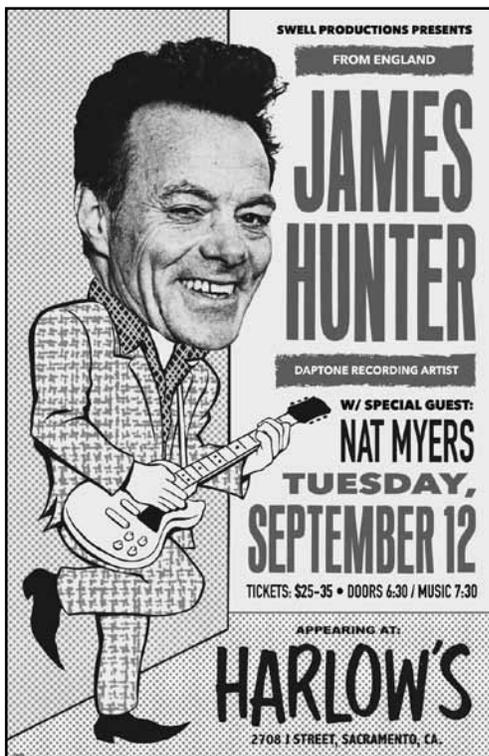
3. Concert Event:

Mark your calendars because our highly anticipated concert event is going to be an absolute showstopper! Stay tuned for updates as we finalize details on this spectacular showcase featuring top-notch blues artists who will deliver a night filled with unforgettable performances.

We can't wait to share these incredible experiences with you all - it's going to be a year filled with rhythm, soul, and pure musical magic!

Stay tuned for more updates on dates, venues, and how you can get involved in supporting this fantastic initiative.

Keep on Rockin' the Blues, The Blues in the Schools Team



## We Need You To Help Guide The Sacramento Blues Society!

On December 3, 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 currently have one open vacancy on our 2023 Board of Directors, and three current Board members with terms expiring January 2024 may also run for reelection, so four 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 SBS and actively participate in 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 submit your name to the ballot for the 2024 SBS Board of Directors. Please contact one of the following Board members with your interest:

- President, Sally Katen (president@sacblues.org)
- Vice President, Barbara Katen (vicepresident@sacblues.org)
- Secretary, Jim Coats (secretary@sacblues.org)
- *Blue Notes* Editor, Cari Chenkin (editor@sacblues.org)

**The deadline for submission is Saturday, September 30, 2023.**

Anyone interested in running for election needs to 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 2024 should also submit their statement and photo. **Deadline to get your brief statement and photo to the *Blue Notes* Editor is Monday, October 9, 2023.** 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!



## What's on your Playlist?

By Barbara Katen

I find it really interesting discovering what y'all consider staples on your playlist so I'm going to keep reaching out for your top five playlist songs. I know it's difficult with so much great music available to us but try to limit your choices to five songs. Five people, five songs. Please email your top five to me at [bkaten2@gmail.com](mailto:bkaten2@gmail.com) and be sure to put Top 5 Playlist Songs in the email header



Rex Smith

"Downey to Lubbock" – Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore

"I'm on Fire" – Town Mountain

"Crossing Muddy Water" – I'm With Her

"Wildfire" – Watchhouse

"Sugaree" – Grateful Dead

Linda McShane

"Ain't Got No Troubles" – Eden Brent

"Someone to Love" – Charles Brown

"I'd Rather Go Blind" – Etta James

"Still Got the Blues" – Gary Moore

"Sweet Home Chicago" – Buddy Guy

Jim Coats

"I Left My Heart in San Francisco" – Tony Bennett

Harvest Moon – Neil Young

"That's the Way the World Goes Round" – John Prine

"The Weight" – The Band

"Don't Know Why" – Norah Jones

Lynette Shumway

"Sweet Home Chicago" – Robert Johnson/Buddy Guy/Luther Allison

"Tennessee Whiskey" – Chris Stapleton

"Angel from Montgomery" – Bonnie Raitt

"Big Legged Woman" – Freddie King

"My Big Sister's Radio" – Tommy Castro & the Painkillers

"No Working During Drinking Hours" – Laurie Morvan Band

Rick Snyder

"Brown Shoes Don't Make It" – Frank Zappa & the Mothers of Invention

"Birds of Fire" – Mahavishnu Orchestra

"Voodoo Child" – Jimi Hendrix

"Texan Love Song" – Elton John

"Smoke That Cigarette" – Commander Cody & the Lost Planet Airmen

## What's The News with Biscuits & Blues?

By Barbara Katen



Recently I came upon a social media post from Biscuits & Blues, asking if anyone could guess the Grand Re-opening date. This put a bee in my bonnet, as I have been eagerly awaiting the reopening of San Francisco's preeminent blues music venue (since 1995).

Many of us know the venue had to close unexpectedly in April 2019 when the upstairs business developed a rather nasty leak which rained down onto Biscuits and Blues below. Because of the unsanitary conditions, the club was unable to stay open. However, the restaurant business above it remained open 24 hours a day while the case was being fought in court. Biscuits & Blues ultimately prevailed after a long, protracted court case.

