

SACRAMENTO

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BLUE NOTES!

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President's Column

By Sally Katen

Can you believe we are coming to the end of the year 2020! Wow what a year it has been! With the lack of local music and big concerts, everyone has been home and, from what I hear, enjoying music online. There have been some great concerts online and I hope everyone is able to watch them - and don't forget to "tip" the musicians! You would be paying a cover charge to see these folks, so carry it over and donate; this is their livelihood.

We are having our upcoming election in December and this will be a big election for SBS. Due to the pandemic, this year

VOTING WILL BE BY US MAIL ONLY! You should receive your SBS ballot via mail in November, and it will need to be **received** by **DECEMBER 5TH**. Of our eleven total seats, we have eight openings, yes eight! Renée Erickson-Sullivan (VP), Rich Gormley (Treasurer) and Rick Snyder, are the three remaining board members whose terms go to the end of 2022. We have five incumbent Board Members running for the board again this year and they are: Barbara Katen, Doug Pringle, Cari Chenkin, Chris Clark and myself, Sally Katen, with three new folks: Dana Moret, Jeff Herzog and Rex Smith. Please review all the candidate statements and vote for a total of **EIGHT**.

We have had some website problems and our PayPal link was not working for a while, which caused us to lose the automatic payment section. So if you have been on automatic renewal, please check to see if your membership has lapsed and reset your auto pay.

We are selling some pretty awesome SBS face masks, and they would make great holiday gifts. Easy to get, and you can pick them up or I can mail you one or two or three. Contact me at bluesforthecure@hotmail.com.

Also due to the pandemic, we were not able to have our Hall of



Fame this year. Mindy and I have been posting the last seven years of posters to Facebook. Hope you were able to see them, and if you're really interested, please email me at bluesforthecure@hotmail.com and I can send you a copy of one.

SBS Board Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBS Board of Directors met via Zoom in September and October. We will do the same for the November and December meetings, and will see how the opening up of the state is going, before deciding upon future meetings. Please stay tuned for any further developments! And STAY HOME when you can, wear your (SBS!) masks and stay safe when you do go out!

2020 Committee Chairs

Blues in the Schools - Lisa Phenix & Rick Snyder

Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

Events - Mindy Giles

Membership - Linda McShane

Sponsorships/Fundraising - Doug Pringle

Public Relations & Social Media - Mindy Giles

Volunteer Coordinator - TBD

Big Day of Giving - Rick Snyder

Donor Gifts - Sally Katen

Blue Notes Newsletter - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley

IBC Competition - MariLu Onweller

Webmaster - Dave Baldwin

Board of Directors Development - Doug Pringle

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 organization 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) which 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/

2020 Board of Directors

Sally Katen, President

Renee Erickson Sullivan, Acting Vice President

Rich Gormley, Treasurer

Doug Pringle, Acting Secretary

Barbara Katen, Parliamentarian

Cari Chenkin

Mari Lu Onweller

Rick Snyder

Chris Clark

Sacramento Blues Society Publications

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Blues In The Schools (BITS)

Update *The New Frontier*

by Lisa Phenix, BITS Chairwoman



BITS is ramping up for the 2020-2021 school year online. Because of our generous BITS donors, sponsors, and volunteers, BITS is actively creating blues school assembly videos to continue to meet the blues music education needs of our students. Once complete, BITS will be able to upload them to a site that teachers can access. Our videos will be supported by student activities and teaching materials to further arts education integration. Yay! And these videos will expand BITS' reach into more schools, the Internet, online education, adult education and more. It's so exciting!

BITS is so proud of this substantial endeavor. Massive thanks go to Mindy Giles of Swell Productions, www.swell-productions.com, for hours and hours of pre-production and producing. Thank you to Eric Bianchi of Bianchi Sound, www.bianchisound.com, for more hours and hours of recording, editing, and exceptional video work. Thank you so much to John Green of the Side Door, www.thesidedoor.net, for use of the Side Door performance. It's a great place; check it out! And thanks to all the amazing SBS musicians who are bringing their A game to these videos.

And it doesn't stop there. Thank you to our BITS committee members who are the heart and soul, and donors of Blues in the Schools. They exemplify the volunteering spirit. Thank you, Earl Withycombe, for another year of commitment, grant writing, and creative thought.

