

# Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia  
December 2013 Volume 7 Issue 12



**Happy Holidays**  
*From the*  
**DC Blues Society**

**Ring in the New  
Year with other  
Blues Fans!**



Photo by Crawl'in' Kingsnake

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**DCBS New Year's Eve  
Dinner Dance Party**  
*featuring*  
**Hardway Connection**

**Recap of Recent DCBS  
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**CD Review  
Blues Calendar  
& Much More**

# THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

**P.O. BOX 77315  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20013-7315  
www.dcblues.org**



The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

*The Capital Blues Messenger* is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by e-mail or U.S. mail to members. Past newsletters are available at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

Send changes in name, address or membership status to [membership@dcblues.org](mailto:membership@dcblues.org) or mail to DCBS Attn: Membership at the address listed above.

*The Capital Blues Messenger* is your publication and members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography. Please submit material via e-mail to: [newsletter@dcblues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org).

Blues listings for bands should be sent to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org).

**Note:** The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

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## Become a DCBS member!

Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Members' dues play an important part in helping DCBS fulfill its mission to promote the Blues and the musicians who keep the music alive, exciting and accessible. Members receive discounts on advance sale tickets to DCBS events, and from area merchants and clubs when you present your DCBS membership card (see p 11). Members also receive the monthly *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) newsletter and those with e-mail access get the CBM via e-mail plus additional e-mail updates about DCBS events.

Becoming a member is simple, quick and easy:

- Use the mail-in application, or
- Apply on-line at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org), or
- Sign up at DCBS events or DCBS-sponsored events/venues where you see the DCBS booth.

Members are invited to attend the monthly DCBS Board meetings. For information, send an e-mail to [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org).

### D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ If renewal, check here \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print clearly above) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dues per year (circle appropriate one):

Student: \$15 (Include photocopy of student ID)

Individual: \$25 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$200 Canada: \$35 (US funds)

Other Countries: \$50 (US funds)

Contributions (not dues) are tax-deductible.

Please allow up to six weeks for processing

If Family, list member names: \_\_\_\_\_

Your volunteer time/talent is always welcome. If interested in volunteering, check interest(s):

\_\_\_ Update Website

\_\_\_ Work a shift at a show (DCBS table, door, etc.)

\_\_\_ Promote shows (distribute flyers, handbills, etc.)

\_\_\_ Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)

\_\_\_ Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter

(see your name in print!)

\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check to  
THE DC BLUES SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 77315  
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Unless noted, photos & articles were contributed by DCBS Board Members and Newsletter Editor.

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### Corporate DCBS Memberships

DCBS offers a Corporate membership option that provides small and large businesses the opportunity to advertise through DCBS while supporting DCBS programs.

For only **\$200 per year**, businesses receive the same benefits of individual DCBS members (see above) PLUS 6 postings of any combination of 1/4 page ads in the DCBS monthly newsletter and/or web icons on the DCBS website. Each web icon/event posting will remain on the DCBS website for one week per posting. — for a total of 6 weeks presence on the DCBS website. **This is a \$240-\$280 value, for only \$200.**

To get more information, or to establish corporate membership, visit:  
[www.dcblues.org/memb/mbr\\_join.php](http://www.dcblues.org/memb/mbr_join.php).

### ADVERTISE IN THE DCBS CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

AD RATES	
Business card	\$20
1/8 page	\$25
1/4 page	\$40
1/3 page	\$55
1/2 page	\$75
2/3 page	\$110
Full page	\$140

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork and must be received by the 7th of the prior month. Design service is outsourced and a fee will be charged. Ads should be at least 300 dpi in either PDF or JPG. Ad size and space allocation contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. Ad specs and on-line rates: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

Questions? E-mail: [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org)



### DCBS Volunteer Appreciation Party Celebrated What Makes DCBS Tick!

As an all-volunteer organization, DCBS is only as strong as the individuals who donate their time, efforts, and money (!) to support Society activities and its mission of preserving, promoting, and celebrating the blues in the DC metropolitan area. Throughout the year, DCBS makes pleas for volunteers to raise their hands to help out at events or to take on other supportive roles. On Friday, October 25, DCBS used the occasion of the 4th Friday DCBS-Silver Spring American Legion Happy Hour to host a Volunteer Appreciation Party. And a party it was! DCBS President Felix McClairen and Volunteer Coordinator Margo Hope were the emcees/presenters, providing each volunteer who was present with a certificate and small token of appreciation. They also presented some humorous gifts to some of the key volunteers; for example, Felix got a wizard hat since he is so creative in concocting ideas for DCBS to pursue. A Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Pat Bransford (center photo directly below), in recognition of her efforts to produce the DCBS monthly newsletter and her additional volunteer support. The always entertaining Dr. S.O. Feelgood was the DJ for the evening. He not only played great music but also engaged the audience in a few challenges to identify songs and artists played. The photos below capture some of the outstanding volunteers who turned out that evening to be recognized for their support.



