



Capital Blues Messenger

Celebrating the Blues in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

February 2015

Volume 9, Issue 2

Reflections on Blues' Heritage and Competing at IBC

by David Jackson

David Oziel and I had the time of our lives representing the DC Blues Society in Memphis at the International Blues Challenge on Jan. 21 and 22. We played a 25-minute set each night while enjoying the performances of some amazing musicians. While we didn't advance to the finals, we by no means feel like losers. We spent the days immersing ourselves in the rich culture of blues in the Memphis and Mississippi area and the evenings enjoying the great music on Beale Street.



photo by David Jackson
Clerks at the Como, Mississippi Post Office

Como post office to send post cards with the Como postmark.

Two of the folks who work in the post office mentioned seeing me take photos and started a discussion on the blues musicians from the area. The lady in the post office asked me if I knew who Jessie Mae Hemphill was. When I said I did, she said, "Hold on, I have something for you." She went into the back and came back with two CD's which she gave me and then proceeded to tell me where to find the highway marker for Hemphill.

On my foray into Mississippi I visited the site of Mississippi Fred McDowell's grave in Como, MS. I then went into downtown Como and discovered highway markers for three of Como's better known blues musicians, Fred McDowell, Napoleon Strickland and Otha Turner. After taking photos, I went into the

I found this visit heartwarming since the last time I was in Mississippi, I was a 20-year-old in the U.S. Air Force. My last memory of the state was the bus station in Jackson where I saw two water fountains on the side of the terminal, one marked "Colored" and the other "White." This was also the period when Greyhound buses were being burned



photo by Susan Yaffee-Oziel
Jackson & Oziel in front of the venue where they performed at the 2015 IBC

by segregationists. Fifty-four years later, I was warmly greeted and welcomed by whites from the South as just another human who shares some of the same interests.

David, his wife Susan, and I visited the usual tourist sites like Stax Records, Sun Studio and Graceland which we really enjoyed. David and Susan left on Saturday to go to Clarksdale, MS and I left for home. David said, "It was truly an honor to perform at the IBC and to represent the DC Blues Society. Personally, it was like a trip to the holy land; Memphis is really the Jerusalem of American music."

It was truly a dream come true. Thanks DC Blues Society.



photo © Roger Stephenson



Eddie Cotton, Jr., left, representing the Vicksburg Blues Society, took first place in the Band competition at the International Blue Challenge. For more on the talented musicians who were recognized at the IBC, see page 6.



The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

The **CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER** is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by email or US mail to members. Past newsletters are available at www.dcblues.org.



The **CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER** is your publication and members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography. Please submit material via email to newsletter@dcblues.org.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org

Note: Deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. Box 77315

Washington, DC

20013-7315



www.dcblues.org

DCBS Offers Web, CBM & Eblast Advertising

The DC Blues Society advertising rates for the **CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER** monthly newsletter are shown below. Ads may also be placed on the DCBS website, www.dcblues.org.

Ads also may be placed in DCBS eblast emails for only \$50 for postings on two ebcasts. Visit the DCBS website for more or contact ads@dcblues.org.

CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

Advertising Information

Business Card: \$20 ▲ 3.5" w x 2" t

1/8 page: \$25 ▲ 4" w x 3" t

1/6 page: \$30 ▲ 2.375" w x 4.75" t

1/4 page: \$40 ▲ 4" w x 4.75" t

1/3 page: \$55 ▲ 5.25" w x 4.75" t

1/2 page: \$75 ▲ 7.5" w x 4.75" t horizontal
3.75" w x 9.25" t vertical

Full page: \$140 ▲ 7.75" w x 9.25" t

Eblast: \$50 for 2 blasts

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork. **CBM** ads must be received by the 7th of the month prior to publication. **CBM** ads must be 300 dpi or greater in .pdf, .ai or .eps format. Ad size and space allocation are contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. For more info, email: ads@dcblues.org.

DCBS Board Members

President: Felix McClairen
president@dcblues.org

Vice President: Nick Dale
vp@dcblues.org

Secretary: Celina Wood
secretary@dcblues.org

Treasurer: Frank Kahan
treasurer@dcblues.org

Jams & Festival: Sam'i Nuriddin
jams@dcblues.org

Merchandise: James Ginyard
merchandise@dcblues.org

Volunteers: Margo Hope
volunteer@dcblues.org

Honorary Directors:
John Cephas (1930–2009),
Barry Lee Pearson, Joseph Wilson

Key Volunteers

Advertising: Jazs
ads@dcblues.org

Blues in the Schools/Acoustic Jam:
Will Williamson bits@dcblues.org
acousticjam@dcblues.org

