

A bi-monthly publication of the Sacramento Blues Society

BLUE NOTES!



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2024
ISSUE 45
VOL. 1



our 45th year

President's Column

By Sally Katen



As my term as SBS President ends, I would like to give a huge thank you to the SBS Board of Directors, Officers, and the members of SBS for supporting me as your President for the last four years. I appreciate you all!

These years have been challenging for all of us. In 2020, Covid hit, and the live music stopped until a group of blues-loving individuals got together and started "Can't Stop the Blues", streaming online some of our favorite music and allowing us to still enjoy it in the privacy of our own living rooms! One of our SBS members, Daryl Hawkins, was instrumental in bringing this music to us on a regular basis during lockdown, and I am grateful to him for his contribution.

The Board of Directors went from regular monthly in-person meetings to regular monthly Zoom meetings. Zoom meetings became so popular with the Board that we still hold our meetings via Zoom (with occasional in-person meetings). Any SBS member in good standing is invited to attend our Board meetings which are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. If you would like to attend to see your Board at work, please contact any of the current Board members and we will provide you with the Zoom link on meeting day.

After the Covid lockdown, the SBS got bigger and better!

- Committees grew and got better with the passing years.
- Cari Chenkin (with assist from co-editor Jan Kelley) continues to improve and provide us with a professional quality bi-monthly newsletter, getting us national recognition and bringing new writers into the fold for interesting articles.
- Cari also set up and oversees our monthly Blue Sundays at the Torch Club. These are events that showcase our SBS member bands on the last Sunday of the month,

which is always a fun event to attend!

- Mindy Giles became our Events Committee Chair and is also our Webmaster. She continually provides our blues community with quality musical events, not only with her own *Blues & Bourbon* music series, but in bringing us names like Angela Strehli, Terence Simien, Bernard Allison and Sugaray Rayford to SBS-sponsored events. Mindy was also instrumental in helping to structure the Little Charlie Baty Scholarship at Sacramento State.
- During Covid we asked our member bands to contribute to a musical CD called *Back in Business*, the release party for which also turned out to be our first public event after

2024 Committee Chairs

Blues in the Schools - Rick Snyder

Hall of Fame - Sally Katen

Events - Mindy Giles

Membership - Linda McShane

Sponsorships/Fundraising - Open

Public Relations & Social Media - Mindy Giles

Volunteer Coordinator - Lynette Shumway

Big Day of Giving - Rick Snyder

Merchandise - Lynette Shumway

Blue Notes Newsletter - Cari Chenkin & Jan Kelley

IBC Competition - Renee Erickson Sullivan

Webmaster - Mindy Giles

Board of Directors Development - Open

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, educating students with "Blues in the Schools", 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.

Meetings are held via Zoom; to request an invitation, email: president@sacblues.org

2024 Board of Directors

Sally Katen

Barbara Katen

Jim Coats

Renee Erickson Sullivan

Rex Smith

Cari Chenkin

Rick Snyder

Lynette Shumway

Julio Covington

Marcel Smith

Shirley McCoy

Sacramento Blues Society Publications

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Twitter: [@SacBluesSociety](https://twitter.com/SacBluesSociety)

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lockdown.

- Lynette Shumway took over Merchandise and Volunteers, bringing in new merch and holding (along with Renee Erickson) an "Appreciation" event for new and existing volunteers.

Also, I ask that you continue to back the SBS programs that support our SBS Musicians and members:

- Gene Chambers Musicians Crisis Fund
- Blues in the Schools (BITS)
- The Hall of Fame
- Mick Martin Student Fund
- The SBS Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship

And finally, I cannot end my column without thanking and giving credit to the SBS Board of Directors:

Sally Katen – President & Hall of Fame Committee Chair (even me, LOL)

Barbara Katen – Vice President – who stepped up and ran SBS while I was sick this past year!

Renee Erickson Sullivan – Treasurer & IBC Chair, thank you for your hard work!

Jim Coats – Secretary, who stepped up and accepted the responsible position of Secretary.

Rex Smith – Parliamentarian, with a legal mind who kept us in line with the SBS by-laws!

Cari Chenkin – Blue Notes Editor & Blue Sundays Producer

Rick Snyder – Blues in the Schools (BITS) & Big Day of Giving

Lynette Shumway – Merchandise & Volunteers

Marcel Smith – Board Member at Large and one of the best singers I know!

Julio Covington – Board Member at Large and Volunteer Extraordinaire (he's the face of the SBS welcome wagon!)

And let's not forget our board supporters who volunteer for our committees and help with just about everything:

Linda McShane – Membership

Mindy Giles – Events, Webmaster, Public Relations and who wears several hats around here!

Liz Walker – Events Committee and IBC Co-chair

Earl Withycombe - Merchandise Assistant and "Utility Player"

I hope I did not forget anyone and if I did, I apologize. And with that being said I want to thank ALL OF YOU for your support over the last four years. Rest assured, I am not leaving SBS or the Board, just stepping down as President so someone else can step up! Long live the Blues!

Sally Katen, SBS President, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Blues in the Schools Update

By Rick Snyder, BITS Chair

The Sacramento Blues Society continues to make strides in music education through its innovative Blues in the Schools (BITS) program. Currently, the BITS committee is in anticipation of a contract confirmation from the Any Given Child grant, which will bolster its efforts to



enrich the lives of students with the vibrant history and performance of blues music.

In preparation for this expansion, the BITS committee has reached out to numerous high schools in the greater Sacramento area. The aim is to gauge interest in establishing an Artist in Residence program that would operate after school. This program isn't just any extracurricular activity—it's an intensive eight-week course designed to immerse students in the world of music.

