

SACRAMENTO

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*Blues Society*

# BLUE NOTES!

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**President's Column**

**“Ask not what the Blues Society can do for you... ask what you can do for the Blues”** by *Cari Chenkin*



Not long ago, I had a conversation with a musician friend, who made some remarks about how the Blues Society doesn't do enough to support local musicians. My friend wondered why bands should bother becoming members. This echoes complaints I've heard before from other bands and musicians.

I explained to my friend that SBS band membership does confer some perks, including listings in each Blue Notes issue, listing as a member band on our website (complete with photo and link to band website), promotion of their gigs in our newsletter and on our website and social media, and the opportunity to have a feature article about them in the Blue Notes. (*Sadly, when Jan Kelley contacts bands to offer this opportunity, very few take the time to meet with her to be interviewed!*) Plus, when we, as Board members, are approached by people looking to hire bands, we always make sure to recommend an SBS member band.

I asked this musician for suggestions as to what else the SBS could do to promote bands. Their suggestions included hiring a local band to open for each show where we bring in a national or regional act. I agree that would be a great idea, and brought it to the attention of the Board at our October meeting. My friend also said they'd like to see a table at all SBS-sponsored gigs, where member bands could sell their CDs and merchandise. "Great idea! We'll provide the space, and you can come, bring your merch, man the table and sell it. When do you want to start?" The response? Crickets.

"See," I said, "that's the thing. People are always approaching us and saying 'you guys should do such-and-such'. My answer is always the same: 'Great idea! When can you make it happen?' And the response is always the same: dead silence, or fast backpedaling. And therein lies the problem. People have great ideas, but no

interest in working to make them happen."

I told my friend that with only nine Board members and a few committee members, we just don't have the manpower to implement the exciting new ideas that pop up. When I explained that to my friend, they said "Oh, I get it, your main mission isn't just to support local bands". I said "That's right – supporting local bands is only ONE part of what the SBS does." I went on to enumerate the other programs and initiatives we undertake (Blues in the Schools, and the other two programs that support musicians – the Gene Chambers Musicians' Crisis Fund and the Hall of Fame that honors local musicians) as PART OF OUR OVERALL MISSION – TO SUPPORT THE BLUES and make sure this uniquely American art form stays viable and alive. You've heard me beg for volunteers to come forward, many times over the past few years, and this is WHY your participation is so important and sorely needed.

It would be a great paradigm shift if some of our local musicians and blues lovers would stop looking at what the Blues Society can do, or

**2019 Committee Chairs**

*Blues in the Schools* - Lisa Phenix  
*Hall of Fame* - Sally Katen  
*Events* - Mindy Giles  
*Membership* - Linda McShane  
*Sponsorships/Fundraising* - Roger Patterson, Doug Pringle, Earl Withycombe  
*Public Relations & Social Media* - Mindy Giles  
*Volunteer Coordinator* - Renee Erickson Sullivan  
*Donor Gifts* - Sally Katen  
*Blue Notes Newsletter* - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley  
*IBC Competition* - MariLu Onweller  
*Webmaster* - Dave Baldwin

*Help keep the Blues alive - Contact a Chair or Board Member to volunteer for the Board or a Committee!*

**The Sacramento Blues Society (SBS)** is one of the oldest blues societies in California, founded in 1979. SBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed to preserve and promote blues music as an art form. SBS has kept the blues tradition alive in the Sacramento area by promoting the local blues music scene, bringing internationally renowned artists to the region and publishing the "Blue Notes" six times a year. SBS is an affiliate member of The Blues Foundation, which honored us with a 2015 Keeping the Blues Alive Award, and provides educational opportunities for young people with The Blues Foundation's "Blues in The Schools" Program.

**Board of Directors Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of each Month, 7:00 p.m.**  
*All SBS Members in good standing are invited to attend.*  
 For more details, including meeting location, check: [www.sacblues.com/who-we-are/](http://www.sacblues.com/who-we-are/)

- 2019 Board of Directors**
- Lisa Phenix
  - Cari Chenkin
  - Art Quinn
  - Rich Gormley
  - Mari Lu Onweller
  - Jim Tatol
  - Barbara Katen
  - Sally Katen
  - Renee Erickson Sullivan

**Sacramento Blues Society Publications**

**Blues News**, Weekly E-mail - *Willie Brown*  
**Blue Notes**, Bi-Monthly Newsletter - *Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley, Co-Editors*  
 Layout - *Cari Chenkin*  
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**Twitter:** @SacBluesSociety

President's Column, con't. from P. 2

doesn't do for them, and start thinking about what THEY can do to support THE BLUES! After all, the Blues Foundation and its affiliate Blues Societies are a big part of why Blues is still around today. If it weren't for those organizations and all they (and we) do, who knows if blues bands would even have gigs?!

In the case of the SBS and most other Blues Societies, members are all UNPAID VOLUNTEERS who spend their time, energy and hard-earned money working to promote the music we love. In fact, most Board members spend WAY more than the \$25.00 Annual Membership fee, in donations to the SBS and its programs. We don't do it for the perks, we don't do it for the glory, and we sure as heck don't do it for the money! We do it 'cause we love THE BLUES and want to see it continue. We are COMMITTED to the Blues! Are you?

I'm calling on y'all to stop thinking about how we're not doing enough for YOU, and start thinking about how you can pitch in and help us with our mission of KEEPIN' THE BLUES ALIVE!