**E-communications Coordinator/
Membership Assistant:**
Chris DeProperty, Walter Lamar
membership@dcblues.org

Grants Manager: OPEN
fundraising@dcblues.org

Media: Cassandra Behler
media@dcblues.org

Membership: Sam'i Nuriddin
membership@dcblues.org

Newsletter:
Editors: Robyn Quinter, Pat Bransford
newsletter@dcblues.org

Staff: Mary Knieser, Sylvia Kiser
Blues Calendar: Mike Wolk

Website:
Administrators: Jazs, Fred Morser
webmaster@dcblues.org

Forum: Crawl'n' Kingsnake
forum@dcblues.org

DCBS on Facebook: Jazs
DCBS on PayPal: Fred Morser

Win Tickets!

Watch your DCBS Eblasts and visit www.dcblues.org and Members Only page to enter to win tickets to select Festivals and Blues shows, and obtain available discounts. Priority for ticket giveaways goes to DCBS members, be sure to keep your membership current. Please open and read those Eblasts so you don't miss any great opportunities.



Before your next online search, go to www.dcblues.org, click on the GoodSearch link, and designate DC Blues Society as your favorite cause. DCBS earns 1¢ for each time you search the web using www.GoodSearch.com. It's easy — just click, search and support. Looking for the perfect gift? Try www.GoodShop.com with 600+ stores. A percentage of each purchase is donated to DCBS and its mission to preserve and promote the Blues. Grab your mouse, click the link, and shop guilt-free!

President's DRUM



IBC Contenders

DCBS kicked off the New Year with a January fundraiser for our International Blues Challenge (IBC) contenders The Mojo Priests and the duo, Jackson & Oziel. Both acts wowed a packed Old Bowie Town Grille for the fundraiser to help defray expenses to Memphis for the recently completed IBC. Unfortunately, neither of our representatives reached the semi-finals. They deserve much thanks for giving the IBC their best shot.

Despite some band personnel challenges that left The Mojo Priests without their regular drummer, bandleader Darren Johnson reports: "Obviously we didn't make it to the semi's, but we were able to make an appearance and represent DC at the IBC. We played our asses off to rep DCBS and ourselves as best we could. Based on the reception from the crowds at the venue, we did a credible job considering the obstacle we had to overcome."

I spoke with David Jackson as he was driving back from Memphis. He said, "Although we didn't advance, we had a great time and so did our audiences. Many of the solo/duo players who did advance in the completion were in the house for our sets and told us they enjoyed our songs. We met a lot of neat people and had a ball."

DCBS is pleased to have sponsored these outstanding talents at the IBC. We're looking forward to selecting new representatives for the 2016 IBC at this year's Battle of the Bands & Solo/Duo competition in October. Look out for entry information and deadlines in upcoming CBM issues and at www.dcblues.org.

February Blues in the Community (BITC)

Well-known musician and educator David Cole hosts **Blues Babies**, a free, interactive, multi-media presentation highlighting the "modernization" of the Blues, at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 12:30 to 2:30 pm on Saturday, Feb 14.

The presentation, just in time for Black History Month, covers the evolution of Blues from the 50's through the 80's, when Blues gave birth to Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll, and Soul/Soul Blues. David will perform live music and present recorded samples and stories reflecting the impact and aesthetic relationship between Blues and Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll and Soul music. Get on board this Blues journey and learn a thing or two about the music you love. You don't need a ticket to ride. Just show up. See page 5 for details.

Blues Babies is the second in a three-part series looking at the history of the Blues. The first presentation addressed pre-WWII Blues. The last BITC in the series will cover the international renaissance of forgotten Blues men and women starting in the 80's to the "rockinization" of Blues in the 2000's. Stay tuned for updates.

Volunteers Needed for WPFW Fundraiser

WPFW kicks off its first fund drive of 2015 on Monday, Feb. 2 and seeks volunteers to answer phones and take pledges. The drive runs through Sunday, Feb. 22. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

5PM-10PM:
Mondays-Fridays
9AM-9-10PM,
Saturdays-Sundays

Contact: Vincent "Vinnie" Jack, Jr.
(2PM-7PM,
Mondays,
Wednesdays and
Fridays) 202-588-0999 x360,
volunteers@wpfw.org or www.wpfw.org



New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Margo Hope to the DCBS Board of Directors. Margo has served as our volunteer coordinator for a couple of years. She has also worked tirelessly supporting our many events with direct outreach to potential new members, running raffles, making gift baskets and other tasks too innumerable to mention.

Margo is a sterling example of a volunteer supporter who started helping out here and there and saw a larger role she could play in furthering our mission and continually assumed greater responsibilities.

