Volume 30; Issue 2 April-May 2009





30TH ANNUAL BLUES MUSIC AWARDS MAY 7, 2009

BLUES QUOTES

God gave us Music that we might pray without words.

Mark Naftalin -

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BITS PLAYS THE PALMS—DEBORAH GREGORY, BLUES LOVER



It was a rainy Thursday afternoon as we drove from Sacramento to Winters to catch the SBS Blues In The Schools performance at the Palms Playhouse Theatre. I have been a member of SBS for many years but never had the opportunity to watch the interaction between seasoned musicians and high school students. You can read about it, but when you see it, the personal experience changes everything.

The Palms Playhouse Theatre is a great venue and an asset to our area. As it filled with high school students some appeared distracted, others seemed to initially count the minutes until they were released, and yet others were completely attentive to the event about to take place. I watched them come to attention as Mick Martin spoke to them in the language of music. They were slow to warm but as the music filled their minds and bodies, they began to tap their feet, clap their hands, move their heads and get into it.

It was especially so when one of their classmates came up to play on stage with Jimmy Pailer. Mick gave a few tips on "stage" protocol, timing, key to play in, etc., and then there was real enthusiasm for the performance. Another young man got up and played tambourine while rallying everyone on. They came alive by the time it was all over and walked away with more than they came with, just like me.

The BITS (Blues in the Schools) band was Mick Martin, Jimmy Pailer. Joe Lev and

Kenny Nichols. This band is "user" blues friendly. I could have taken these guys anywhere and gotten a standing ovation, but when you touch the souls of our children, the future of America, you have started some thing significant that changes a person's life. I saw it in their faces as they left the playhouse......they were more and they knew it too. If you have the opportunity to attend a BITS performance, do yourself a favor and go see the change for yourself.

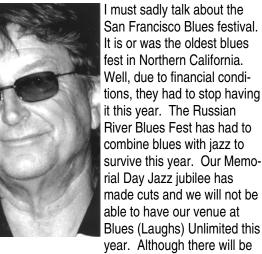
The experience was unforgettable.

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MOFFETT'S MUSINGS— BY DENNIS MOFFETT

Well another great couple winter months have gone by and we have made great progress in some of our endeavors to promote the blues in this area. We are getting over the jet lag from a great International Blues Competition in Memphis. The Sacramento Blues Society had a great group of people go to Memphis to encourage the Aces and Jimmy Pailer and Lew Fratis, our representatives

in the competition. As you probably know by now, The Aces made the finals (in the top 10 bands in the competition), which made us very happy. I must mention The Jeff Watson Band also was there to represent the Sierra Blues Society, and although they did not make the "cut", Jeff put on his best performing face and also did a great job representing West Coast Blues.



blues in the venue, the SBS will not be represented as visibly as last year.

Well, on the good side, I must compliment Rick Von Geldern. of the Sacramento Blues Review and Murray of the Power house pub for a new blues effort in this month of March. So far, they have put on 2 great shows with SBR playing with Lena Mosley, The Deacon and Marshal

Wilkerson as lead singers. This was a wonderful show with the big sound of the Sacramento Blues Review. The next show was featuring Rov Rogers. I have heard a lot about him, and he Lou's Pier 47. San Francisco lived up to everything I was told. Roy Rogers knows how to play a guitar. Whether he played straight guitar or used a slide, his playing was GREAT. Rick has music all month and plans to have a show every Sunday at the Powerhouse Pub at 3 PM through out the summer. Stav tuned.

> March 29th Rick and Murray at the Pub have given us the Pub to have our first Gene Chamber's Musician Relief Fund Raiser. We will have a

Tim Noxon Band backing up a very good group of musicians. See the information on page 4 in this issue.

Next month, April 26th, we will have another Musician's Relief Fund Raiser at Constable Jack's in New Castle. Daniel Castro, Guitar Mac and Mr. December are just a few that have volunteered to play this gig. Keep your eyes on Willie Brown's weekly blues emails for more information.