## Blues In The Schools (BITS)

### ***BITS Rosemont High Students Featured at North Sacramento Blues Fest***

*By Lisa Phenix, BITS Chairperson*



BITS is off to a booming school year! Welcome aboard to new committee members Barbara and Annette.

BITS members attended an inspiring two full days workshop held by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC) with the goal of increasing student engagement at our school assemblies. The featured speaker, Grammy-nominated, and many award-winning Bash the Trash's John Bertles was in fine form. With instruments made literally from trash (including the really cool diddley bow), John showed us how to engage students to create, conserve and use their bodies as sound making machines. It was an exciting couple of days and BITS is ready to rock.

And speaking of rocking, our May 2019 Showcase Rosemont High School students, with a little help from local rock star Matt Hevesh, had their own set Sunday October 20, 2019 at the Stoney's Rockin' North Sac Blues Fest. With other exceptional area Blues musicians including Mick Martin, Shane Dwight, Austin Mo, Ryder Green, Ro-Harpo, Red's Blues, Kyle Rowland, Zach Waters and Blind Lemon Peel, this was quite an event. Thanks so much Kevin Lutz and Stoney's Rockin' Rodeo.

## **BITS needs Video!**

Calling all videographers, photographers, and Go Pro-ers. BITS needs you to GO PRO or videotape our Blues in the Schools Assemblies. Please offer your services or equipment so we can improve our Student Assemblies and build a training database for future musicians and lecturers. To volunteer, email Lisa Phenix: lisap@winfirst.com. And thank you!

## **SBS Donation Request**

Hi SBS Blues Lovers

As the end of 2019 approaches, thank you for loving the Blues, supporting Blues music in Sacramento, and for sharing the Blues

with our local area students and community. We are thrilled to celebrate our Blues bond with our annual holiday party featuring Nikki Hill on December 13th.

With the holidays approaching, please keep in mind, that the Sacramento Blues Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all volunteer-run organization. We welcome your tax deductible donations and will use your donations wisely and with appreciation for you and Blues Music. Please consider donating. Go to <http://www.sacblues.com/>, and click on the "donate to SBS" link at the top of the page.

Also, if shopping on Amazon this the holiday season, consider making SBS your non-profit of choice. It's easy! Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>, select the Sacramento Blues Society when prompted to choose your non-profit. Then, just about every time you shop, you will be promoting the Blues. Thanks again and I can't wait to dance it up with you at Nikki Hill on December 13th. Lisa Phenix

## **An Intimate Evening with Aaron Neville** *By Barbara Katen*



What an amazing voice, such an amazing performer. We were truly treated to a fabulous show on August 20, 2019 at the Crest Theater. What I didn't understand is why there weren't more people there to see him at such an intimate venue. However, it rapidly became clear that the audience that was in attendance was there for him and showed him much love with their applause and ovations.

Aaron took the stage with piano player Michael Goods and not an instrument more, other than his voice, which clearly is his magical instrument. Not nearly as imposing a figure as he appears on television, he made the audience his own singing oldies like "Cupid", "Chain Gang", "This Magic Moment", "Love



Potion" and others before singing a solo version of his duet hit with Linda Ronstadt "I Don't Know Much" and his own "Tell It Like It Is". The only thing he didn't sing that I wanted to hear was his beautiful rendition of "Ave Maria". Seriously, his voice gave me shivers, it was so beautiful. The show was unbelievable, and the time went by so fast! I hope he comes back again soon and if he does please don't miss the opportunity to catch him live. He is a truly amazing artist and legend.





# The 2019 Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony A Smashing Success!

By Sally Katen & Barbara Katen

First off, I need to congratulate the 2019 inductees: *Kenneth Marchese*, inducted by Ray "Catfish" Copeland (2012); *Leo Bootes*, inducted by Joe Lev (2014); *Marty Deradoorian*, inducted by Jimmy Morello (2018); *Robert Nakashima*, inducted by Marcel Smith (2016); and from our "Gone But Not Forgotten" honorees, *Gary "Whalin" Black*, inducted by Charlie Baty (2010) and Rick Estrin (2010). The posthumous award was accepted by Gary's son, Ira Black.



Did we mention that our Hall of Fame stars were out in force for this event? In addition to the Hall of Fame members who were inducted



this year's class, in attendance were: "Big Mike" Balma (2011); Marina Teixeira (2012); "Ratatat" Pat Balcom (2013); Derek Washington (2014); Jan Kelley (2014); Marshal Wilkerson (2014); Donna Proctor Smith (2015); Liz Peel VanHouten (2015); Anthony Montanino (2016); Ken Van



Cromphaut "Obie Dee" (2017); Andy Santana (2018); and RW Grigsby (2018). The afternoon event at Harlow's was an all-star-studded crowd for sure!



Dave Alcock, our incomparable emcee, started the event by introducing to the audience SBS President Cari Chenkin,



Photos by Barbara Katen

who welcomed everyone. Dave has had a long involvement with

our Blues in the Schools (BITS) program and explained how it is run and all they do to benefit the region's schools. SBS member and last year's *Valeriejeanne Anderson Volunteer Award* recipient Cynthia Jaynes talked about volunteerism and why it is important. She was followed by Doug Pringle who spoke about the special *Gene Chambers Musician's Crisis Fund*. Sally then welcomed everyone to the 2019 *Hall of Fame* event and introduced Jan Kelley (HOF 2014), who explained the concept and origin of the *Gone But Not Forgotten* (GBNF) video, which is produced each year by Bob Cosman and was shown by Pat Altenberg while Donna Proctor Smith (HOF 2015) played flute in the background. Great job all!