I encourage others to follow her example and join us in bringing the best in Blues entertainment and education to the DMV. Start by contacting Margo at volunteer@dcblues.org.

Blues Always,

Felix

4th Friday Happy Hours

Meet your fellow blues lovers at DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hours. Admission is free, affordable cash bar and food are available. Doors open at 5pm, music is on stage from 5:30 to 9 pm.

Location is American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring 20910. Entrance is on Fenton Street adjacent to the public parking lot. Parking in the public lot is free after 7 pm.

Feb. 27: The Mojo Priests

Mar. 27: Jessi Terrell & the Love Mechanic Band

Apr. 24: Adelphi Blues

May 22: Shakedown

June 26: Mojo Priests

July 24: Etuf'e

Aug. 28: Ron Hicks Project



photo by Pat Bransford



photo by Carmella Doty

DCBS, Old Bowie Town Grille Team Up for IBC Fundraiser

by Pat Bransford

On Saturday, Jan. 10, the Old Bowie Town Grille opened its doors and devoted the evening to a fundraiser for the DCBS representatives to the 2015 International Blues Challenge (IBC). The door's cover charge, the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle, and the donations in the tip jar that evening all went to The Mojo Priests and Jackson & Oziel, to help cover the costs of their trip to Memphis.

The house was packed! Jackson & Oziel performed first that evening, with the addition of guest harmonica player Howard Moss. The Mojo Priests kept the momentum going when they took the stage, undoubtedly also using the night as a chance to practice for the IBC. They were sure to engage the crowd, even having them sing along/shout out the phrase "Sell That Women's Car" in one song.

Darren Johnson, The Mojo Priests' leader/vocalist, summed it up well in his Facebook post right after the fundraiser:

"On behalf of The Mojo Priests, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who came to see us and the duo of David Jackson and David Oziel last

night at the Old Bowie Town Grille and was so generous with their resources to help us with our trip to Memphis.

Thanks to Bob and Theresa Marie Mary Thompson for hosting the fundraiser and the DC Blues Society for arranging and running the event. I personally am proud to be part of a community of musicians like this one.

Everyone from Norma Jean Thacker, Kevin M. Farrell, Paul Justin Pinkham, Dick Culp and his lovely wife Holly, Gayle Weaver Harron who made the trip from Baltimore, and countless more whom I can't remember on three hours sleep. Blame the brain and not the heart.

You folks honored us with your presence and your giving to our cause, and I



photo by Carmella Doty

promise you that the International Blues Challenge will get the very best of The Mojo Priests."

Top left: The performance of Jackson & Oziel moved the packed crowd from their seats to the dance floor.

Top right: Linda Watson, left, shows off her new guitar that she won in the raffle at the College Park Blues Festival. Jazs, right, presented the Stratocaster, donated by Atomic Music.

Above: The Mojo Priests rocked the house at the IBC Fundraiser.



Blues in the Community "Blues Babies"

Presenter: David Cole

Saturday, February 14, 2015

FREE ♦ 12:30 - 2:00 PM ♦ FREE



Photo: Sharon Farmer

In the words of Muddy Waters:
*"The Blues had a baby & they
named it Rock & Roll."*

David Cole, musician and educator, will weave live music with multi-media and storytelling to illustrate the modernization of the Blues. Hear about its influence on Jazz, Gospel, Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll, Soul, Soul Blues and more. . .

ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

902 Wythe Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel: 703-746-4356

Reservations suggested

WWW.DCBLUES.ORG

Tel: 301-322-4808



Eddie Cotton, Randy McQuay Take Top Honors at 2015 IBC

by Pat Bransford

On Saturday, Jan. 25, the 31st Annual International Blues Challenge (IBC) concluded its almost weeklong competition in Memphis, TN, by announcing the winners in the Band, Solo/Duo, and Best Self-Produced CD categories. Close to 250 acts performed in the IBC this year.

First place in the Band category went to Eddie Cotton, from the Vicksburg Blues Society. This was the second year in a row that the Vicksburg Blues Society entrant won the Band award (last year's VBS winning entrant was Mr. Sipp). First place in the Solo/Duo category went to Randy McQuay, from the Cape Fear Blues Society. The Altered Fire Blues Band, from Grafton Blues Association (Wisconsin), won the Best Self-Produced CD Award for their latest release, Cryin' Mercy.