We welcome SBS Board Member Rick Snyder, as he takes the lead for our high school After School Program. He'll also serve as BITS's Big Day of Giving (BIG DOG) rep, and will run the stage for our anticipated May 2021 Student Showcase. We say goodbye to volunteer Jim Tatol who has worked diligently these past two years as our behind the scenes tech person, and man of ideas. We welcome long time donor Jeff Herzog to our BITS team. My heart is full of appreciation. This is the music community magically coming together during truly tough times to create great content for generations to come.

BITS NEEDS YOU TO HELP US EXPAND BLUES MUSIC EDUCATION! Do you have tech skills, marketing skills, education contacts, know how to reach students, musicians, the youth and leadership tomorrow, or just want to help out? BITS is your program. We need your involvement. Be part of the next frontier, as BITS brings blues education to the Internet universe. Join us, have some fun and celebrate our love for the blues by sharing your many gifts. We meet the first Thursday of each month via zoom. Contact Lisa Phenix at lisap@winfirst.com to join BITS.

2020 SBS Hall of Fame Update

by Sally Katen, HOF Committee Chairwoman

Wow, we are already at the end of the year with this being the last issue of 2020. Due to the pandemic, most everyone has been in quarantine and all events were canceled or postponed. That includes this year's Hall of Fame. It brings me sadness when I think about the event we all missed this year, but also makes me ready to plan and prepare for next year's SBS Hall of Fame Event on September 26, 2021. Mark your calendar, this date has been reserved!

I also want to give a heads-up to my SBS Hall of Fame committee members who show up every year to help find the new upcoming

Hall of Fame inductees. Barbara Katen, Jan Kelley (HOF Member 2014), Kelcey Ham, Liz Peel VanHouten (HOF Member 2015), Marshall Wilkerson (HOF Member 2014), Mick Martin (HOF Member 2010), Pat Balcom (HOF Member 2013), Ray "Catfish" Copeland (HOF Member 2012), Marcel Smith (HOF Member 2016). Thank you for all your support!

I am looking forward to the upcoming year and the Hall of Fame 2021! You can submit nominees at sacblues.com and you can also check out the Gone But Not Forgotten video there.

SBS Elections Coming Soon!

How we're doing it in the "Age of COVID"

As mandated by our bylaws, the Sacramento Blues Society will hold its annual meeting and election of Board of Directors members this December. However, since this IS the "Age of COVID", we're going to do it differently than our usual way.

In normal years, we combine our Annual Meeting with a holiday party for all members. We mail ballots to all SBS members in November, and they can either mail them in or bring them in person to the holiday party/annual meeting, where they're counted and the results announced during the party's intermission.

Since we're unable to hold our annual meeting/holiday party this year, all voting will be done via mail-in ballots. Members should receive those ballots in early November, and **ballots must be rereceived by mail NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 5, 2020 to be counted**. Ballots have the SBS address right on them, and all you need is an envelope and stamp.

There is a total of eight BOD positions to fill, and coincidentally, there are eight members running for election. Each of those candidates has submitted a brief statement for your consideration. Please take a moment to read them over, and when you receive your ballot, please VOTE!

Board of Directors Candidates' Statements

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Cari Chenkin

I'm Cari Chenkin, and I'm running for a seat on the Sacramento Blues Society Board of Directors. I'm a current Board member, and a Past President, so I have the experience necessary to contribute to the Board and the well-being of the Sac Blues Society. As a musician, blues lover and current Blue Notes newsletter editor, I believe my experience and skills will be a valuable addition to the plans and projects that the Sacramento Blues Society wants to implement in the next year. Additionally, with the addition of some BOD members who are new to the Board, I want to provide continuity and serve as a guide and mentor to them as they join us.



Chris Clark

Please accept my interest in becoming a Board Member of the Sacramento Blues Society. Below you will see my experience in serving in different organizations.

As a resident of Rancho Cordova, I have been with the Folsom Cordova Community Partnership since 2010. My primary responsibility is handling the agency's media relations, business and stake holder relations, Donor cultivation, volunteer recruitment, and the agency's special events.



Apart from all that, I have been very involved in the community, serving as a two time President with the Laguna Sunrise Rotary Club, and the President of the Rancho Cordova Sunrise Rotary Club, President of the Cordova High PTSA, a past member of the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and am currently the Board President for the Folsom Cordova Unified School District Board of Education.

Jeff Herzog

Hello! I'm Jeff Herzog and I hope to serve with you promoting the blues and helping the next generation appreciate the gift of my favorite music. Sacramento has been home to me since I was three years old, and I have played and listened to live music in most of our venues since I was 12.



