

BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS NEWS:

by Gaye Wood- BITS Chair

SBS PRESENTS 20 BLUES CONCERTS TO SAC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mick Martin and **Jimmy Pailer**, along with 16 other professional blues musicians from the SBS, presented 20 assemblies to middle and high schools in our area. We are thankful to the **Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission** for the grant that they gave us this year. It allowed us to pay each of our musicians a stipend of \$50 per concert. Teachers and students gained information on the history and music of the blues. They heard live blues music performed by top professional musicians and had the opportunity to jam with them.

The most successful aspect of this project was the positive reactions from the students when they jammed with Mick Martin. Watching how Mick interacted with students was terrific. They responded by playing well and showing happy faces. The students and teachers were given surveys that indicated how valuable they found the program. Written comments were returned including:

“Best program we have had at the school.”

“Students’ reactions were great. They loved it!”

“Fantastic program.”

“The program was very worthwhile. Blues is the root of most contemporary music and kids need to hear the source of their music.”

“The kids loved playing on stage with a professional band. I loved playing with the band too.”

Many thanks to Mick Martin and the other musicians for sharing the world of the blues with these young people.

NORTH AREA TEEN CENTER HOSTS MONDAY EVENING BLUES JAMS

Cynthia Jaynes set up a series of four presentations where students heard blues music performed by volunteer professional musicians and the students had the opportunity to jam with them. Following the concerts, the musicians worked with the students individually on guitar and drums. This program was so well received that we are expanding it next school year and plan on paying our musicians. The Teen Center wants to match our funds. We are excited about this!

JOE AND LEW TEACH THE BLUES

Rosemont High School is thankful for having **Law Fratis** and **Joe Lev** teaching lead and bass guitar lessons in our After-School Program. Every Thursday, beginning second semester this year, students were taught the blues basics. This was a free program for these teenagers. Students played lead and bass guitar, standing bass, piano and drums. They were presented in the school’s Spring Concert on June 1st. We will continue this program next year. Rosemont teacher **Steve Boettner** assisted Lew and Joe, which was much appreciated. Next fall Steve will be teaching three guitar classes at Rosemont! Next year, BITS hopes to expand their after-school guitar programs by teaching lessons at **Hiram Johnson West High School**.



STUDENTS OF SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PERFORM AT THE SBS “BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS”

