



A bi-monthly publication of the sacramento blues society

# BLUE NOTES!

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ISSUE 2



## President's Column By Sally Katzen

Hi, my name is Sally Katzen and I am your new Sacramento Blues Society President. I know there are a lot of members who know who I am, but I would like to share a little bit about myself for those who don't. I joined the Sacramento Blues Society in 2006, have served several stints on the Board of Directors and held the office of Secretary for four years. It was a great learning experience and back then we were still a small group of blues lovers trying to grow! In 2010, when I had served my first four years and termed out from being a board member, I still wanted to help and be a part of SBS. I asked our then-President Willie Brown if I could take over the Hall of Fame and he was all for it!

At that time, the Hall of Fame was part of our annual membership party: during the set break we would Induct three to five new Hall of Fame Members. After the 2012 Membership Party, our then-President Liz Walker said, "We are not sure who is here for the Membership Party or who is here for the Hall of Fame, so it is time for you to start your own event!" Yeah! That is how we came to Harlow's and the Torch Club for the Hall of Fame event each year. I am extremely proud of the Hall of Fame event, and all the folks that help make it a success each year, including the HOF Committee and all the event volunteers. I would personally like to thank all of you, not only for last year, but all the previous years. THANK YOU! And keep coming back!

I rejoined the Board in 2018, and, in addition to being elected President for 2020, I also serve on the Events Committee, the Big Day of Giving Committee and handle Merchandise. As the new President, I do get asked what I plan on doing for the SBS this year. Considering all that SBS has going on, and what's been accomplished last year, I plan to take what we have built and continue to nurture it. We



have a great board and I'm excited to be part of it!

As we continue to move forward in 2020, there will be some changes, and I hope everyone will embrace them, as the Board has decided to do. We're working hard to ramp up our fundraising and public service activities to raise our community profile and ensure that we remain a strong and viable organization that can carry out our mission of promoting the Blues.

I like to consider us one big family trying to enjoy our favorite music the "Blues" and help each other out the best we can. I look forward to the upcoming year with a full heart and love for our organization the Sacramento Blues Society!

### 2020 Committee Chairs

**Blues in the Schools** - Lisa Phenix

**Hall of Fame** - Sally Katzen

**Events** - Mindy Giles

**Membership** - Linda McShane

**Sponsorships/Fundraising** - Doug Pringle

**Public Relations & Social Media** - Mindy Giles

**Volunteer Coordinator** - Lisa Phenix, Deanna Myerson

**Donor Gifts** - Sally Katzen

**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, acknowledging our local blues artists, providing a musicians' Crisis Fund 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/)*

### 2020 Board of Directors

Lisa Phenix  
Cari Chenkin  
Rich Gormley  
Mari Lu Onweller  
Jim Tatol  
Barbara Katzen  
Sally Katzen  
Renee Erickson Sullivan  
Rick Snyder  
Doug Pringle

### Sacramento Blues Society Publications

**Blues News**, Weekly E-mail - **Willie Brown**

**Blue Notes**, Bi-Monthly Newsletter - **Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley, Co-Editors**

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/sacblues/](https://www.facebook.com/sacblues/)

**Twitter:** @SacBluesSociety

## SBS 2020 Board of Directors and Slate of Officers Elected

At our Annual Membership Meeting, concurrent with our Holiday Party, we held our election for the 2020 Board of Directors. We're pleased to announce the members of your 2020 Board of Directors:

Cari Chenkin  
Barbara Katen  
Sally Katen  
Lisa Phenix  
Rich Gormley  
Jim Tatol  
Rick Snyder  
MariLu Onweller  
Doug Pringle  
Renee Erickson Sullivan

At our January Board of Directors meeting, the Board elected the slate of officers for 2020. They are:

President – Sally Katen  
Vice President – Lisa Phenix  
Secretary – Barbara Katen  
Treasurer – Rich Gormley  
Parliamentarian – Jim Tatol

Please welcome your new officers for 2020! Best of luck to all.

## Blues In The Schools (BITS)

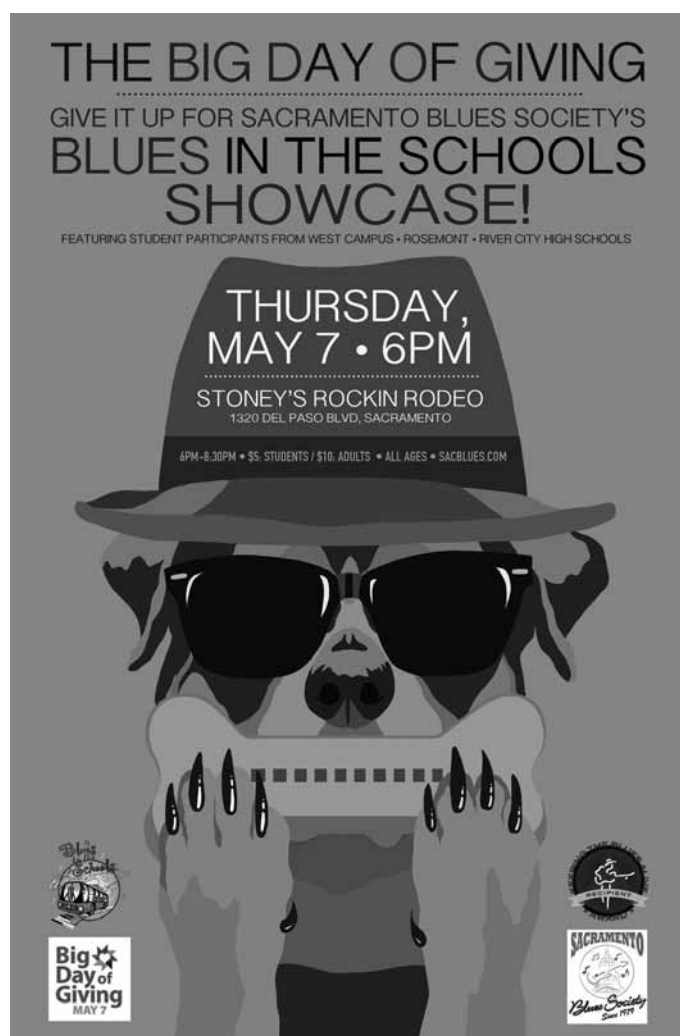
### ***BITS is Rockin' and Rollin' the Blues into 2020***

*By Lisa Phenix, BITS Chairperson*

2020 is blooming for BITS. Thanks to the Any Given Child Program administered by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, BITS is bringing Blues education and performance to elementary schools throughout Sacramento. You should see the joy on these students' faces as SBS blues musicians hand them egg shakers to shake, a microphone to skat into, demonstrate a homemade Diddly Bow, and play drums, bass and electric guitar to 350 students at a time! Students leave our Assemblies singing and dancing, empowered to sing out their sorrow and share their voices with the world.