This year has had a devastating impact on live music and the musicians that bring us so much joy. I believe this coming year will be an opportunity for this group to help make the transition back to live entertainment and assist in making our local and regional musicians more successful.

The Blues in the Schools program was the first thing that interested me in your group, and I have done a few fundraisers over the past few years to show my respect and appreciation. I also think that the development and normalization of remote schooling will offer new and innovative ways to bring that program to a larger group of our community's youth and further cement the foundation of blues in the Sacramento region.

Barbara Katen

I first accepted an appointment to the SBS Board of Directors in 2014. I have served SBS as Secretary for 4 ½ years and currently serve as Parliamentarian. My SBS volunteerism also extends to service on the Hall of Fame, Events, Board Development and Newsletter Committees. Thank you for your consideration!



Sally Katen

I joined the Sacramento Blues Society in 2006, at which time I joined the Board of Directors and held the position of Secretary for 4 consecutive years. In addition, in 2010, I took over the SBS Hall of Fame Committee which I continue to lead to this day. I am currently the 2020 SBS President during a challenging year of dealing with COVID-19. I am also a member of the SBS Events and BIG DOG committees and currently responsible for SBS Merchandise. I would appreciate your support, so I can continue serving the Sacramento Blues Society, an organization near and dear to my heart.



Dana Moret

As a longtime supporter, musician and advocate for the Sacramento Blues Society, I've not only been a supported artist, but also had the pleasure of working in many capacities as a producer, graphic designer, social media consultant and fundraiser at many of its featured events and programs over the years.



Until the pandemic and what that meant for live music in general, I was a featured vocalist with Lydia Pense & Cold Blood, frontwoman

of Dana Moret & Mr. December and an alumna of Mick Martin and the Blues Rockers. I produced events for the newly established Quarry Park Concert Series at Quarry Park from 2016-2019 and managed the online media for the legendary Torch Club.

With the scope of live music in extreme uncertainty for the next (however long!), it would be an honor and a welcome challenge to work with the Board, its members, and its allied venues and promoters to discover the new way of ushering blues music into this new era. I believe that now more than ever, the history of the blues should be heard, revered and expanded to fit the world's new mold. It would be an honor to receive your vote.

Doug Pringle

I have always loved music from my younger days listening to doo-wop on my small transistor radio as I fell asleep at night, to being a DJ on my college radio station. Today I am doing my best to support local and national blues artists. I was fortunate to be elected to fill a vacant seat on our society's Board one year ago. As a retired nonprofit CEO with 50 years' experience in the field, I feel I have the skills and experience needed to help lead our organization in the coming years. I look forward to promoting and preserving blues music.



Rex Smith

I've been a blues lover since high school. I moved to Sacramento in 1980 to attend Law School. In November 2016 I retired from actively practicing law and closed my office. I don't know how many years I have been a member of the Blues Society. I think I signed up at the first sponsored blues event I attended, and I have been a member ever since.



I do have experience in serving on nonprofit Boards of Directors: In mid-2018 I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Natomas Park Master Association (NPMA) and served until mid- 2020. Somewhat different laws and procedures apply to a nonprofit like the Sacramento Blues Society, but there is still a lot they have in common. I have taken a couple of Continuing Legal Education classes on the law of nonprofit organizations.

Just like when I was representing clients as an attorney, being on a Board of Directors requires being prepared for meetings, asking for additional information when necessary and acting at all times in the best interest of the Blues Society. I look forward to learning much more about how the Blues Society operates and serving on your Board of Directors, if elected.

Ready for Holiday Shopping? Support SBS through Amazon Smile!

Did you know you can support the Sacramento Blues Society every time you shop online at Amazon, at no cost to you? Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support SBS. When you shop online at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to SBS when we are selected as your charity of choice. Go to Amazonsmile.com. Sign into your Amazon account (or create one). go to the Charity List. Select "The Sacramento Blues Society". That's it! From then on, each purchase helps. Thank you!

Cover Story

BITS Goes Digital *By Mindy Giles*

Photos by Mindy Giles

"Ready for your close-up?" Like the rest of America, the Sacramento Blues Society had to make the big pivot this summer to a new way of working. For fifteen years, the acclaimed Blues in the Schools (BITS) Program brought the magic of blues, blues history and musicmaking into hundreds of assemblies, classrooms, after school programs and at-risk youth facilities. Over 56,000 students served. And now, since July, we are fully immersed into the digital world, creating online BITS assemblies. COVID-19 be damned.