Raffle time resulted in a few happy winners, and then the fabulous *Marcel Smith* (HOF 2016), backed by the talented *Bob Jones and the Chosen Few* band, took to the stage and blew the roof off the place! He sang several songs from his newest CD, "*Everybody Needs Love*". along with some older songs. 2019 Inductee Robert Nakashima, a former bandmate, got up and joined Marcel and the Chosen Few on stage. If anyone

can stay seated when Marcel is doing his thing on stage, they have more self-control than most! Marcel packed the dance floor - even the volunteers were up and dancing at their designated stations!

We held the final raffle and then came the main event - the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, where lots of love and stories were shared during the induction. The ceremony was followed by the

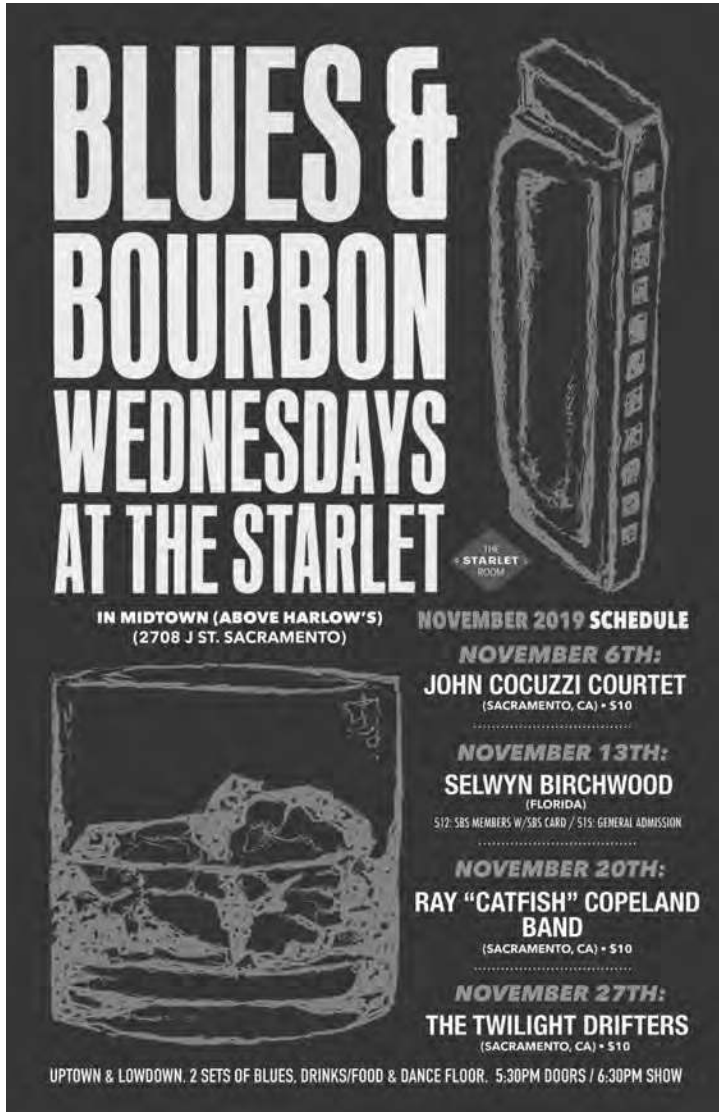


wall hanging of the new HOF Members' photos at their permanent home in the internationally known Torch Club. Thank you to Marina Teixeira and Mark Mitchell for having the All-Star jam featuring all the new Hall of Fame Members and previous HOF Members, many of whom joined in with the wall hanging.

Last, we need to thank all the folks who volunteered to help, showed up and or/loaned their talent to the event: Mike MacBride, Barbara Katen, Renee Erickson Sullivan, MariLu Onweller, Liz & Bill VanHouten, Roni Cook, Earl Whitycombe, Nan Mahon, Pat

HOF Ceremony, con't. from previous page

Altenburg, Donna Proctor Smith, Bobbie Felt-Armstrong, our Raffle Queen, and her neighbor Donald. And a special thank you to our Master of Ceremonies, Dave Alcock, and the irreplaceable Mindy Giles, who was such a help with the entire event and was an awesome Stage Manager. All these individuals were instrumental in making the 2019 Hall of Fame the smashing success it was!



**BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET**

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

NOVEMBER 2019 SCHEDULE

**NOVEMBER 6TH:**  
JOHN COCUZZI COURTET  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

**NOVEMBER 13TH:**  
SELWYN BIRCHWOOD  
(FLORIDA)  
\$12: SBS MEMBERS W/SBS CARD / \$15: GENERAL ADMISSION

**NOVEMBER 20TH:**  
RAY "CATFISH" COPELAND BAND  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

**NOVEMBER 27TH:**  
THE TWILIGHT DRIFTERS  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

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

## ELECTION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The upcoming election for the 2020 Board of Directors will be held at our December 13th Membership Party at Harlow's Nightclub.

Ballots with the names of those running will go out to our membership no later than November 13th. You can vote either by mailing in the ballot to the Blues Society (must be received by Friday, December 12th - please see the mailing address on the ballot) or by depositing into the ballot box at the Membership Party.

In addition to the slots to be filled by the Election, there are a few Board members whose terms are continuing. Not ready yet to become a Board Member? Please consider joining a Committee. We have committees for Events, Membership and Sponsorship, Newsletter, Blues In the Schools, the Hall of Fame. Below and on the next page you'll find the names of the members who've stepped up to the plate and volunteered to run for election to the Board, as well as their brief candidate statements.