The curriculum is robust, offering students hands-on experience in songwriting, band formation, practice discipline, and leadership skills. These are not just musical skills, but life skills that will serve students well beyond their high school years. The program is not only about learning the technical aspects of music but also about embracing the communal and collaborative spirit of the blues.

The crescendo of the BITS program is the annual Student Showcase. This event, slated for May 2nd, 2024, at a local venue, is more than a concert—it's a celebration of hard work, cultural heritage, and community. Students, families, blues musicians, and the public come together to revel in the achievements of these young artists. The showcase is an opportunity for student musicians to step into the spotlight and share the fruits of their labor with a wider audience.

Through the Blues in the Schools program, the Sacramento Blues Society is not only keeping an important musical tradition alive but is also investing in the next generation of musicians and leaders. The program embodies the essence of the blues—perseverance, expression, and the relentless pursuit of passion.

With the support of the Any Given Child grant, the society hopes to extend its reach, affording more students the chance to experience the transformative power of the blues.

If one or more of your children (or grandchildren) are in elementary, middle, or high school; ask them to reach out to their teachers and ask them to bring Blues in the Schools to their school!

IBC Update!

By Renee Erickson Sullivan, IBC Committee Chair

Well, we did it! Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to raise enough money to send Kyle Rowland to Memphis for the International Blues Challenge **all expenses paid!** Thank you so much for your support and for cheering him on. The competition is being held January 17 through January 21, 2024.

Also, a huge thank you goes out to our IBC Committee! Liz Walker, Barbara Katen, Rick Snyder, and Bob Cosman all worked incredibly hard to make this happen; and several of us are going to Memphis to support Kyle. We hope to see some of our members there. If you are going, please let us know so that we can meet up with you. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Again, many thanks to everyone involved and the best of luck to Kyle!



Photo by Bob Cosman

2024 Board of Directors Elected

In addition to being a rockin' good time celebrating the holiday season, our December 3 event was also our Annual Membership Meeting, during which the votes for members of our Board of Directors were counted, and the results announced. As usual, and sadly, just a small percentage of the total membership bothered to return ballots – surely, we can do better, peeps!

We're pleased to say all three candidates were duly elected to the B.O.D. Please welcome Rick Snyder, Renee Erickson Sullivan and newcomer Shirley McCoy, as they join incumbent Board members Barbara Katen, Cari Chenkin, Sally Katen, Lynette Shumway, Rex Smith, Julio Covington and Marcel Smith on the Board. We also gave our grateful thanks and said goodbye to outgoing Board member Jim Coats, who has so ably served as our Secretary for 2023.

At the first 2024 meeting in January, the new Board will elect its slate of officers for the year. Stay tuned for that announcement in the Mar-Apr issue of the *Blue Notes*. We look forward to our Board members being ready to jump in and get to work making 2024 a great year for the Sacramento Blues Society!



Photo by Bob Hakins

What's on your Playlist?

By Barbara Katen

With the New Year you get new Playlists! Please keep 'em coming. It's not as easy as originally thought to pare down to just FIVE favorite songs but that's the deal. Five individuals and their five favorite playlist songs (I ask for five but once in a while, someone will squeak in an extra ditty). So, please email your list to me at bkaten2@gmail.com and be sure and put "What's on my Playlist" in the subject line. I'll be waiting and looking forward to hearing from YOU!

Mindy Giles

"In the Dark" - Lonnie Brooks
"Cry to Me" - Professor Longhair
"Mother Earth" - Memphis Slim (1951) & Tracy Nelson (1968)
"Cold, Cold Feeling" - Albert Collins
"Trouble No More" - Muddy Waters (1955) & Allman Bros. (1969, 1972)

Greg Roberts

"Down the Dirt Road" - Charley Patton
"Jake Head Boogie" - Lightnin' Hopkins
"Guitar Rhumba" - Earl Hooker
"Come Back to Sorrento" - Willis Jackson Quintet w/Bill Jennings
"Let it Rock" - Chuck Berry

Beth Reid-Grigsby

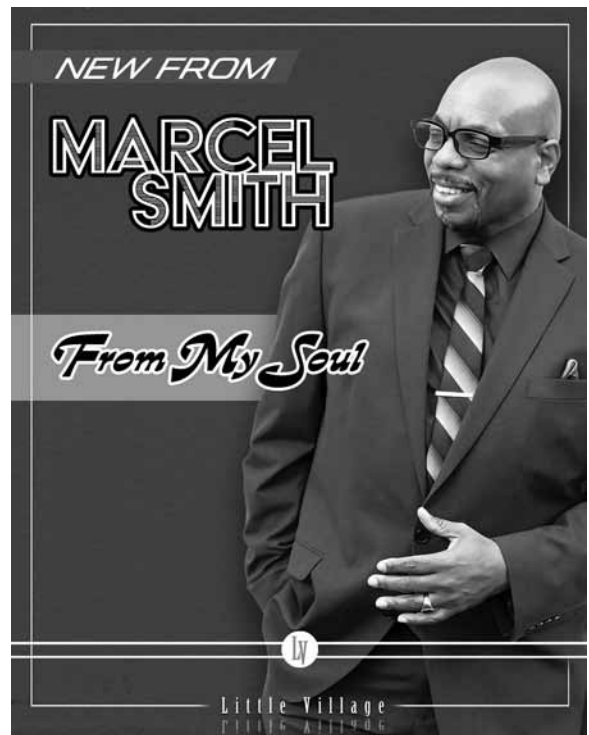
"Women Be Wise" - Sippie Wallace/Bonnie Raitt
"Respect" - Aretha Franklin
"Kissin' in the Dark" - Memphis Minnie
"Barber Shop" - Tom Waits
"Thing Called Love" - John Hiatt
"Have a Little Faith in Me" - John Hiatt (1987)