We are working at a new professional production facility (The Side Door) with Eric Bianchi of Bianchi Sound and myself co-producing. It's a multi-camera shoot, with excellent sound and full post-produc-



tion editing. BITS Committee Chair, musician/singer Lisa Phenix and her blues band (Paris Clayton, guitar; Joe Lev, bass and Larry Schiavone, drums) are featured in "BLUES: The Bones of American Music," a 48 minute presentation. Ross Hammond (pictured) takes on "Country Blues" in his presentation, and Kyle Rowland and Brandon Bailey co-lead "Blues & Soul Harmonica" with Mike "Pops" Phillips on bass and June Core on drums. Additional productions are planned.

Each musician/educator gears their teaching to elementary and middle school students, and the multi-disciplinary learning has wor-

thy goals: Cultural understanding through blues music history, and emotional learning (self-identity, confidence and empathy) through songwriting and creative self-expression. Each production will have supplemental instructional materials provided for the teacher.



SBS/BITS is one of a short list of area non-profits chosen as an Arts Provider through the Sacramento Office of Arts & Culture, which administers the Kennedy Center's "Any Given Child" Program. Learn more at www.sacblues.com.



Got Your SBS Face Mask?

Check out the new SBS Face Masks. They fit well, they look good and will also make awesome holiday gifts. Since everyone needs a face mask nowadays, why not support your local Blues Society, by buying some as gifts? And of course, buy some for yourself.

Contact Sally Katen at blues-forthecure@hotmail.com and we can arrange a pick up, or get them by mail. \$15 for pick up or \$17 for mailing.

Thanks and Happy Holidays!



Keeping the Blues Spirit Alive During the Pandemic

By Barbara Katen, with content from various musicians and SBS members

It's been a rough 2020 for all of us and it doesn't look like the remainder of the year will be any better. In view of this, I wondered how many of us were getting through this time of social isolation and lack of live music without going absolutely bonkers. So, I reached out to some of our favorite artists and a few of our SBS icons to see what and how they are doing. I was delighted with the responses I received and I'm passing them along to you here.

Walter Trout: What we're talking about here is getting through this quarantine and pandemic. As you know, musicians like myself have not worked for over half a year now; it's pretty rough on the emotions and on the pocket book. There's no income. But the way I'm getting through this is: I get up every morning look out the window and say to myself "What am I grateful for today? What are the blessings in my life?" I try to focus on that, and not focus on what I don't have. I'm hoping and praying that this is going to be over and we're going to get back to regular life. You'll be able to go out and see live music and I'll be able to go out there with my band and play for you all. But until that time, I'm trying to keep a positive attitude and I'm happy to be alive and I'm happy to still have my



ability to play and to write songs. We just have to focus on trying to be positive and just get through this. That's kind of the best advice I can give right now.

Aki Kumar: Like most in the musician community, the ongoing Corona virus pandemic caught me completely off-guard this year and it took me several weeks to come to terms with the reality of not being able to continue on as a live/touring musician for the foreseeable future. My mission during our "new normal" is to continue to be musical in any and every way possible until we can get back to business as usual again, and I'm confident that we will overcome this crisis. So, I spend a fair amount of time exploring new musical areas of growth as if I was a dirt beginner - learning a new instrument or pursuing creative ideas outside my usual zone of familiarity. This "back to the basics" approach has helped me stay curious, entertained and, most importantly, *sane* during these stressful times. And that's my survival tip to my blues friends - "Stay curious, stay motivated".



Sugaray Rayford: Well, I am coping by putting out a single, which is now number three on the charts. I'm getting ready to sing on a children's illustrated audiobook; first time I've ever done that. We are still working on the new album. I'm taking care of family and I host my show live on Facebook, YouTube and Insta-



gram, every Tuesday from noon to one in the SUGA SHACK! This allows me to meet friends and to talk to musicians and friends I've made all over the world. So this is how we are coping in the Rayford household!



Christopher Lund "Kid" Andersen: Can I just share the word "Adapt!" because that is really all there is to say about it!