The winners and finalists in all of the award categories are listed below. First place Band and Solo/Duo winners receive cash and prizes such as gigs at some of the country's best festivals and on the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise. Second and third place winners also receive cash awards and other perks. For more info on the IBC, visit The Blues Foundation website, www.blues.org

Band Winners

1st place: Eddie Cotton, Jr., Vicksburg Blues Society, www.eddiecottonjr.com/

2nd place: Noah Wotherspoon, Dayton Blues Society, www.noahwotherspoon.com/

3rd place: Nico Wayne Toussaint's Mighty Quartet, Southern California Blues Society, www.nicowaynetoussaint.com/

Best Guitarist, Band (Gibson & Category 5): Noah Wotherspoon, Dayton Blues Society

Other Band Finalists (in alphabetical order):

Betty Fox Band, Suncoast Blues Society

Brat Pack Blues, Asia Network

The Good, The Bad & The Blues, Columbus Blues Alliance

The Michael Schatte Band, Great Lakes Blues Society

Travellin' Brothers, Asociacion Musical Blues Hondarribia

Solo/Duo Winners

1st place: Randy McQuay, Cape Fear Blues Society, www.randymcquay.com/

2nd place: Brian Keith Wallen, Dayton Blues Society, www.bkwmusic.com/

Best Guitarist, Solo/Duo (St. Blues Guitars): Ben Rice, Ashland Blues Society

Other Solo/Duo Finalists (in alphabetical order)

Arthur James, Granite State Blues Society

Ben Rice & Lucy Hammond, Ashland Blues Society

Bongo Joe & Little Steve-O, Northeast Ohio Blues Assn.

Chris Yakopic, Cleveland Blues Society

Dalannah and Owen, White Rock Blues Society

Muskett & Carnes, Indiana Blues Society

Best Self-Produced CD

Cryin' Mercy, Altered Five Blues Band - Grafton Blues Assn., www.alteredfive.com/

Lee Oskar Harp Award

Nico Wayne Toussaint

Next Year's IBC

will be held in Memphis Jan. 26-30, 2016. The DCBS competitions to determine which band and solo/duo act will represent DCBS at the 2016 competition will be held in October 2015. Watch for DCBS emails and web updates for more information on how and when to submit an entry for these competitions.

More About the Winners

Who is Band winner Eddie Cotton, Jr.? The bio on his website describes him as follows:

Eddie Cotton, Jr. is an electric blues guitarist from Clinton, Mississippi. A minister's son, he grew up singing and playing gospel music at church and playing the music of blues legends like B.B. King at home.

Cotton studied music theory at Jackson State University in his hometown of Jackson, MS, then went on to serve as minister of music at his father's church. This seemingly unlikely combination of musical interests is precisely what engages Cotton's audiences, who appreciate his combination of classic electric blues with funky rhythms, soulful vocals and some downright blistering guitar playing.



Top: Noah Wotherspoon, representing the Dayton Blues Society, was named Best Guitarist in the Band competition.

Middle: The Lee Oskar Harp Award was presented to Nico Wayne Toussaint

Below: Randy McQuay from the Cape Fear Blues Society took the top prize in the Solo/Duo category.



photos © Roger Stephenson

continued page 7

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Blues Quiz

THE HISTORY OF THE BLUES: THE ROOTS, THE MUSIC, THE PEOPLE, by Francis Davis suggests that the Blues happened “as a result of one group of people being forced to enter another’s history.”

“The story of the blues is the history of African Americans told through the story of their most popular music. The story of the blues is the story of black culture coming to a position of prominence and influence in American society.” (www.shmoop.com/blues-history/summary.html)

In addition to the “Blues Babies” presentation honoring Black History Month, we’re offering the following quiz to tease your brain on Blues History. See the answers on page 11.

1. Contrary to the story that Robert Johnson sold his soul to the Devil to learn to play the guitar, some historians suggest that he learned from a musician who played around the town where Johnson was born.
 - a. What was the name of the musician?
 - b. What was the legend surrounding this musician?
2. Between 1883 and 1905 it is estimated that about one Black person was lynched every week.
 - a. What Blues singer famously memorialized the brutality of lynching in song?
 - b. What is the name of the song?
3. a. Who recorded one of the first songs with “jazz” in the title?
 - b. What is the name of the song?
4. Black songwriter, Harry Pace- a former partner of W.C. Handy- opened in Harlem his own label called Pace Phonograph Company. His success attracted the attention of white-owned labels such as Paramount and Columbia, who began a fierce competition for black recording artists. When Paramount bought Pace’s catalog, what was the then current name of his label?
5. Urban songwriters invented the 12-bar Blues structure. What was the structure of the original Blues music?
6. a. What was the name of the first record by a black female artist?
 - b. Who was the female artist that recorded the record?
7. What is the name of the label that released the first blues record by black musicians and targeted the black community, introducing a “Colored Catalog,” which was the first series of “race records”?
8. Where did the piano style called “boogie woogie” originate?
9. Jim Crow Laws were segregation laws that prevented African Americans and other minorities from having the same rights as Whites, such as using public accommodations and public transportation. Who wrote and performed “Jim Crow Blues,” 1930?
10. Who said: “If I could find a white man who had the Negro sound and the Negro feel, I could make a million dollars.”