Photos by Pat & Ken Bransford

DC Blues Society's  
***New Year's Eve***  
***Dinner Dance Party***  
 Tuesday, December 31, 2013  
 7:00 PM - 12:30 AM  
 Featuring  
**HARDWAY CONNECTION**



***We're Gonna Party 'til the Lights go Out!***

**DJ: Dr. S.O. Feelgood**  
**American Legion Post 268**  
**11225 Fern Street ♦ Wheaton, MD 20902**

**Doors Open 7 PM ♦ Show 8 PM ♦ Dinner 9 PM**  
**Admission includes Dinner & Champagne Toast**

**Cash Bar ♦ Limited Seating**  
**Purchase tickets on-line & save!**  
**Advance: \$30 member ♦ \$35 non-member**  
**Door: \$35 member ♦ \$40 non-member**



[www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) or call 301-322-4808

**Ring In the New Year  
 With DCBS & Hardway Connection**

The DC Blues Society rings in the New Year with the region's Soul-Blues legends, Hardway Connection! On Tuesday, December 31, 2013 from 7:00 pm - 12:30 am, The Hardway Connection will rock and croon while you dance the night away at the American Legion Post 268, 11225 Fern Street, Wheaton MD, 20902. The Party includes a traditional Southern style dinner, party favors, champagne toast at midnight and exceptionally reasonable cash bar. Seating is limited and tickets are hot! Buy tickets at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) or call 301-322-4808, only \$35 in advance (\$30 for DCBS members) and \$40 at the door (\$35 for DCBS members).

DCBS provides the best New Year's Eve value in metro DC: Dinner, champagne, party favors and dancing to one of the best and longest running Soul-Blues bands in the region for \$70 a couple. The Hardway Connection evokes "old school" Rhythm & Blues - sometimes smooth, sometimes funky but always danceable! The band is a powerhouse that has been together more than 15 years, gigging throughout the Southeast, and gathering a large following along the way. Known for their excellent vocals and tight rhythms, Hardway Connection play the "oldies but goodies" with dynamism, power and fun. They have opened for major acts, including Johnny Taylor and Chuck Brown. The band placed first in the Memphis-based 11th Annual National Blues Talent Competition (now the International Blues Challenge) sponsored by The Blues Foundation. Said Eric Brace of *The Washington Post*, The Hardway Connection is a "... superb soul/blues/R&B band... They sing and play and deliver the goods like few bands I've ever seen..."

For the New Year's Eve show, Hardway Connection will include Robert Owens (guitar, vocals), Toni Love (vocals), Jerome MacKall (vocals), Harold Turner (bass), Llew Edwards (keys), and James Newton (drums).

[www.hardwayconnection.com](http://www.hardwayconnection.com)

**Volunteers Needed For  
 DCBS New Year's Eve Celebration**

Can you help make the DCBS New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance a success? Volunteers are needed to help decorate before the event, provide food donations (e.g., greens, green beans, black-eyed peas, rice, dessert, etc.), and help set up and serve food during the celebration.

Volunteer and party with other like-minded blues fans. What a terrific way to close out 2013 and usher in 2014.

Send an email to [volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:volunteer@dcblues.org) if you can help.

***"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in.  
 A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."***  
 - (Quote by Bill Vaughan)

**Either way - Join us on Tuesday, December 31 as DCBS boogies on the dance floor to the sounds of Hardway Connection and ushers in the New Year.**

***Southern Soul  
 Rumpin***



**HARDWAY CONNECTION**

## Hardway Connection's Robert Owens Explains the Band's History

By Kirk Jackson

Memphis, 1994. The International Blues Challenge was in full sway, and the front-runner was the Washington area's Hardway Connection.

They were not a typical competitor.

Founded in the late 1970's, Hardway Connection had built a reputation as one of Washington's premier R&B cover bands through gigs at area clubs including the Player's Lounge in Southeast and Gee's on Rhode Island Avenue in Northeast.

Not known as a traditional blues band, band members eventually found themselves steered toward the genre after a promoter they had met on Whop Frazier's program on WPFW-FM helped them get booked at the King Biscuit Blues Festival.

The Hardway Connection went on to represent Arkansas in an at-large capacity at the IBC competition in Memphis. Good musicians, a strong stable of singers and dance choreography—an unusual feature for blues acts—helped the band beat a number of strong competitors, including a group featuring future blues star Susan Tedeschi.

But Hardway Connection members saw the irony in their victory, considering how little they knew then about the blues world. Members did not recognize the world's premier blues musicians—even while jamming with them!

"People like Charlie Musselwhite and Buddy Guy, all of these big popular blues acts that I know now, we didn't know then," said guitarist/vocalist Robert Owens. "But we was kickin' it with these people and sitting there jamming with them, and playing away."

The group's performances at the King Biscuit Festival and IBC competition made it popular around Memphis and Helena, and members found themselves in the company of very famous colleagues. "I got a chance to talk to Isaac Hayes," recalled Owens. "I did some stuff with Isaac Hayes. Did some stuff with Dr. Hook."

A Memphis company, Big River Productions, wanted to cut an album. Well-known musicians offered to contribute songs, Owens recalled. "Dolly Parton wrote a song for us, we did a song on there called 'Strip Search For Love' which she had wrote for us," he said.

The death of a company owner essentially stopped work on the project. But Hardway Connection has since released five albums.