Janiva Magness: I have found I need to lean harder into my regular self-care practices two to three times as much as normal. That means daily meditations, yoga



and rigorous physical activity to help keep my heart and brain chemistry in balance. I also find it super helpful to try to help other people if possible, daily - in any way I can. Because helping each other is one of the ways we get through crisis times like this. Additionally, reaching out to friends to check on them is important. Lastly - I do want to stay informed about current news but, at the same time I find it critical to manage my exposure to the news - which is a rabbit hole - or that quickly becomes overwhelming and I am overloaded - then lose perspective. I am doing pretty good at this. Trying to keep my focus on good news, wherever and whenever I can find that!

Rick Estrin: Playing music and performing has been my life for over 50 years. For the past 35 years I've been touring the world pretty much constantly, so like everyone else, this pandemic situation has caused a major disruption to my normal existence. Luckily for me, there's a lot of down time - travel time and hotel time on the road, so I was already pretty adept at killing time and entertaining myself, but this COVID19, and all its accompanying limitations, (not to mention the ongoing political insanity) has caused me to really dial in my "living in the now" chops. I've been staying busy, and as much as I can, trying not to ponder the future too much - also trying to stay away from grieving for the past. It's easy to lapse into that kind of maudlin thinking, but it only makes me miserable (and miserable to be around). So, after I burned out on all the Sopranos and Boardwalk Empire episodes I missed by being on the road, I started doing a few musical projects from home: I did an online video concert with the Nightcats. It featured a blunt, political rewrite of "Dump That Chump" that kept things stirred up for a minute. We enlisted a bunch of friends to participate, so the whole process was fun and helped us feel connected. Kid Andersen and I recently wrote a song for a great new release by Sonny Green, an outstanding, overlooked, classic soul singer. (Check it out - It's called **Found! One Soul Singer!** on the Little Village Foundation label). I also wrote and performed a kind of beatnik type poem, advocating mask wearing responsibility. Kid and I made a cool video for that too. I've currently got the beginnings of a couple new songs I'm working on and I've been trying to practice a little bit so I can keep my chops up and stay ready for whenever we can get back on the road and back to our people.



Liz Peel VanHouten: Toward the latter part of February, as gigs got cancelled, the realization set in about the COVID crisis. Terrible losses for musicians, night clubs and other music venues. I thought, "Great time for my hip replacement surgery!" Of course, that was cancelled too. Stuck at home, I resorted to cooking, cleaning, yard work, and a new project—sewing face masks. To date, I have made over 100 of them, giving some away to friends and family, and planning to donate the rest. Mid-July, I finally got my hip replacement and have been recouping ever since. Late August, I got to play a set at Cal Stage with Midtown Creepers—grateful for that! Got a couple of gigs coming up in October with the Gary Mendoza Band (big smile!). Props to all those performers and musicians who are making music happen online, continuing to create, able to put out new CDs, and finding ways to perform and keep the blues alive.



Hector Anchondo: Right now these are trying times for everyone and especially anyone involved in the arts. Anytime there is a recession the arts are first to be cut, because many view them as a nonessential cost. I disagree that art is nonessential; and times like this are when we need the arts the most! This is the second recession I've been through as a working musician and I'm happy to report that my career survived the first one.



Five survival tips I'd like to share.

1. Don't wait on making cutbacks, make them at the first sign of an economic downturn, play it safe, play it smart. Even if it ends up being a false alarm you still just saved yourself money.
2. Before letting all the gigs cancel, offer to work with the talent buyers for a lesser cost that will still work for them. It's not a strike to you or your ego to accept less money in trying times and being kind will help you in more ways than one. After all, any money coming in is better than no money.
3. Always have side hustles. Teaching can be a great way to make extra income. Odd jobs; dish washing, mowing, sweeping, etc. Don't be too proud for any job that helps you keep the dream alive. Branch out into other art media, selling a painting or sketch can really help.
4. Always live well below your means, that way you'll be more protected during economic downturns. In the meantime, you'll have more money to invest into your career.
5. Most importantly, stay positive and remember those that make it through to the other side of this will thrive. Even if it means living in your van for a while, it adds character.



Marcel Smith: Like most, I am going nuts living the "New Normal"; wearing masks, 6ft clearance from people and unable to support live music and the various venues. Social Distancing has caused me to be very savvy with weekly Zoom calls collaborating/writing new tunes with music colleagues. Recently, I have performed at a few outdoor events

or live streaming concerts inside empty venues, which helps in keeping my vocal chops in shape. These days I meditate/reflect on many things (Love, Family, Friends, the Civil and Social OUTRAGE) and wonder (while remaining hopeful) how much better we will be once we get (and we will) through this. Please continue supporting our artists, our venues and each other. Be Well, Stay Safe, A Change Is Gonna Come.