2015 IBC Winners

from page 6

Whether he’s punctuating old favorites with his own inflections or crooning a Cotton original with stunning energy, audiences are sure to take notice of this blues artist who demonstrates deep respect and appreciation for his craft.

Solo/Duo Winner Randy McQuay’s website includes the following bio:

Life in North Carolina and passion for music, culture, and art led Randy to be a roots musician and songwriter. Traveling solo or with his band around the Southeast region if the U.S. since age of sixteen, he has gained chops, experience, and notoriety. He has an aggressive, soulful, and sultry voice that lures the listener into original, heartfelt lyrics. His acoustic style is derived from claw-



photo © Roger Stephenson

Above: First place in the Band competition was won by Eddie Cotton, Jr. and band, representing the Vicksburg Blues Society.

hammer and Travis picking styles with added percussion. Like an original troubadour, he harnesses the harmonica around his neck. Adding fast and sweeping single-note lines over

rhythm guitar, he creates a full band sound. His idea is to push the boundaries of coordination, playing all the parts with no compromise.

“He is a storyteller, Bluesman, and a master interpreter of modern American roots music. Randy McQuay II sings from the heart, plays guitar with abandon, and blows harmonica like he’s from another planet. He’s the recipient of the prestigious Lee Oskar Top Harmonica Player Award from The Blues Foundation, a Finalist performer at the 2012 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, and the reigning Cape Fear Blues Challenge Solo Champion.

“Randy’s band, RootSoul Project, performs throughout the Carolinas and he’s a sought-after soloist known for his evocative takes on rhythm & blues, folk, rock & roll, funk, and roots music.” Lan Nichols President, Cape Fear Blues Society

Become a DCBS Member

Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Members' dues play an important part in helping DCBS fulfill its mission to promote the Blues and the Musicians who keep the music alive, exciting and accessible. Members receive many benefits for their nominal DCBS investment:

- ▲ Discounted rates on advance tickets to DCBS events
 - ▲ Comraderie of fellow Blues enthusiasts at DCBS's many events
 - ▲ Monthly editions of THE CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER sent by email
 - ▲ Priority notices of the latest scheduled area Blues concerts, events and news sent by email
 - ▲ Chances to win free tickets to area Blues concerts and performances
 - ▲ Discounts from area clubs and merchants when you present your DCBS membership card; see the list of participating businesses on page 11
 - ▲ Opportunities to "get close to the action and the music" by volunteering at DCBS events
 - ▲ Taking a supporting role in DCBS's Blues in the Community program, an outreach effort to educate and encourage the rich heritage of Blues music
 - ▲ Doing your part to preserve traditional American Blues music
- Becoming a DCBS member is quick and easy:
- ▲ Use the mail-in application on this page
 - ▲ Apply online at www.dcblues.org
 - ▲ Sign up at a the DCBS booth at a DCBS event

Welcome & Welcome Back!

Membership, December 2014 + January 2015

New Individual Members

Ellen Adintori
Walter Bailey
Debbie Bucci
DCT Productions
Jenefer Duane
Essentially Guitars
John Ponton
John Sand
Theresa Valencia
Gregory Wells

New Family Members

Lawrence Creevy Family
David Oziel Family

Renewing Individual Members

Paul Blumstein
Judy Dulaney
Greg Erhard
David Fertig
Mary E. Gay
Stefan Gunther
Marcus Harton
Robin Heard
Steve Levine
David Martin
Stephen Lynton
Warren Phenegar
Emma P. Ward
Walter Whited

Renewing Family Members

Jim & Linn Bunch
Alan Burke & Family
Don & Mary Anne Frye
Linda Gianessi & Family
David & Jennifer Jackson
Barbara & Felipe Jose
Robin & Steve Kessler
Beth Ann Kyle & Huw Griffiths
Walter Lamar Family
Peter Milburn & Marsha Thornton
Linda Pickle & Family
George Roman & Alice Jacobs
Eugene Rosenthal & Sandra Koppel

Join or Renew Today!

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If family, list name(s) _____

Annual Dues

- Student: \$15 (include copy of student ID)
- Individual: \$25
- Family: \$35
- Corporate: \$200
- Canada: \$35US
- International: \$50US

Volunteer

- Update Website
- Work shift at a show (DCBS table, door, etc.)
- Promote shows (Distribute fliers, handbills, etc.)
- Raise funds
- Write reviews or take photos for monthly newsletter

Contributions (not dues) are tax deductible. Please allow up to 6 weeks for processing.