Are you a teacher, parent of a student, or care about music in schools? Reach out to help BITS. And email Lisa Phenix at [lisap@winfirst.com](mailto:lisap@winfirst.com) if you'd like to see a Sacramento Blues Society BITS Blues Assembly at your school.

Due to the generosity of our end-of-2019 donor campaign spearheaded by SBS Member Roger Patterson (thanks, Roger, you're a rock star!) the SBS BITS After School Programs at three area high schools will start in March. SBS musicians will connect with music teachers and students at these schools for eight weeks, transforming these students into blues-educated, song-writing, live blues bands! These student bands will perform at the SBS 2020 BITS Student Showcase, which also happens to be the Big Day of Giving event. Mark your calendars now to come out for this joyful annual event: Thursday May 7, 2020, 6pm, at the newly remodeled Stoney's Rockin Rodeo, 1320 Del Paso Blvd, Sacramento. See you there!



## Big Day of Giving

### ***All you need to know about SBS and the Big DOG!*** Info courtesy of the Big D.O.G. website

Big Day of Giving is the Sacramento region's annual 24-hour fundraising event. It brings together the region's nonprofit community to help raise much needed unrestricted funds and shine a spotlight on the work nonprofits do to make the Sacramento region the place we call home. This year's Big Day of Giving is Thursday, May 7, 2020! In 2019, over 600 organizations generated a record \$8.4 million in a single day. For the past few years, the giving day has united our community, raising nearly \$40 million for local nonprofits from over 50,000 donors from all over the region, the state, the country, and the world. Big Day of Giving introduces donors to new causes worth supporting: 25% of donors gave to organizations for the first time during Big Day of Giving 2019, helping nonprofits reach new audiences.

### ***Where does Big Day of Giving take place?***

Big Day of Giving is an online event from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on May 7, 2020: during that time, gifts are made at [www.bigdayofgiving.org](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org) and news and updates are regularly posted to BDOG social media sites. Though the main action is online, many participating organizations hold events throughout the day to celebrate Big Day of Giving. (SEE BITS ARTICLE ABOUT OUR EVENT, THE BITS STUDENT SHOWCASE!)

### ***Who can donate to a nonprofit on Big Day of Giving?***

Donors can be individuals or corporations/businesses. Nonprofit

organizations are prohibited from donating to themselves on Big Day of Giving.

### ***How do I donate to a nonprofit on Big Day of Giving?***

You can donate to participating nonprofits during Big Day of Giving on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at [www.bigdayofgiving.org](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org). The minimum gift is \$15, and MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express credit and debit cards are accepted forms of payment. Each gift you make is 100% tax-deductible and irrevocable, and all donations will be granted for unrestricted use. Following Big Day of Giving, the charge on your debit or credit card statement will read "BIGDAYOFGIVING," and not the specific organization(s) to which you donated.

### ***How do I schedule a gift in advance of Big Day of Giving?***

Starting mid-April, you can schedule gifts in advance of Big Day of Giving using the "Schedule Your Gift" function of the website. Please note that scheduled gifts will not be processed on your credit card until Big Day of Giving on May 7, 2020.

### ***What fees are assessed on Big Day of Giving gifts?***

Each transaction through the Big Day of Giving website includes a 5.2% fee. The fee is broken down as follows:

CiviCore technology provider processing fee (2.6%): This portion goes to the technology provider.

Credit card processing fee (2.1%): This portion covers the credit card processing provided by Stripe.

Management fee (0.5%): This portion helps the Foundation offset the costs associated with event management, reconciliation of gifts, and check processing. Donors can choose to offset these fees during checkout (Simply add 5.2% of your desired donation amount to your total donation).

### ***Can I give anonymously?***

Yes. During the checkout process, you have the option to keep your donation anonymous. If you select that you'd like your donation to be anonymous, the nonprofit you donate to will not receive your name and contact information.

### ***Can I include a note or memorial dedication with my gift?***

Yes. During the checkout process, there is a field where you can enter information about whether your gift is in honor/in memory of someone special.

### ***Should I create an account or check out as a "Guest"?***

By creating an account, you will be able to access your giving history and resend yourself receipts all year-round! During Big Day of Giving, you may choose to bypass this section of the checkout process, but we encourage you to take advantage of this feature. If you schedule a gift in advance of Big Day of Giving, you will be required to create an account.

### ***Will I receive a receipt?***

Yes! When you give on Big Day of Giving, you will automatically receive an on-screen acknowledgment and an e-mailed receipt for your 100% tax-deductible donation.

If you schedule a gift in advance of Big Day of Giving, you will immediately receive an emailed acknowledgement of the scheduled gift. When the gift processes on May 7, you will receive an emailed receipt. Scheduled donations will process on May 7 during the first

few hours of the event. Once your scheduled gift is processed, you will receive an emailed tax receipt. If you need to edit or remove your scheduled gift, you may do so by using your login information that you created when scheduling your gift.

### ***What else should I know?***

Secure donations for Big Day of Giving are provided through the technology platform, CiviCore, to each donor entering their own credit card information directly on [www.bigdayofgiving.org](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org).

## **Booker T Jones at Freight & Salvage**

*By Barbara Katen*

On February 1st a friend and I barreled down I-80 to Berkeley to see the legendary Booker T Jones at his sold-out show at Freight & Salvage. The show was divided into two parts; the first part was a



reading by Booker T from his new memoir *Time is Tight*. Booker T's memoir talks of his less-than-privileged Memphis childhood, his passion for song writing and music and his career backing up artists like Albert King and

Otis Redding. The reading was followed by an audience Q & A and a short break before Booker T came back on stage to perform with his band. His band consisted of his extremely handsome youngest son, Ted, on guitar and two equally talented young musicians, Melvin Brannon, Jr. aka M-Cat Spoony on bass and Darian Gray on drums.