## Lisa Phenix



Lisa Phenix is a present SBS Board member, was interim secretary for half of 2019, and has been Co-Chair for Blues in the Schools (BITS) for the past two years. She was actively involved in BITS the previous year, and in the initial startup of BITS. She has great organizational skills and is presently assisting with the SBS BDOG, Volunteer, Donor, and Webmaster committees.

Lisa loves all kinds of music and believes the Blues lets you sing your sorrow into joy. She is thrilled to turn kids onto blues music and blues song writing. She runs her own band, teaches guitar, piano, voice, song writing, a nature based music and movement class for young children, and emotional intelligence and literacy from 4th grade on up through music. She even taught English through music in Costa Rica. She would be honored to be elected to the SBS board for a 2 year term as a Board Member at Large.



## Rick Snyder

I've been a part of the Orange County Blues Society since its inception in 2009. The OCBS President, Papa J and I formed an alliance to promote the future of the Blues and to preserve the past. I have been the Media Director for the OCBS since 2010 and have helped them to bring the Blues Behind the

Orange Curtain. In 2017, I partnered with a fellow blues lover to develop and produce the 6 String Showdown, a Blues Guitar Celebration. We have now had two successful seasons bringing together Blues guitarists from 12 years old to 77 years young, put them on the same stage and exposed them to audiences who would never have seen them otherwise. The Blues is America's indigenous art form, and I like to think of myself as a custodian of the Blues.

What I will do when elected:

If I'm elected there will be two chickens in every pot! Just kidding.

I would like to form lasting relationships with members of the NorCal Blues community. My hope is to build a bond between all the Blues Societies in California, Oregon and Washington. I would like to see the Blues become less exclusive and more inclusive. I would like to work to have artists, promoters, Blues Societies and all the folks involved in promoting and preserving the Blues come together allowing the genre to grow.

## Renee Erickson Sullivan



Renee recently joined the current Board as a replacement, and has previously served on the Board in various capacities, including a stint as SBS President. She currently holds responsibility for Volunteer Coordination, and will continue to capably fill that role when elected to her own term on the 2020 Board.

## Rich Gormley

Rich is a member of the current Board of Directors, serving as Treasurer. He is a valuable asset in this post, as he is an experienced Controller, with many years of financial expertise. Rich has been using that expertise to help get the SBS on a solid financial footing, and we hope he'll continue to do so when elected to the 2020 Board.



## Art Quinn

Art is a member of the current Board of Directors and is running for re-election. In his words: "Successful organizations make use of Marketing to identify what their group's Mission and Identity are and how best to communicate that to their members and to the public. My goal is to create effective outreach to attract, motivate, grow and retain membership in The Sacramento Blues Society and participation in SBS events."



## 40th Anniversary SBS Member Party Featuring Nikki Hill

By Mindy Giles, SBS  
Event Chair

*"The fast-rising, hard-charging, 20-something, North Carolina born-and-bred singer Nikki Hill has more than earned her evocative "Southern Fireball" moniker." — LA Weekly*

As the saying goes, membership has its benefits, and this year's annual Sacramento Blues Society Holiday Party and Membership Meeting is in the running for the best one ever. At Harlow's on Friday, December 13th, we are pleased to be bringing in one of the biggest rave-ups rising stars in all of blues/soul/roots rock, NIKKI HILL.

*"If Tina Turner and Little Richard had a daughter and raised her with the help of uncles James Brown and Chuck Berry, she'd be like Nikki Hill." — Minneapolis Star Tribune*

Her SRO show in Sacramento last December at "Blues & Bourbon Wednesdays" at The Momo (now The Starlet Room) dazzled many, created lines of new fans wanting to get a photo with her, AND they bought her brand-new CD, FELINE ROOTS. Hill's tough band coled by her burning guitarist husband/partner, Matt Hill, also features sizzling guitarist and long-time Sacramento favorite, Laura Chavez. Together this band champions the pioneers of roots and rock n' roll and the blues, soul and gospel that birthed it all.

This event is free to current SBS members this year, but we are asking for a \$10 donation to support all the good work of our non-profit organization as one of the oldest blues societies in America on our 40th anniversary. This also allows us to bring in top-notch national talent for concerts like this.

We encourage you to go online at [sacblues.com](http://sacblues.com) to become a member and/or renew in advance, to avoid the long line at the door. Remember please, It will be advisable to get there when doors open to get your seats. THIS show WILL bring in new blues lovers, who will become new SBS members in 2020, and Yes, there WILL be a dance floor!



Friday, December 13th

Harlow's

2708 J St., Sacramento, CA 95816

Office: 916-441-4693

Doors: 6 pm

Show: 7 pm

**FREE to current SBS members**

**\$25 advance tix - GA (non-members). This includes a new one-year membership to the Sacramento Blues Society!**

<https://www.harlows.com/event/sacramento-blues-society-holiday-membership-party-ft-nikki-hill/>

Here's Nikki's backstory from her website:

Independence has always come easy for vocalist/lyricist/bandleader Nikki Hill, raised by a single mother and two older sisters in close quarters throughout Durham, North Carolina. This inspired not only her confidence at a young age, but a self-reliance and strong curiosity, which informed Hill's interest in art, reading and writing. The moment she could break free from the long Sunday sermons and weekday choir practices, Nikki traded the pews for barstools, sneaking into venues when necessary, and was soon immersed in North Carolina's roots scene. She felt oddly comfortable, finding a direct connection between the energy she saw at local shows in Chapel Hill, and the intense praise dancing, gospel shouting church services she attended and sang with up until she was a teen. Seeing everything from Dexter Romweber to Carolina Chocolate Drops, Bo Diddley to Motorhead, her new sermons came from rockers and bartenders, cowpunks and starving artists. Everyone had a story, and very soon, Nikki was in the mix herself, immersed in music, getting into trouble, and making stories of her own.