Marcia Ball: Well, at our house, first thing, we laid in a supply of beans and rice which we still haven't eaten, and canned tuna, some of which we have used. Then we got a pandemic pup. It was a coincidence, really; we had already planned to adopt her. She's a very sweet three-year-old Aussie. Then, we set about seeing if we could live together since I've never been home more than half the time. That's working all right. And, like many people, we have cleaned out file cabinets, closets, boxes, and the shed. On the serious side, if this is retirement, I'm not digging it. My band guys all qualified for the enhanced unemployment benefits while they lasted. Mike Schermer is up in Truckee and doing some streaming and writing some good songs. Several of us are on Social Security. Yep. But it's not a living wage and I worry that everyone is stretched thin. And we all miss playing. Like music communities everywhere, Austin is watching its iconic venues struggle and close. The people who work in them, not just the musicians, but the bar owners, sound people, bartenders, waiters, booking agents, the whole supply line, saw their incomes stop in March like the flip of a switch. It has been a scramble to find a way to hold on, not knowing how long this will last.



The question is how we're coping, and frankly for many the answer is, barely. We isolate. We mask up. We write sometimes silly, sometimes sad, sometimes angry songs and we stream them. We're learning new technology that allows us to bring music to the people and maybe a little tip jar action to the artist. We do a lot of online fund-raisers and public service announcements and nonprofit work. We have virtual happy hours with our friends. We count our blessings that we have a roof over our heads and food to eat. We stress over politics and we're working to elect a leadership in the near future that puts the well-being of the people of our country first. I have a mantra that I try to put into practice: be careful, be patient, be strong. Sometimes I can do it. Until we can safely gather and play and visit and hug, I'll eat tuna fish and walk the dog and look forward to a real live, up-close and sweaty, dance party gig. Stay safe.

Mick Martin: Last December, my world crashed. A lot of stress had accumulated in my life, and it damaged my health. Then the pandemic happened and, ironically, it gave me a chance to concentrate on getting better. A doctor told me about the healing properties triggered by stimulating the Vagus nerve in my neck and how, as a singer and harmonica player, I was particularly able to tap into its healing properties.



I contacted the band members and all but one were willing to rehearse. Only Johnny Stone, who, at the age of 75, was understandably concerned about himself and his roommates getting sick, demurred. Then Bruce Pressley stepped up to play drums, and things started

turning around. The doctor was right. I can't tell you how grateful I am to Danny Sandoval (sax), Ralph Davies (trombone/arrangements), Andrew Clayton Little (guitar), Russ Skarsten (keys), AJ Joyce (bass) and Bruce. We had two rehearsals, and the cure set in. Lisa Green and Russ told me about the TV and streaming concert series Folsom Live so I phoned Ian McAdam and Adam Fricke, and they signed us up for November 19. Kyle Rowland and Todd Charles Morgan stepped forward to produce and record an acoustic Delta-blues project involving me and Andrew, which led to bookings for our duo. Then Ian Schofield set up a to-be-announced filmed concert with David Coody at the Jack Russell Brewery in the Apple Hill area (Camino) near Placerville. In the process, I've learned how not to stress over the challenges of the music business -- but I couldn't have done it without a lot of help from my friends and the love of my family. So, another chapter of my blessed life has begun.

Liz Walker: I was traveling in Spain when it all hit the fan and I had to cut it short. When I returned to the states it was a whole new reality for all of us. The blues in lockdown is truly the blues incarnate. I miss live music deep down in my soul, I can't imagine what it must be like for all the creative geniuses we've had the honor of enjoying over the years. I listen to the blues stations (thank you Mick for Saturday afternoons), many of the CSTB shows, and the Facebook streaming sets, but music via some electronic vehicle doesn't satisfy my need in the same way as live. I actually had tears in my eyes when watching a tv show and the peeps were sitting in a bar listening to a blues band! I can't wait to get back to the Torch, the Starlet, Harlow's, Crest, Arthur Henry's, Shady Lady and all the rest. May they survive to welcome us and live blues back.