Booker T opened the show with "Hang 'Em High" and of course, covered his other better-known songs "Time is Tight" and "Green Onions". A heartwarming rendition of Prince's "Purple Rain" was a duet by Booker T and son Ted, both singing and playing guitar. "Sitting on The Dock of the Bay" by his good friend the late Otis



Redding, was very movingly performed by Booker T.

Did you know Booker T was only 17 when he and the MGs recorded "Green

Onions"? Not surprisingly, Booker T, a 1992 Inductee into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and recipient of a 2007 Lifetime Achievement Grammy, put on a truly memorable show. He is truly a legend, and if you ever have the chance to see him perform live, don't miss the opportunity!



## CD Review

### Mark Hummel Takes a Ride in his Wayback Machine *By Doug Pringle*

Mark Hummel is moving forward by looking backwards and he's picked a sweet spot in Blues history to explore, the glorious Bluebird Records sound of the 1930's and 1940's. Electro-Fi records announced the release of Grammy-nominated harp ace Mark Hummel's *Wayback Machine* on January 17th.



Joining Mark on the album is Chicago first call guitarist Billy Flynn, the red hot West Coast combo, The Deep Basement Shakers and Mississippi blues master Joe Beard. Specializing in joint-rocking blues and boogie, the Shakers are an East Bay duo with a stripped down but powerful sound. The 16 tracks on the CD were recorded by Chris "Kid" Andersen at Greaseland Studios in San Jose, CA.

In addition to a number of tunes written by J.L. "Sonny Boy" Williamson, the CD includes "Flim Flam" written by R.W. Grigsby, a member of the Sacramento Blues Hall of Fame. Mark's quote on the album is "We tried to get a 'rural feel' on these tunes, and I think we got the down home goods here. Hope you feel the same way." This reviewer does and the CD is destined to be one of the most talked about Traditional Blues releases of 2020.

### Renee's Transplant Journey *One of Our Own Needs Our Love, Help and Prayers By Barbara Katen*

When I joined the Sacramento Blues Society several years ago, I was welcomed by a wonderful group of people; however, no one was as welcoming to me as Renee Erickson, who has since become my dear friend. Renee has served the SBS as Vice-President, President, and continues to this day as SBS Director at Large. Always helpful and friendly, Renee is an SBS force to be reckoned with. If you don't recognize Renee by name, maybe you recall her smiling face at many of our events, lately with oxygen tank in tow.



What you may not know is that in January 2018, Renee was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). IPF is a terminal lung disease where lungs develop scar tissue. Its cause is not known, and the only possible cure is a lung transplant. Sadly, more people die from this disease than receive transplants. There are approximately 100,000 people in the United States with IPF and there were only 2,000 lung transplants performed last year.

Since diagnosis, we have watched as Renee's oxygen requirement has increased significantly. If there is any good news to this development, it is that Renee has made it onto the transplant list. As this disease progresses, so does Renee's need to be closer to UCSF Hospital where her transplant will take place. Insurance pays a large portion of the surgery, hospital costs, doctor's fees and some miscellaneous expenses. However, insurance does not even come close to covering the cost of staying near UCSF while she awaits transplant. As primary caregiver, Renee's husband, Scotty, will be required to take off a minimum of 6 weeks work and Renee's

sister, Lisa, will be her secondary caregiver assisting Scotty and allowing him time off now and then, which is also a requirement of the hospital and transplant team.

The stress of this delicate lifesaving surgery is a lot to deal with and it would be awesome if SBS could come together to ease some of Renee's anxiety by donating (any amount is helpful) below: <http://bit.ly/2P7r801>

Even if you can't donate, we ask for your prayers, good juju and good wishes. They are all greatly appreciated by our dear friend, Renee Erickson Sullivan.

One more thing...Renee would like you to know that her only symptom of this horrible disease was unexplained shortness of breath. If you, or any of your loved ones, experience anything like this, please get to a doctor. This is an awful disease that kills as many people each year as breast cancer does, and it often goes undiagnosed for a long time. The earlier it is caught, the better!

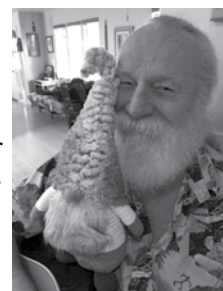


**LIVE SHOWS**  
6 DAYS A WEEK!  
**March**  
3rd - Joe Lev and Friends  
4th - Garvel and Grace  
12th - Tropicali Flames  
14th - El Violin  
26th - City of Trees Brass Band

**SACRAMENTO'S HOME OF THE BLUES**  
*since 1934*  
**April**  
3rd - Badd Self / DASH  
10th - Dana Moret & Mr. December  
11th - Daniel Castro  
16th - Tropicali Flames  
17-19th - Torch Club Anniv Weekend Celebration!  
25th - Earles of Newtown  
**904 15TH ST. SAC TORCHCLUB.NET**

### Webmaster Dave *Meet our SBS Webmaster*

SBS is blessed to have Dave Baldwin running the SBS website. Dave is a great guitar player and an institution at the Fox and Goose, running the open mic for more years than we can count. Dave brings his exceptional webmaster skills to SBS for free and does so with commitment to detail, long hours, and a love for the Blues. Thanks so much Dave.



## 2020 Johnny Knox Birthday Memorial

### Jam Review *By Mindy Giles, w. Ray Copeland*

*Photos by Steve Martarano & Mindy Giles*

The third Sunday afternoon in January has officially become a regular homecoming at downtown's Torch Club. The 2nd Annual Johnny "Guitar" Knox Pro Memorial Jam, held on Sunday January 19 in honor of our beloved Sacramento blues mentor and founding father,



was a dazzling day of music and a testament to the strength of the city's collective blues music muscle memories. Proceeds go to the Sac Blues Society Hall of Fame.

Knox was inducted into the SBS HOF in 2010. Whether Johnny was playing local clubs or busking on the streets, he lived and

breathed the blues, and his loss has been felt in the years since his passing in 2016. He was a music teacher and mentor to many area Sacramento blues artists and they all played hard and joyfully for him this day.