Steven Suen, owner of Biscuits & Blues, was recently contacted for an update. He responded: "At this time, I am still getting feedback



from my contractor as he explores the timeline for the remodel project. The upstairs business's contractors are visiting our space trying to work on their part of repair. Once done, my contractor will have a better idea what's coming up next. That's all I know for now. I'm hopeful the grand re-opening will be before the holidays. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to Biscuits & Blues 2.0 as it will serve our community in the greater Bay Area for the next 15 to 20 years, at least. How about a Biscuits & Blues in Sacramento? Just a thought."

It's really going to happen, with luck and perseverance. We're all looking forward to their re-opening. Something to think about: a Biscuit & Blues club in Sacramento??? Yes, please!

## The Night I Met The Blues

by Jay Johnston (as told to Mindy Giles)

It happened on January 25, 1968, at The Coconut Grove Ballroom on Franklin Blvd./Fruitridge Avenue.

The show was Junior Wells and his South Chicago Blues Band. I knew nothing of Junior Wells, nor did the crowd of some eighty Black folks who came to check him out.

Junior Wells started playing his signature songs—"Hoodoo Man Blues," and "Checking On My Baby." There was no clapping, no finger popping, and no one was dancing. The audience was just watching. Junior noticed this and went to the microphone and said this: "What's the matter folks, aren't I playing anything you like?"

The audience responded with "Motown!" First it was "Stevie Wonder!" Then, "The Temptations! Martha & The Vandellas!"

Junior got mad. He grabbed the microphone and said this: "I'm Junior Wells and I play THE BLUES, and I don't care if you like it or not."

The room went silent. The entire audience turned and walked out and got their money back. I was the only person left. And they played a complete set for me. I met Junior and the band. We became friends for his whole career.

Through the years, one time, I asked him if he remembered that night long ago in Sacramento. "Yes, Jay—that was the weekend I didn't get paid."



## "Blue Sunday" Update

by Cari Chenkin

June's band was The NJR Trio, and July's band was The Dave Earl Blues Band. Please see their reviews below.

August's "Blue Sunday", which featured The Bill Mylar Blues Band, occurred on August 27, too late for review publication in this issue; look for it in the November-December issue. Because the last Sunday in September is our Hall of Fame Induction and party, there will be NO Blue Sunday in September. We'll be back at it in October when we feature Big Earl & the Crying Shame. November's band is Dr. Rock & The Stuff, and we close out the year in December with a performance by the Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band. See you at the Torch on the last Sunday of each month!

### June 25, 2023 - The NJR Trio

Photos by Mindy Giles, Julio Covington & Cari Chenkin

The NJR Trio was our member band for Blue Sunday on 6/26. This marked the first time we had an **all-acoustic** show for Blue Sunday, and it was a fun and refreshing change of pace. Despite being



acoustic (yes, they were amplified via the PA system) the band put out a nicely rounded and large sound.

Fronted by Nedra Russ on vocals and harmonica, the rest of the band consisted of Julio Guerra (sometimes known

as "Julio InGlasses", LOL) on guitar and vocals and Jay Crawford on upright bass. One thing I've seldom seen at a blues show, was Jay's use of a bow on some songs, in addition to the usual plucking.

The band played a combina-



tion of classic blues tunes and some originals as well. Songs included "Walking Shoes", "Mean Woman Blues", "Blues Is My Business", "Mellow Down Easy", "Got My Mojo Workin'" and "Pride and Joy". They even



played a couple of unconventional covers, including a Kate Wolf tune and Bob Dylan's "From a Buick 6".

They drew a respectable-sized crowd and



both the band and attendees enjoyed the afternoon.

### July 30, 2023 - The Dave Earl Blues Band

Photos by Mindy Giles, Julio Covington & Cari Chenkin

Our July Blue Sunday featured The Dave Earl Blues Band. Dave is a well-known musician who's played with many big-name blues perform-



ers throughout the years, and his knowledge of the genre and his ease and skill as a guitarist, singer and harmonica player really shone throughout the show.

Dave (guitar, vocals, harmonica) was joined onstage by Brett Cole on bass, Artie Chavez on drums

and Sid Morris on keyboards. They played a great mix of original tunes and classic blues songs, covering artists like Howling Wolf, Jimmy Reed, Otis Spann and Slim Harpo. Slim was one of Dave's inspirations in the blues, so much so that he wrote a song about him called "Slim Harpo", which the band performed.

Notable covers included "Who's Been Talkin'", "Take Out Some Insurance", "Hip Shake", "King Bee", "Shake Your Money Maker", "Talk to Your Daughter" and the Albert King hit "I'll Play the Blues for You", which coincidentally is the title of Dave's newest CD.



July Blue Sunday Review, Con't. from P. 5

The band was kind enough to even invite yours truly onstage to sing a few tunes with them, which I happily did, and had a great time sitting in with them!

A great crowd attended, including dancers, and the band kept the audience thoroughly entertained throughout their two long sets.



## Hello Beale Street!

By Liz Walker

As announced earlier, Kyle Rowland will represent the Sacramento Blues Society at the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis, January 17-20, 2024. You can show your support for this exciting opportunity for our one and only Kyle in multiple ways.

Mark your calendar for an intimate evening on the patio, and help finance Kyle's trip.

"Fireside Blues" - October 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Stoney's Rockin Rodeo - Patio, 1320 Del Paso Blvd., Sacramento.