We have added a few more clubs giving our blues musicians a chance to play their blues music. We have added The San Juan Club and of course the Power House Pub to the North area blues scene. These new clubs join Brenda of Po Boy's in helping me enjoy live blues and still be close to my home near Folsom. We also cannot forget The Torch Club and Louie's Lounge for their support of the Live Blues for our musicians.

The board and I are always working with BITS (blues in the School) program. This year we are supporting music lessons in Sacramento and Yolo School Districts. Many kids love the blues, and Mick Martin, Joe Lev, Jimmy Pailer, Lew Fratis and many other musicians give up a lot of time for very little pay to help teach these kids the blues. This is possible because of the members of the Sacramento Blues Society attending our shows and paying their dues. Membership is what helps keep our Society going. We have many things planed this year, and I may be asking for more volunteers from our society to help out. I would like us to become closer as a group. I would like to see more venues with other surrounding blue societies. Blues lovers are great caring people and I am proud to be the President of this Society. I hope all of you will say hello to me when you see me at these venues. I would love to know all of you personally.

Remember, support the blues though the Sacramento Blues Society.

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Proud Member of the Sacramento Blues Society Sunday, April 19

Friday, April 3 Blues, Brews & BBO, Visalia

Friday-Sunday, April 10, 11, 12 **Blues & Brews Festival. Laughlin**

> Thursday, April 16 House of Blues, Anaheim

Friday, May 8 **Dixon May Fair, Dixon**

Saturday, May 16 **Bluesfest, Three Rivers**



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BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS NEWS BY CYNTHIA JAYNES. CHAIR

The school year is rolling along and the BITS program is tuned up and in action. Our ArtScapes program, funded by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, is about to complete the final concert for this grant period. We have enjoyed expanding the program by visiting several ele-

mentary schools, giving the younger students exposure to the music we all love. Every school we've visited has been thrilled by Mick Martin's lecture and the music just wowed them all! A huge thank you goes to the Arts Commission for funding the past 12 months of BITS for Sacramento County schools.

We continue our partnership with the Yolo County Arts Council and have provided lecture/concerts for four of their schools so far. We have a few more to book and look forward to completing those by the end of this school year.



I would like to thank Dave Alcock who has taken on the scheduling of these BITS events. Dave has done a terrific job keeping the musicians and schools informed, and everything is running smoothly. The BIT Committee is putting together an

agreement form to be used in future BITS efforts so the schools, the musicians and the Blues Society are all on the same page.

The BITS program operating for the Sacramento County Office of Education is going strong, having completed the second round of lessons and songwriting competition. This program is led by Paris Clayton, backed by Larry Davis, Tess Honn, Dave Channell, and Eric Everett. The winning songs from last year and this year have been put to music and recorded in preparation for a

compilation CD. Within the next few years we will have an entire CD of blues songs written by students in the court and community schools system. These kids have truly lived the blues and their songs reflect that. Liz Walker has been the life force behind this exciting program and we are so appreciative!

We are planning a BITS benefit for Saturday, May 30, 2009 at the VFW Hall on Stockton Blvd., Sacramento. We have some surprises in store so mark the date and see page 5.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ROLLINS LAKE

FRIDAY JUNE 26 THROUGH SUNDAY JUNE 28

Sacramento Blues Society is joining Sierra Blues Society for a family campout with music, workshops and more. More information to come.

JOIN THE BLUES FOR LIFE TEAM

Sally Katen (SBS), Marina Texeira (Torch Club), and Cindy Love (Albie Aware) are forming a team to race in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Saturday, May 9th. Now that is a Blues Team.

Anyone can join—yes, any age any ability, anyone! If you want to Sleep in for the Cure, the fee is **\$40.00**, and you will get a T shirt so no one will know.

If you can show up at Cal-Expo on May 9th, please pre-register. The fees are Adults \$35.00, ages 6 to 12 \$15.00, under 6, free. Team t-shirts are \$10.00.