The time in Memphis helped group members deepen their understanding of the blues. The group also has strong roots in Southern soul, occasionally spicing up its set lists with playfully risqué ballads and dance numbers a la Roy C.

DC Blues Society member Kirk Jackson recently had a long conversation with Owens, who by himself has an interesting background. As the nephew of singer/songwriter Don Covay, Owens as a child came into contact with Otis Redding, Joe Tex, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, Jimi Hendrix and other musicians. We start with some of his recollections of that time:

**Jackson:** What do you remember most about Otis or Sam or these guys? Did any of them talk to you about what they did?

**Owens:** Well, I was a kid and they used to run us upstairs to go to bed. My uncle used to have a swimming pool, and I remember Otis and Sam and them, they had a handful of quarters, and they'd throw it in the swimming pool. And they liked to watch us dive in the swimming pool and go down and get those quarters and stuff. They used to run us upstairs, but a lot of times I'd slip down and peek. Sometimes we'd be down in the basement, and I'd be down there along with Solomon Burke and Wilson Pickett's kids. We'd all be downstairs! We'd be down there and sometimes they'd come downstairs and - I'd always been interested in music, so I would always sit at the piano, and Joe Tex, he

used to take me under his wing. And I was his little buddy. I was real close to him, Jerry Butler, Johnny Nash, Kelly Isley, Ron Isley...I used to sit down at the piano with Aretha. And I was *real* close with Jimi Hendrix. When my uncle used to come to Virginia Beach, and the band came and they'd stay at the house, Jimi Hendrix used to stay in the room with me. And I guess Jimi was about 16 then. You know he used to have a little crush on my oldest sister because they were about the same age.

**Jackson:** Mr. Owens, tell me how the Hardway Connection was formed. I understand it was sort of a collaboration between you and your bass player, Mr. Andre Spears, and your piano player, Mr. Gary Auckard?

**Owens:** Right. Basically, it started out in 1979 with just the three of us, then the four of us with a guy named Mr. Bob Mason, who is no longer with us. At that time, the group was going under [the name] "Three the Hard Way."

**Jackson:** At the blues challenge in Memphis, I understand you beat out a band that had Susan Tedeschi in it.

**Owens:** Yeah. We beat them out. They came in second and we were first.

**Jackson:** That must have made you feel good because she was a rising star then.

**Owens:** Right! She was a rising star. We didn't even know that then. We didn't know what we were doing, who was what, didn't know a whole lot about blues, didn't know nothing. All we did was just play. And later we met all of these people and these people didn't mean *nothing* to us. We just met 'em. And then after we won the contest, and a year later, then it dawned on us who the people were we met. I mean we were around Charlie Musselwhite and all of them people; we didn't even know who they were, sitting in there and just kicking it, and they were just musicians to us.

**Jackson:** But it seems you really took off in the blues direction after Memphis and after Helena.

**Owens:** After Memphis we were really locked in on the blues. Because after we got the understanding and the history about blues and knowing about it, we just got into it. So now, what they're calling us now, more than anything, they're labeling us as a "Southern Soul" group. Southern soul blues.

**Jackson:** Right. I gotcha. I know what you mean by that. What was it about the blues that kind of grabbed you that way after you found out about the history?

**Owens:** Well it was a wake-up call on us because the blues was always there. It was *already* there. And we knew it, but we didn't *really* know it in depth. It was just natural for us to do it. It was always there. Even when we entered that contest, we said "Okay, we're just going to do this then." You know, they said "Well, okay, play the blues." We could play the blues and just went in there and played it. We said, "We're going to combine these two songs. We're going to keep our little R&B swing with it, but we're going to do this blues thing. So we combined Otis Redding's "A Fool For You" along with "Down Home Blues." Then it helped us too within the contest because we had a choreography thing going on. You don't see too many blues groups doing choreography and stuff.

**Jackson:** So what are you going to do at the DC Blues Society New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Party?

**Owens:** They want us to do some dance music, so we're going to hit them with a lot of that Southern Soul blues stuff that we got. We got some stuff that's going to really make them jump. It's going to be some Southern Soul music, mostly, with some blues.



Photo by Mary Knieser

### 6th Annual College Park Blues Festival Again Draws a Great Crowd

On Saturday, November 2, Ritchie Coliseum in College Park, MD was the site of the 6th Annual College Park Blues Festival. This free event is becoming a guaranteed crowd pleaser, offering a great mix of blues acts (this year featured Piedmont, Chicago, and Memphis blues), plus onsite vendors and a party atmosphere heightened by frequent opportunities to win raffle prizes.

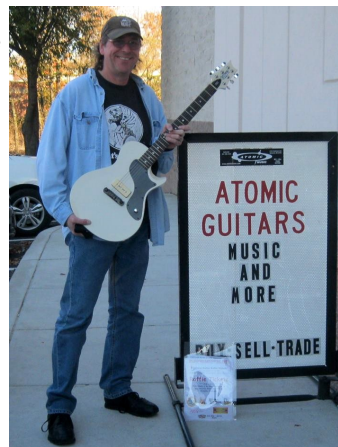


Local legend Warner Williams and Jay Summerour (left photo above) kicked off the event and warmed up the crowd with their acoustic style of down-home Piedmont blues, in the guitar/harmonica duet tradition. Warner has developed a large repertory of songs that he plays, and true to form, he had a few surprises for the audience in his song selections. The DC Blues Society Band was up next and raised the tempo several beats, with Ayaba Bey (right photo above with Sam'i Nuriddin on guitar) and her enticing lead vocals and the band's lively renditions of blues cover songs.