Admission: \$15.00 for SBS Members & \$20.00 for Non-Members

We also have a Go Fund Me page setup for Kyle. Please visit the following link to donate: <https://gofund.me/7ed45e9a>

Your help is appreciated! Remember, it takes a village to raise a blues child.



BEALE STREET is calling and we're going! The International Blues Challenge is an exceptional four days of blues, blues, blues. Acts from around the world bring their best for the competition. A group of Sacramento blues lovers will be traveling together Wednesday January 17 - Sunday January 21, in support of our very own KYLE

ROWLAND. Would you like to join us?

I personally have stayed at The Comfort Inn multiple times. It's close to Beale Street, has free parking, breakfast, and clean comfortable rooms. They have blocked 10 rooms with a discount for us. Single/double/triple occupancy room rate will be \$149 per night (regular price \$162.) With taxes, etc., it comes to \$178.20 per night (\$712.80 total for four nights.)

As of right now a round trip flight is approximately \$500. Flight costs change constantly so can't say exactly what that cost would be 'til we're ready to book, but that will give you an idea.

IBC ticket price is available October 1. Check out The Blues Foundation's website, [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org), for more IBC information.

Please contact Liz Walker (by October 10) - [lizwalker53@yahoo.com](mailto:lizwalker53@yahoo.com) - if you're interested in traveling with the group. Whoopee! It's gonna be a party!

## SBS Hall of Fame Welcomes the Class of 2023 Inductees!

By Sally Katen

Photos by Bob Cosman

Putting the Hall of Fame together each year has always been a labor of love for me and this year is no different. This is not something I do by myself either; without the help of many volunteers, I would be working non-stop for months! I want to share my thanks.

First, my HOF Committee that has been with me (most of them) for the past 13 years. Most have continued each year, and when some were inducted, they also joined the 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)
- Rataatat 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.

A big thank you goes out as well to Jan Kelley who edits all the bios and Bob Cosman who does our photos for the Torch Club wall and the *Blue Notes*. Also, thanks to:

- Bob Hakins (photographer)
- Bobbie Armstrong and Donald Jacobson (Raffle staff)
- Liz Walker (Emcee)
- Mindy Giles (Stage Manager)
- Barbara Katen (HOF Program)
- Lynette Shumway (Merchandise)
- Earl Withycombe
- Bill VanHouten
- Liz VanHouten
- Julio Covington, (Set up and Tear Down)
- Harlow's and Staff
- The Torch Club – Marina Teixeira, 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 evening on Sunday, September 24. Marcel Smith, will be the featured entertainer for the event. And of course, there's the After Party at the Torch Club beginning at 6:00 pm. You won't want to miss it!

It is with great pleasure I introduce this year's 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees (All inductee bios in the current Blues Notes are also on our website [sacblues.org](http://sacblues.org)):

- Angel Reyes
- Beth Reid Grigsby
- Frank Dupree
- Jeff Hughson
- Pinkie Rideau

Congratulations!

### **Angel Reyes**

Angel Reyes was born and raised in Sacramento, CA. His maternal grandfather and uncle both played guitars, singing and playing Mexican folk songs. Angel said, "As far back as I can remember, there has always been a guitar". His early influences were the three Kings, B.B., Albert, and Freddy in addition to Earl King, Jr. Angel is mostly self-taught with lessons early on in his development from Tiny Moore's music teacher, Skip Majora, and later, Mark Peirson from The Working Class band.



Angel was the featured guitarist with R&B singer Sylvester in the early seventies in San Francisco, first with his group Sylvester and the Hot Band, later forming another musical troupe which added vocalist Bianca Thornton, aka "Lady Bianca". This band became very popular, having sell-out crowds every night at their regular gig at the Cabaret Club, and playing the Whiskey A Go-Go in December of 1974 in Los Angeles and San Francisco's California Hall, headlining over Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks.

Angel has a long list of playing blues with some of the greatest. He toured extensively throughout the Midwest, Canada, and the Pacific Northwest Regions with recording artists the Francisco Bros. Angel has played with blues singer and Hammond organist Glenn Lane and the Soul of the Blues. For twelve years ending in December 2016, he played with Willie G and has played the Monterey Blues Festival backing up Delta guitar player Guitar Mac. With Mac he also has played the Mount Shasta Blues Festival and the California State Fair. Angel was featured in Vol. 3, Issue 6, Jan/Feb 2000 of the Official Jimi Hendrix magazine, *Experience Hendrix*. He has also played at Eli's in Oakland, benefiting Sonny Rhodes, the Texas slide guitarist whose touring van caught fire while on tour in Florida.

Angel is currently doing session work and live performances with his own band, The Angel Reyes Band, with members guitarist Tim Barnes, Dwayne O'Neal on bass, and Rat-a-Tat Pat Balcom on drums.

### **Beth Reid-Grigsby**

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, and influenced by her family's love of the blues, Beth Reid-Grigsby had her first singing appearance on stage at the Bluebird Café in Santa Barbara in 1977.



She and husband RW Grigsby, bass player and HOF inductee 2018, moved to Sacramento in 1992, where Beth photographed several local artists, including The Hucklebucks and Screaming Dave Wright and Serious Trouble, creating album covers for both in the mid to late 90s. She photographed every one of Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowouts from 2007 forward as well as two Blues Cruises and many road shows.