Cynthia (CJ) Jaynes: This pandemic is certainly Blues inducing! We have been thrown into a new way of living which requires us to be isolated from those we love, and activities that define our quality of life. Thank goodness we live in a digital, electronic world so we can stay connected. Since I'm in the 'danger zone' (being 72 y.o.) I'm thankful for social media which is the only way I can enjoy my family & friends safely. Music, especially blues,



is one way to maintain a sense of normalcy. Folks are hosting watch parties, there are podcasts, and YouTube or Zoom events to join in. I live with a musician who practices daily so that's fun. Having a dog has really been a lifesaver. Our main activity is taking him to a park every day. So, between getting into nature, then into the mediated world is what has been keeping me going. Keep safe, wear your mask and keep rockin'!

Marina Texiera & Mark Mitchell: We have managed to stay busy through this pandemic. Mark has been busy doing work at the Club to spruce things up. I've been fortunate to be able to connect with friends through our merch porch drops. It's been awesome to see people, even at a distance. I've also been able to cultivate new friendships. We've both found much joy in tending to our yard and garden and cooking family meals. We've been fortunate to have this time



to enjoy quality time with our kids as well as each other. We miss you all and the amazing live music that was enjoyed from our stage! Hope to see everyone soon!

Barbara Katen: So fellow Blues peeps, this is what I have discovered in reaching out for methods of coping during these trying times. Stay safe, mask up, hope to see you all soon and LONG LIVE THE BLUES!

Rico's Blues News is Coming to Your Inbox! *Picking Up the Torch from Willie Brown*

By Rick Snyder



First of all, I would like to give a huge shout out to Willie Brown for remaining at the helm of the weekly blues calendar that he provided to all of us for so many moons! Willie, I'm sure I could never fill those shoes, but I'm sure going to give it a shot.

As we all know, these are strange and unusual times in which we live, and we have had to come to terms with many new realities. It has been difficult for those of us who long for the roar of the grease-paint and the smell of the crowd during the blues' live performance. It has been even more difficult for those fool-hardy souls who make the music we love so well.

We must keep the blues (and all other forms of music) alive and well, and the way to do that in these troubling times is to attend live events (if you feel safe doing so) and watch live streaming events. But we must not only watch; we must, if we can, do our part to help support the musicians presenting these events. So throw a buck or two in the tip jar, whether live or virtual.

I will do my part by providing you with as much information about where to find live music and where to watch live streaming music. Additionally, I hope to add a little flavor with some interesting tidbits of information to benefit artists and audiences alike with each mailing of Rico's Blues News.

Put yourself on the mailing list by sending me an email at calendar@sacblues.com with your name and email address. **And, member bands, please be sure to get me your gig information at least one to two weeks in advance.**

Long Live the Blues!





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We need your continued support. When you renew your membership, why not add an additional contribution? Every little bit helps!

Blues Foundation Announces New President/CEO

The Blues Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Patricia Wilson Aden as its next President & CEO. Aden brings more than three decades of nonprofit management experience to the Foundation, with a specialization in the preservation and celebration of African American cultural resources. Her most recent experience as President & CEO of the African American Museum in Philadelphia and her earlier role as Executive Director of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation make her uniquely qualified to lead The Blues Foundation and its Blues Hall of Fame. Aden stated, "I am genuinely excited to join The Blues Foundation and the Blues community in celebrating the Blues and the artists who have made it America's original musical genre."



Aden succeeds Barbara Newman, who began her retirement September 30th. Under Newman's leadership, The Blues Foundation saw marked growth in engagement and reach in all facets of the organization's operations. She embraced technology to offer greater access to and programming of major Blues Foundation events, including The International Blues Challenge and Blues Music Awards, forged new industry alliances, and amplified awareness of organizational activities in fulfilling the Blues Foundation's mission to preserve, celebrate, and expand awareness of the Blues genre. Most recently, she led the charge to develop a relief fund to provide financial support for basic living necessities to blues musicians whose income streams have evaporated in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the first of April, that fund has raised over \$250,000 and assisted close to 250 musicians. Throughout her tenure, she has prioritized strong fiscal management and is leaving The Blues Foundation well-situated to further advance its mission under Aden's leadership.

Michael Freeman, Chairman of The Blues Foundation's Board of Directors, added, "On behalf of the global Blues community we wish Barbara Newman the very best for a wonderful retirement and with the greatest appreciation for her tireless dedication to The Blues Foundation as its President & CEO. Thanks to her vision and leadership we are well positioned to welcome Patty Aden as our new President & CEO to continue the forward movement of the organization. We are thrilled to have found such an experienced and well-respected leader."