R.W. Grigsby

"What a Beautiful City" - Ry Cooder & Taj Mahal
"Linda Lu" - Ray Sharpe
"Where Grass Won't Grow" - Sammi Smith
"You've Got to Reap What You Sow" - Barbara Dane & the Chambers Brothers
"Ain't It Funny How Time Slips Away" - Joe Hinton

KathyJoy (KJ) DeSoto

"Ace of Spades" - Angela Strehli
"Hard Times" - John Primer
"Rhino Horn" - James Harman (Nathan James album)
"What's Going On" - Marvin Gaye
"After A While" - Wee Willie Walker w/Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra



Big Check for Little Charlie

By Mindy Giles, SBS Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship Committee Director



On Saturday, December 9th, I was pleased to present the 2023 check to the University Foundation at Sacramento State on behalf of The Sacramento Blues Society Little Charlie Baty Memorial Music Scholarship. It is the second of three endowment installments to complete the required \$10,000 funding base. I expect that the SBS will be able to deliver the remaining \$3000 due by

Spring 2024, so that we can begin student applications in the fall.

In the photo on the next page, Nightcats co-founder Rick Estrin and I are presenting the big check to Dr. Steve Roach, Director of Jazz Studies at Sac State, (and a great trumpet player), and Dr. Stephen Blumberg, Director of The School of Music at Sacramento State.

This scholarship honors Charlie Baty's commitment to the "Blues in Schools" program in middle and high schools and supports the Sacramento Blues Society's commitment to continuing the education and preservation of Blues music. It is intended to support students in the School of Music within the College of Arts and Letters, California State University, Sacramento, California.



"Charles would really appreciate being remembered in this way," Rick noted.

Rick and the current iteration of the Nightcats have been hugely instrumental in both donating to and publicizing the endowment. On Thursday, March 28, 2024, the Third Annual Little Charlie Baty Celebration Concert with Rick and the Nightcats, Texas guitar legend and Charlie's great friend, Anson Funderburgh, Alabama Mike, Marcel Smith, Kyle Rowland and Quique Gómez, singer and harp man from Spain, will all be raising monies for the scholarship. The event is held yearly at Harlow's in Sacramento.

Tickets are on sale now at harlows.com and at the box office. This special concert ALWAYS sells out, and fans come from all over the world to the show.

Help us get to our \$10K goal. More information about the scholarship here: <https://www.sacblues.org/the-sacramento-blues-society-little-charlie-baty-memorial-music-scholarship.html>


SWELL PRODUCTIONS & THE SACRAMENTO BLUES SOCIETY PRESENT

THE 3RD ANNUAL

LITTLE CHARLIE BATY

CELEBRATION CONCERT

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE SBS LITTLE CHARLIE BATY MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP



RICK ESTRIN & THE NIGHTCATS
W/ SPECIAL GUESTS
ANSON FUNDERBURGH
ALABAMA MIKE
MARCEL SMITH
KYLE ROWLAND
QUIQUE GÓMEZ

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

HARLOW'S

2708 J STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA • ALL AGES

DOORS: 6PM SHOW: 7PM ALL AGES

\$75 (INCLUDES VIP BOOTH SEATING + SIGNED POSTER)
GA: \$40 ADVANCE / \$45 DOS • TIX @ HARLOWS.COM

Aki Kumar Makes His Chico Debut to a Packed Audience

By Shirley McCoy

This show was especially important to me, and I'm writing this review from the perspective of an attendee and as one of the main catalysts in putting this show on. It was a literal dream come true for me.

I met Aki when I was in high school and volunteered for the Delta Blues Festival. I spotted him in the crowd at the benefit concert and he was in the line-up the following year. Since then, we've remained in touch and I always wanted to try to make a show with him happen. When I first started working for KZFR radio in Chico, Aki sent me his CDs and I handed them out to all the blues DJs before I even started DJ'ing myself. My strategy was to get people familiar with his music so that they would be excited to see him play in Chico.

I convinced my boss at the station that we needed to get Aki here and I will be forever grateful he gave me the opportunity to show my Chico community just how badass Aki and his band are. I had one of my first challenges venturing out as a newbie in the show promo business when we had to cancel and reschedule the show from May to October due to an illness. I hoped that people would still be excited, even with the show delay.

I think that everyone was pleasantly surprised by just how awesome



Aki and the band were. They brought the energy, as always! It was one of our best shows in a while, and that's not just me... quite a few people made that comment. He started the show off with "You are my Sunshine" which was

a bold choice but very well-received.

From that first song, people were up on that dance floor shaking their booties to the groove. I've had a standing request for Aki, Muddy Waters "Standing Around Crying" since he does it so well. I purposely did not request it since I figured having him up here to play was all I could've wished for- but the third song in, the band fell into it and there was plenty of slow-grinding out among the crowd.

Aki knows how to command that stage, and had everyone up on their feet and singing along, even if they didn't know what they were singing- everyone had fun during "Eena Meena Deeka".

It was two sets of that uniquely Aki Bollywood-Chicago blues/jazz/psych/reggae fusion, and everyone was amazed at



the band. I'm sure that drummer June Core had just as fun a time celebrating his birthday as we all did. Rome Yamilov was a beast on the guitar... that beautiful slide. And bassist Randy Bermudes... are you kidding me?

It was the highlight of my time at the station and I know everyone is eager to see him again in Chico. We definitely will, sometime in the near future!

electrifying crescendo.

Estrin's sheer magnetism on stage, coupled with his unparalleled musicianship, captivated the entire audience. Every note he played dripped with soul; every lyric tinged with raw emotion. It was an unparalleled performance that left the crowd yearning for more, their souls ablaze with the fire of the blues.



