# Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia January 2014 Volume 8 Issue 1



# Happy Blues Year



DCBS Rang in the New Year with Pizazz

Recap of NYE
Dinner Dance Party





# **Also In This Issue**

- A Year in Review
- Save the Date: February Black History Month Dance Party
- In Memoriam
- And 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.

Send changes in name, address or membership status to membership@dcblues.org or mail to DCBS Attn: Membership at the address listed

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.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to 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.

## **DCBS Board Members**

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DCBS on Facebook: Jazs DCBS on PayPal: Fred Morser

# 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, or
- Sign up at DCBS events or DCBSsponsored 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.

# 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   |
| If Family, list member names:  |
| 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)  |
| Optional contributions (not dues): 'Raise the Roof' Contributions for The Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame: (All Contributions are tax-deductible).   |
| Please allow up to six weeks for processing membership.  |
| 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 |

Mail with check to THE DC BLUES SOCIETY P.O. BOX 77315 WASHINGTON, DC 20013-73 Or Join/Renew Online at www.dcblues.org

(see your name in print!)

Other?

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Cover photos L to R, by Crawlin' Kingsnake, Pat Bransford, Carol Salsbury.

Unless noted, photos & articles were contributed by DCBS Board Members & 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

To get more information, or to establish corporate membership, visit: 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.

Questions? E-mail: ads@dcblues.org

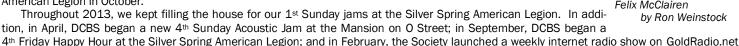
# President's Drum

#### A Glance Back at 2013

Here's wishing all a prosperous and Blues-filled 2014!

Most members know how DCBS uplifted the Blues and how the Blues uplifted us in 2013. So, reviewing the outgoing year is an exercise (and tradition all over) for members and waiting-to-be-members to become aware of or be reminded of all the fun they could have had.

Some highlights from 2013 include our annual events that continue to turn out big crowds: The Hotter Than July Fish Fry & Show, DC Blues Festival featuring Big G and Albert Castiglia, the Battle of the Bands, the College Park Blues Festival, and the recent New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Party. (See how much fun we had NYE on p. 6.) We also featured 2013 International Blues Challenge winner, Selwyn Birchwood, who wowed a Sunday evening crowd at the Silver Spring American Legion in October.





by Ron Weinstock

DCBS continued and expanded free and discounted ticket opportunities to the hottest shows in town at venues including the State Theatre, The Hamilton, The Howard Theatre, Madam's Organ; and others. We make these deals for you, our members. We often have tickets left over because of what appears to be a lack of interest. If free tickets to shows are not your cup of tea, please let us know what razzes your berry and other ways we can enhance your membership experience.

We appreciate your feedback about the touring acts we offer, too. Of course, we typically can't afford the name-brand acts you see at some of the spots from whom we get free tickets. But as I've said many times, I see our mission including the showcasing of regional talents and acts that are on the edge of notability or fame--as we know it in the Blues world. It's easy to hold up the winners. It requires curiosity, the delight of surprise, and evolving tastes to support the up and comers. Shuck the easy sometime and get on the cutting edge of new discoveries at DCBS shows

For a more comprehensive look at 2013, take a look at the chart on p. 7, and then make a commitment to keep your membership current for 2014. Help celebrate the blues with us through your membership and other support.

# DCBS Representatives to the 2014 IBC Will Soon Head to Memphis

(Fridays, from 4 to 7 pm EST) hosted by DCBS volunteer Chris DeProperty.

Congratulations again to Stacy Brooks and her band on their 2013 DCBS Battle of Bands win. They're off to Memphis in late January 2014 to compete in the 2014 International Blues Challenge (IBC) and need your support. It's not cheap spending several days in Memphis, renting rooms, eating out and paying for incidentals. This is a Blues band, people! So, visit Stacy's Facebook and/or web page (www.stacysmusic.org), see where she's playing and show up. (For example, on January 14, she has two shows at Blues Alley.) When donations are requested, be generous. Help Stacy and her band represent DCBS and the DMV region in Memphis and bring back a career-defining win. "Wild" Will Williamson is also going to the 2014 IBC, as the DCBS candidate in the Solo/Duo category. This is Wild Will's first time competing at this event. Also wish him well and check him out if he is performing locally. Visit www.wildwillwilliamson.com for his performance schedule, and/or attend the 4th Sunday of the month DCBS acoustic jam at the Mansion on O Street, which Wild Will hosts.

# **DCBS Monthly Blues Jams**

The 1st Sunday Jam of the new year was held on January 5, at the Silver Spring American Legion. The February 1st Sunday Jam will, however, be preempted by the Super Bowl. We will be back in full flow in March. If you haven't checked out a Jam in a while, come out and be surprised and thrilled by the new talent you'll meet and the cordial atmosphere. Feel free to bring your own food or carryout to this Jam, since food is not sold at this venue. Also remember, it's a great event for birthday celebrations. If you are bringing a group to the Jam for a special celebration, send me an email at president@dcblues.org, and a table can be reserved.

For an entirely different experience, attend the 4th Sunday Acoustic Jam mentioned above. This Jam is held concurrent with the Mansion on O Street's Sunday brunch, and DCBS members can receive a 50% discount on the brunch menu. Visit www.omuseum.org/jammin.