DCBS accepts  

Return this form with your check or credit card information to:
DC Blues Society
P.O. Box 77315
Washington, DC 20013

Attention! Bands and Venues:

Keep your fans informed! Send your March and April gigs and events by Sunday, Feb. 15 to calendar@dcblues.org to be included in the March 2015 CBM Blues Calendar.

FEBRUARY 2015 BLUES

- 1 **No DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam due to Superbowl** ▲ Linwood Taylor @ JVs ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ ▲ **Robert Cray** @ Ram's Head Annapolis
- 2 Moonshine Society @ Westminster Church
- 5 **Robert Cray** @ Birchmere ▲ Mac Arnold @ JVs
- 6 Still Standing w/ Robert Frahm and Andy Poxon @ Zoo Bar ▲ **Dana Fuchs** @ Gypsy Sally's ▲ Bad Influence @ 219 ▲ Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ ▲ **Guy Davis, Little Bit A Blues (Warner Williams)** @ Creative Alliance ▲ Lancaster Roots & Blues Festival w/ many performers @ Different venues in Lancaster, PA ▲ Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Second Chance Saloon
- 7 The Mojo Priests @ New Deal Café ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar ▲ Andy Poxon @ Bare Bones ▲ **Albert Castiglia** @ JVs ▲ Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ ▲ Chubby Carrier w/ Little Red & Renegades @ Hamilton ▲ Lancaster Roots & Blues Festival w/ many performers @ Different venues in Lancaster, PA ▲ Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft ▲ BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet @ Wolf Trap ▲ Phil Wiggins & Chesapeake Sheiks, Karen Lovejoy @ Publick Playhouse ▲ Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) Mini-Fest w/ many performers, inc. Cooking With Gas, Archie Edwards Ensemble @ Takoma Park Middle School
- 8 BT Richardson @ Madam's Organ ▲ Nighthawks @ New Deal Café ▲ BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 9 Danny Blew & Blues Crew @ Westminster Church
- 11 JoAnne Shaw Taylor @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 12 Sol Roots @ JVs
- 13 Bad Influence @ Stein Room ▲ Little Red & Renegades @ Haydee's ▲ Tom Principato & Dan Hovey @ JVs ▲ Nighthawks @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival inc. Blues Juke Joint w/ David Cole & Main Street Blues @ Hilton Rockville ▲ Fast Eddie & Slowpokes @ Smokin Hot
- 14 **DCBS Presents BITC Program: "Blues Babies" w/ David Cole** @ Alexandria Black History Museum ▲ Bottle of Blues @ Bare Bones ▲ Nighthawks @ Jammin Java ▲ Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival inc. Blues Juke Joint w/ Memphis Gold @ Hilton Rockville
- 15 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival inc. Blues Juke Joint w/ Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Hilton Rockville ▲ The WAMMIES Awards @ State Theatre
- 16 Jesi Terrell & Her Lazy Man Blues @ Westminster Church ▲ **Tab Benoit** @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 17 **Tab Benoit** @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 18 JJ Grey & Mofro @ 9:30 Club
- 19 **Tab Benoit** @ Birchmere
- 20 Just Two @ Pinky & Pepe's Grape Escape ▲ **Tedeschi Trucks Band** @ Warner Theatre ▲ Black Falls @ Bare Bones ▲ Jon Spears @ JVs ▲ Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ ▲ Nighthawks @ Tally Ho Theatre ▲ Moonshine Society @ Zoo Bar
- 21 **Guy Davis & Eric Bibbs** @ Black Rock Center for the Arts ▲ **BBS Presents John Nemeth, Mississippi Heat** @ Rosedale American Legion ▲ Little Red & Renegades @ Eastport Democratic Club ▲ Joy Bodycomb @ Winery at Olney ▲ Bad Influence @ Gaithersburg Dogfish Head ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ Steel Plate ▲ **Tedeschi Trucks Band** @ Warner Theatre ▲ Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ ▲ Built 4 Comfort @ Hershey's ▲ Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft
- 22 **DCBS 4th Sunday Acoustic Jam** @ Mansion on O St.
- 23 Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Westminster Church ▲ **North Mississippi Allstars & Anders Osborne** @ Birchmere
- 24 Baby Jake & Big Boy Little @ JVs
- 25 **Keb' Mo'** @ Birchmere
- 26 **Diana Krall** @ Birchmere
- 27 **DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour w/ The Mojo Priests** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Joy Bodycomb @ Stein Room ▲ Hard Swimmin' Fish @ New Deal Cafe
- 28 Joy Bodycomb @ Ice House Cafe ▲ Karl Stoll & Danger Zone @ JVs ▲ Built 4 Comfort @ Hard Times (Frederick) ▲ Tom Principato @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz

EARLY MARCH 2015

- 1 **DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Linwood Taylor @ JVs ▲ Dr. John Interprets Louis Armstrong @ Hamilton ▲ **James Cotton** @ Wolf Trap
- 2 Midnight Blue @ Westminster Church
- 4 Dr. John & Nite Trippers @ Rams Head Annapolis
- 5 Jimmie Vaughan @ Hamilton
- 6 Still Standing @ Zoo Bar

BLUES ALL WEEK

Regular Blues Events

The Regular Blues Calendar, below, is included in the Capital Blues Messenger each month to provide information on recurring blues jams/performances/dances. See also the February Blues Calendar on page 9.