After all these years, one thing remains abundantly clear: Rick Estrin possesses an everlasting enchantment when it comes to the blues. If you ever find yourself with the opportunity to witness his live performance, seize it with unwavering enthusiasm - the experience is guaranteed to leave you spellbound.

Happy birthday, Rick, and thank you for gracing us with an absolutely unforgettable show!

A Casual Conversation with Kyle Rowland

By Barbara Katen

(with shout out to Mick Martin & Mindy Giles)

Representing the Sacramento Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis January 16 – 20, 2024 is our very own Kyle Rowland. I say "our very own" because every one of us feels that Kyle is "ours"! We couldn't be prouder of him as we have watched him grow from a young age, talented beyond his years, to a fine young man and a professional blues musician. I, for one, am thrilled that one day I will be able to say "I knew him when..."

Blue Notes (BN): What came first -- the harmonica or the blues? How did it all begin?

Kyle Rowland (KR): My father is a truck driver; he'd play harmonica to stay awake on the road. As a baby, my parents gave me a harp to teethe on and use as a pacifier. My dad played Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters cassette tapes around the house. At a young age I remember hearing the harp player on the Muddy cassette, later discovering it was James Cotton. Another early memory is the song "I Wanna Be Like You" sung by the orangutan, King Louie, in the Disney animated film *The Jungle Book*. As a toddler I would beg for that part to be rewound, listening to it on repeat, attracted to the music more than the images. Later I discovered that it was performed by jazz legend Louis Prima. I've always been attracted to the melodic and rhythms of blues and Jazz.

BN: Are you continuing to learn about the blues genre? What was the last thing -- big or small -- you discovered?

KR: It seems like every day I learn about someone new I didn't know previously. There are countless cats in the '40s and '50s who may have recorded one song, or under a different name, or using a different instrument. I learn each time I dive down the rabbit hole exploring those rare tracks, from my record collection and friends who share their finds.

BN: What is the most joyful thing about playing music? The biggest challenge?

KR: Playing for myself AND playing for myself. Music is an expression of an individual's emotions. When I play, it makes me feel so good to overcome a struggle or celebrate something in my life.

BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET

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

JANUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

JANUARY 3RD AND JANUARY 10TH
NO SHOW

JANUARY 17TH:
HERALD SESSIONS TRIO
\$13: GA / \$11: SBS MEMBERS

JANUARY 24TH:
LUCKY LOSERS
\$16: GA / \$14: SBS MEMBERS

JANUARY 31ST:
LISA PHENIX BAND
\$15: GA / \$12: SBS MEMBERS

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

Rick Estrin's Birthday Performance

By Daryl Hawkins

Photos by Daryl Hawkins

October 7th 2023, the legendary blues sensation Rick Estrin graced the stage at the Sofia Center to mark his momentous 74th birthday. And boy, did he deliver a show that will go down in history! The electric atmosphere inside the packed venue was ignited by



the mind-blowing blues melodies as Estrin's harmonica prowess took center stage, soaring over the energetic rhythms laid down by the stellar band.

Featuring the sensational guitar skills of Christoffer Lund (Kid) Andersen, the mesmerizing keyboard artistry of Lorenzo Farrell, and the impeccable drumming of D'Mar, this musical dream team created pure sonic magic that enveloped the crowd from the first chord to the

Casual Conversation w. Kyle Rowland, Con't. from P. 6

However, with that, I am my own worst critic and I often question the songs I write and rarely sing them publicly.

BN: Like other bluesmen, you are keeping a genre alive. Is there a particular set of rules of what to do or not to impose on yourself?

KR: There is a difference between showing off for others and just playing for yourself. If you go up on stage, to show how fast you can play a million notes, with the intention of being liked and clapped for, you're doing it wrong. Music shouldn't be about being liked, it's nice to connect to folks with your music, that's definitely a goal, but playing your music should primarily be about what's in your own heart.

BN: In what ways are you a blues purist -- or are you one?

KR: No, I just wish people would take more time with the music and study its origins.

BN: Veteran blues players in Sacramento "adopted" you almost immediately. Do you feel blessed?

KR: I am humbled and forever grateful at the lessons I continue to learn from these veteran blues musicians in Sacramento.

BN: Tell us about your relationship with Rick Estrin.

KR: Rick has been a blessing. When I was a teenager, I used to try to play a million notes a second because I thought it was cool. Rick taught me to really slow down and take my time with the music - one of the best pieces of advice I ever received, that really changed my whole approach to playing harmonica and music in general. I try to visit Rick as much as possible when we aren't working. We'll see movies, check out local BBQ spots, listen to music, and just have a good hang. Rick is always open to sit down and show me something on harp and help me through something I'm stuck on, both with regards to music and situations in life.

BN: James Cotton?

KR: I met Cotton when I was 13, at the Heritage Festival, here in Sacramento. He called me up to sit in on the Muddy Waters song, "Got My Mojo Working." When he returned three years later with Hubert Sumlin, he asked me to sit in again. I would sit in a few more times with Cotton, when he came through California with Matt "Guitar" Murphy. When I drove across the country alone at 19, he invited me over to his home in Austin, TX. Paul Oscher, from the Muddy Waters Band (1968-1972) happened to live four doors down from Cotton. I intended to stay for an afternoon, yet three days later I finally continued my journey east. I would drive to Austin regularly to visit Cotton and his wife, along with Oscher. We'd all stay up till four or five A.M., chatting it up and eating BBQ, only to return in the morning to talk all day long again. Cotton and I would regularly talk on the phone. One of the last conversations I had with him, before he passed, he told me "Love you, man." I nearly cried.