## More DCBS-American Legion Happy Hours

These Happy Hours at the Silver Spring American Legion, on the 4th Friday of each month, will keep happening in 2014. The Happy Hours are held from 5 pm to 9 pm. Here's what we have on tap so far:

- January 24 Bluesjukers, with Anthony Emerson (vocals, keys/guitar), Butch Murray (guitar), John Dixon (drums), D'Jando Smith (guitar), Mick Coleman (bass)
- February 21 Ron Hicks Project [encore performance]
- March 28 Stacy Brooks Band

Win prizes, buy some better-than-happy hour food, and belly up to a very low-cost cash bar. If your band is interested in performing at the Happy Hour, let me know: president@dcblues.org.

# **Black History Month Dance Party**

Put on your calendar right now our first big 2014 show in celebration of Black History Month and just in time for the Valentine's Day weekend. The catalyst for this dance party is Jesi Terrell & The Love Mechanic Band. Jesi comes with soulful vocals, backup singers and a tight band throwing down Blues-heavy R&B and Soul musical styles. Jesi is a product of the Chicago Blues scene and has shared stages with the likes of the late Bobby Blue Bland, Little Milton Campbell, Betty Wright, and KoKo Taylor, and she's opened for B.B. King. Jesi is no newcomer. She is a seasoned veteran who brings exuberance and excitement to the stage.

Jesi and her band competed in the 2013 Battle of the Bands, and the crowd was ecstatic with their show-stopping performance. You'll be excited, too. Make plans now to be at the Wheaton American Legion on Saturday, February 15. (See the ad on p. 5.) Doors open at 7 pm, show time is 8 pm to 12:30 pm. Get tickets at www.dcblues.org or call 301-322-4808. See you there!

Blues Always,





# The DC Blues Society is 'Raising the Roof' for the Blues Hall of Fame

# You Can Help! Donate/Contribute/Volunteer



The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of The Blues Foundation, the Memphis-based, but world-renowned organization dedicated to preserving blues music history, celebrating recording and performance excellence, supporting blues education and ensuring the future of this uniquely American art form. The Blues Foundation currently has a major initiative underway to build a Blues Hall of Fame, and the DC Blues Society has started a special campaign to support the Blues Foundation's "Raise the Roof" effort for the Hall of Fame.

Since 1980, The Blues Foundation has been inducting individuals, recordings, and literature into the Blues Hall of Fame, but until now there has not been a physical Blues Hall of Fame. Establishing a Blues Hall of Fame enhances one of the founding programs of The Blues Foundation. The campaign calls for up to \$3.5 million to create a Hall of Fame that will be the place to: honor inductees year-round; listen to and learn about the music; and enjoy historic mementos of this all-American art form. The new Blues Music Hall of Fame will be the place for serious blues fans, casual visitors, and wide-eyed students. It will facilitate audience development and membership growth. It will expose, enlighten, educate, and entertain.

To date, over \$1.8 million in pledges and donations have been secured by the Blues Foundation. The Blues Hall of Fame will become reality when The Blues Foundation reaches \$2.5 million needed for future construction. We ask you to join the cause and help the DC Blues Society be recognized in the Blues Hall of Fame as a significant contributor to the "Raise the Roof' effort. DCBS has set a goal of raising \$1,500.00. The Blues Foundation will ensure that all donors of \$1,000 and above will be recognized in the Blues Hall of Fame. Let's make sure they build a Hall of Fame and the DC Blues Society is

recognized forever for helping make the Hall of Fame a reality.

A hall of fame is a type of museum. In this case, the Blues Hall of Fame will educate tens of thousands each year about blues music and its greatest performers. Memphis is an international music tourism destination: each year 50,000 visit the Rock 'n' Soul Museum and 250,000 visit the National Civil Rights Museum just across the street. Between 50,000 and 250,000 people each year will be exposed to blues music each year. Among those will be thousands of school children who will come on class trips free of charge. The Blues Hall of Fame will not only preserve blues history; it will ensure its future for years to come.

The Blues Hall of Fame is only a few notes away! Don't stand on the sideline; be part of Blues History and donate to the DC Blues Society fundraising campaign to help 'Raise the Roof.' All members and blues fans who attend DCBS events are encouraged to contribute to the campaign either through donations, buying raffle tickets for special Blues-themed prizes or contributing online when you renew your membership.

For more information or to volunteer to help raise money for the campaign, contact DCBS member Pete Salsbury, at <a href="mailto:fundraiser@dcblues.org">fundraiser@dcblues.org</a>. Visit the DCBS website, <a href="www.dcblues.org">www.dcblues.org</a> to donate online, and/or visit The Blues Foundation website, <a href="www.blues.org">www.blues.org</a>, for more info on the overall effort.

As part of the 'Raise the Roof" Fundraising effort, tickets to the following events were raffled off at the DCBS New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Party and the January 5 DCBS 1st Sunday Jam. Thank you to

the State Theatre for providing these prizes. Congrats to those who won tickets to these events and thank you for your support. Watch for DCBS e-blast emails announcing additional raffle opportunities.



# **Marcia Ball and Tommy Castro & The Painkillers**

Friday, February 7, 2014

State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046 Tickets: \$26 Doors open: 6 pm, Showtime: 8 pm

Singer/pianist **Marcia Ball** knows how to raise roofs and tear down walls with her infectious, intelligent, heartfelt ballads. Celebrated blues rock guitarist/songwriter/vocalist **Tommy Castro** unleashes his fresh forward-leaning new CD, *The Devil You Know*, on January 21, 2014.