Registration deadline is April 12th. Team t-shirts must be ordered by April 26th.

To join **Blues for Life Team** go to

www.komensacramento.org and click on "Race for the Cure", go to "register here", agree to waiver/agreement, and click on "join a team". Click on "please select a team" and select "Blues for Life". Click "continue" and fill in your information. You can even create your webpage to e-mail friends for donations.

Confused? Don't let that stop you. Contact Sally Katen, the captain for the Blues for Life Team and she will guide you. You can reach Sally at bluesfor thecure@hotmail.com or at 916-201-0877.

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NEW CRISIS FUND FOR PROFESSIONAL SBS MUSICIANS BY PATTY FUREY

The Sacramento Blues Society Board of Directors has started the "Gene Chambers Musicians Crisis Fund" [GCMCF].

This fund is named in the honor of our 2008 Sacramento Blues Society's Hall of Fame inductee Mr. Gene Chambers. Gene a longtime Sacramento blues musician, teacher and mentor had al-

ways cared deeply about the blues scene and blues musicians around our area. This fund provides assistance to SBS Musicians who are in financial hardship due to catastrophic events affecting their health and well being.

Fundraising is underway with two events planned. One is for March 29th at the Powerhouse Pub, and the other



is scheduled for April 26th at Constable Jacks. Information is listed in the SBS calendar. We hope to raise enough money to start providing crisis assistance to musicians. At both events, a guitar raffle will be offered. In addition, Tim Noxon has graciously offered his cabin for a raffle for two weekend getaways at Eagle Lake. The raffle at Powerhouse Pub event will be the "Romantic Getaway" and at Constable Jacks it will be the "Fishing Buddy Getaway".

Who is eligible for the GCMCF? Professional musicians who are active with the Sacramento Blues Society and a member for a minimum of six months are eligible.

What qualifies as a musician in crisis? Accident, illness, medications, family emergency, and other emergency needs. Assistance is limited to a specific and verifiable need.

How do I apply? The application along with the guidelines will soon be posted on the SBS website www.sacblues.com. Also, an application can be mailed to you. Contact information is listed at the end of this article. All information will be confidential.

What is the turn around time after I turn in the application? The process will take between two to three weeks. The application will be handled in keeping with the urgency of your situation.



Applicants (approved or denied) will be notified immediately by the GCMCF Chairperson regarding the SBS Board's decision.

Checks will be issued in person or by mail within two days of approval.

A Social Security Number will be required for the issued check by the SBS Treasurer.

What is the range of assistance? \$100.00 to \$200.00 (Requests for less than or greater than the suggested range will also be reviewed.) The committee will review applications to be considered on a case by case assessment. This is a one time application.

Who do I contact for more information about the GCMCF? You can contact me at: Patty Furey at 488-3025 or pafurey@ sbcglobal.net

RON THOMPSON BENEFIT

Mark your calendars!

Torch Club Saturday, April 11, 2009 3 pm to 8 pm

Johnny Guitar Knox & Dave Croall Leah Tysee w/ Mick Martin & Frankie Lee Volker Strifer **Lady Bianca**

Harmonica Extravaganza Featuring Andy Santana Rick Estrin **Gary Smith**

> Special Guest Kid Anderson

Raffle Prizes and surprises \$10 donation to Ron Thompson for medical costs

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This fund helps performing musicians in times of extreme need. 100% of your donations go to the fund with zero administrative or overhead costs, and will be administered by the Sacramento Blues Society, a non-profit 501 (C) 3 organization registered in the State of California with 30 years of community service.

Your donations are fully tax deductable.

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Blues in the Schools Annual Benefit

Saturday, May 30, 2009 2:00 – 6:00 pm VFW Post #67 2784 Stockton Blvd (across from UC Davis Med Center)

THE DANIEL CASTRO BAND

will be headlining our annual Blues in the Schools benefit. Featuring our students from the after school programs along with several of your favorite local performers. Mark in your calendar but more important - BE THERE!