Hill was always happy to lend her harmonies to bands around town but not much more. But when meeting Matt Hill in 2005, they both found a young friend in each other who could talk just as much about Lightnin' Hopkins as they could Bon Scott era AC/DC. Nikki and Matt eventually married in 2011. For the pair, it was a friendship turned loving relationship that encouraged both to pursue all life could offer. Nikki also gained a partner who musically understood and supported her ideas. She learned quickly, putting her thoughts into action, and piecing together writing she had saved over the years. Moving to St. Louis after they married to help boost Matt's own touring career and supporting his solo albums, the pair performed as a duo between Matt's tours, making money where they could, and giving Nikki a chance to practice and write in between her jobs. Landing a local venue show with other musicians, Hill's voice quickly rang across St. Louis and she shifted to performing with a full band, asking Matt to play guitar. Nikki's live shows became quickly known in St. Louis and Chicago for their energy, unique sound, the loving vibe of her and Matt's interactions, and for her charisma, already highly developed from her Pentecostal roots and studying the greats.

By the time Hill released Here's Nikki Hill in 2013, word had spread, for better or worse. The reputation of the live show preceded itself, and heavily. Still, all of this did not translate immediately. With the rarity of modern young black rock 'n roll singers/entertainers without a long standing career like powerhouses Barrence Whitfield or Lisa Kekaula or Fishbone, Hill found herself in an odd spot, shuffling often between confused local audiences, who had clearly come to see the woman on the poster, wearing a headwrap or natural hairstyle with quasi-retro leanings, and shockingly receiving an unbridled, electric guitar driven performance. But, instead of frustrat-

ing, it encouraged Nikki to push herself to the limit in commanding the stage and showing people that rock n' roll didn't have one look or sound. The strong public curiosity allowed Hill the chance to open for a range of artists from Billy Boy Arnold, to Eileen Jewel, to Nelly, before she even had music released. Labels came calling but were looking for stylings of the more well-known Hill, or of a more boxed in retro feel that could be fully embraced by the purists Nikki had come to abhor from her former years of teen rebellion. Nikki's DIY upbringing deflected this path, and moved forward to continue developing her sound, where there is a pulpit in the garage; where the girl group turns up the guitar, where southern twang cuts through heavy soul groove.

Hill, with Matt on guitar and a changing rhythm section, played over 20 festivals and close to 200 venue shows in 2013, building audiences across the US and Europe. She also recorded with Deke Dickerson and The Bo-Keys in Memphis, TN, lending her voice to the Soul Meets Country EP, expressing yet another side of her limitless enthusiasm for all things roots. Nikki and Matt also moved to New Orleans, LA, returning to the south, and picking up influence through the Gulf Coast. The momentum continued through the release of her second album *Heavy Hearts Hard Fists* in 2015. With fiery soul and heavy R&B with rock n' roll boogie and tons of attitude to match, the album was received with many accolades from press and fans and kept Hill touring in the US and Europe, adding Australia and India and Morocco to an already impressive tour schedule, and over 30 festivals a year, including Montreux Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, Byron Bay Blues Festival and more.

Nikki's newest record, *Feline Roots* was independently released again on house label Deep Fried Records last November. Hill lets her soul rip on this new collection of songs, displaying her now well-known stance to champion for the pioneers of roots and rock n' roll, while remaining in perpetual forward motion, inviting anyone who wants to come along for the journey. Johnny Thunders straddling guitar, Bad Brains' rock meets reggae, Stones groove, Sister Rosetta Tharpe rave up rockin' gospel power, all receive nods of recognition. Hill is unafraid of her past or experiences and puts it out there for the sake of the song. The songs imagine the southern soul rocker at times waving her flag in surrender, then in the next moment finding her way back into the climb, bending through supercharged blues, punk soul, revival tent gospel, rockabilly shouts, whatever it takes to get there. It's her version of rock n' roll that can only come from her stories. Nikki has never been afraid to take the road less traveled, and it's clear with *Feline Roots* that she's living every word.

## Toronzo Cannon - The Preacher, The Politician, Or The Pimp

CD Review, by Jim Tatol

Chicago bluesman Toronzo Cannon defies all expectations. The blistering guitarist, soulful vocalist, singular songwriter and city bus driver is a rock-inspired blues guitarist playing his original, keenly detailed slice-of-life songs, blazing his own blues trail. Cannon burst onto the international stage as one the most electrifying bluesmen to emerge from Chicago in decades with his first release in 2016 on Alligator Records.

If you want a real treat, do as I did, and watch some YouTube videos of Toronzo. You'll become an instant fan as his stage presence

and performance will win you over. Cannon has played major cities all over the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He recently performed for the first time in Japan, delighting and surprising audiences with one unforgettable gig after another. Now, with his latest release of *The Preacher, The Politician or The Pimp*, Cannon takes his style of the contemporary blues to the next level.