1st Sunday DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ **4th Sunday DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St.** ▲ Sunday Afternoon Jam @ Old Firestation #3, Fairfax ▲ Blues Jam @ Battlefield Brew Works, Gettysburg, every other Sunday

Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church ▲ Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's ▲ Capital Blues Ensemble @ 219 Basin St. Lounge ▲ Blues Monday @ Republic

CrawStickers @ 219 Basin St. Lounge ▲ Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ ▲ Open Mic @ Woodstock Inn, Woodstock, MD ▲ Swampcandy @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Hell's Bottom Blues Jam @ Takoma Park VFW Post 350

Wolf's Blues Jam @ Blair's Londontowne Pub ▲ Scott Wells Jam @ Pickled Herring Pub, Northeast, MD, except 1st week ▲ Classic Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Johnny Grave @ Madam's Organ

Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Madam's Organ ▲ Big Boy Little Band Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar ▲ Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo ▲ Open Mic @ El Gavilan ▲ Blues Jame w/Fast Eddie Galvin, Dave Saunders @ Bentz St. Raw Bar ▲ Open Mic w/Mojo Priests @ Sapphire, 2nd Thursday

4th Friday Happy Hour @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Glen Moomau & Juke Drivers @ Bertha's ▲ Over the Limit @ Zoo Bar, 1st Friday ▲ John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe

Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop ▲ Davies Fish Fry & Open Mic, 1st Saturday @ Davies Memorial Unitarian Church, Temple Hills, MD ▲ Big Boy Little Band @ Zoo Bar, 1st Saturday ▲ John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe

Bolded items on calendars of upcoming events are picks by calendar editor, Mike Wolk, and include DCBS, BBS, and other events.

Musicians, promoters, and venues: Send calendar listings to calendar@dcb blues.org by the deadline, the 15th of the month prior to publication. Events listed are based on the best information possible.

DCBS cannot be held liable for errors in schedules, places or performances listed. It is recommended that you contact the venues to verify events.

Visit www.dcb blues.org for additional music links and information.

SUN
MON
TUES
WEDS
THURS
FRI
SAT

Cooking With Gas Brings Heat to 4th Friday Happy Hour



photos by Pat Bransford

It was a dark and stormy night on Jan. 23, but Cooking With Gas made sure attendees at the DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour stayed toasty warm and happy. The Silver Spring American Legion rocked with the blues from a perennial favorite, local band. Thank you to the members of Cooking With Gas and to the enthusiastic blues fans who braved the bad weather for a great evening of music. The next 4th Friday Happy Hour on Feb. 27 features music of The Mojo Priests, fresh from their IBC appearance.

DISCOUNTS for DCBS Members

Show your current DCBS membership card to obtain discounts from our supportive vendors, and show the vendor this newsletter to confirm the discount. Restrictions may apply, and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.

NEW DEAL **New Deal Cafe**
113 Centerway Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.newdealcafe.com
10% Discount
Discount applies to food and non-alcoholic beverages

Rose Recording **3 Hours Studio Time \$90**
2103 Bermondsey Dr., Mitchellville, MD 20721
www.roserecording.com • 301-249-0007

Half-Price Admission to select shows
Blues Alley
1073 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20007 • 202-337-4141
www.bluesalley.com
Many blues shows, Sundays–Thursdays

Three Brothers Italian Restaurant
4521 Kenilworth Ave., Bladensburg, MD 20710 • 301-864-1570
www.threebrotherspizza.com
20% Discount
Until 9PM, not valid holidays or w/other discounts. Restrictions may apply.