The Stacy Brooks Band (left photo above) had everyone dancing and swaying with their Chicago style of blues, with some favorites like "Rock Me Baby," plus some of her original and signature songs, including "My Name is Stacy" and "Red Pumps and Cognac." The Daddy Mack Blues Band, all the way from Memphis, TN, showed how down-home Memphis blues are played, and if the dance floor wasn't already filled, it surely was when Daddy Mack came out into the crowd playing his guitar licks and the audience jockeyed for an up close view.

As the photo below clearly shows, Ritchie Coliseum had a more than ample dance floor for some line dance enthusiasts.



### Guitar Raffle Winner

Congratulations to "Louisiana" Joe Penot of Beltsville, MD for winning the Atomic Music raffle guitar at the College Park Blues Festival. Joe purchased his raffle ticket at the Old Line Bistro, a sponsor of the 6th Annual College Park Blues Festival.

Photos this page and next by Pat Bransford, except photo of Guitar Raffle Winner by Jazs.



### College Park Blues Festival Thank You!

Thanks go to everyone who helped make the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual College Park Blues Festival, on November 2, 2013, a success. If you were among the attendees, thanks so much for showing your support in this way! It takes a village to put on an event of this type, and everyone who volunteered (DCBS volunteers were there in full force!), performed, sponsored, or participated in some way in promoting and/or shaping this event is to be commended.

#### Thanks to the College Park Blues Festival Sponsors!

- College Park Recreation Board
- DC Blues Society
- City of College Park, MD
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- University of Maryland



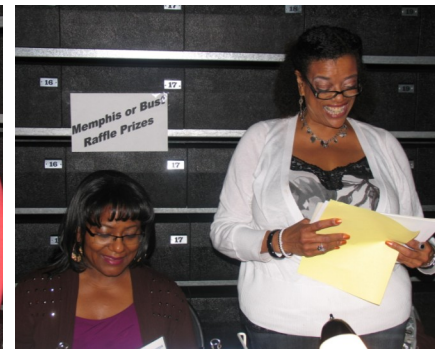
#### Thanks to these College Park Blues Festival Community Sponsors!

- The Branchville Phillips-Kleiner VFW Post 5627
- College Park Arts Exchange

This marked the first year that **WMUC 88.1FM** was on hand to broadcast and emcee the event. The radio station was truly a partner in promoting the event and a big thank you goes to not only main DJ Adam Rosenfeld (in photo at left below, with College Park Recreation Board member & DCBS volunteers Jazs) and Director Lealin Queen, but also to all the WMUC DJs: Eleni Agapis, Kaleb Bordner, Taylor Cairns, Maeve Corcoran, Kevin Delmolino, Fidel E. Gonzalez, George Kaplan, Ryan Largent, Michael Lawrence, Inna Lempert, and Bryce Weisberger.



Thanks also go to Jatara McGee, Miss College Park, for assisting with the raffles.



This Festival was a fundraiser to raise money to send the DC Blues Society Battle of the Bands winner, The Stacy Brooks Band, to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January 2014. DCBS volunteers (just a few are pictured in photos above) sold raffle tickets throughout the evening and encouraged donations. Special thanks go to the generous sponsors who provided the raffle and silent auctions prizes, and/or provided food for the performers:

- Atomic Music** - 11011B Baltimore Ave (new location), Beltsville, MD 20705, 301-595-4190
- The Hamilton** - 600 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 (near Metro Center), 202-787-1000
- Gold-n-Diamonds** - 6188 Beltway Plaza, Greenbelt, MD, 301-441-1147
- State Theatre** - 220 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046, 703-237-0300
- Old Line Fine Wine, Spirits & Bistro** - 11011 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705, 301-937-5999
- The Original Ledo Restaurant** - 4509 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20740, 301.422.8122-
- Looney's Pub** - 8150 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, 240-542-4510
- Marathon Deli** - 4429 Lehigh Road, College Park, 301-927-6717
- New York Deli** - 4926 Edgewood Road, College Park, 301-637-0951
- Garbanzo Mediterranean Grill** - 7316 Baltimore Ave. College Park, MD 20740 301 276-3399
- Krazi Kebob** - 4427 Lehigh Road College Park, MD 20740 301-864-5150