*The Preacher, The Politician or The Pimp* features twelve Cannon originals, ranging from the burning social commentary of the title track to the wryly told, up-to-the-minute truths of *Insur-*

*ance* to the trademark Cannon humor of *Stop Me When I'm Lying* and *Ordinary Woman*. He gets serious on the haunting *The First 24*, the Martin Luther King-inspired *The Silence Of My Friends* and on the moving final track, *I'm Not Scared*. Cannon's blazing guitar and soul-baring vocals are front and center. His song writing is inspired by his deep Chicago roots, the wisdom of his grand-

parents and his years of observing the public while driving a bus. His songs tell timeless stories of common experiences in uncommon ways.

Cannon says, "It's about the songs. People get used to everyday life, so it's easy to miss the things around them. I write about those things. I know the problems of Chicago, the hardship, 'cause we're always a scapegoat. But I choose to love and respect the city because of the Chicago blues giants that came here from down south. I'm proud to be standing on the shoulders of every great Chicago blues musician who came before me."

All the attention only makes Cannon more focused. "I feel like I've become an ambassador for Chicago blues. People expect a lot from me," he says. "But it's good because I'm forced to keep upping my game."

Cannon has played the Chicago Blues Festival on ten separate occasions, initially as a sideman, then as a special guest, a side stage band leader and finally as the main stage headliner. When home, he drives a Chicago Transit Authority bus by day and performs by night. Using every vacation day and holiday, and working four ten-hour shifts a week, Cannon arranges his schedule to gig out of town as much as possible. It isn't easy, but, like all of the Chicago greats who have come before him, blues is his calling.

Now, with *The Preacher, The Politician Or The Pimp*, Toronzo Cannon delivers his messages loud and clear. Between his searing guitar chops, soul-satisfying vocals and vibrant and distinctive original songs, Cannon has grown from being a local attraction to become a world-renowned torchbearer for the blues. PBS Television's Chicago Tonight sums it up like this: "Cannon is just your typical CTA bus driver who moonlights as a sought-after Chicago blues musician."





Toronzo Cannon, *con't.* from P. 7

As a guitarist, singer and songwriter, he drives the sound of Chicago blues from the city to blues clubs and festivals around the world."

Here's what some of the media reviews say about Toronzo Cannon:

"Deep, contemporary Chicago blues... razor-sharp guitar and compelling, forceful singing" —Chicago Tribune

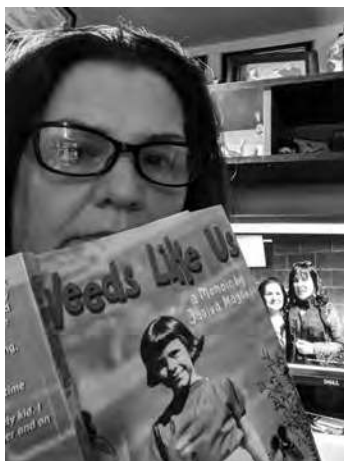
Blues Music Magazine declares, "His guitar playing has all the fire and spontaneity of the Chicago legends he carries; his songwriting is a timely and original look at the world he sees by day on a bus and in blues clubs by night, and his assertive voice is the perfect vehicle to deliver the message."

The Chicago Sun-Times said, "The Bridgeport resident (and CTA bus driver) was immersed in the world of blues by hanging around Theresa's Lounge. Today he's one of Chicago's new greats.

With statements like this about a Chicago Bluesman, you best listen and take notice.

### Weeds Like Us - A Memoir by Janiva Magness *Book Review by Sally Katzen*

Janiva Magness is an internationally known Blues singer, songwriter and survivor. She is a strong woman with a beaming smile, charisma for days and a voice that soars.



Compelled by the idea that in some way, her telling of her experiences might help others survive their own struggles with their lives and histories, she shares her life in this forthright story.

Mental illness, major dysfunction, tragedy, and violence: all are described within this book. She is comforted in the telling of her story as it makes better sense of her own chaotic history. She is, after all, a "badass" on stage.

Early on, we see a four-year-old in the care of parents who drank excessively and fought continuously. Further into the book, her life unravels one chapter after the other as she shares her first suicide attempt, describing how she felt so alone afterwards. Her childhood was essentially ruined by physical and sexual abuse, and then her mother's suicide, later followed by her father's suicide. The loss of all three brothers to drugs and alcohol, and her bad relationships all had a huge influence on her life.

Magness relates her story so compellingly; her experiences in her teen years, the alcohol, the abuse, the rape and drugs, coupled with serious depression, touches your inner core. She also shares her career through all her tribulations and how it helped her grow and become the badass she is.

I first met Janiva back in 2001, when she opened the Blues for the Cure show to support Breast Cancer at the Torch Club. Wow! She amazed me when she came on stage and belted out "My Bad Luck Soul" and I quickly became an avid fan! Can Janiva sing! Now that I know how she survived the struggles she has had, it makes me more in awe of someone who has been there and done that! Janiva is a sweet lady and deserves all the accolades and the love she has recently found! (husband TJ). Yes, this Lady is a BADASS!!

## Planning to Attend our Member Party on 12/13? PLEASE RSVP!

While members who are current and in good standing don't need to buy tickets to the event, we do need to have some kind of head count to know how many to expect. Go to the Harlow's website and click the FREE RSVP button on their website detail page and enter the code *sacbluesholiday*, so that we can get a live-time running count of SBS attendees. Thank you, and see you there!

**BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET**

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

DECEMBER 2019 SCHEDULE

**DECEMBER 4TH:**  
RED'S BLUES with DEREK IRVING (SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

**DECEMBER 11TH:**  
ROCKIN' JOHNNY BURGIN (CHICAGO/PORTLAND) • \$10

**DECEMBER 18TH:**  
QUIQUE GOMEZ with CHARLIE BATY & KID ANDERSEN (SPAIN)  
\$15: SBS MEMBERS W/ SBS CARD / \$10: GENERAL ADMISSION

**DECEMBER 25TH:**  
CLOSED - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
SEE YA JANUARY 8TH, 2020!

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

### November-December Upcoming Events

November			
1	Briefcase Blues Bros.	Opera House Saloon	Roseville
1	Freewheelers Cello Band	R Place	Livermore
2	The Count	Torch Club	Sacramento
2	Slingshot live feat. Roy Rogers, Badi Assad & Carlos Reyes	Auburn State Theatre	Auburn
2	Derek Fresquez & Cuttin' the Chord	Dew Drop Inn	Grass Valley



2	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Woodbridge Crossing	Woodbridge
2	Dr. Rock & The Stuff	Julietta Winery	Clarksburg
2	Todd Morgan	The Club Car	Auburn
3	Pat Contreras	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
3	Julie & the Jukes	Scribner Bend Vineyards	Sacramento
3	Candango Food Drive feat. the Jimmy Pailer Band	River City Brewing Co.	Carmichael
5	Tab Benoit	Harris Center	Folsom
6	John Cocuzzi Courtet	The Starlet (formerly Momo)	Sacramento
8	Twilight Drifters	Midtown Stomp	West Sacramento
8	Red's Blues	Father Paddy's	Woodland
9	Val Starr & the Blues Rocket CD Release Party	Torch Club	Sacramento
9	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Rusty Porthole	Bethel Island
9	Todd Morgan - 2nd Saturday Concert	Shingle Springs Comm. Ctr.	Shingle Springs
10	Red, White & Blues Festival feat. Tab Benoit, Mitch Woods, more!	Feather Falls Casino	Oroville
10	Alan Iglesias	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
10	Derek Fresquez & Cuttin' the Chord	Valencia Club	Penryn
13	Roots Rising! feat. Matt Andersen, Gaby Moreno & Liz Vice	Harlow's	Sacramento
13	Selwyn Birchwood	The Starlet	Sacramento
14	Doug MacLeod	Armando's	Martinez
15	Hamilton Loomis	Torch Club	Sacramento
15	Twilight Drifters	Barn & Pantry	Dixon
15	Red's Blues	Armando's	Martinez
16	Red's Blues w. Marty Deradoorian	Kelsey Creek Brewing	Kelseyville
16	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Hotel Leger	Mokelumne Hill
17	Katie Knipp Band	Drake's-The Barn	Sacramento
17	Café R&B	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
18	Red's Blues	Blue Wing Saloon	Upper Lake
20	Ray "Catfish" Copeland	The Starlet	Sacramento
21	Christian DeWild	Back Wine Bar	Folsom
22	Red's Blues	The Dragonfly	Modesto

23	Chris Cain	Sutter Creek Theatre	Sutter Creek
23	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Mannheim Social Club	Brentwood
23	Dr. Rock & the Stuff	Torch Club	Sacramento
24	Katie Knipp & Otis Mourning	The Sofia	Sacramento
24	Red's Blues	Drake's -The Barn	West Sacramento
24	Roy Rogers	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
27	Red's Blues with John Cocuzzi	House of Oliver	Roseville
27	The Twilight Drifters	The Starlet	Sacramento
29	City of Trees	Torch Club	Sacramento
29	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Iron Door Saloon	Groveland
30	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Iron Door Saloon	Groveland
30	Lindsay Beaver	Torch Club	Sacramento
30	Derek Fresquez & Cuttin' the Chord	Wild Idol	Byron
30	Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band	Louie's Cocktail Lounge	Rancho Cordova
30	Twilight Drifters	SacYard Comm. Tap House	Sacramento

SWELL-PRODUCTIONS.COM PRESENTS

# Roots Rising!

A night showcasing some of music's best young, contemporary talent

**Liz Vice**

Liz Vice has drawn comparisons to some of the greatest female soul singers of all time and both her albums (There's A Light in 2015, Save Me in 2018) debuted on Billboard's Gospel chart.

**Gaby Moreno**

Latin Grammy for Best New Artist Gaby Moreno from Guatemala, has achieved remarkable success -- was nominated for an Emmy and has shared the stage with music luminaries such as Bono and Andrea Bocelli.

**Matt Andersen**

4x Maple Leaf Award Winner, Canadian Matt Andersen is a powerhouse performer with a giant soul-filled voice, blues in his bones and commanding stage presence.

The evening features both stripped down individual performances and a collaborative finale.