# Taj Mahal Trio

Sunday, February 23, 2014

State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046 Tickets: \$42 Doors open: 6 pm, Showtime: 8 pm

Composer, multi-instrumentalist, and vocalist **Taj Mahal** is one of the most prominent and influential figures in late 20th century blues and roots music. Though his career began more than four decades ago with American blues, he has broadened his artistic scope over the years to include music representing virtually every corner of the world.

Photos of Marcia Ball/Tommy Castro and Taj Mahal from <a href="www.thestatetheatre.com">www.thestatetheatre.com</a>





# DC Blues Society presents a Black History Month Dance Party featuring





# Jesi Terrell and The Love Mechanic Band

Sultry Blues and soulful R&B will have you dancing all night!

# Saturday, February 15

Doors open: 7:00 pm + Show time: 8 pm - 12:30 am

American Legion Post 268
11225 Fern St. Wheaton, MD 20902
Raffles ◆ Door Prizes

Bring your own food • Affordable cash bar

Advance: Member \$10 / Non-member \$12 Door: Member \$13 / Non-member \$15

Tickets: www.dcblues.org or call 301-322-4808





# DCBS New Year's Eve Celebration and the Hardway Connection Were "Off the Chain"

The DC Blues Society Annual New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Party was so much fun. The party hats and blowers added a fun touch and set the mood to get the party started. The food, including fried turkey, collard greens, and black-eyed peas, was delicious. The Hardway Connection was OFF THE CHAIN! Wow! Such an awesome band! Everyone was so gifted. "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?" Listen to their lead singer croon. It was like having Al Green himself there making the ladies swoon!! OMG. And then they flipped the script and rocked Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines," requested THREE TIMES during the four-hour show. Awesome! Way to go Hardway Connection!

Thank you DC Blues Society for another top shelf NYE party, dinner and dance. Thanks also to the volunteers who made it possible, and to the attendees who obviously came to party and dance, and they did it with style! Finally special thanks to the Hardway Connection, Robert Owens (guitar, vocals), Toni Love (vocals), Jerome MacKall (vocals), Harold Turner (bass), Lew Edwards (keys), and James Newton (drums).

Article by Margo Hope. Photos by Carol Salsbury, Crawlin' Kingsnake, and Pat Bransford. See more photos on the DCBS FLICKR site:

www.flickr.com/photos/dc-blues-society/sets/.























# **Capital Blues Messenger**



| DC Blues Society: 2013 - A Year at a Glance   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| DCBS Shows and More   | Giveaways Tickets & Discounts*   |  |  |  |  |
| $1^{\rm st}$ Sunday Jam at the Silver Spring American Legion – January 6 and every $1^{\rm st}$ Sunday except for Super Bowl Sunday and one conflict $$ w/ a DCBS show. | Discount for Matt Schofield show at the Hamilton   |  |  |  |  |
| ObamaRama II w/ Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes, and DC Blues Society<br>Band – January 19 at Silver Spring American Legion  | Tickets to Blues Juke Joints at Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival   |  |  |  |  |
| Launched DCBS weekly radio show on GoldRadio.net - mid-February   | Tickets to Taj Mahal show at State Theatre   |  |  |  |  |
| DC Blues Society Band - March 19 at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club  | Discounts to Vintage Trouble, Booker T. Jones, James Cotton shows (3) at the Howard. Tickets to the James Cotton show  |  |  |  |  |
| Began second monthly jam (a 4th Sunday acoustic jam) - April 28 at the Mansion on 0 St.   | Discount to Eric Bibb and Habib Koite show at Artisphere   |  |  |  |  |
| One of several sponsors for the Silver Spring Blues Festival June 15 in Downtown Silver Spring  | Discount to Bobby Messano and Patty Reese show at Wheaton American Legion  |  |  |  |  |
| Big Daddy Stallings & the Bluez Evolution Band – June 29 at Club<br>Heaven  | Tickets to Madam's Organ blues shows on Friday and Saturday nights – April through the end of the year   |  |  |  |  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hotter Than July Fish Fry 'n' Show (10 bands) – July 13 at<br>Silver Spring American Legion  | Tickets to the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Revue at the State Theatre   |  |  |  |  |
| DC Blues Society Band - August 10 at Club Heaven  | Tickets to the James Brown Tribute and to Gator Appreciation Day a Lamont's  |  |  |  |  |
| 25th Annual DC Blues Festival – August 31 at the Carter Barron (5 acts on the main stage, 4 on the John Cephas Workshop Stage)  | Tickets to Tab Benoit's Voices of the Wetlands show at State Theatr  |  |  |  |  |
| Launched a monthly DCBS-Silver Spring American Legion Happy Hour (4th Friday) – September 27 at SS Legion, Ron Hicks Project performed                                  | Tickets and discount for the Tinner Hill Blues Festival  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 IBC Winner Selwyn Birchwood special DCBS show – October 6 at Silver Spring American Legion   | Tickets and discount for the One Night with Janis Joplin play at the Arena Stage   |  |  |  |  |
| Annual Battle of the Bands (9 bands) — October 12 at Wheaton American Legion  | Tickets to the Briggs Farm Blues Festival  |  |  |  |  |
| DCBS Volunteer Appreciation Happy Hour – October 25 at Silver Spring American Legion  | Tickets to Walter Washington, Eric Lindell show at the Hamilton  |  |  |  |  |
| 6th Annual College Park Blues Festival (4 bands) — November 2 at Ritchie Coliseum   | Ticket raffles at College Park Blues Festival for Aaron Neville and Allen Toussaint at the Hamilton, Skip Castro and Nighthawks at State Theatre, and many more prizes |  |  |  |  |
| Solo/Duo Competition (2 entrants) & the DCBS Band at the 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Happy Hour — November 22 at the Silver Spring American Legion                           | Note: DCBS Members routinely get discounts to DCBS shows. Volunteers at DCBS events usually get free admission.  |  |  |  |  |
| New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Party w/ Hardway Connection — December 31 at Wheaton American Legion  | *This may not be a comprehensive list of all discounts/ticket give-aways.  |  |  |  |  |