BN: Lazy Lester?

KR: I met Lester when I was about 18 or 19, when he was playing at Po Boyz in Folsom, on the bill with Kenny Neal. Lester opened the show as a solo act and asked me to sit in on the first song. I figured I'd play one, then go sit back down, but after each song,

he would tell me the key of the next song. I played the whole show with him! After that, Lester would hire me to play a bunch of shows with him. We played as a duo at many venues, including The Big Room at Sierra Nevada Brewery, The Salmon Festival in Oroville, and Antone's in Austin, TX. Lester would call me a couple times a week where we would talk for two to three hours about society and fools among us, baseball, and music. I'd visit him at his home in Paradise, CA, as much as possible. We'd stay up drinking beer and he'd teach me a mess of country songs on guitar. He was one of my best friends.

BN: Who were some of your other mentors?

KR: Mick Martin. I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if it weren't for him. Mick was the first person to call me on stage when I was 10 years old, Memorial Day of 2004 at Cal Expo, during the Dixieland Jazz Jubilee. Mick gave me my first formal harmonica lessons and exposed me to blues culture through films and verbal stories featuring iconic bluesmen. Mick is one of the only guys that I can call up and be completely honest with and not fear being judged. He has provided the utmost support to me and my family in our times of struggle and triumph, I am forever in Mick's debt, I appreciate the avenues he has provided and continues to do so. I love him dearly.

BN: When people express an interest in playing harmonica, what do you tell them?

KR: DON'T! Just kidding. Youngsters like Harrell Davenport, Mighty Michael Menderson, and Kiersi Joli, all know I'm always a phone call away to help with a riff they are stuck on or something they want to learn. However, I also encourage them to pursue an education, something more substantial, other than music.

BN: Do you consider yourself a mentor?

KR: Geeze, I hope not. I don't want to be responsible for that mental corruption!

BN: Is the blues enjoying a renaissance?

KR: Since Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan, traditional blues has shifted to be more rock-based. There is a substantially larger population of younger musicians, mostly guitar players, who want to be the next Joe Bonamassa or Johnny Lang, and follow this approach. However, there are a few out there who still want to play the traditional blues like those who played it in the early 1900s -1960s. I think musicians like Charlie Crockett and Leon Bridges, who have crossed over performing traditional soul, country, and blues to amphitheatres of young listeners worldwide, are essential in opening the ears of the next generation. Similar to how the British invasion relaunched the careers of Muddy and Wolf, these guys could be the beginning of the renaissance.

BN: Who are your favorite recorded artists of any genre?

KR: James Carr, Django Reinhardt, Mahalia Jackson, Sam Cooke & The Soul Stirrers, Leadbelly..... how many pages do you have?

BN: Do you or have you ever had a career plan?

KR: During the Covid-19 pandemic, my good friend and guitar partner, Ken Marchese, told me that musicians are as expendable as a court jester. As we saw, musicians lost work and those who played music full-time were forced to find work in fields they never previously thought of, to feed their families. I saw musicians who tour the world, playing to sold out auditoriums and stadiums, door-dashing food and groceries and, in some cases, working construction. Because of this, I decided to return to Sacramento State to obtain my undergraduate degree in Political Science. Beginning in



Photo by Barbara Katen

Casual Conversation w. Kyle Rowland, Con't. from P. 7

January 2024, I plan to start an online graduate program at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego in Christian Ministry. I don't necessarily have a specific plan for a career, as of now; however, I'd like to know a little bit about certain things I'm passionate about. Who knows, maybe I'll go to a trade school for carpentry after I obtain my master's degree. A law degree; even a Ph.D. is not off the table either.

BN: You are on the road more than ever these days. What has this brought into your life?

KR: Connections with really special people across the nation have provided me with the ability to travel and play music in other states and countries.

BN: What's the strangest thing that's happened at a gig? The funniest?

KR: I play nearly every first Sunday at The Saloon in San Francisco. Each time I play there, something strange happens that you'd only see in the movies. The Saloon hasn't changed much since opening in the early 1860's. It's a spectacularly interesting establishment you can only understand if experienced first-hand.

BN: Name the recordings that you love most?

KR: In my opinion, the sounds of tape and tube technology of the mid-century far surpass the clean audio technology of today. But if I were to get specific; anything recorded at Sun, Excello, Chess, Cobra, or Chief studios prior to about 1968 are the recordings I love most.

BN: What are your thoughts about and/or do you have a plan of action for finding people your age interested in the blues, and furthermore the kind of blues you play?

KR: I am on the William Rosebush Scholarship committee for the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica (SPA). We scour the world looking for youngsters to be featured at our annual convention. With the continued development of social media and word of mouth, it has become easier to find others interested in blues.

BN: How do you like teaching and interacting with kids about the blues through the Blues in the Schools (BITS) program?

KR: I got my start in the music industry when I was ten years old. Teaching the next generation through BITS, or any other similar program, is emotionally rewarding. A lot of these kids have no idea what blues or country is. Showing them the historical importance of music and how it shaped the world, all the while providing a potential outlet for those at risk, is important to continue this music we all love.

BN: How are you feeling about representing SBS at the IBC?

KR: The Sacramento Blues Society has been a part of my life for nearly 20 years. Because of the close relationships I have within SBS, representing the Blues Society in Memphis for the International Blues Challenge is more than representing a group of music lovers, it is representing my family.

For more information on Kyle, please visit his website at kylerowlandblues.com

Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings Powerhouse Pub November 5, 2023

By Jan Kelley

The crowd welcomed this stellar Delta slide player and vocalist warmly after a long absence from the Sacramento blues scene. He's back in the saddle again!