Hosted again (as it always should be!) by SBS Hall of Fame member Ray "Catfish" Copeland (2012), the happy sold-out house delighted in Ray's wry and poignant anecdotes about Johnny.

**RAY "CATFISH" COPELAND:** *"Johnny 'Guitar' Knox*

*was a throwback to the life style of Blues musicians of the 1920's and 1930's who traveled around the south and beyond playing on street corners and in taverns for tips to get enough money for a night's lodging and a meal.*



*Johnny rode freight cars and met and made friends with other street musicians wherever his travels took him.*

*I hadn't seen Johnny in a few years when I ran into him playing on Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. I invited him to come back to Sacramento and play in front of the Tower Records store on Broadway and 16th where I worked. It was a little warmer in Sac. So he came back and got reestablished and hosted the Sunday afternoon Blues Jam at The Torch for a number of years before his passing."*

Sacramento Hall of Fame members joining Copeland throughout the afternoon were



stellar guitarists Kenny Marchese (2019), Aaron Moreno (2014) who brought Johnny's beautiful old Les Paul on a stand at the side of the stage, Leo Bootes (2019) and the great Little Charlie Baty (2010). Drummer "Ratatat" Pat Balcom (2013), bassists RW Grigsby (2018) and Liz Van Houton (2015) master songwriter/harpman Rick Estrin (2010) and Stan Powell (2017). Multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter Andy Santana (2018) took a few spins on the dance floor before stepping to the stage.



Sacramento blues stalwarts, Greg Roberts (bass) and Larry Schiavone (drums) formed the all-star rhythm section for much of the day. Singer Beth Reid-Grigsby, singer/harpman Dave Croall, guitarist Jeffrey Felsher, James Winnegan on harmonica/vocals all gave strong performances and singer Bobby "Blues" Ray let the packed house know that he was back in town.

Sitting in the back of the room taking it all in was one of the blues



world's greatest harmonica players—Chicagoan Jerry Portnoy. Jerry became famous first as Muddy Waters harmonica player (1974-1980) then formed and led The Legendary Blues Band (1980-1987),

and then joined Eric Clapton (1993-1996). "This is simply amazing today!" he said, "what a GREAT GREAT blues scene here. There is nothing like this where I live (on Atlantic Ocean near Boston). I wish there was—I'd get out and play more!"

At the end of the afternoon, it was only fitting that young multi-instrumentalist and singer Kyle Rowland stepped up on stage to play with his mentors. Clearly, everyone in that room understood the legacy—that for three generations now, the undying Sacramento blues torch that has travelled around the world through all of these great musicians continues to be passed (at where else?) ---the Torch Club. Big







thanks to all who volunteered, to all of the sponsors who donated raffle items, to photographer Steve Martarano, to Sally Katen (SBS Hall of Fame producer) and to Torch (inducted into the HOF in 2012) owners/hosts, Marina Texiera and Mark Mitchell.

### **About Johnny "Guitar" Knox**

Born in Oakland, California in 1950, Johnny was the oldest child in a family led by Jack Knox, a local guitarist and former radio personality who had broadcast from his home as a teenager in the 1940s. His dad encouraged him to learn music and he got his first guitar at the age of 14. Johnny moved to Sacramento to play the blues and while watching and playing with Little Charlie Baty and Rick Estrin, he started honing his skills in harmonica accompaniment. This prompted them to head down to Moon Studio to record their new 45's. With Little Charlie and the Nightcats backing him in the studio, Johnny recorded the Muddy Waters classic "Honey Bee", as well as Freddie King's "Tore Down", which Johnny re-released as a CD in 2010. Like many of his peers from that era, Johnny was no stranger to substance abuse issues, and went through a long spell where he would hit the streets daily with his guitar for his daily hustle. Through local musician Ray "Catfish" Copeland, Johnny met Mike Balma, local blues promoter/producer, at the Chicago Blues Fest '91, who soon booked studio time for a record.

With a mix of solo tracks as well as additional tracks with backing by upright bassist Greg Roberts, Rick Estrin on harmonica, and Copeland on guitar, the record was released as *Johnny "Guitar" Knox, Hoboin'*, and won an award in Denmark!

Kenny Marchese summed it up nicely when he said "Johnny gave his help and support to the Sacramento blues scene by teaching and encouraging the younger players, and Sacramento has returned the favor by helping Johnny recover what he had lost." Knox's legacy will give Sacramentans a blues Sunday to celebrate every year. Put January 17, 2021 on your calendar!





## Hall of Fame 2020 Update *By Sally Katzen*

Wow what a fantastic event we had at the Johnny "Guitar" Knox Fundraiser for the Hall of Fame! With that being said, it is also that time of year where you can submit your nominations for Hall of Fame Inductees! Please go to [sacblues.com](http://sacblues.com) & click on the Hall of Fame icon, and it will bring up the nomination form and guidelines. After filling out the form, please scroll down and view the Hall of Fame members for the last 10 years! I am sure you know some or most of them!

I am also doing a fundraiser on Facebook for my birthday to raise monies for the Hall of Fame Event! If you can, please make a donation!

## International Blues Challenge Competition 2020

*By MariLu Onweller*

Plans are in the works for an exciting event! If you are a musician, how would you like to compete against other local musicians for an opportunity to represent Sacramento in Memphis next year?



So what exactly is the IBC? The International Blues Challenge is a worldwide talent search for musicians that are ready for the 'Big-Time' but just need that extra break. It is an annual event put on by The Blues Foundation in Memphis, with shows in various venues on world-famous Beale Street.

As an affiliate of the Blues Foundation, the SBS is entitled to hold its own live preliminary IBC competition challenge to select the best musicians to represent us in Memphis. There is no entry fee for the musicians to compete and all competitions will be open to the

public. The winner of our local challenge will travel to Memphis as the Sacramento Blues Society's representative. SBS will assist with a small stipend to go toward expenses, as well as a fundraising opportunity for the winning band.