Beth started singing locally in 2002, mostly sitting in with such bands as The Hucklebucks and Johnny Guitar Knox, including performing with Johnny at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and various others. She sang in, booked, and managed the Keri Carr band for three years, singing backup and performing in the Sacramento region.

Beth started her band Red's Blues in 2012 with the idea of featuring a special guest artist at each show. Their first show featured Aki Kumar at the legendary Torch Club in Sacramento. Red's Blues has performed at the Sacramento Music Festival, the Cajun & Blues Festival, and continues to perform at the Torch Club and the "Blues & Bourbon" series at the Starlet in Sacramento, along with many others in the region as one of the most popular local bands. Red's Blues has been nominated twice for the Sammies Awards, an awards program in Sacramento that recognizes local talent, and they have produced three successful CDs.

As a teacher and performer, Beth has given her talents to the SBS Blues In The Schools (BITS) program in 2022-2023 and has become a regular. According to the program director "the kids love her".

As songwriter, lead singer, front woman, manager and booking agent for Red's Blues, Beth contributes significantly to our local blues community

### **Frank Dupree**

Frank Dupree, born and raised in Knoxville, TN, left home at 17 to join the military. Music was always at the forefront of his life even when there wasn't anything to be found on the radio.

Frank played piano in the church and learned all he could by his own means – records provided his music education, Jimmy Smith in particular. While stationed in Honolulu, Frank had access to an organ at the YWCA in 1967, still self-taught, and went on to earn an AA degree in music theory and composition. While in Hawaii, he drew from the local talent – Don Ho, Arthur Lyman, and Bobby Lester.



Upon being discharged from the military at Mather Air Base in 1970, Frank decided to stay in Sacramento and established his first band there, a trio called The Operators, which got him through a two-year course in nursing school. Many players would come and go in this trio but the main players were Rich Yarison, drums and James

Olsen (deceased) guitar and sax, playing at the Tia Maria, Crow's Nest, Los Robles, Ramada Inn and other places. Following this trio, Frank formed another band called The Mid-day Moon in 1977, again with many players coming and going, but John Lamiell on sax and JJ Funderburk (deceased) were key players, as they continued to play at various Sacramento locations that no longer exist. They were also featured in the *Living Blues* magazine Vol #74.

Frank played on the road with Bobby Bland for a bit, starting on the East Coast and ending in San Carlos at the legendary Circle Star Theater. He opened shows for B.B. King, Ramsey Lewis, and Ben E. King, and played with Lou Rawls, Nancy Wilson, Merl Saunders, and Buddy Ace

Frank states "My sincerest appreciation of the blues happened as I migrated to the band playing with John Heartsman (HOF 2008). There was a pulse to my music I had not explored yet and thanks to John, I was able to do this." They played together for several years at venues like the Monterey Blues Festival, Harrah's Tahoe, the San Francisco Blues Festival, and the infamous Sam's Hof Brau...and the list goes on.

### Jeff Hughson

A stalwart of the Sacramento music scene for many years, Jeff Hughson is recognized for his role in creating the Sacramento Blues Society along with Mick Martin and Phil Givant. It was in 1979 at the Sacramento Blues Festival that producer Phil Givant, Mick Martin & Jeff asked the attendees who would be interested in establishing a Blues Society. Many signed up and the first meeting was held shortly after, at which time Jeff was elected President



Long before this, he was a record collector for many years, and his extensive collection of LPs includes the likes of Little Jimmy Reed, Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker, and many more well-known blues artists. He recounts how he would go to Tower Records and buy these now collector's items for only a few dollars! This led to new experiences of being a DJ on the radio.

He was a sixteen-year-old high school student doing the 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. show on KXRQ (FM) weekdays, in addition to his Sunday morning blues show. Later, when he heard the station was being sold, he interviewed with the new owner and became a co-founder (his record collection became much of the station library!) and the first Music Director of the new station, now called KZAP. "I graduated from (Sacramento) High School in June of 1968, and I went to work at the end of July." One of the first free-form radio stations in America, the now-legendary KZAP is the central touchstone in an upcoming film documentary, *Free-Form, Baby!*. Jeff is the Executive Producer of this film.

Collecting, learning, and research continued, and his knowledge and production skills expanded.

Many of the blues shows in Sacramento were produced by Jeff on behalf of the SBS, including outdoor events in William Land Park and at various venues around town. Tootsie's in Old Sacramento was a favorite where admission was only three dollars most times and featured local bands along with big name blues artists like The Robert Cray Band with Curtis Salgado, Charlie Musselwhite, Luther Tucker, and others. Shows were held there two times a week and in all Jeff's tenure more than 40 concerts were produced.

### Pinkie Rideau

Yvonne "Pinkie" Rideau, known as the "Wailin' Lil' Cajun" by many, was born in San Francisco and relocated to the Sacramento area from Brown's Valley. She credits her late parents Joseph and Adele Rideau with instilling the love of music in her.