Roy Rogers, so named after the Hollywood-cowboy star, entranced us all with his masterful playing on several instruments, most notably the amplified acoustic guitar, giving us the best of an electric sound. His versatility was evident with the use of the double-necked guitar on some of the tunes and also the dobro. To say he's a master on the slide is no exaggeration! Roy's vocals were right on with the familiar Americana, blues roots origin, bringing a story to every song he sang.

Keeping still during this show was not an option for most attendees, as exhibited by the crowded dance floor throughout the afternoon. Sometimes it was a sad ballad, other tunes would allow Rogers to showcase his unique style of playing.

Roy's band (trio) consisted of long-time bass man, the incomparable and popular Steve Ehrmann, who has played with Roy since the 70's and Kevin Hayes on drums, also a long-time member of this band. Notably to me was how Kevin kept a close eye on Roy for any little changes so he would be on top of it. Worth mentioning is Roy's long-time 'roadie' Ralph Baglio, who is also a guitarist, obviously still enjoying the sound of Roy and the DRK as he stood ready to exchange guitars for Roy.

Roy played, toured, and recorded over time with the notorious John Lee Hooker, the late Norton Buffalo, Bonnie Raitt and the late Ray Manzarek. His performance featured different songs taken from his various albums, some sad and some lively, which made for a great afternoon of music.

Let's hope Roy and the Delta Rhythm Kings come back soon! Look for Roy and his band at various venues in California coming your way soon! Go to: roy-rogers.com for their upcoming events.



Why Turquoise?

By Liz Walker

As we begin our 45th year you'll be seeing a lot of the color turquoise surrounding SBS events. Why? As the traditional anniversary gift for 45 years, we are using this beautiful stone throughout the coming year as a symbol of our long-standing tradition of keeping the blues alive.

If you received your beads at the membership gala, please continue to wear them, not only at SBS shows but at other blues shows as well. It's a visible sign that you're part of a hardworking blues society. Say "hello" to others wearing their beads, make new friends (but say hello to anybody/everybody sitting/standing next to you, beads, or no beads!) If you haven't received your beads yet, stop by the SBS table at our events and get some. Let's see how blue(ish) we can get by the next gala when we really celebrate!



THE TORCH CLUB

JANUARY

SAT 6TH - DARYL ROLAND BLUES BAND - 6PM
SAT 6TH - KATIE KNIPP, JR. DEVILLE - 9PM
THU 11TH - CHICKENBONE SLIM - 9PM
FRI 19TH - ELEMENT BRASS BAND - 9PM
FRI 17TH - DARYL ROWLAND BLUES BAND 9PM
THU 25TH - DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS - 9PM
SUN 28TH - SBS BLUES/CARMEN RATTI - 4PM

FEBRUARY

SAT 10TH - RED'S BLUES - 6PM
TUE 13TH - FAT TUESDAY!
SAT 24TH - PETER PETTY ORCHESTRA - 9PM
SUN 25TH - SBS BLUES/HERALD SESSIONS - 4PM
THU 29TH - DANNY SANDOVAL & HIS AMIGOS - 9PM

www.torchclub.net

Valerie Jean Anderson Volunteer Award

By Jan Kelley

This award began in 2017 in recognition of a stalwart SBS volunteer, Valerie Jean Anderson, who was the newsletter editor, parliamentarian, president and so much more, before her passing in 2016.

Traditionally, the award has been presented at the Annual Membership Holiday party. This year, however, the recipient, Linda McShane, was ill and unable to attend, so she was presented with the award at the Starlet on December 13th.

Linda began the duties as Membership Chair in 2000/2001, after inheriting an old MS DOS database. She successfully updated it, not without struggles, continuing to keep it updated-over the years. In addition, Linda has worked at many SBS events to help boost our member-



Photo by Bob Cosman

ship, along with helping in many other ways (set-up, decorations, selling CDs, etc.).

Although she may not have always been visible, Linda has proved herself to be a loyal and valued volunteer over the years. Congratulations Linda!

Previous recipients:

2017 - Cynthia Jaynes

2018 - Daniel Hernandez

2019 & 2020 were impacted by COVID, no award given

2021 - Liz Walker & Bobbie Armstrong

2022 - Cari Chenkin

"Blue Sunday" Update

By Cari Chenkin

Photos by Cari Chenkin & Julio Covington

Due to the last Sunday in September being devoted to our annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Afterparty, there was no Blue Sunday that month. We're reviewing the October and November shows in this issue. December's show will have aired too late to cover in this issue, so you'll find that review in the next Blue Notes.

On deck for January, look for a performance from the Carmen Ratti Band, featuring Jill Dineen on vocals (BTW, they will compete in the 2024 IBC in Memphis, representing the Golden Gate Blues Society) and February's Blue Sunday band will be The Herald Sessions Trio.

We're booked through July of 2024, and remaining spots will go fast, so if you're an SBS member band that has NOT YET played a Blue Sunday, get in touch with us (cariedaway@earthlink.net) as soon as possible to book your date.

October 29 - Cock-A-Doodle-Do! Blue Sunday with Rooster!

By Barbara Katen

On October 29, 2023, a relatively new SBS member band regaled our monthly Blue Sunday crowd with great music. Playing originals and covers, the dance floor was almost continually grooving and moving to their music. As I was "working the door," it became apparent that Rooster's music and sound was attracting people walking by to come into the Torch Club, so they could get a better listen. The afternoon started with a light crowd but was filled by the end of the afternoon. Rooster was THAT GOOD!



The band consists of the following members: Jack Love on bass, Stephen Norris on drums, Jim Keddy on guitar and vocals, Lee Johnson on harmonica and vocals, and Jeff Knorr on guitar and vocals.