The Memphis IBC is judged by blues professionals from all over the world, based on a set of criteria established by the Blues Foundation. Our local challenge will be judged in the same fashion. Winners typically receive prizes that may include items such as:

- ♪ A set of Lee Oskar harmonica, including a gold-plated limited edition L Oskar Harp
- ♪ Special Memphis Cigar Box Guitar
- ♪ A Gibson Category 5 Amp Guitar
- ♪ An opportunity to perform on the Legendary Blues Cruise
- ♪ Studio time to record, mix or master at the Showplace Studios

Winners also take home a plaque, cash, and a package that includes a variety of national and international club and festival gigs. And of course publicity, recognition and most of all EXPOSURE! Many recording companies, agents, and producers attend the IBC to look for new talent. The networking is priceless, and many artists book future gigs while at the IBC.

The date and location for our local competition have not yet been finalized, but it will take place this spring or summer. This competition is open to all current SBS members, and you may compete in the Solo/Duo category or as a band. If you are interested in competing, please send an email to [ibc@sacblues.com](mailto:ibc@sacblues.com) with your name, band's name, phone and phone number. We'll contact you with additional information. So, why not sign up to compete?



## Still Riding the Memphis High

by Val Starr

The National Women In Blues Showcase, which happens every year during IBC Week in Memphis, has become so popular that they had to resort to an online lottery to choose the performers.

Dozens of blues women from all over the world enter to win a chance to strut their stuff at Alfred's on Beale Street. So you can imagine my utter delight and amazement upon hearing that I had been picked to perform this year!



You only have a very short set of two to four songs (depending on whether they are running ahead or behind schedule). With that short an amount of time, you really want to bring your "A" game. The beauty of showcasing, as opposed to competing, is that you really don't have the same amount of pressure. I was lucky that my guitarist, Timothy Brisson and his wife decided to attend, and of course I have my incredible bassist/husband John Ellis, so all we needed



was a drummer to complete the band. This year's all star, all-female house band included Ms. Debbie Flood on drums. Debbie lives and performs out of Nashville, TN.

Since we had just released our new CD, *Lighter Side of the Blues* to radio a few weeks prior to the IBC, I decided to perform songs off the new CD including "Sactown

Heat", which is fast becoming a stand-out track on the CD. The band, along with Debbie, played flawlessly and with such energy and fire. We received so many compliments after the show; it made me proud to not only be representing the women in blues, but Sacramento as well. And when a stranger stopped me at the airport

on our way home, and told me that he had caught our set and that he thought we were awesome, well, I thought I had died and gone to heaven!

If you play the blues, and are serious about your craft, find a way to get to Memphis during IBC week. There are so many jams and showcases, along with the competing bands. There are also booking agents, radio personnel, and many other types of blues industry people. It is literally blues networking central. Ohh, and did I mention Bo Ely was there? He's undeniably one of the most popular peeps on Beale.

As I write this piece for Blues Notes, I am still Riding the Memphis High (an inspired future song in the works). We will never forget this amazing experience.

# BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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

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

**MARCH 2020 SCHEDULE**

**MARCH 4TH:**  
**THE PISTOFFERSON BROTHERS**  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

**MARCH 11TH:**  
**COLIN JAMES**  
(VANCOUVER, CANADA)  
\$10- \$85 MEMBERS W/ SBS CARD / \$15- GENERAL ADMISSION

**MARCH 18TH:**  
**ELVIS CANTÚ**  
(AUSTIN, TX/GRASS VALLEY, CA) • \$10

**MARCH 25TH:**  
**VAL STARR & THE BLUES ROCKET**  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

## Feeling the Love for the Blues

Due to the work and generosity of our local venues, like the Torch Club and Stoney's Rockin' Rodeo; and promoters like Carerra Productions, Swell Productions, and SBL Entertainment, SBS members can expect to see great live blues music in 2020. Our promoter partners regularly donate event tickets for giveaways and raffles throughout the year in support of the SBS. Many also donate annually and actively support our fundraisers. SBS volunteers work the membership table at area shows in exchange for show admission. And our members support these shows by publicizing, attending, and bringing new fans. Let's have a hand for our Venues, Promoters, Members, and Volunteers. Bravo! And thanks!



## Women Sing the Blues!

### **Sacramento Blues Society's Spring Fundraiser** By Mindy Giles

The Sacramento Blues Society presents a spring fundraiser celebrating women blues singers and songwriters, featuring great music, plus raffle, drink specials, and limited edition posters!

It's a terrible fact that women in history have often not appeared in American history books. That has held true in blues history also. Did you know that the first blues performed on a professional stage was by Gertrude "Ma" Rainey-- later anointed "The Mother of the Blues"? Or that the very first blues ever recorded was "Crazy Blues" (Okeh Records) by Mamie Smith in 1920? And that the earliest form of this popular entertainment were all women performers who created a genre unto itself-- Classic Blues - and that the highest paid entertainer in all of the 1920s was "The Empress of the Blues" - Bessie Smith?

Audience members will be treated to some of these classic songs as well as originals by area women singers. **The event takes place Sunday, April 5, 2020 at The Powerhouse Pub, 614 Sutter St., Folsom, CA 95630. Music will go from 3pm - 6pm and admission is \$15 (SBS members); \$20- GA. Tickets @ Eventbrite and at the door.**

Starring:

**Mz Su Mac** - Singer of Blues, Soul, R&B, Jazz & Gospel, is the daughter of legendary blues man Craig Horton and was born and

raised in Bigelow, Arkansas (where she hosts an annual Blues Festival.) She represented Sacramento Blues Society at the 2006 International Battle of the Blues Challenge winning the Semi-Final spot. This day Su has chosen to do songs by Denise LaSalle, Etta James and Betty Wright.

**Dana Moret** (Lydia Pense & Cold Blood, Mr. December) - She grew up surrounded by live music as her parents owned the great roots music club, Constable Jack's in Newcastle, CA, just a stone's throw from Sacramento. The legendary singer Lydia Pense (her current bandmate) is her #1 inspiration and influence! Dana will be doing some Etta James, some Janis and one of her own tunes.

**Beth Reid-Grigsby** (Red's Blues) - Born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA, where she started her professional career singing "Trouble In Mind" in 1978 at the Bluebird Café. Her inspirations are many of the classic women blues singers: Memphis Minnie, Rosetta Tharpe, Lil Green, Bessie Smith, Mamie Smith and Elizabeth Cotten, Bonnie Raitt, plus jazz mavens Billie Holiday and Peggy Lee. Red's Blues are releasing their third CD in Spring, 2020.