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301.422.8122

ledorestaurant.com

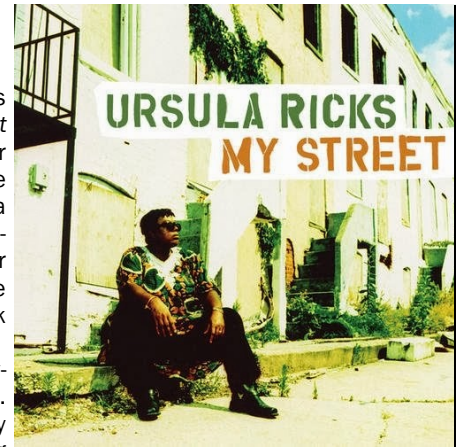
### CD Review: Ursula Ricks *My Street*

By Ron Weinstock

A presence on the Baltimore and Washington blues scenes for a couple decades, Ursula Ricks certainly sounds poised to break out on the national music scene with her new recording *My Street* (Severn Records) with blues, soul and more. Ricks brings her powerful, nuanced singing and her strong original songs here, backed by Severn's house rhythm section of Johnny Moeller (from The Fabulous Thunderbirds) on guitar; Kevin Anker on keyboards; Steve Gomes on bass and Robb Stupka on drums. A number of selections feature horns and/or strings arranged and conducted by the legendary Willie Henderson, with DC jazz stalwarts Kenny Rittenhouse, Reginald Cyntje and Leigh Pilzer among those heard. There are also guest appearances from Kim Wilson and Mike Welch. Someone commented to me, with the Severn house band even he or I would sound good. Well, I don't think anything would make me sound good, but his point about the quality of the backing is well spoken.

As for Ursula Ricks, her smoky and husky vocals are outstanding. Her controlled, unforced delivery stands out in a manner akin to Nina Simone. She never bellows, screams or sounds constipated. Rather, she evokes classic sixties soul recordings by the like of Carol Fran or Betty Everett. Not only does she deliver the goods vocally, but she wrote some wonderful new blues and soul songs, starting with "Tobacco Road." This is not the John D. Loudermilk song, but an original about traveling from West Virginia to New Orleans with the chitlin' circuit, working her heart. It is set against a swampy, smoldering backing and also Kim Wilson takes a tough harmonica solo. This same tough, yet understated, backing also provides a foundation for her funky rendition of a lesser known Bobby Rush number "Mary Jane," with its anti-drug message. "Sweet Tenderness" with its strings in the backing evokes Barry White's recordings; while another number with strings, her "Due," is an excellent soul-blues in the manner of classic Hi Records.

"My Street," the title track, provides a gritty description of contemporary urban life, as Ms. Ricks moans that all she knows is she has to move away. The level of the rest of "My Street," the CD, is of a similar level. The songs and her vocals ring with conviction, and the backing is excellent on a superb recording that will hopefully enable Ms. Ricks to receive the recognition and rewards her talent deserves.



### Wild Will Williamson Wins DCBS 2013 Solo/Duo Competition

The DCBS-Silver Spring American Legion 4th Friday Happy Hour on November 22 was the site for the competition to determine which of two entrants would go on to represent DCBS at the 2014 International Blues Challenge, in the Solo/Duo category. The duo Swampcandy (at right) performed first and this duo does, indeed, play some aggressive stomping Mississippi blues.

Wild Will (at left) had a hard act to follow, but he showed he was up for the challenge. Singing many originals, such as his "21st Century Monday Morning Blues" song, Wild Will blends finger-picking, flat-picking and bottleneck slide to create his unique sound.

Judges Willie Leebel, Dennis Herndon, Steve Levine (in photo at right) used the criteria developed by The Blues Foundation for their scoring, and when DCBS Vice President announced the winner, Wild Will learned that he would be going to Memphis as the DCBS rep.



Photos by Pat Bransford



**Bolded** items on the Blues Calendar on p. 9 are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events. **Musicians, promoters, and venues:** Send calendar listings to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org) by the deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. Events listed are based on the best information possible. DCBS cannot be held liable for errors in schedules, places or performances listed. It is recommended that you contact the venues to verify events.

See the DCBS website, [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org), for additional music links and information.