In addition to some catchy originals off their album aptly named *Wake Up Call*, Rooster covered some fabulous and fun tunes by the likes of Tom Petty, Old Crow Medicine Show, and others, in addition to some great blues, most notably Robert Johnson's "Sweet Home Chicago". The dance floor was hustling and bustling for most of the show, and everyone seemed to be having a great time. I know I did!



To be honest, I had never heard of Rooster before, but I have now, and I will definitely go to see them again.

For more information on Rooster or to buy their CD or some Rooster merchandise, visit their website at: roosterrockandroll.com.



November 26, Dr. Rock & The Stuff Bring It!
By Cari Chenkin

Dr. Rock & the Stuff was our featured November band, and they brought down the house with a terrific performance, including a light show! When I say "light show" I really mean it – these guys actually had a real "Lighting Director" who set up a plethora of lights and laser displays which really enhanced the show. They brought in an enthusiastic and good-sized crowd, giving the SBS our second-highest



Blue Sunday gross at the door since we began the program in fall 2021!

Band members included Dr. Rock on bass and vocals, Dave Lynch and Michael Gregory on guitars, and Steve Namle on drums. Lee Buralli was the official Lighting Director.



The band started off slow and easy with a couple of mellow tunes including the instrumental "Got Almost Everything I Need". Other classics they performed included Slim Harpo's "Hip Shake Baby", and "On Broadway" (George Benson style). They also included an



original from their first CD. Other selections included "Keep Your Hands to Yourself", Little Walter's "Out Go the Lights", "Secret Agent Man", "Hard to Handle", "You've Got to Move", "Stop Breakin'

Down", Carl Perkins' "Matchbox", "Just Can't Be Satisfied" and more. They even included an original track, "Jari Pole" that



they donated to our 2021 member band CD project *Back in Business!*

For the last set they segued into more "rock/jam" territory which included a great rendition of Tear for Fears'



"Everybody Wants to Rule the World". All in all, it was a terrific show and was very well received by the audience.

Editor's Note: Because our Annual Holiday Gala and Membership Meeting is such a big event, we had TWO volunteers who wanted to write about it! So here are two different reviews of our event.

SBS Holiday Gala By Shirley McCoy
SBS Hits It Out of the Ballpark, Again!

Holiday Gala Photos by: Bob Hakins, Tina Abbaszadeh, Daryl Hawkins, Janet Hongola and Cynthia Juarez

I remember seeing Gino Matteo play years ago at the Delta Blues Festival, so was familiar with Sugaray through Gino, though I'd never seen him live before. I knew that Mindy would bring some top-notch talent for our holiday party, of course. Only the best for all of us Sac Blues Society members - what a treat it was!

I brought my dad, my boyfriend, and a few friends with me - a few new happy and excited members of the Blues Society. From the moment the band started, they commanded the room. I could see why Sugaray is a favorite. The energy of that whole band was infec-

tious. There was definitely some powerful and beautiful synergy between all of the band members as they all got an equal chance to showcase their talents - Danny on guitar (ah-freaking-mazing), Drake on keys leading the whole band, Allen thumping that bass, Derrick and Julian with those awesome horns (I've always loved horns in a band), and Ramon keeping the beat.



You could see the band's versatility when Sugaray called out for a country beat, then reggae, soul, etc. Then when Drake went into

that "Comfortably Numb" cover and tickled those keys it was like the whole room got sent into a surrealistic trip only further amplified by that scorching white-hot but absolutely gorgeous solo by Danny and then when Sugaray came in with the "AH-AH-AH-AH" it was a perfect cherry on top. I looked over at



my companions and everyone's jaws were dropped and I swear I saw a few misty eyes. That was definitely a big highlight.

The band was so fun, and the whole evening was so lovely. I was honored to make it onto the Board, everyone made me feel so welcome. Thanks to everyone who worked so



hard to put the party together and for the people who encouraged me to step up to put myself out there and try for the Board like

Rex, Mindy, Sally, Barbara, Julio, Lynette.

We're all so lucky to have such top-notch people leading this blues society. And what an awesome accomplishment it is to be one of the oldest blues societies



on the West Coast. I'll definitely be wearing those turquoise beads proudly at any upcoming shows and proudly boast about the Sacramento Blues Society even up here in Chico!

A Night to Remember: Sacramento Blues Society Gala

By Daryl Hawkins

Featuring Sugaray Rayford

On the unforgettable evening of December 3, music lovers and blues enthusiasts gathered at the prestigious Sacramento Blues Society Gala. Headlining the event was the incredible blues sensation, Sugaray Rayford, accompanied



by his talented band members. Additionally, the gala provided an opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated members of the Sacramento Blues

Society Board of Directors. This review chronicles the enchanting performance of Sugaray Rayford, while also celebrating the Society's remarkable 45-year journey.

Sugaray Rayford and the Band:

Sugaray Rayford took the stage by storm, captivating the audience with his soulful voice and commanding stage presence. Demonstrating his mastery over blues, rhythm, and blues, Rayford delivered an electrifying performance



that left the audience spellbound. His exceptional vocal range and energy permeated through each note, putting the "sacramental" in the Sacramento Blues Society Gala.

Supporting Rayford with phenomenal instrumental prowess were his talented

band members. Their seamless synchronization and extraordinary skill added depth and richness to every song. It would be remiss not to mention the band members who lent their exceptional talent to this remarkable performance:



Danny Avila, guitar

Julian 'JuJu' Davis, trumpet

Derrick DJ Martin Jr, saxophone

Drake Munkihaid Shining, Keys

Ramon Michael, drums

Together, the band contributed seamlessly to the atmosphere, elevating the



performance to new heights. Their collective ability to read each other's cues and create musical magic was a testament to

their extensive experience and dedication.