**Lisa Phenix** (The Lisa Phenix Band) - Originally from Phoenix, AZ, Lisa made her way to Sacramento and formed her band in 2003. A leader in Sacramento Blues Society, a relentless teacher, an advocate for self-empowerment through music for kids and adults, she counts Billie Holiday, Kate Wolf and Bonnie Raitt as her spirit guides.

**Val Starr** (Val Starr & The Blues Rocket) - Val Starr was born in Los Angeles and started her singing career there before moving to the Bay Area and then Sacramento in 2003. Some of her heroes are Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, Joni Mitchell and Bonnie Raitt. She just released her new CD, *Lighter Side of the Blues* in January 2020.

And special guest, **Ladee Bianca** - With roots in Kansas City, Macon, Georgia and a father teaching her Texas Blues piano as a child, Ladee Bianca has evolved into an icon in the San Francisco Bay Area where she's known as "Queen of the Blues and Gospel". She studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music before lending her contralto to the role of Billie Holiday in an acclaimed production of Jon Hendrick's "Evolution of the Blues". She has sung, recorded and toured the world with Frank Zappa, Van Morrison, John Lee Hooker and Sly Stone as a featured vocalist and background arranger. With her writing partner, Stanley Lippitt, she has a catalog of over three hundred songs and has produced, arranged and recorded nine albums.

All of these artists are bandleaders as well as singer/songwriters/producers. On April 5, they will be backed by 2020 Sammies nominees Red's Blues: RW Grigsby (bass), Doug Crumpacker (guitar), Tim Wilbur (drums) and special guests Sid Morris (keys) and John Ellis (bass). Ladee Bianca will do a special solo set.

## Introducing the Evolving Ms.

### **Dana Moret!** By Jan Kelley

Dana was born in Oakland, CA and raised mostly between Central California and Sacramento. Her biological mother was a religious woman who home-schooled her three children, which Dana claims gave her the best education. A dysfunctional family life, including an alcoholic and abusive father, led Dana to fall in with "the wrong people" when she finally did attend public school, and she left home at the age of 17.

She went to work in Newcastle, CA at a casting studio and learned



the business, eventually managing it by herself. Unfortunately, due to the death of her partner's husband, the business collapsed

One evening, Dana was at the end of her rope; her business had collapsed, she was behind on the rent on both her apartment and studio and also the car payment. Alone and depressed in the studio, Dana had consumed a lot of tequila and sat contemplating suicide. It was 10:00 at night and suddenly a friend came in and snapped her out of it, unaware of what Dana was contemplating. A few minutes later, Dana got in her car to go home (having to drive past Constable Jack's) when suddenly a woman appeared in the middle of the street. It was Jacquie Looper!

Jacquie told Dana to park her car and come into the club and after some arguing, Dana complied. Jacquie led her into the kitchen and asked her if she wanted to wash dishes for them. After many chats during her employment, one evening Jacquie said to Dana she felt she was meant to be her mother all along. Tears were shed, and Dana became part of a loving family, including Jacquie, her husband Tim and a couple of sisters. Dana spoke glowingly of both Tim and Jacquie and how supportive of her they've been.

Upon joining the Looper family, she had the encouragement of her new dad and mom who employed many well-known Blues artists during their years of running Constable Jack's. Tim would say to the traveling artists "I have a daughter who can sing" and more often than not, Dana would be invited on stage to sing. This was a true pivotal moment for her singing career, although Tim always emphasized she had to earn it for herself and learn from it.

Some of those artists were Big Brother & the Holding Company, Guitar Shorty, Little Charlie & the Nightcats, John Lee Hooker Jr. and Frankie Lee, to name a few.

Dana began singing at various blues festivals in the beginning. She credits her mom Jacquie for prodding her into singing, notably at the Placer County SPCA Festival when she was 17. She later collaborated in songwriting with Tim Barnes of Stoneground, was with the Beer Dawgs on their last album, on which she recorded five songs, including a duet and joined the band Mick Martin and the Blues Rockers, where she credits Mick with teaching her by example about stage presence and how to 'read' a crowd. She loved performing with that form of the Blues Rockers, but later formed her own band Mr. December, which continues performing in the region.

She was on her way to a career she never imagined! When Lydia Pense and Cold Blood invited her to join them, Lydia had never had another girl in the band, which concerned Dana. Much to her delight, she was warmly welcomed and has performed in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest on a regular basis with them. She is now a full-fledged member!

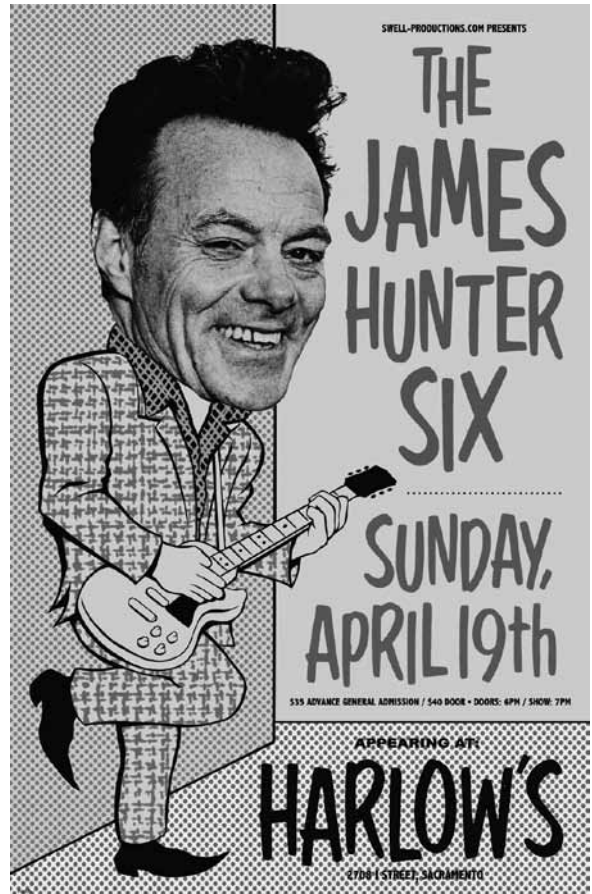
Dana has formed a new band with Steve Dunne called Zen Voodoo which will blend jazz, rock, soul and blues. They had their debut at the Pops in the Park series last summer and recently played the Starlet Room above Harlow's. She featured songs from some of her favorite artists such as Billie Holliday, Etta James and Bonnie Raitt. One of my favorites performed that evening was "House of the Rising Sun". They had the audience on their feet!