<i>December</i>		<i>December cont.</i>	
5	Blueheart Revival w/ Bobby Thompson, Tommy Lepson, Kurt Kratch, Gary Crockett @ Gypsy Sally's; Thrillbillys @ JV's	29	Baby Jake feat. Big Boy Little (early show), Memphis Gold All Star Jam (evening show) @ JVs; Nighthawks @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz; Memphis Gold All-Star Jam @ JVs
6	Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Ruddy Duck; Doug Parks & Lonewolves @ Clyde's Chevy Chase; Moonshine Society @ Old Bowie Town Grille	30	New Year's Blues @ Westminster Presbyterian
7	Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ; CrawSticker's @ Kilroy's; Nadine Rae @ Lexington Market; Nadine Rae @ DC Wharf Concert Series	31	<b>DCBS' New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Party feat. Hardway Connection, Dr. S.O. Feelgood @ Wheaton American Legion; Big Boy Little Band New Year's Eve Party @ Zoo Bar; Bobby Lewis @ Wheaton Moose Family Center; New Year's Eve Extravaganza w/ Deanna Bogart @ Rams Head On Stage; Darryl Davis @ Ritz-Carlton Downtown DC; Tom Principato w/ Tommy Lepson @ Mad Fox Brewing Co.; Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ First Night Alexandria; Deja Blue @ JVs; Built 4 Comfort @ Potomac Grill</b>
8	Linwood Taylor, Bobby Messano @ JVs		
9	Midnight Blue @ Westminster Presbyterian		
10	Baby Jake feat. Big Boy Little @ JVs		
12	Skyla Burrell @ Cat's Eye	<b>Early January</b>	
13	Billy Thompson @ Downtown Holiday Market; Dave Hovey @ JVs; Little Red & the Renegades @ Haydees; Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft	2	Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley (Jan. 2-5)
14	Over the Limit edition of Hot Rods & Old Gas @ Bare Bones Grill; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Downtown Holiday Market; Billy Thompson @ Bright Box; BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai Bethesda; Daryl Davis @ Glen Echo Spanish Ballroom; Tom Principato w/ Tommy Lepson @ 2nd Saturday Café (Columbia)	3	Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Tom Principato @ Rams Head On Stage; Swampcandy @ L.A. Bar
		4	Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Tom Principato @ Kennedy Center Millennium Stage; Bad Influence @ Hard Times (Frederick); Built 4 Comfort @ Outta the Way Cafe
		5	<b>DCBS 1st Sunday Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Linwood Taylor @ JVs</b>
15	Linwood Taylor @ Cat's Eye; Anthony Pirog @ JVs	6	Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner @ Westminster Presbyterian
16	Ron Hicks @ Westminster Presbyterian	<b>Regular Blues Events.</b>	
17	Christmas in Annapolis feat. Nadine Rae, Swampcandy, & others @ Rams Head On Stage; Patty Reese, Lisa Lim @ JVs	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st Sunday); DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St. (4th Sunday)</b> Axe Handlers Blues Jam @ Sully's; Skyla Burrell Jam @ Benny's Pub (every other Sunday); Swampcandy @ Wholefoods Fairlakes (Fairfax)
18	Moonshine Society @ Old Town Theater (Alexandria)	<b>Monday</b>	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church; Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's
19	Daryl Davis @ Black Rock Center; Swampcandy @ Ruddy Duck; Thrillbillys @ JV's	<b>Tuesday</b>	Blues Jam w/ Skyla Burrell @ Georgia Boy; CrawStickers w/ Jenny Poppen @ 219 Basin St. Lounge; Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic @ Woodstock Inn (Woodstock, MD); Swampcandy @ Rams Head on Stage
20	<b>Ursula Ricks @ Madam's Organ; Wolf's Still Standing w/ Mike Westcott, Aidan Brody @ Londontown; Bob Margolin, Janine Wilson @ Gypsy Sally's; Built 4 Comfort @ Hershey's; Moonshine Society @ Dogwood Tavern</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Blair's Londontowne Pub; Scott Wells Jam @ Pickled Herring Pub (all but 1st Wednesday) (North East, MD); Classic Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Ian Walters @ Looking Glass; Johnny Grave @ Madam's Organ
21	Big Boy Little Band @ Local Chop; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Ice House Cafe; Bad Influence @ Gaithersburg Dogfish Head; Moonshine Society @ Zoo Bar; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Ron Hicks Project feat. Margo Hope (DCBS Volunteer) perform w/ the Encore Chorales-Holiday Choral Concert @ Montgomery College	<b>Thursday</b>	Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Madam's Organ; Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo; Open Mic @ El Gavilan
22	<b>DCBS 4th Sunday Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St.; Billy Thompson @ Downtown Holiday Market; Nighthawks @ New Deal Cafe</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar (1st Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café
23	Nighthawks @ Westminster Presbyterian	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; Davies Fish Fry &amp; Open Mic (1st Saturday) @ Davies Memorial Unitarian Church (Temple Hills, MD); Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar (1st Saturday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe</b>
25	Jr. Cline & Recliners @ JVs		
26	Deanna Bogart @ Jammin Java; Dave Chappell @ JVs	<b>Attention Dancers:</b> To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information, often with a blues twist, send an e-mail to DCBS member and Blues fan Robin: <a href="mailto:hc1829@aol.com">hc1829@aol.com</a>	
27	Wolf's Still Standing w/ Tom Maxwell, Wave Milor @ Londontown; Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Toots Bar; Billy Thompson @ Old Brogue; New Year's Eve Party w/ Deanna Bogart @ Weinberg Center for Arts; Skyla Burrell @ Madam's Organ; Jon Spears @ JVs; Built 4 Comfort @ Hard Times (Frederick); Swampcandy @ Fast Eddie's		
28	Wolf's Blues Jam w/ Wave Milor, Tom Maxwell, Aidan Brody @ Fat Boys; BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai Petworth; DC House-rockers (early show). Duffy Kane & Freedom Train @ JVs; Chris Polk @ Madam's Organ		

## RIP Bobby Parker August 31, 1937 - October 31, 2013

The legendary blues guitarist Bobby Parker died on October 31, 2013 at an emergency care facility in Bowie, MD. The cause of death was a heart attack. Bobby was 76 years old, lived in Temple Hills, MD, and was well-known to music fans in the DC area and beyond for his showy performances, his dapper dressing and signature James Brown-style hair style, and of course for his powerful and often copied guitar playing, and his tenor voice. He was born in Lafayette, LA; raised in Los Angeles, and spent time performing in New York City and other areas before making DC his home in 1961. That was also the year of his influential single "Watch Your Step," a song that has been covered by The Spencer Davis Group, Santana, Jefferson Airplane, and others. That song's insistent riff was used by John Lennon in the Beatles' songs "Day Tripper" and "I Feel Fine," and emulated by other musicians. Unfortunately, he sold the copyright to V-Tone records for a small amount in the early 1970's.