## WED. NOVEMBER 13

# HARLOW'S

2709 I STREET, SACRAMENTO

TICKETS: \$25 ADVANCE / \$30 DOOR (885 MEMBERS W/ CARD \$25 @ 10:00PM) • ALL AGES • SEATED SHOW • DOORS: 6PM | SHOW: 7PM

<b>Dec</b>			
1	Rick Estrin & the Nightcats	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
4	Red's Blues w. Derek Irving	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
6	Harpdog Brown	Torch Club	Sacramento
7	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Five Windows Beer Co.	Lodi
8	Mighty Mike Schermer	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
11	Jonny Lang w. Zane Carney	Crest Theatre	Sacramento
11	Rockin' Johnny Burgin	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
<b>13</b>	<b>SBS Member Party feat. Nikki Hill</b>	<b>Harlow's</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>
13	Derek Fresquez & Cuttin' the Chord	Dew Drop Inn	Grass Valley
14	Red's Blues	Gaslight Co.	Folsom
15	Shana Morrison	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
18	Blind Boys of Alabama	Crest Theatre	Sacramento
18	Quique Gomez w. Charlie Baty & Kid Andersen	The Starlet	Sacramento

19	An R&B Christmas-Soul 4 the Season feat. Fred Ross, Lydia Pense, Dana Moret & Paula Harris	The Sofia	Sacramento
20	Katie Knipp Band	The Opera House Saloon	Roseville
22	Curtis Salgado	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
22	Derek Fresquez & Cuttin' the Chord	Valencia Club	Penryn
25	City of Trees Holiday Hangover Show	Torch Club	Sacramento
28	Daniel Castro	Torch Club	Sacramento
28	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Mannheim Social Club	Brentwood
28	William Mylar	Waterman Brewing Co.	Elk Grove
29	Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
29	Walter Trout	Crystal Bay Casino	Crystal Bay
29	Red's Blues w. Sid Morris	Lagunitas Brewing	Petaluma
31	Jackie Greene Band	Crest Theatre	Sacramento

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## Coco Montoya Shines at the Sofia *By Jan Kelley*

Strolling onto the stage with the other members of his band, it seemed as if this guitar slinger/singer was stepping into your living room. Familiar as he is in Northern California, Coco Montoya never fails to step up his game, always to the enjoyment of his audience.

However familiar Coco is to many of us, it might not be known he's been in this business for over four decades, where he started out as a drummer, then became a member of Albert Collins' band, where he was mentored by Collins and followed his true calling as a guitar player.

After years with Albert, he then joined John Mayall and the Blues Breakers band, continuing to learn and become more proficient and popular, later venturing out as a solo artist in the 90's.

This fine artist with his amazing guitar chops and voice delighted the small but enthralled audience for close to an hour the first set, performing most of his new CD *"Coming In Hot"* with an occasional tune from his others; *"Good Days, Bad Days"*, *"Can't Get My Ass In Gear"* and one of my favorites *"Am I Losing You"*.

At intermission, he and the band were cordially meeting the fans, signing CDs, having pictures taken and apparently enjoying themselves along with their fans.

Upon their return for the second set, Coco laid out some hard-rocking blues and had the audience on its feet, clapping and yelling and thoroughly enjoying the talent of this internationally known artist. What a treat to see this performer on the great Sofia stage!

For more tour and video information, please go to: [cocomontoya-band.com](http://cocomontoya-band.com).

# Sacramento Blues Society Member Bands

Got an event or an occasion? Need music? Hire an SBS Member Band!

**Almost Blue**  
[1rrbass@gmail.com](mailto:1rrbass@gmail.com)

**Blind Lemon Peel**  
[www.blindlemonpeel.com](http://www.blindlemonpeel.com)

**The BLUnatics**  
[critical.joe@icloud.com](mailto:critical.joe@icloud.com)

**Crossing 49**  
[crossing49.com/](http://crossing49.com/)

**Dave Croall & the Soothers**  
[www.soothersblues.com](http://www.soothersblues.com)

**Derek Fresquez & Cuttin' the Chord**  
<https://derekfresquezandcuttinthechord.com/music>

**Dr. Rock & the Stuff**  
[www.bookthestuff.com](http://www.bookthestuff.com)

**The Freewheelers Cello Band**  
[www.thefreewheelers.nl](http://www.thefreewheelers.nl)

**Guitar Mac**  
[www.guitarmac.net](http://www.guitarmac.net)

**Hat Trick, an Acoustic Trio**  
[www.oldbluesdude.com](http://www.oldbluesdude.com)

**The Hucklebucks**  
[www.thehucklebucks.com](http://www.thehucklebucks.com)

**Jeremy Norris & the Dangerous Mood**  
[www.dangerousblues.com](http://www.dangerousblues.com)

**Joe Lev & Friends**  
[www.facebook.com/joelevandfriends](http://www.facebook.com/joelevandfriends)

**Julie & the Jukes**  
[www.julieandthejukes.com](http://www.julieandthejukes.com)

**The Lisa Phenix Band**  
[www.lisaphenix.com](http://www.lisaphenix.com)

**The Michael Ray Band**  
<https://michaelrayblues.com/>

**Mick Martin Big Band**  
<http://micksbluesrockers.com>

**The Midtown Creepers**  
[jmcguire@comcast.net](mailto:jmcguire@comcast.net)

**The Ray "Catfish" Copeland Band**  
[www.raycastfishcopeland.com](http://www.raycastfishcopeland.com)

**Red's Blues**  
[www.reverbnation.com/redblues](http://www.reverbnation.com/redblues)

**Rick Estrin & the Night Cats**  
[www.rickestrin.com](http://www.rickestrin.com)

**Rooster Crows**  
[www.roostercrows.net](http://www.roostercrows.net)

**Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band**  
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**Todd Morgan & the Emblems**  
[toddmorganandtheemblems.com](http://toddmorganandtheemblems.com)

**Tony Westlake & the Tuff Times**  
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[www.twilightdrifters.com](http://www.twilightdrifters.com)

**Val Starr & The Blues Rocket**  
[www.valstarr.com](http://www.valstarr.com)

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