Special thanks go to the bands that performed at DCBS events, and to the bands, sponsors, and venues that provided discounts and ticket giveaways during the year. Also see p. 11 of the CBM for the listing of other discounts that are available to DCBS members. Thanks also goes to Atomic Music in Beltsville, MD for donation of a guitar that was raffled by DCBS in the fall of 2013; to the College Park Recreation Board and many sponsors of the College Park Blues Festival; and to the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities and the National Park Service, for their support for the Annual DC Blues Festival.

Lastly, special thanks goes to all the volunteers who helped to make these events a success. Some of those volunteers were behind the scenes, and others were more visible, staffing the DCBS booth, serving food at the Fish Fry, staffing the entry table at events, etc. Whatever, the contribution, if you were among the volunteers, a big thanks goes to you, and DCBS hopes you will continue to support Society activities.

## 2014 promises to be an equally successful year. You can help by:



- Keeping your DCBS membership current and encouraging others to join
- Attending DCBS events
- Volunteering your time on behalf of DCBS
- Visiting our partner businesses

- Entering the DCBS contests
- Spreading the word about DCBS benefits
- Providing DCBS with ideas & feedback on events, etc.
- Submitting photos and articles for the DCBS Newsletter



# The IBC is Almost Happenin' Good Luck DCBS Reps & Others!

The 2014 International Blues Challenge (IBC) will be held January 21 - 25 at numerous venues in the Beale Street Historic District of Memphis, TN. Five days of music and music competition involving 125 bands and 101 solo/duo acts, plus 29 Youth Showcase entries.



DCBS is proud to sponsor two entries in the 2014 IBC:

Band Category: Stacy Brooks Band Solo/Duo Competition: Wild Will Williamson

Also, Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner is competing in the Band category this year as the representative from the Sedalia Blues Society. Cole and Logan Layman (who were part of The UnXpected Band, which represented DCBS at the 2013 IBC in the Youth Showcase) will return to the Youth Showcase this year as a duo act called In Layman Terms, representing the River City Blues Society.

If readers are planning to attend this year's IBC, they are encouraged to submit photos and reviews/comments for possible publication in the March issue of the *CBM*. Send to: <a href="mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org">newsletter@dcblues.org</a>.

For more information on the 2014 IBC, visit the IBC page on the Blues Foundation website, <a href="https://www.blues.org">www.blues.org</a>. The website includes the full list of 2014 entrants, and links to the individual website of each entrant. So if you can't attend the IBC, you can still spend some time on the Internet getting a sense of the competition, and a sense of how international the event truly is. You can link to websites of bands that are traveling, for example, from as far away as Sydney, Australia, for this major event.

Best of luck to everyone competing in the 2014 IBC!

# **Miscellaneous Blues Event Highlights**

Is it time for a road trip? Consider these upcoming blues events:

- The February 21-22, 2014 Lancaster (PA) Roots and Blues Festival — 5 venues, 9 stages, 50 acts, including James Cotton, Loudon Wainwright III, Johnny Winter, Samantha Fish, Tom Principato, and others. <a href="https://www.LancasterRootsandBlues.com">www.LancasterRootsandBlues.com</a>, or
- A little further away (and a little warmer), the Clearwater (FL) SeaBlues Festival, February 15-16, 2014, with the Robert Cray Band, Marquise Knox, Ana Popovic, and others.
   www.ClearwaterSeaBlues.com, or
- The Riverwalk Blues & Music Festival in Fort Lauderdale, FL, February 14-16, 2014, with Johnny Sansone, Tinsley Ellis, Eric Lindell, and others. <a href="https://www.RiverwalkBlues.com">www.RiverwalkBlues.com</a>.

If you would prefer some special events happening locally, then consider the following:

- Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, February 14-17, 2014, at the Hilton Rockville (MD) Hotel, featuring Freddy Cole, Christian McBride, Janine Gilbert Carter, Paul Carr, and many many more, including Blues Juke Joints on Friday (David Cole), Saturday (Nadine Rae), and Sunday (Linwood Taylor), at 9 pm. www.MidAtlanticJazzFestival.org.
- Experience Hendrix Tour, March 30, 2014 at the Lincoln Theatre in DC, featuring Billy Cox, Buddy Guy, Jonny Lang, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Bootsy Collins, Dweezil Zappa, Eric Johnson, Doyle Bramhall II, Chris Layton, Eric Gales, Ana Popovic, Mato Nanji, Dani Robinson, & Stan Skibby. www.experiencehendrixtour.com.