In Bobby's early career, he toured with the doo-wop group Otis Williams and the Charms; played with Bo Diddley; toured with Sam Cooke and played with Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, and others; and was part of Paul "Hucklebuck" Williams' house band at the famed Apollo Theatre. After an extended break from the music business, he jumped back into it in 1992, when he began playing at the newly opened (at the time) Madam's Organ club, in the Adams Morgan area of DC. A *Washington City Paper* article very nicely recounted his special relationship with Madam's Organ, its owner, and some of its patrons, and the club was the site of the repass held after his memorial service on November 16. In recent years, Bobby had performed at numerous blues festival, fundraisers, and other special shows, often as the headliner; e.g., 2013 Silver Spring Blues Festival, 2012 Western Maryland Blues Festival, 2010 Chicago Blues Festival and Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, and many more. *Information from: Steve Kiviat's November 8, 2013 Washington City Paper article, and Terence McArdle's November 5, 2013 Washington Post article.*



### **Bobby Parker: Throwback** By DC Blues Society President, Felix McClairn

I have heard some folks call the late Bobby Parker a *throwback*. I must agree. But not in the disparaging way such folks intend. Bobby was a throwback to a time and place in our culture where the rhythms, attitudes, desires and protests of the people propelled us in unifying and uplifting ways. Bobby was a throwback to the magical era of music of, from and for the people. Back when Black music wasn't bastardized, homogenized, and sanitized for the sake of commercial gods. Bobby was my kind of throwback.

I talked to Bobby many times; though I cannot say frequently. But our conversations were long and intense - about the Blues, the politics of the music business and the DC Blues Society not booking him enough. Bobby was intense. Very intense. He brought that intensity and passion to his virtuoso guitar playing and over-the-top stage performances. Bobby loved to stroll and strut the floor like a fighting cock (that's a chicken y'all), but fighting for your pleasure with searing guitar licks and screaming vocals.

Bobby played at numerous DC Blues Society events, including our annual festival at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre and at the Surf Club, where the Society also hosted a benefit on his behalf. I often said Bobby was the only regionally-based Blues act that could make a DCBS event profitable. No one could stir up a crowd like Bobby. He walked the dance floors, took his guitar clean outside the club, and I heard, walked across tables while playing and singing his heart out.

Bobby was a throwback alright. He phoned me after a conversation I had with Da Gator on WPFW-FM 89.3 because I called him a *local legend*. Bobby chastised me for not recognizing him as an *International Legend*. In fact, he tagged himself as a Blues Legend. No doubt about it! That's a throwback to being real. Now Bobby has encountered the ultimate throwback - the throwback to the ancestors. However, Bobby lives on. Long live Bobby Parker!

### **More Thoughts on Bobby Parker - His Role as a Mentor** By Ron Weinstock

I attended the homecoming service for Bobby Parker today and one thing that I noted was how generous Bobby was in helping new talent. Cathy Ponton-King, who played on a bill with Bobby a little over a month ago, gave an overview of how Bobby influenced folks all over the world, but also gave her own memories of how Bobby was always so encouraging to her. Jimi Smooth recounted how in the early '60s, when Bobby and Little Royal shared a stage at a U St. club in DC, Bobby would always encourage Little Royal to join them on stage. Jordan Peterson came down from Ontario and mentioned to me that when he came to DC, Bobby treated him like a son and took him down to Jackson, MS, where Bobby produced Jordan's JSP album. And Memphis Gold was close to Bobby and reminded us that Bobby produced Memphis Gold's first CD. This aspect of Bobby Parker gets lost when we focus on his music alone. We will miss his warmth, laughs, quirks and generous spirit.

*Ron Weinstock is a blues expert, long-time DCBS supporter/volunteer, and also maintains the blog, In Blue Mood. See his Nov. 3, 2013 blog posting titled "Bobby Parker—The Link from Dizzy to the Beatles" for more history and videos on Bobby.*  
<http://inbluemood.blogspot.com>




Photos: Above by Alan Bowser. At left: from L-R: by Ron Weinstock, Grudnick, and Jazs



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Show the vendor this newsletter to confirm discount. Restrictions may apply and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.

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**WPFW 89.3 FM Kicks Off Season of Giving**

From Thanksgiving day till Christmas Day, WPFW presents "89.3's Season of Giving" campaign. The station will be giving away a prize 24/7; every hour of every day from Thanksgiving till Christmas. Keep your dial set on 89.3 FM, listen for the special sounder, and then call in to win. The studio number is **202-588-0893**. For more information, e-mail Gerri Mahdi at [gma hdi@w pfw.org](mailto:gma hdi@w pfw.org).