Since 1982, her musical efforts have centered around Sacramento and Northern California, subsequently becoming a major female voice in the Sacramento blues music scene. In 2005, she began hosting local blues jams with her band and in 2008 she traveled to Memphis with guitarist Ron Cook to represent the Sacramento Blues Society in the International Blues Challenge, a Blues Foundation event open to the best musicians world-wide. Pinkie also gives her talent and time to the SBS Blues in the Schools program, where she has become a favorite with students and teachers alike at school assemblies.

Pinkie is not only a talented blues musician/vocalist but a writer, producer, and philanthropist. Having dealt bravely with her own personal medical issues, she is a constant voice in the effort to help those that need a hand. One of Pinkie's rules for performing in her band is the willingness to perform at benefit and charity gigs. Because, with a grin, Pinkie said "It keeps ya legal!"

Over the past two decades, Pinkie has performed with and opened for numerous artists, a few of whom include Bobby Bland, Mavis Staples, Betty LaVette, Bonnie Raitt, Dave Mason, Kim Wilson, Bruce Willis, Ronnie Montrose, Chris Cain, and others. She joined the Mick Martin Big Blues Band, to perform, along with other local musicians, a *History of the Blues* stage production written by Nan Mahon.

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:

ANGEL REYES

BETH REID-GRIGSBY

FRANK DUPREE

JEFFREY HUGHSON

PINKIE RIDEAU

MARCEL SMITH  
CD RELEASE PARTY

TICKETS ON SALE:  
SBS \$15 / GA \$20  
[www.harlows.com](http://www.harlows.com)

FOR MORE INFO:  
[www.sacblues.org](http://www.sacblues.org)

THE SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY PRESENTS

**THE 2023 HALL OF FAME AWARDS**

SUN. SEPTEMBER 24

CEREMONY  
HARLOW'S 1-5PM  
SHOWCASE  
TORCH CLUB 6-8PM

## The Marvelous Mr. Marcel Smith on Tap for the Hall of Fame Event! *By Mindy Giles*

The very special live entertainment for the Hall of Fame event on Sunday, September 24 will be our own Marcel Smith. He's got an upcoming release, *From My Soul*, his second with Little Village Foundation.

We can't wait to hear this new record, and as soon as we know when it is releasing, we'll let you know. We hope he can announce the street date at our show.

He's got a stellar group of players who joined him in the studio and are on the 12-song record with him, including the **Greaseland All Stars**: Jim Pugh - Organ; Christoffer "Kid" Andersen - Guitar, Sitar, Wurlitzer, Bass, Piano, Vibes; Derrick "D'Mar" Martin - Drums; Endre Terzey - Bass; Rick Estrin - Harmonica; Jerry Jemmott - Bass; Jon Otis - Percussion; Mike Rinta - Trumbone; Aaron Lington - Saxophone; John Worley - Trumpet; Don Dally - Strings

**Vocal Credits:** Lisa Andersen; John Blues Boyd; Sons of the Soul Revivers; Johnny Rawls; Christoffer "Kid" Andersen; Alabama Mike.

Stay tuned for more information on Marcel's upcoming record release, and make sure to catch his performance at the HOF!

## Save the Date! SBS Holiday Gala is on the Horizon!

Good times are in store - our Events Committee has been busy working on our Holiday Gala Party and Annual Membership Meeting.

Although we don't have an announcement to make right now about the entertainment for our party, we're in negotiations to bring in an exciting and much-loved act, so you'll want to mark your calendars.

The date will be Saturday, December 3, 2023, and the location is Harlow's.

We'll have the final details available in the next issue of the Blue Notes, so save the date, and hang in there until we can reveal all!

## Blues and Bones Festival Featuring the Blood Brothers

This is your friendly reminder that the Blues and Bones Festival returns to Angels Camp on September 23, 2023. Headlined by the Blood Brothers (Albert Castiglia and Mike Zito), the Festival also features performances by the Laurie Morvan Band, The Blues Cartel, featuring Jeremy Norris, and the Evan Thomas Band (both the latter bands are SBS member bands, BTW!). In addition to the great musical lineup, the Festival offers a variety of food and BBQ vendors offering up their finest slow-cooked meats, sides, and sauces for attendees to enjoy as well as number of craft vendors.

Tickets for the Blues and Bones Festival are on sale now. Kids under 12 are free with a paying adult. They offer SBS members

a discount of \$10 off either a VIP or GA ticket using promo code **Sacblues** at checkout when purchasing tickets from the Blues



and Bones website. VIP tickets include a 30-minute early entrance allowing VIP ticket holders access to area with prime viewing of the stage, a festival poster and festival koozie. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.bluesandbones.com](http://www.bluesandbones.com).

**BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET**

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

SEPTEMBER 2023 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 6TH:  
**JOHNNY BURGIN**  
\$16: GA / \$14: SBS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 13TH:  
**PINKIE RIDEAU**  
\$17: GA / \$15: SBS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 20TH:  
**AKI KUMAR**  
\$18: GA / \$15: SBS MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 27TH:  
**QUIQUE GOMEZ & FRIENDS**  
(DIRECT FROM SPAIN!)  
\$20: GA / \$18: SBS MEMBERS

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

## Peace, Love and Zydeco!

### Zydeco Sunday with Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience

*By Barbara Katen with comments by Cari Chenkin*

*Photos by Julio Covington & Mindy Giles*

This SBS-sponsored show with Terrance and his band, on Sunday, July 23 at Harlow's was a blast! To quote lyrics from an R.E.M. song "Shiny happy people laughing" would be the apt description of the people in attendance for the show. I wasn't alone in this feeling; Zydeco music is fun and joyous. Heck, personally, Zydeco makes me extremely happy and makes me bust a move! (It's best you don't try to visualize that scenario.) This show was fabulous - just ask anyone that attended. And if you didn't attend, it was too bad for you!