Red's Blues Members On the Mend

On Sept. 4th, Richard Grigsby, known by most blues musicians and fans worldwide as "RW", was rushed to the ER by his wife and music partner, Beth Reid-Grigsby. Tests revealed that he suffered a stroke. Three days later, Beth had a medical emergency also. Double hospital bills, medications, therapy, retrofitting the house for safety all in the time of COVID-19 is daunting. Household bills can mount up. For touring musicians, there is little work now or in the near future, so friends started a [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) campaign which successfully raised money. Please send them love and encouragement, and when the band is out playing again, make sure to go see them!



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Venues and Artists Need Help!

We all know how much we miss our live music, due to COVID-19; but it's important to consider the bigger picture and how this pandemic and the corresponding shutdowns have negatively impacted those whose businesses are the performing arts. Here's some information compiled by the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA). NIVA includes more than 2,400 independent live entertainment venues and promoters from all 50 states and Washington, D.C., banding together to fight for survival.

Situation

- Independent venues were the first to close and will be the last to fully reopen.
- Venues have zero revenue, but obligations like mortgage/rent, bills, loans, taxes, and insurance continue.
- We have no work to offer our employees for the foreseeable future.
- The shutdown is indefinite and likely to extend into 2021 as our venues are in the last stage of reopening.
- The ability to open at partial capacity is not economically feasible. Rents, utilities, payroll, taxes, insurance, and artist pay are not on a sliding scale matching the capacity we're permitted to host. They are fixed costs.
- Due to the national routing of most tours, our industry will not recover until the entire country is open at 100% capacity. NIVA members need assistance in order to survive until that day.

Impact

- According to a survey of NIVA members, 90% of independent venues report they will close permanently in a few months without

federal funding. Current PPP funding will not solve the crisis.

- Pollstar estimates a \$9 billion loss in ticket sales alone - not counting food and beverage revenue - if venues remain closed through 2020.
- Live events provide 75% of all artists' income .
- For every \$1 spent on a ticket at small venues, a total of \$12 in economic activity is generated within communities on restaurants, hotels, taxis, and retail establishments.
- The estimated direct annual economic impact venues bring to local communities is nearly \$10 billion.

Artist Support

- 600+ artists with social media impressions of 900 million are supporting NIVA's request for federal relief under the hashtag #SaveOurStages.
- Writing a letter to Congress, artists including Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters, Mavis Staples, Lady Gaga, André 3000, Coldplay, Willie Nelson, Billie Eilish, Gary Clark Jr., Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin, Miranda Lambert, Billy Joel, Earth Wind & Fire, Kacey Musgraves, Leon Bridges, Wyclef Jean, Bon Iver, Jay Leno, Tiffany Haddish, Jeff Foxworthy, Jerry Seinfeld, and Tig Notaro are among those advocating on behalf of NIVA members.

The People Are Speaking!

- Through SaveOurStages.Com, individuals sent more than 1 million emails, reaching all 538 members of Congress. They asked legislators to provide federal assistance to independent venues and promoters.

Bipartisan Support

- Led by legislators of **both parties**, nearly 150

members of Congress sent letters to Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer in the Senate, and Nancy Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy in the House supporting NIVA's requests.

What Can You Do to Help?

Visit nivassoc.org and saveourstages.com for suggestions and information. For a more local perspective, check out: cacapitolvenuecoalition.org.



Meet Linda McShane

Since 2014, Linda has been maintaining the membership database, processing your applications & sending your Membership cards. She's a long time member, and past Board of Directors member. Contact Linda at "membership@sacblues.com" if you have any questions about your membership.

Reminder: All Current Sponsorships Extended!

As reported in the September-October Blue Notes, our Board, in recognition of these extraordinary times, extended all our current sponsorships to the end of December, 2021. We hope that in the coming year we will all be able to resume our work and that we will be able to provide the visibility benefits you deserve. Thank you, Sacramento Blues Society Sponsors!



Sacramento Blues Society Member Bands

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amycelestemusic.com

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<https://www.facebook.com/blindlemonpeel/>

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www.chickenanddumpling.net

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www.crossing49.com

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www.theghosttownrebellion.com

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www.hellbent.band

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Gloria T & the Innervision Band

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www.lisaphenix.com

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jmcguire@comcast.net

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www.neonmoonband.com

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Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band

www.facebook.com/TimNoxon-RockinBluesBand

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toddmorganmusic.com

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