**2014 KBA Award Recipients Announced**

The Blues Foundation will honor 20 individuals and organizations with its 2014 Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Awards. The awards will be presented at a recognition luncheon held on January 24, in Memphis, TN, in conjunction with the 2014 International Blues Challenge. The KBA Awards recognize those who have made significant contributions to blues music. Some of the 2014 KBA Awards recipients are listed below. To see a full list, visit [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).

- Affiliated Org.: Crossroads Blues Society of Illinois – Rockford, IL
- Art: Cristen Craven Barnard – Senatobia, MS
- Club: Kingston Mines – Chicago, IL
- Education: Tas Cru – Chaumont, NY
- Festival (International): BluesCazorla – Cazorla, Spain
- Festival (U.S.): Mississippi Valley Blues Festival – Davenport, IA
- Photography: Dick Waterman – Oxford, MS
- Radio (Commercial): Jerry Schaefer – East Islip, NY
- Radio (Public): Larry Lisk – St. Petersburg, FL
- Record Label: Stony Plain Records – Edmonton, Alberta

**DCBS Member Richard Briggs "Dishes" On Another Recipe from the DCBS Cookbook**

Do you have a DCBS Cookbook. *Blues in My Kitchen*, filed away somewhere? Or are you a new owner of the Cookbook? DCBS member Richard Briggs has been testing his culinary skills and the Cookbook recipes and is sharing some results in this newsletter.

*The Blues Chef continued his relentless quest to take on the DC Blues Society Cookbook's recipes. This month I tried Dr. Feelgood's Hush-Yo-Mouth Ribs with Junkyard Dog Sauce (p.26). A friend was over installing a late-90's circa home theatre system downstairs on a beautiful, BBQ'in day, and he needed company and help, so...I'm afraid my grilling that day was not single focused as I had hoped. But I did not let my lady officiate at the grill, per the good Doctor's advice. The sauce was delicious...loved the raisins, and I may back off the wine a bit next time. The ribs didn't smoke as low or as slow as I'd hoped, so they didn't fall off the bone, but they still would've made John Lee Hooker proud.*

*Recommended music for cooking this recipe: The Band, the Box Set. You also must grill these on a sunny day. Recommendation for a film? Muscle Shoals. It's terrific. This Stones fan was eating up the Wild Horses/Brown Sugar scenes, but the whole thing is great. Also, for you modern Blues aficionados, you could do worse than White Denim's latest release, Corsicana Lemonade. It's loosely based on road tripping in Texas...this modern jam band knows no bounds. Speaking of Texas, next week I'll be takin' on the brisket! Enjoy! Rich*

## Wanted - Volunteers to Serve as Editor and Assistant Editors of the DCBS Newsletter

Are you a Blues fan who would enjoy planning and creating the DCBS newsletter each month, working with others to craft a publication that will keep DCBS members informed of DCBS events as well as other local and national Blues news? The current Newsletter Editor, Pat Bransford, will be stepping down after having spent almost four years in this role. Hence, DCBS desperately needs volunteers to pick up editor and assistant editor responsibilities. Pat will be available to help in the transition and will also help in an assistant role, if needed.

Currently, the newsletter is produced using Microsoft Publisher software, which is very user friendly and easy to learn. The Newsletter Editor is a key volunteer role with DCBS, and the Editor is encouraged to attend the DCBS monthly board meetings, although this attendance is not mandatory. There are a number of DCBS members who regularly submit articles for the newsletter or make their blog postings available, and these contributions greatly help in the monthly production.

Please consider volunteering for these important volunteer positions. The newsletter is considered to be a critical DCBS product. To volunteer, write to [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org). If you have questions about what is involved in these roles, you can also send those to [newsletter@dcblues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org). **Volunteer and make a difference!**

## Win Tickets to Blues Shows/Festivals Get Discounts, & Visit the DCBS Booth!

Watch your DCBS eblasts and/or visit the DCBS webpage ([www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)) and Members Only page, to learn how to enter to win tickets to select Blues shows, and how to get discounts, when available. Priority for ticket giveaways goes to entries from DCBS members, so be sure to keep your membership current. Also, please be sure to open those eblasts so you don't miss out on these great opportunities.

When you're attending a Blues event and there is a DCBS Booth onsite, please stop by and say "hello" to the volunteers and check out the merchandise. (DCBS now takes credit cards!) Even better - volunteer to help staff the booth. Write to [volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:volunteer@dcblues.org) to find out more about volunteer opportunities.

**Attention bands & venues: Send your January & early December gigs/events to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.org) by December 15 for inclusion in the January *CBM* blues calendar**

**Remember To Tune In Friday Evenings To The DCBS Show On [GoldRadio.net](http://GoldRadio.net) 4 to 7 pm EST**

*Note: Slight Time Change*



Feedback, ideas, articles, and CD and event reviews are welcome input for the DC Blues Society monthly newsletter, *Capital Blues Messenger*. Help ensure this publication meets the interests of DCBS members, whether they are musicians, fans, venues, or organizations. Please send ideas and articles to: [newsletter@dcblues.org](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org).



## DC BLUES SOCIETY

Celebrating the Blues in DC, MD & VA

[www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)

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