And don't forget to buy your advance tickets for the DCBS Black History Month Dance Party with Jesi Terrell & the Love Mechanic Band on Saturday, February 15, at the Wheaton American Legion. (See p. 5)

# **35th Annual Blues Music Awards Information**

The Blues Foundation has announced the nominees for the 35th Blues Music Awards, which will be presented at the Cook Convention Center in downtown Memphis, TN, on Thursday, May 8, 2014. Tickets to this event can be purchased on The Blues Foundation website,



www.blues.org, and are \$125 per person.

The website also includes a full listing of all the BMA nominees, plus a great nominee sample playlist, which features a song by each nominee.

If you are a member of The Blues Foundation, online voting is now open and will continue until March 1, 2014.

# **More Blues Awards Info**

The **Grammy nominees** have been announced, and the following CD's have been nominated in the Blues category:

- Remembering Little Walter featuring Billy Boy Arnold, Charlie Mussel white, Mark Hummel, Sugar Ray Norcia & James Harman on Blind Pig Records
- Cotton Mouth Man by James Cotton on Alligator
- Get Up! by Ben Harper with Charlie Musselwhite on Stax
- Seesaw by Beth Hart & Joe Bonamassa on J&R Adventures
- Down In Louisiana by Bobby Rush on Deep Rush Records

Four of the nominations are harmonica players and four of the performers are in the Blues Hall of Fame (Arnold, Cotton, Musselwhite and Rush)

Blues musicians also were nominated in some cross categories: Gary Clark, Jr. had nominations for "Best Rock Song" and "Best Traditional R&B Performance." Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite got an additional nomination in the "Best Music Film" category for a documentary on the making of their CD. Terrance Simien/Dockside Sessions (Musicmatters) was nominated in the "Best Regional Roots Music Album" category. Allen Toussaint got two nominations in the categories of "Best American Roots Song" for "Shrimp Po-Boy, Dressed," and "Best Americana Album" for Songbook (Rounder). Also in the "Best American Album" category was Mavis Staples / One True Vine (Anti). And "Best Compilation Soundtrack For Visual Media" included Muscle Shoals with Various Artists (Universal Republic) which includes music by Etta James, Jimmy Hughes, Arthur Alexander and others. Winners will be announced at the Grammy Awards Celebration, to be held on January 26, 2014 at The Staples Center in Los Angeles. Info from Bob Corritore's Dec. 9, 2013 newsletter.

On December 4, 2013, <u>Blues411.com</u> announced the winners of the Blues411 2013 Jimi Awards. Congrats to Little Bit A Blues (local legend Warner Williams, Jay Summerour, and Eric Selby) for winning the Best Live Recording category, for their CD *Little Bit A Blues: Little Bit A Blues Live at B.B. King's Bluesville.* They competed against the recent live recordings of Delta Moon, Murali Coryell, Kirsten Thien, and Phil Gates. Blues 411 noted "The production level of live recordings has sky rocketed in the past few years, the five of these are equally superb, but only one can win." To see the full list of nominees/winners for all categories, visit <a href="http://blues411.com/the-2013-blues411-jimi-awards/">http://blues411.com/the-2013-blues411-jimi-awards/</a>. Blues411 is a blues blog and beginning January 6, 2014, will also broadcast an internet radio show on MoJoWax Radio, presented by *Blues Music Magazine* on LIVE365.com. Visit the <a href="https://blues411.com/b