Empire Plumbing **202-438-4461**
10% Discount
"Take the Blues Out of Your Plumbing"

Got Yoga?
Customized for you: Individual or group sessions available at your residence/office or our office. Includes gentle yoga, breathing techniques, meditation, poses & laughter yoga. Call to schedule: 301-802-1879
10% Discount

THE LOGO SHACK **The Logo Shack**
Logo Design & Branding • Marketing Consulting • Silkscreening & Embroidery Promotional Products
10% Discount
Call Michael Tash 301-910-8551 • www.mylogoshack.com

10% Discount
Across from Eastern Market
657 C Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-544-1621
www.capitolhillbooks.com
Capitol Hill Books

JV's Restaurant
6666 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22042 • 703-241-9504
www.jvsrestaurant.com
DRINK SPECIAL
Buy 1 drink, receive a 2nd drink FREE

15% Discount on Cell Phone Accessories
A2Z Wireless
7401 Baltimore Ave,
College Park, MD 20740
301-985-2002/5111

15% Discount
LA Bar & Grill
2530 Columbia Pike
Arlington, VA 22204 • 703-682-1560

15% Discount
BOK CUSTOM FRAMING
5649 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
703-534-1866 • www.bokframing.com

BLACK HISTORY MONTH **Blues Quiz**

Answers to Black History Month Blues Quiz on page 7.

1. a. Ike Zinnerman
b. Supposedly, he claimed to have learned to play guitar sitting in a graveyard on the tombstones at night.
2. a. Billie Holliday
b. "Strange Fruit," written by Abel Meeropol and published in 1937
3. a. William C. Handy
b. "Jazz Dance," 1917
4. Black Swan Records
5. Free form
6. a. "Crazy Blues," August 1920
b. Mamie Smith
7. Okeh, 1921
8. Louisiana
9. Huddie William Ledbetter, aka Leadbelly. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq0IXTTS_1E
10. Sam Phillips

R.I.P. Willie "Popsy" Dixon, 1942–2015

Willie "Popsy" Dixon, 72, drummer and vocalist of the critically acclaimed soul/blues band The Holmes Brothers, died in Richmond, VA on Friday, Jan. 9. He had recently been diagnosed with bladder cancer.

Dixon, born in Virginia Beach on July 26, 1942, was celebrated for his soaring, soulful multi-octave vocals and his driving, in-the-pocket drumming. He met brothers Sherman and Wendell Holmes at a New York gig in 1967 when he sat in with the brothers and sang two songs. "After that second song," recalls Wendell, "Popsy was a brother." They played in a variety of Top 40 bar bands until 1979, when the three officially joined forces and formed The Holmes Brothers, which THE NEW YORK TIMES described as "deeply soulful, uplifting and timeless." They toured the world, releasing 12 albums from 1990's *In The Spirit* on Rounder to their most recent release, 2014's *Brotherhood* on Alligator.

In September 2014, The Holmes Brothers were honored with a National Endowment For The Arts National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor the United States bestows upon its folk and traditional artists.

Excerpted from obituary by Matt Marshall, posted to Willie "Popsy" Dixon Remembrance Page, www.americanbluesscene.com/2015/01/willie-popsy-dixon-drummer-vocalist-acclaimed-soulblues-band-holmes-brothers/



Familiar Blues Names among GRAMMY Nominees

Several perennial favorite blues performers are among nominees for the 57th Annual GRAMMY Awards.

Best Blues Album:

Dave Alvin and Phil Alvin, *Dave Alvin & Phil Alvin Play and Sing the Songs of Big Bill Broonzy*, Yep Roc Records

Ruthie Foster, *Promise of a Brand New Day*, Blue Corn Music

Charlie Musselwhite, *Juke Joint Chapel*, Henrietta Records

Bobby Rush with Blind Dog Smokin', *Decisions*, Silver Talon Records

Johnny Winter, *Step Back*, Megaforce Records

Best American Roots Performance:

Gregg Allman and Taj Mahal, "Statesboro Blues," track from *All My Friends: Celebrating the Songs & Voice of Gregg Allman*, Rounder Records

Roseanne Cash, "A Feather's Not a Bird," track from *The River and The Thread*, Blue Note Records

Billy Childs with Alison Kraus & Jerry Douglas, "And When I Die," track from *Map to the Treasure; Reimagining Laura Nyro*, Masterworks Records

Keb' Mo' with the California Feetwarmers, "The Old Me Better," track from *Bluesamericana*, Kind of Blue Music

Nickel Creek, "Destination," track from *A Dotted Line*, Nonesuch Records

Best Americana Album:

Roseanne Cash, *The River and the Thread*, Blue Note Records

John Hiatt, *Terms of My Surrender*, New West Records

Keb' Mo', *Bluesamericana*, Kind of Blue Music

Nickel Creek, *A Dotted Line*, Nonesuch Records

Sturgill Simpson, *Metamodern Sounds in Country Music*, High Top Mountain Records



CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER DC Blues Society

Celebrating the Blues in the District
of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

P.O. Box 77315

Washington, DC 20013-7315

www.dcblues.org

Your membership renewal date is shown on the address label.

Renew today and stay in the Blues!

FIRST CLASS MAIL