ROAD TRIP BY LIZZIE-PHOTOS BY DENNIS MOFFETT

Let me take you for a ride down through the cotton fields of the Mississippi delta. There's a stage down there in a little juke joint that has been calling to me since the first time I stood in front of it. I needed to hear live music from that stage.

It all started back in Sac town on Feb. 4th, 2009 with a predawn flight. Now anyone who knows me knows I don't do dawn unless there's a

ticket or tongue involved. Fortunately there was the certainty of one and the possibility of the other so I made it to the airport on time.



Of course, that doesn't mean we left on time as we sat on the runway while they de-iced our plane! Not being a real fan of flying this does not bode well with me. We're finally in the air through clear skies but of course are late for the connection in Houston. Herding 25+ blues lovers, musicians, and equipment through the airport in Houston can be a challenge when your connecting flight is a mile away and you have to find the train that will take you there (follow the red line, just keep following the red line – have you been in the George W. Bush Intercontinental Airport? It's huge! (And why is it called an

intercontinental, not international

teries but I digress.) Well, as it

turns out, no worries. When your

one is accounted for, guitars are

group takes up 60% of the seats on

a flight, they hold the plane. Every-

safe and we settle in for the last leg

of the flight. The mighty Mississippi

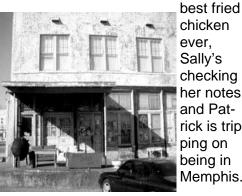
River passes below us with barely

a mention as we head east. After

airport? Just another of life's mys-

standing around the wrong luggage carousel and talking to arriving musicians we finally head out the door into beautiful 20° weather! It's FREEZING in Memphis. But again, no worries. The sun's shining and our ride is on time.

Check in at the hotel and find our rooms but for a small group of us. this is not the end of the line. We're headed to Clarksdale if I can get Jimmy's shirt ironed (yes, Jimmy had to have a shirt ironed) and everyone into the van. Willie is the navigator and the gps thinga-ma-jiggy isn't working the way it's suppose to (operator error you think?) Dennis comes through with his super duper hi tech phone and we're on the road. Jimmy is hungry and Lew hasn't slept yet (having played the Torch Club the night before). I'm dreaming of the



chicken ever. Sally's checking her notes and Patrick is tripping on being in Memphis.

When you pull up in front of Ground Zero in Clarksdale, Mississippi most people would think, "no way in hell, I'm going into this place." But for me, it's just the coolest place I've ever been. We've come for the IBC pre-party jam. I'm going to finally hear live music from that stage (having been here before but never when music was happening.) Not only live music but live music with two of my favorite players, our own Jimmy Pailer and Lew Fratis.



First order of business is to feed Jimmy (he has patiently waited for food) and we're looking for the fried chicken I've been talking about for 2.000 miles. What's this? There's no fried chicken on the dinner menu, it's only available at lunch time. Are you kidding me! But the lovely Kristin (our server) assures us that the catfish is just as good. Oh yea! She was right. Along with the fried pickles, fried green tomatoes, fried prawns, hush puppies, pulled pork, coleslaw and everything else that was piled on the table.

Next, what about the digs? The

Delta Cotton Company has renovated the rooms above Ground Zero and we're in for a total surprise. The whole building stands next to the railroad tracks and was once



a warehouse where cotton was graded. The stairs are a little scary, the hallway suspicious but when the door opened I stopped in my tracks! The rooms were huge and some of the most beautiful I had ever seen. Not overly luxurious (it is after all a warehouse) but with beautiful glowing refinished

wooden floors, high ceilings with fans, large windows, really comfortable beds with fabulous quilts, full kitchen, complete living room arrangements and just an overall great vibe! We had two rooms (one with two queen beds, the other 4 twins) and lots of space for entertaining. But since we were there for the music, entertaining in our



rooms wasn't high on the agenda this trip. Things are starting to happen downstairs and that's where we wanna be.