# January 2014

# Capital Blues Messenger



| January |  | Early February   |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2       | Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley; Thrillbilly's @ JV's  | 1  | Corey Harris @ Blues Alley; Billy Thompson @ Hershey's; Bad Influence @ JVs; Joy Bodycomb Band @ Winery (Olney)  |  |  |
| 3       | Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar; Tom Principato @ Rams Head On<br>Stage; Rockin Blues Extravaganza feat. Liz Springer & Built 4<br>Comfort, Bobby Lewis, Crimestoppers @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz;   | No DCBS' First Sunday Jam (Cancelled due to Super Bowl) @ Silver Spring American Legion; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ  |  |  |  |
| J       | Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Lexington Market; Chris Thomas   |  | 3 Dave Chappell @ Westminster Presbyterian   |  |  |
|         | King @ Blues Alley; Swampcandy @ L.A. Bar  Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar; Tom Principato @ Kennedy Center  | 6  | Marci  | ia Ball @ Ram's Head on Stage  |  |
| 4       | Millenium Stage; Bad Influence @ Hard Times (Frederick); Built 4<br>Comfort @ Outta the Way Café; Urban Funk w/ Tommy Lepson @<br>JV's; Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley  | Little Red & Renegades @ Haydee's; Marcia Ball, Tommy Castro & Painkillers @ State Theatre (DCBS Ticket Giveaway); Deanna Bogart @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz; Bad Influence @ Stein Room |  |  |  |
|         | DCBS First Sunday Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion;<br>Linwood Taylor Band w/ Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner @   |  | Regular Blues Events.  |  |  |
| 5       | JVs; Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ; Chris Thomas King @ Blues Alley   | Sunday   |  | DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st<br>Sunday, but not Feb. 2); DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Mansion<br>on 0 St. (4th Sunday) Axe Handlers Blues Jam @ Sully's;   |  |
| 6       | Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner @ Westminster Presbyterian   | Suii   | uay  | Skyla Burrell Jam @ Benny's Pub (every other Sunday);  |  |
| 8       | Bettye LaVette @ Rams Head On Stage; Billy Thompson Band @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz   | Mon  | dav  | Swampcandy @ Wholefoods Fairlakes (Fairfax)  Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church;   |  |
| 9       | Soul Serenaders @ JVs; Bettye LaVette @ Howard   |  | ,  | Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's Blues Jam w/ Skyla Burrell @ Georgia Boy; CrawStickers   |  |
| 10      | Little Red & Renegades @ Haydee's; Sookey Jump @ Zoo Bar;<br>Bad Influence @ 219; Ursula Ricks @ Madam's Organ; Joy Body-<br>comb Band @ Potomac Grill   | Tuesday  |  | w/ Jenny Poppen @ 219 Basin St. Lounge; Johnny Artis<br>Band @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic @ Woodstock Inn<br>(Woodstock, MD); Swampcandy @ Rams Head on Stage   |  |
| 11      | Over the Limit @ Londontown; BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai<br>Bethesda; Little Red & Renegades @ Haydee's; Billy Thompson<br>@ The Circuit; Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft; Smokin' Pole-<br>cats @ Zoo Bar; Sonny Landreth @ Rams Head On Stage;<br>Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ JV's | Wednes-<br>day   |  | Wolf's Blues Jam @ Blair's Londontowne Pub; Scott<br>Wells Jam @ Pickled Herring Pub (all but 1st Wednesday)<br>(North East, MD); Classic Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille;<br>Ian Walters @ Looking Glass; Johnny Grave @ Madam's<br>Organ |  |
| 13      | Eddie Jones & Young Bucks @ Westminster Presbyterian   | 1  |  | Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Madam's Organ; Big Boy  |  |
| 14      | Stacy Brooks Band @ Blues Alley  | mur  | Thursday Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swi Dance @ Glen Echo; Open Mic @ El Gavilan  |  |  |
| 17      | Stacy Brooks @ Stein Room  | Friday   |  | Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Over the Limit   |  |
| 18      | Big Boy Little Band @ Bare Bones; Moonshine Society @ Zoo<br>Bar; <b>Poppa Chubby</b> @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz; Saskia & Truly<br>Unruly Band @ New Deal Cafe   |  | ,  | @ Zoo Bar (1st Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Café  Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; Davies Fish   |  |
| 19      | Wild Will Williamson @ Paradise Springs (Clifton, VA)  | Satu   | rday   | Fry & Open Mic (1st Saturday) @ Davies Memorial Uni-<br>tarian Church (Temple Hills, MD); Big Boy Little Band @  |  |
| 20      | Charlie Sayles & Blues Disciples @ Westminster Presbyterian  |  | Zoo Bar (1st Saturday); John Guernsey @ Ne   |  |  |
| 22      | Bad Influence @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz  |  |  | tems on the Blues Calendar are picks by calendar editor,   |  |
| 24      | DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour @ Silver Spring American Legion;<br>Swamp Keepers @ Zoo Bar; Bobby Messano @ Champions<br>(Frederick); Moondog Medicine Show @ New Deal Cafe  | moters<br>the de<br>are ba   | Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events. Musicians, promoters, and venues: Send calendar listings to 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, <a href="https://www.dcblues.org">www.dcblues.org</a> , for additional music links and information.  Attention Dancers: 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="https://hc1829@aol.com">hc1829@aol.com</a> |  |  |
| 25      | Tedeschi Trucks Band @ Warner Theatre; BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai Petworth; Bruce Ewan @ Zoo Bar; Nadine Rae & Allstars @ Bare Bones; Bobby Messano @ JV's; Paul Pfau @ Gypsy Sally's; Skyla Burrell @ Madam's Organ; Joy Bodycomb Band @ Ice House Cafe                              | mende<br>Se<br>and in  |  |  |  |
| 26      | DCBS 4th Sunday Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St.; Memphis Gold All Star Jam @ JV's  |  |  |  |  |
| 27      | Shireleta Settles @ Westminster Presbyterian   |  | Attention bands & venues: Send your February & early March gigs/ events to <u>calendar@dcblues.org</u>   |  |  |
| 28      | Baby Jake Steve Jacobs Band w/ Big Boy Little @ JVs  | ٤  |  |  |  |
| 30      | Corey Harris @ Blues Alley   |  |  |  |  |
| 31      | Corey Harris @ Blues Alley; Little Red & Renegades @ Ice House;<br>Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Ruddy Duck; Biscuit Miller @<br>Madam's Organ  | by January 15 for inclusion in the February <i>CBM</i> blues calendar  |  |  |  |

# In Memoriam: In The 2nd Half of 2013, We Said Good-Bye to These Blues Musicians/Supporters

#### RIP Robert "Chick" Willis Sept. 24. 1934 - Dec. 7. 2013

Atlanta Bluesman Robert "Chick" Willis, also known as "The Stoop Down" Man and "The Don of the Blues," passed away at the age of 79 from cancer. This sultry singer and fiery guitar player had been diagnosed

with lung cancer in 2012.