This evening the doors opened to a diverse and very enthusiastic audience, most of whom were wearing their dancing shoes, and dance we surely did! A number of local and Bay Area Zydeco dancers showed up and Zydeco-Two-Stepped all night long. There was dancing of every variety: line dancing, break dancing, swing, two-step, ballroom, it all happened! There was a dancer wearing an alligator hat, a dancer wearing Bermuda shorts and cowboy boots -

Peace, Love & Zydeco, Con't. from P. 9

and that dude was a seriously good dancer! It was impossible to sit still while listening to this terrific music.

Terrance Simien is the front man and his band members each held their own musically, which is no small feat,



given the stupendous talent of the legendary and magical Terrance. His amazing vocal ability rivals that of Aaron Neville and the late great Sam Cooke. Alongside Terrance – on vocals and accordion, the

band consists of Stan Chambers - bass, Michael Christie – trumpet, Orlando Gilbert – saxophone, Ian Molinaro Thompson – drums, and Danny Williams – keys. All amazingly talented musicians who were also amazingly nice people! I love it when that happens!

Did you know that Terrance has had a major part in promoting Zydeco music to the musical “mainstream”? It’s true – he and his band have appeared in and provided music for major motion pictures, including *The Big Easy*, *The Lucky One* and Disney’s *The*



*Princess and the Frog*. He also has won Grammy awards, and has traveled the world, spreading the “gospel” of Zydeco to

Africa, Cuba, Ukraine, Russia, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay as a cultural ambassador sanctioned by the US State Department! He is truly an international star!

During the course of this amazing night, there was a front line and second line winding through Harlow’s with Terrance and the band leading the audience through the room. Most of the crowd wearing the colorful beads Terrance had thrown out to the audience and a

couple of parasols and handkerchiefs also appeared. I’ve never been to NOLA, but I felt like I was getting a very real taste of what it might be like and I’m ready to go!

Terrance performed a stunning variety of tunes, including his originals and great covers such as The Band’s “I Shall Be Released”, Bob Dylan’s “You Ain’t Goin’ Nowhere”. Of course, there



were plenty of Zydeco classics as well. Some of the other songs we were favored with were “We Got to Have Peace”, “Love the One You’re With/”You Can’t Always Get What You Want”, “Iko Iko”/”When The Saints Go Marching In”/”Amazing Grace”/”Down by the Riverside”/”This Little Light of Mine”.



It was a fun, lively evening with fabulous music. It was a night I will remember for a very, very long time.



**THE TORCH CLUB**

**SEPTEMBER**

FRI 1ST - KYLE ROWLAND 9PM  
 WED 6TH - JUSTIN HOWL 8:30PM  
 THU 7TH - RAIN DOG 9PM  
 SAT 16TH - PETER PETTY & HIS DOUBLE P REVUE 9PM  
 WED 20TH - RUMBLE KING 8:30PM  
 SUN 24TH - SBS BLUES HALL OF FAME AFTER PARTY 4PM  
 THU 28TH - DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS 9PM  
 FRI 29TH - IAN MOORE 9PM

**OCTOBER**

THU 12TH - COFFIS BROS (TOM PETTY'S BDAY) 9PM  
 SAT 21ST - RJ MISCHO 9PM  
 WED 25TH - JASON DANIELS BAND 8:30PM  
 THU 26TH - DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS 9PM  
 SUN 29TH - SBS BLUES W/ BIG EARL AND THE CRYING SHAME 4PM

www.torchclub.net

**Christone "Kingfish" Ingram**  
*The Center For the Arts Grass Valley, August 5, 2023*  
 By Lynette Shumway



This guy can sing!!! I first heard "Kingfish" sing on a Blues Cruise in 2021 as the world started venturing out from the pandemic lockdown. From the very first word he sang, he had me. His voice is so smooth, sultry, and mesmerizing. This show was more of the same; like being enveloped in the lull of a blues cloud.

"Kingfish" opened with his breakout hit "Fresh Out." This composition really demonstrates the breadth of his guitar skills. He makes his guitar sing, talk, cry, wail, sway, whisper, howl, scream, and I even heard tap dancing as he thumped on the neck strings!

Christone was born into music. His mother was Princess Pride, cousin of country legend Charley Pride. Born and raised in Clarkdale, Mississippi, he was surrounded by and instructed in the blues culture. Major blues influencers were Robert Johnson, Buddy Guy, Lightnin' Hopkins, BB King, and Muddy Waters. And with admiration for Jimi Hendrix and Prince, "Kingfish" can really rock the blues.

As have most artists, Christone has had good times and bad. But it is his extraordinary talent that has translated these experiences into works of art that even at a young age, marked him as a blues prodigy. Kingfish has become the "defining blues voice of his generation" (as stated on his bio on Alligator Records).