This jam had something for eve-

ryone. Back porch picking blues, hard rocking blues, some R & B and of course, delta blues. There were players from Branson,



MO, some guys with jobs and families from Vermont who were living the moment and a young group from the Twin Cities with a jump jive blues that rocked my world. Stand up bass, drums, slide trombone, trumpet and a female vocalist on keyboards. What a combination! This young woman had a treble voice that came up out of her feet. To sing that pitch perfect over all that brass with seemingly little



effort was really something to enjoy. These young players just love

to perform and it shows in the energy that they brought to the stage. **DaVina and the Vagabonds** is a name to watch for. Don't know if they'll ever make it out to the west coast but you can check them out at their website.



But the best was hearing

Jimmy and Lew show the south what we got going on in Sacramento. And we got it going on! Drop into the Torch on a Tuesday night and Lew's soulful singing will bring tears to your eyes. Jimmy cranks it up on Wednesday nights and when the two combine on Fridays, well, you can just about believe that life doesn't get any better. Now they were bringing their talent and passion to the stage in Clarksdale. This was the moment I had been thinking about for years and I was not disappointed. Jimmy just smoked out the house and after running on empty all day Lew got a shot of adrenaline and really turned it on. We were very proud when they brought the house to their feet.

There was one more spot for the night before climbing upstairs. When Ground Zero shut down I headed across the tracks. Talk about a juke joint! This was it, the real deal. The only way you knew something was happening around this place was the cars parked out front and the windows rattling. BYOB, ratty couches, plastic hanging from the ceiling to keep out the rain, and so many players the place couldn't hold them all. What a sound! I could have

stayed all night 'cept I knew I had to get some sleep, since I was the one driving back to Memphis the next day (you know, me being the responsible one and all!)



Next morning, we met up with Johnny B Goode and his

lovely lady, Shirley for breakfast across the street at "Bobbie's". Fantastic biscuits and gravy (not on the menu, you have to ask for it), just spicy enough Bloody Mary and overall good southern breakfast. It's time to round them up and load the van. A brief spot at "crossroads" and a stop for our "corn liquor" and we're headed back to Memphis for Jimmy and Lew to check in for their IBC appearance.



Ground Zero has always spoken to me. Rain, snow and freezing, I've had it three ways and have loved it every time. But this was different. This was the blues. Close your eyes and listen. There's a player picking somewhere.

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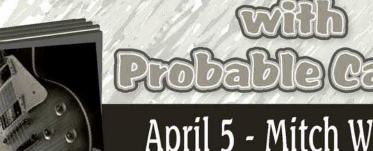
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April 26 - Mick Martin

May 3 - Ian McGlauflin & Bump



May 17 - Sac Blues Review Closed Easter Sunday April 12 & Closed Mother's Day May 10

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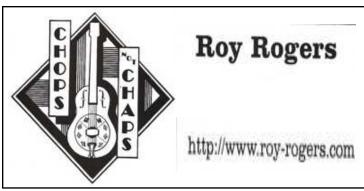
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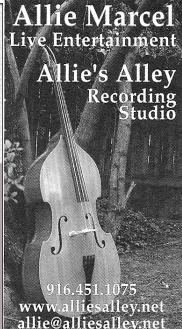


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THE SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY (SBS)

is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote blues music as an art form.

The Sacramento Blues Society is one of the oldest blues societies in California, founded 1979.

The SBS has kept the blues tradition alive in the Sacramento area by promoting the local blues music scene and bringing internationally renowned artists to the region.

SBS is an affiliate member of The Blues Foundation.
We provide educational opportunities for young people with the foundation's "Blues In The Schools" Program.

The Sacramento Blues Society produces a newsletter, "Blue Notes" on a Bi-Monthly schedule (six times a year) to our membership.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
WWW.SACBLUES.COM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA.

All SBS members in good standing are invited.

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