Photo by Glenn Thompson

Chick Willis began working with his cousin, the late blues ballad singer Chuck Willis, in the mid 1950's and had been performing ever since. He recorded almost two dozen albums, and won numerous awards, including two Living Blues Awards. He played with the legendary Elmore James and his cousin, Guitar Slim, whom he viewed as one of his biggest influences. Chick served in the military in the early 1950s before working as a chauffeur for his cousin Chuck. He won a talent show at the Magnolia Ballroom in Atlanta, GA and made his first record in 1956, with the Ebb Records' single 'You're Mine". Initially, he only sang, but

he learned guitar while touring with Guitar Slim.

Chick was primarily known for his ribald rocker "Stoop Down Baby," which he developed by teasing passersby with his ribald rhymes while working in a carnival variety show. He cut his original version in 1972 for tiny La Val Records of Kalamazoo, MI, selling a ton of 45s for the jukebox market only (the lyrics were too raunchy for airplay). He wrote a variety of original songs and did strong personal renditions of such blues classics as "Love Me With a Feeling" and "Let Me Play With Your Poodle." He cut several albums for Ichiban, notably 1988's Now!, Footprints in My Bed in 1990, and Back to the Blues in 1991. DC area blues and R&B fans may recall seeing Chick at Lamont's in Pomonkey, MD, where he played several times, including in 2012, and at several DC Blues Society events. including the DC Blues Festival and a 2007 DCBS fundraiser.

#### **RIP Texas Johnny Brown** Feb. 22, 1928 to July 1, 2013

The following obituary by James Nagel appears on the website of Texas Johnny Brown (www.txjohnnybrown.com): "It is with great sadness and heavy that we share the news of the passing of an American treasure and true blues legend. John Riley Brown, better known as Texas Johnny Brown, was diagnosed with liver and lung cancer this past April and after a short but gallant fight with the disease passed away this afternoon (Monday, July 1) at the age of 85 at his home in Houston, TX. With a career that spanned over six decades, Texas Johnny Brown played or recorded with a virtual who's who of the blues world, including Amos Milburn, Ruth Brown, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Junior Parker, Lavelle White, Buddy Ace and Joe Hinton. One of the all time beautiful blues classics, "Two Steps From The Blues," was penned by Johnny... His CD, Nothin' But The Truth, on his own Choctaw Creek Records, was nominated for a W.C. Handy Blues Award in 1999 for Comeback Album of the Year...'

#### RIP T-Model Ford Early 1920's to July 16, 2013

Singer, songwriter, and guitarist T-Model Ford (James Lewis Carter Ford) died on July 16, at his home in Greenville, MS, from respiratory problems after a number of stroke-induced illnesses. Ford played a rawedged, visceral style of Mississippi Delta blues, accompanied much of the time by his drummer, Spam (Tommy Lee Miles). He began playing guitar late in life and hadn't really toured much outside the Mississippi Delta until the 1990s and later. He recorded seven albums with three labels, including three albums with Fat Possum Records. Ford was well received at the Chicago Blues Festival, on tour with Buddy Guy and his band, and at other venues. His age was uncertain. Different reports have cited that he was 89, others 93. A documentary on T-Model Ford's life, called Put A Stamp On It, from Chickenhead Man Productions, is forthcoming,

#### RIP Christopher X. Polk Jan. 26. 1959 to Dec. 8. 2013

On December 8, 2013, the DC Blues community was shocked to learn of the death of Blues musician Chris Polk. Polk (54), a resident of Warrenton, VA, played frequently in the DC Metro area, especially



Photo by Ron Weinstock

as a regular performer at the Madam's Organ club. The Madam's Organ Facebook page reported his death as follows: "Very Sad News. Chris Polk, Blues guitarist, singer and leader of the Chris Polk Band, died Sunday, December 8. In a business full of big talent and bigger egos, Chris was a breath of fresh air.....easy to deal with, fabulous to hear and watch perform....and always smiling. Chris has been a regular performer and a member of our family of musicians at Madam's Organ since I first heard his sweet, soulful and bluesy rendition of the BeeGees classic, 'To Love Somebody." He didn't cover it: he owned it. Irony of ironies, Chris had just agreed to cover Bobby

Parker's December Saturday gig. Bobby passed on October 31st of this year. What a sad year's end for their family at Madam's and for music lovers everywhere. RIP (See the Dec. 2013 issue of the CBM for the tribute to Bobby Parker.)

DCBS member Ron Weinstock also noted Chris' death in his blog, In A Blue Mood: "Every community has its local musical figures who are quite loved, but for a variety of reasons remain local musical figures. I am among many who were shocked by the sudden passing of blues singer and guitarist, Chris Polk on December 8, 2013. I remember seeing Chris perform on numerous occasions, including a period of several years in the 1990s when he appeared monthly at the Vienna Tap Room in that Virginia community. He was someone who loved the music, playing for people and obviously touched a lot of people. One of the last times I saw him perform on his own was at a Virginia club where a number of people he had coached in Track at South Lakes High School had come out. He obviously touched many lives and his passing affects many."

Ron's blog post also reprinted his review of Polk's 2002 CD, Live at Zigs, and described his guitar playing as "characterized by serpentine playing that evokes Buddy Guy, as does his expressive vocals..." Polk described his style as Texas, Memphis and Chicago blues style with a soul twist. He had played all over the US and overseas, touring with Radiant, and played guitar with Jimmy Cole, Stacy Lattisaw, Clarence Carter, and Jeff Watson & Downtown, among others. www.myspace.com/ChrisPolkBand. More recently, the Band performed at the 2012 and 2013 Columbia Pike Blues Festival, in Arlington, VA, and at a 2011 Silver Spring Blues Festival After Party.