It would take at least two pages of small-font single space to list all of his awards. Just to mention a few, in 2020, his debut album *King-*

*fish* won five Blues Music Awards including Album of the Year. His sophomore album 662 was released in 2021 and won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Blues Album, and in 2023 Christone "Kingfish" Ingram won Contemporary Blues Male Artist of the year at the Blues Music Awards.

"Kingfish" has already had multiple TV appearances, toured with Buddy Guy, and performed at the White House for First Lady Michelle Obama.

Christone closed the show with Grammy winning and fan favorite "662". Everyone was on their feet, dancing and singing along. So much already accomplished, yet so much more to come from a young man who is only 24 years old!

TC KING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS  
**14TH ANNUAL BLUES BY THE RIVER**

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS MUSIC-THEMED RAFFLES  
 100% OF ALL MONIES GENERATED GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH, 2023  
 2:00 TO 7:00 PM  
 SWABBIES ON THE RIVER  
 5871 GARDEN HIGHWAY  
 SACRAMENTO CA

**CHRIS CAIN BAND**



Chris Cain has mesmerized audiences for 65 years. He steps on stage humble and unassuming and announces, "We're going to play some blues for you now." His fingers work the strings on his guitar to produce a tone that stopped legendary guitarists like BB King, Albert King, Joe Bonamassa in their tracks. "Chris Cain? That boy can PLAY the guitar," said BB King when asked if he had ever heard of Chris Cain. But that's not all. When Cain sings, his deep, rich, powerful voice grabs your attention and won't let go. Cain's song "I Believe I Got Old" earned him his latest Alligator Records album win International Blues Song Of The Year in 2022. Cain has been nominated a dozen times for prestigious Memphis BMA's.

**MIGHTY MIKE SCHERMER BAND**



Mighty Mike Schermer is probably the best blues guitarist, singer and songwriter you've never heard of. - Tommy Castro  
 "Every time I play with him my booty hurts afterwards from him kicking it all night!" - Ervin Bishop  
 "Funky and authentic!" - Bonnie Raitt  
 Mighty Mike Schermer's 6th solo album describes the 65 year-old guitarist/singer/songwriter's musical journey perfectly. "It ain't getting' old, it's just getting' good!"

TICKETS GO ON SALE 7-10 DAYS IN ADVANCE AT EVENTBRITE.COM  
 AND AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR THE DAY OF SHOW

**Alabama Mike at The Starlet**

**June 28, 2023**  
 By Laurel LeFebvre  
 Photos by Frank Farmer, Mindy Giles & Julio Covington



If Alabama Mike's show at the Starlet had been an episode of *Sesame Street*, it would have been brought to you by the letters "S" and "I". But rollicking and occasionally ribald as it was, this "Blues and Bourbon" show was definitely meant more for adults than any episode of *Sesame Street* ever thought of being.

Alabama Mike brought his band, the Mighty Revelators, up to Sacramento where they proceeded to bring the house down. With Bobby "Chief" Young on guitar, AJ Joyce on bass, Lorenzo Hawkins on keyboards, Bernard "Dr. B" Anderson

on saxophone, and Ronnie "Deep Pocket" Smith on drums, the band ripped, tore, shredded and grooved through fan favorites old and new. Newly returned from an extended tour in Brazil, Alabama Mike's performance on harmonica and vocals kept the large and enthusiastic crowd entertained from start to finish.



Having released his newest CD, *Stuff I've Been Through*, less than two months prior to the show, as well as having his previously issued material to

draw from, Mike filled the evening with mostly original tunes. He



started off with a song drawn from personal experiences regarding a woman from Arkansas. He then rolled right into an original from the new album entitled "SSI Blues," a somewhat tongue-in-cheek and yet thought-provoking song entitled with an acronym which his mother apparently wasn't familiar

with as, per Alabama Mike's telling, he earned high praise from her when he revealed that he had received his first SSI check in the mail.

Other vocal highlights of the evening's performance included a rendition of "Ain't Gonna Let You Fat Shame Me," his smash hit off his latest album. Many in the crowd appeared to already know the lyrics to this song, and Mike encouraged those that didn't to at least join in on the choruses, until the whole room was singing along enthusiastically. Continuing with the singalong theme, Mike introduced a song which, according to him, required audience participation. Using the common A-B-A-B rhyming pattern, Mike would sing nearly an entire verse and then call upon the audience to complete the stanza with a rhyming word or phrase. Based upon the leading language of the



verse and rhyming pattern of the song, the audience would invariably shout out a predictable – and funnily naughty – response to fill the void, at which point Mike would ruefully

shake his head and look at the audience in mock pity. He always had an alternate response which was totally boring and everyday, and which fit the rhyming pattern and yet was much less predictable, and his sham concern over the



audience's inability to provide the "right" ending elicited roars of mirth from everybody watching.

Alabama Mike kept the crowd enthralled not only with his songs, but also with his stories. Witty, funny, and occasionally poignant, but always relevant, Mike's stories gave the background behind many of his original tunes that he performed that evening. After leaving the

stage to allow his group of outstanding backing musicians to shine by performing an extended instrumental tune, Mike returned to lead the crowd in one final singalong song, his ever-popular "M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I." At its conclusion, he left the stage to thunderous applause and a standing ovation by many.