Dana has become more introspective about her life and has found peace in dealing with the 'demons' who once occupied her mind and body, by changing her lifestyle in many aspects. She continues her quest to be healthy and happy, to the delight of all of us who know her and experience her voice.

Dana's 'day job' is Special Events Production Coordinator for the City of Rocklin. She hopes to chronicle her life in a video in the future, but says "My main goal is to run a non-profit that will empower people facing homelessness to regain their self-worth through music."

Dana will be joining fellow performers in a special "Women Sing the Blues" show, an encore to a previous sold-out show three years ago. The Sacramento Blues Society will host Red's Blues Band with Sid Morris on piano, Beth Reid-Grigsby, Mz Su Mac, Lisa Phenix, Val Starr, Dana Moret and Ladee Bianca on April 5th at the Powerhouse Pub in Folsom! Don't miss your chance to see these Blues women in action!

\*Little known fact: Dana produced several of the SBS' Women Sing the Blues' shows in her early twenties!



## **Sacramento Blues Society Announces Membership Cost Changes**

For the first time in almost 20 years, the Sacramento Blues Society will change the structure and costs for some categories of our memberships. We realize that nobody likes to see costs rise, but sometimes it's necessary to stay abreast of changing economic conditions.

Effective April 1, 2020, the cost of an Individual membership in the SBS will go from the present amount of \$25.00 to \$30.00 per year. The cost of a Family membership (up to four individuals within one family) will go from the present amount of \$40.00 to \$50.00 per year. The cost for a Band membership will remain at \$50.00 per year, and we're introducing a Student membership (students up to 17 years old) for only \$15.00 per year.

While we hate to increase our rates, this small increase will help us



to keep bringing high quality artists to the area, continue to support other vigorous programs like the Hall of Fame and Blues in the Schools, and fund our Gene Chambers Musicians' Crisis Fund, as well as enable us to add some new and different programs to our offerings to the community. Remember, you'll still receive SBS member discounts on all SBS-sponsored shows, as well as other local shows, so your membership could pay for itself in discounts within a few months!

Of course, this brings an ideal opportunity for all our bargain-hunting members to take advantage of the final month of our super-low membership costs by renewing early, before the new rates take effect! You can join or renew online or in person at the SBS Membership table at many local blues events.

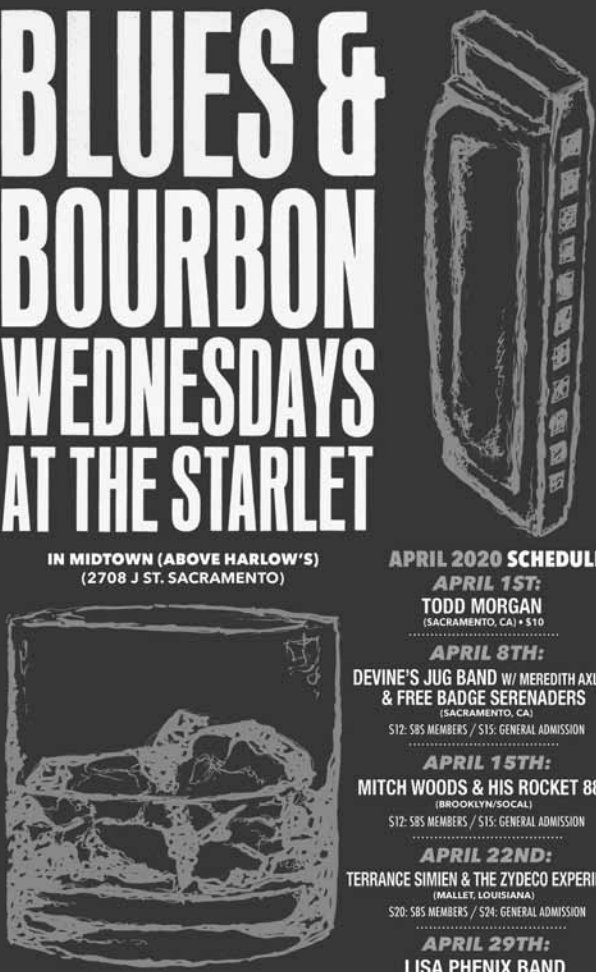
## March - April Upcoming Events

### March

1	Eric Gales	Harlow's	Sacramento
1	A C Myles	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
3	Joe Lev & Friends	Torch Club	Sacramento
4	The Pistofferson Brothers	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
4	Gravel & Grace	Torch Club	Sacramento
6, 13, 20, 27	Mylar's Hippy Hour	Louie's Cocktail Lounge	Rancho Cordova
7	Sugar Ray Rayford Band	Sutter Creek Theatre	Sutter Creek
7	Todd Morgan & The Emblems	Benefit for Horses for Healing, Elks Lodge	Auburn
7	Julie & the Jukes	Rendez-vous Winery	Clarksburg
7	Papa Day Blues Band	Ettore's	Sacramento
8	Paula Harris	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
10	Mylar's Hippy Hour	Torch Club	Sacramento
11	Colin James, Canadian Juno Award Winner	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
12	Tropicali Flames	Torch Club	Sacramento
13	Bad Ass Blues: Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio + Tommy Castro & the Painkillers	Crest Theatre	Sacramento
13	Michael Doucet & Tom Rigney	Harris Center	Folsom
14	E! Violin - Patrick Contreras	Torch Club	Sacramento
14	Todd Morgan & The Emblems	Club Car	Auburn
14	Katie Knipp Band	Solomon's Russ Room	Sacramento
15	Mitch Woods	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
17	Will O'Mylar & the Langers	Torch Club	Sacramento
18	C J Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band	The Sofia	Sacramento
18	Elvin Cantu	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
18	Fantastic Negrito	Harlow's	Sacramento
20	Todd Morgan & the Emblems	City of Elk Grove 60's Music Revue	Elk Grove
20	Dr, Rock & the Stuff	Ettore's	Sacramento

# BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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



**APRIL 2020 SCHEDULE**

**APRIL 1ST:**  
TODD MORGAN  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

**APRIL 8TH:**  
DEVINE'S JUG BAND W/ MEREDITH AXLEROD  
& FREE BADGE SERENADERS  
(SACRAMENTO, CA)  
\$12: SBS MEMBERS / \$15: GENERAL ADMISSION

**APRIL 15TH:**  
MITCH WOODS & HIS ROCKET 88s  
(BROOKLYN/SO CAL)  
\$12: SBS MEMBERS / \$15: GENERAL ADMISSION

**APRIL 22ND:**  
TERRANCE SIMIEN & THE ZYDECO EXPERIENCE  
(MALLET, LOUISIANA)  
\$20: SBS MEMBERS / \$24: GENERAL ADMISSION

**APRIL 29TH:**  
LISA PHENIX BAND  
(SACRAMENTO, CA) • \$10

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

20	Red's Blues	Golden Era Saloon	Nevada City
22	Shari Puerto	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
25	Val Starr & the Blues Rocket	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
25	Paul Thorn	Sutter Creek Theatre	Sutter Creek
26	City of Trees	Torch Club	Sacramento
26	Mylar's Hippie Hour	Hideaway Bar & Grill	Sacramento
27	Taj Mahal	Harris Center	Folsom
27	Todd Morgan & the Emblems	Bar 101	Roseville
27	Papa Day's Blues Band	Father Paddy's	Woodland
28	Todd Morgan & the Emblems	American Legion Annual Spring Party	Sacramento
29	Mick Martin	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
April			
1	Todd Morgan	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
3	Jimmy Pailer/Badd Self/DASH	Torch Club	Sacramento
3, 10, 17, 24	Mylar's Hippie Hour	Louie's Cocktail Lounge	Rancho Cordova
4	Todd Morgan & the Emblems	Lodi Wine & Food Festival	Lodi
5	<b>SBS Presents Women Sing the Blues</b>	<b>Powerhouse Pub</b>	<b>Folsom</b>
8	Devine's Jug Band w/Meredith Axelrod & Free Badge Serenaders	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
8	Lisa Phenix & Steve Wall	Davis Farmers Market	Davis
9	Leela James	Crest Theater	Sacramento
10	Mr December	Torch Club	Sacramento
11	Daniel Castro	Torch Club	Sacramento
11	Papa Day's Blues Band	Ettore's	Sacramento
12	Tim Noxon Band	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
14	Mylar's Hippie Hour	Torch Club	Sacramento
15	Mitch Woods & the Rocket 88's	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
15	Red's Blues	Empress Theater Lounge	Vallejo
16	Robert Cray	Crest Theatre	Sacramento
16	Tropicali Flames	Torch Club	Sacramento

18, 19	Torch Club 20th Anniversary Party	Torch Club	Sacramento
18	Dr, Rock & the Stuff	Driven Cellars Winery	Plymouth
19	James Hunter Six	Harlow's	Sacramento
19	Val Starr & the Blues Rocket	Powerhouse Pub	Folsom
22	Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
23	Mylar's Hippie Hour	Hideaway Bar & Grill	Sacramento
24	Red's Blues	Woodlake Tavern	Sacramento
24	Jimmy Pailer/ Groove Session	Torch Club	Sacramento
24	Katie Knipp Opens for the Sons of Champlin	Crest Theatre	Sacramento
24	Dr. Rock & the Stuff	Ettore's	Sacramento
24	Red's Blues	Woodlake Tavern	Sacramento
25	Red's Blues	Ettore's	Sacramento
25	Earles of Newtown	Torch Club	Sacramento
29	Lisa Phenix Band	The Starlet Room	Sacramento
30	City of Trees Brass Band	Torch Club	Sacramento

**TcKING LIVE Entertainment Presents:**  
(supported by the Sacramento Blues Society)

## **3rd Annual Blues Spring Fling**

**Saturday May 2, 2020**

**Swabbies on the River**

**5871 Garden Hwy Sacramento, Noon to 9:30pm**

**Tickets available on Eventbrite (7 to 10 days in advance)**

**All Blues Society members w/current card \$2.00 discount at the door**

**The Delta Wires**

**Bay Area**

**2008 IBC Band Finalists**

**(representing Sac Blues Society)**

**6:30 pm**



**The Delgado Brothers**

**Los Angeles**

**L.A.'s Best Latin Blues**

**3:00 pm**



**Pinkie Rideau**

**& Blioux Gumbo**

**Sacramento**

**2008 IBC Duet Competitors**

**(representing Sac Blues Society)**

**(Ron & Pinkie Duo)**

**Noon**

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**Help Us Bring**

**"Doc" Cody Home**

**MARCH 8  
2020  
3 - 7 PM**



**TORCH  
CLUB  
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15<sup>TH</sup> ST.**

**Pro Jam Fundraiser**

**MUSICIANS INTERESTED IN PLAYING**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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***Make Your Business an SBS Sponsor!***

*By Doug Pringle*

When your business sponsors The Sacramento Blues Society your rewards are many. We have developed a wide range of visibility benefits that will keep your business in front of our members via our website, newsletters, emails, and social media posts.

As a sponsor you will be supporting Sacramento's premier organization that acts as the ambassador for the blues. You help support our programs, from The Sacramento Blues Hall of Fame Inductions to grass roots assistance for musicians in need via The Gene Chambers Musicians Crisis Fund. You will be there on the front lines with us as we help young musicians develop their blues skills in our Blues In The Schools Program.

In exchange for your sponsorship, you will gain access to information, discounts, and event announcements and will be among the first to hear of special Blues Society program initiatives and offers. But most importantly, you will become part of this fantastic Blues family which shares your love of the Blues, past, present and future.

You will find a complete list of visibility and other sponsorship benefits on our website: [www.sacblues.com](http://www.sacblues.com)



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

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[jennifer@jjohnsonstudio.com](mailto:jennifer@jjohnsonstudio.com)

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Emblems**  
[toddmorganmusic.com](http://toddmorganmusic.com)

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