#### RIP John "Juke" Logan Sept. 11, 1946 to Aug. 30, 2013

John "Juke" Logan was a West Coast harmonica player/vocalist/ organist who broke into the Hollywood infrastructure to play on television themes and movies. He had also been a popular blues DJ on South California radio (prior to early 2000), and released a number of notable recordings as both a frontman and accompanist. He wrote and performed on the title track of The Paladins' Let's Buzz and accompanied Etta James and John Lee Hooker on records. His harmonica was the theme music for the TV shows Rosanne and Home Improvement. Juke also wrote songs for John Mayall, Poco, and Gary Primich, and was involved in the films Crossroads and La Bamba, He had been dealing with cancer for the last few years of his life.

# **Capital Blues Messenger**



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# In Memoriam cont. from p. 10

## RIP Aaron Moore Feb. 11, 1918 to Nov. 27, 2013

Aaron Moore, the last Mississippi born blues piano player in Chicago, died November 27 after a prolonged illness. Also a singer and songwriter, Moore was locally famous, but still rather obscure on the national blues scene. He spent most of the last 40 years in Chicago, backing up a long list of musicians including Little Walter, Lonnie Brooks, Hound Dog Taylor, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and B.B. King. Moore was born and raised in Greenwood, MS, and his early influences were Curtis Jones, and Memphis Slim. After moving to Chicago, he learned from boogie-woogie paragon Roosevelt Sykes, and the two would often team up in blues clubs around Chicago. Moore worked for the city of Chicago for 36 years and played blues only on weekends, backing up local bluesmen.. After retiring from the Chicago Sanitation Department, he relocated to Milwaukee in 1990 and made blues his full-time vocation.. His CD, Hello World (1996) was released on the Delmark label. While in his 90's, Moore played on Earwig Music recordings by Tim Woods, Rob Stone, and Chris James and Patrick Rynn. Artist Biography by Richard Skelly.

http://blues.gr/profiles/blogs/aaron-moore-the-last-mississippi-born-blues-piano-player-in

## RIP Joe Bihari May 30, 1925 to Nov. 28, 2013

Joe Bihari, 88, the co-founder of a family record company that exposed blues performers such as B.B. King, Little Richard, John Lee Hooker, Elmore James and Etta James to a wider audience, died November 28

in a Los Angeles hospital. The Biharis had one of the most important companies in the history of rhythm and blues, and their labels, including Modern Records and RPM inspired other companies to look to the blues. Modern, the Biharis' primary label, was started in 1945 by Joe, Jules and Saul Bihari. Joe was helping out Jules, who serviced jukeboxes in Watts and South Los Angeles, and the brothers realized how little music was produced for the black market. One of Joe's jobs was cruising the segregated South, looking for talent in bars and nightclubs. He recruited the soon-to-be-famous lke Turner. Born in Memphis, TN, Joe grew up in a foster home for Jewish children in New Orleans. He left the music business in the late 1970s, and was later involved in motocross racing, and spent the latter part of his career building homes in Pacific Palisades and Beverly Hills. The Bihari brothers were 2006 inductees into the Blues Hall of Fame. *Info from news.obits@latimes.com* 

# RIP Eric "Guitar" Davis March 19, 1972 to Dec. 19, 2013

Eric "Guitar" Davis, 41, a fixture of the Chicago blues community and the son of legendary blues drummer Bobby "Top Hat" Davis, was found fatally shot in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood on December 19. His killing occurred on an evening when a total of five men were fatally shot citywide. Davis, an up-and-coming musician, fronted his band the Troublemakers. He had performed at Rosa's Lounge earlier in December and was preparing for gigs in St. Louis. His father played with music legends such as B.B. King, Ray Charles, and Muddy Waters.

# Wanted - Volunteers to Serve as DCBS Newsletter Editor & Assistant Editor(s), DCBS Secretary, Plus Other Opportunities

Is 2014 the year that you are determined to get more involved in community activities? DCBS is currently seeking to fill a number of key volunteer positions and encourages all readers of the *Capital Blues Messenger* to consider raising their hands to help the Society.

For example, 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 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.

Similarly, the current DCBS Secretary has indicated she also needs to step down from her role. The Secretary takes minutes at the monthly DCBS Board meeting, prepares correspondence for the President, and helps to maintain official contracts and other key documents.

Please consider volunteering for these important volunteer positions. To volunteer or if you have questions about what is involved in these roles, or about other DCBS volunteer needs, write to <a href="mailto:president@dcblues.org">president@dcblues.org</a>. Volunteer and make a difference!



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Watch your DCBS eblasts and/or visit the DCBS webpage (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 <a href="mailto:volunteer@dcblues.org">volunteer@dcblues.org</a> to find out more about volunteer opportunities.

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.

#### Also wanted:

- Harmonica player or avid harmonica fan to plan a DCBS newsletter issue that will feature the blues harmonica, local and national harp players, and harp playing resources. Write to newsletter@dcblues.org to help plan this special issue.
- Similarly, <u>blues dancers</u> are wanted to help plan a DCBS newsletter issue that will feature blues dancing and the local dancers who are so supportive of DCBS events and make blues dancing look so easy. Write to <u>newsletter@dcblues.org</u> to help plan this special issue.



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