This performance is



one of the most memorable shows of the year in the "Blues and

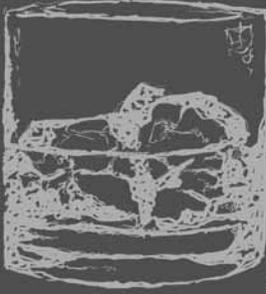
Bourbon" series. If you missed it, all I can say is, you missed out, without a doubt. Make sure you make it to the next one. I'm sure you'll be glad you did.

*Editor's Note: We should also mention the guest artists, Rick Estrin and Marcel Smith, who sat in with Mike and the band.*



# BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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



**OCTOBER 2023 SCHEDULE**

**OCTOBER 4TH:**  
**RED'S BLUES LIVE RECORDING!**  
 "OLD DIAMONDS & UNCUT GEMS" w/  
 ROBERT SIDWELL, SID MORRIS &  
 MANY SURPRISE GUESTS!  
 \$25: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

**OCTOBER 11TH:**  
**CHICAGO BLUES REVIEW**  
 FEAT: MARK HUMMEL, OSCAR WILSON,  
 JOE BEARD, BILLY FLYNN, WES STARR  
 & RANDY BERMUDEZ  
 \$30: GA / \$25: SBS MEMBERS

**OCTOBER 18TH:**  
**RYDER GREEN & FRIENDS**  
 \$14: GA / \$12: SBS MEMBERS

**OCTOBER 25TH:**  
**JOHN PRIMER & BOB CORRITORE**  
 \$24: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

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

## Buddy Guy's Damn Right Farewell Tour with Ally Venable at The Venue, Thunder Valley Casino, August 5, 2023

By Jan Kelley

Photos by Cari Chenkin, Barbara Katen, Cameron Christensen & Jan Kelley

The Venue is a new addition to the Thunder Valley Casino located in Lincoln, CA, and was the perfect place for us to see this fabulous entertainer! In addition to the floor level where the "big rollers" sat, there were three distinct levels of seating with a bar off to the side at each level. With a large video screen on each side of the stage, the venue leant itself to the attractiveness in design and comfort only equaled in Las Vegas.



The young (24) and attractive Ally Venable was the opener for Buddy this evening. Fabulous guitar player, singer and songwriter, Ally warmed up the crowd easily with her talents and person-



ality. But the attendees were there for Buddy! This would probably be the last time we would have the chance to see this 87-year-old

perform and we were eager for him to come out.

At first, even though I knew he had aged considerably since I last saw him in Sacramento, I was a bit shocked at his "old



man" appearance. Well, that didn't last long, as he tore into his first song of the evening, "Every Day I Have the Blues", followed by "Damn Right I've Got the Blues", then "I Just Want to Make Love To You". Buddy's amazing and talented band featured keyboard player Dan Sauvigny, bassist Orlando Wright, Tom Hambridge, drummer, producer and multi-award winner, and Ric Hall, guitar-

ist, and rhythm section leader. Later in the evening, Buddy's son Greg



Guy, also a prolific guitarist and 2014 Chicago Blues Hall of Famer, played and sang. We were quite

pleasantly surprised by the talent he displayed alongside his famous father.

Buddy performed more of his well-known songs, like "She Was 19 Years Old", and "Someone Else Was Slippin' In", which he had noticeably changed the word "slippin'" to "sneakin'", for whatever reason - I haven't a clue. He told some jokes along the way and even went into the audience towards the end of the show, which

I had witnessed in previous years but frankly didn't expect to see given his age and packed schedule for this tour. He still had it! He wound his way from the stage around the floor, came up the stairs with all the energy of a young man and continued on down and around the other side of the floor, all the while playing wildly away on his guitar. Remarkable!



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Buddy Guy Show Review, Con't. from P. 13



A short encore with Ally and Greg joining in concluded his performance this evening to a room full of fans giving a

standing ovation, clapping, and shouting. We clearly didn't want it to end.

With seven decades of



entertaining, numerous awards, a night club of his own in Chicago, and countless performances, this widely popular entertainer will be found entertaining only at his club "Legends" once this tour is completed.

Go to <https://guitar.com/news/music-news/buddy-guy-farewell-tour-2023-featuring-eric-gales-christone-kingfish-ingram> to see remaining schedule.



## Thank You Donors!

Our donors and members are the life blood of our organization. Without you we would be unable to accomplish our mission.

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## Caution - Scam Alert!

At a recent event, one of our blues fans arrived with pre-purchased tickets, only to find out they were not valid tickets. The tickets were purchased online from a scam operation, not associated with the venue at all. Please be aware that these fraudulent sites are out there, just waiting to take your money with nothing in return.

Please buy your tickets directly from the venue's website (i.e. Harlows.com) or at the door. Be safe on the Net and come enjoy the music you love!

## A Tip of the Hat to KDEE Radio, 97.5 FM

Say it's Sunday night, and it's not the SBS Blue Sunday, but you need a dose of good blues. What do you do? Here's a suggestion: radio station KDEE, 97.5 on your FM radio dial, features Tim White, who hosts a weekly blues show, "The Blues Blend" on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. Make a point of catching Tim's show the next time you're feeling up for some blues on a Sunday evening!



P. O. Box 60580  
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Editor: Cari Chenkin

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