Celebrating the Sacramento Blues Society Board:

During the intermission, the gala took a moment to acknowledge the hardworking and passionate members of the Sacramento Blues Society board. These individuals, driven by a love for the blues



and a desire to preserve its legacy, have played an instrumental role in promoting and fostering the local blues scene.

Their tireless efforts to organize events, support local musicians, and spread the joy of blues music have



been pivotal in ensuring the Sacramento Blues Society's



growth and success over the past 45 years. Their dedication deserves our utmost appreciation and gratitude.

Dedication to the Blues for Four and a Half Decades:

The Sacramento Blues Society has been an unwavering cornerstone of the blues community for an impressive 45 years. Since its inception, the Society has continuously



worked to provide a platform for blues artists to showcase their talent, connect with fellow musicians, and engage with their devoted fanbase.

Through countless galas, concerts, workshops, and outreach programs, the Sacramento Blues Society has fostered a vibrant and nurturing environment for blues lovers. They have contributed to the preservation of this cherished American music genre, ensuring its legacy for future generations.

An Unforgettable Evening

The "sacramental" blues ex-



perience brought by Sugaray Rayford at the Sacramento Blues Society Gala was nothing short of extraordinary. With his band members and

their collective talent, Rayford delivered a performance that will be etched in the memories of all who attended. This gala also presented an opportunity to recognize the dedication and contribution of the Sacramento Blues Society board, whose



efforts have kept the spirit of

the blues alive for nearly half a century. Here's to another 45 years of celebrating and nurturing the blues, thanks to the Sacramento Blues Society.



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BLUES & BOURBON WEDNESDAYS AT THE STARLET
IN MIDTOWN (ABOVE HARLOW'S) (2705 J ST. SACRAMENTO)

FEBRUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 7TH:
ALABAMA MIKE & THE MIGHTY REVELATORS
\$22: GA / \$20: SBS MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 14TH:
MICK MARTIN BIG BLUES BAND
\$26: GA / \$24: SBS MEMBERS @ HARLOW'S

FEBRUARY 22ND:
THURSDAY - TBA! STAY TUNED!

FEBRUARY 28TH:
ZEN VUDU W/ DANA MORET
\$18: GA / \$15: SBS MEMBERS

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

Stan Alves
Nancy Blackburn
Christopher Carlisle
Cari Chenkin
Roni Cook
Nanette Cordell
Renee Erickson Sullivan
Mindy Giles
RW & Beth Grigsby
Amanda Johnson
Jan Kelley
Roger & Judith Patterson
William Santos
Donita Romero & Scott Berenson

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Paula Spreitzer
Yvonne "Pinkie" Rideau Varner
Charlie Wheeler
Shawn & Cheryl Ridley

Michael Solomon
Dave Stolecki
Liz Walker
Steven White

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Sacramento Blues Society Member Bands

Need music for an event or an occasion? Hire an SBS Member Band! And buy their CDs!

Almost Blue

www.almostbluesacramento.com

Amy Celeste & the Best

amycelestemusic.com

The Angel Reyes Band

m.angelreyes53@gmail.com

The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra

www.anthonypaule.com

Big Earl & the Cryin' Shame

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Earl

Blind Lemon Peel

www.blindlemonpeel.com

The Bluez Houndz

nmurray22@att.net

The Bobby Young Project

www.bobbyyoungproject.com

The Carmen Ratti Band

www.carmenrattiband.com/

Chaz and Jess

www.chazandjess.com

Chicken & Dumpling

www.chickenanddumpling.net

Chrissie O'Dell & The Real Deal

chrissieodell@gmail.com

Danny Sandoval & His Amigos

https://dannysandoval.com

The Daryl Rowland Blues Allstars

https://www.facebook.com/darylrowland

Dave Croall & The Soothers

www.soothersblues.com

The Dave Earl Band

www.davearl.com

The Dave Segal Band

www.davesegalband.com

Dr. Rock & The Stuff

www.bookthestuff.com

The Evan Thomas Blues Band

evanthomasbluesband.com

Gloria T & The Master Groovers

www.mzgloriat.com

Guitar Mac Blues Express

www.guitarmac.net

Herald Sessions

goatburglar@gmail.com

The Hucklebucks

www.thehucklebucks.com

Jazz Cowgirl

www.avadupree.com

Jeremy Norris & The Blues Cartel

www.dangerousblues.com

Julie & the Jukes

http://julieandthejukes.com

The Luni Tones

info@rickreedpr.com

The Mick Martin Big Blues Band

www.reverbNation.com/mick-martinsbigbluesband

The Midtown Creepers

jmcguire@comcast.net

Nedra & Julio NJR Music

www.njrmusic.com

The Neon Moon Band

www.neonmoon.band

Papa Day Blues Band

www.oldbluesdude.com

Pascal Bokar AfroBlueGrazz Band

www.pascalbokar.com

Pinkie Rideau & Blioux Gumbo

https://pinkie-rideau-1.ueniweb.com

The Ray "Catfish" Copeland Band

www.raycastfishcopeland.com

Red's Blues

www.redsbluesband.com

Rick Estrin & The Nightcats

www.rickestrin.com

The Rockin' Souls

https://www.facebook.com/p/Rockin-Souls-100086431375411/

Rooster

https://roosterrockandroll.com

Rowland & Tumblin'

www.kylerowlandblues.com

Tim Noxon Rockin' Blues Band

www.facebook.com/TimNoxon-RockinBluesBand

Todd Morgan & The Emblems

toddmorganmusic.com

Tony & The Tuff Times

www.facebook.com/tattblues

The West Coast Playboys w. Andy Santana

https://westcoastplayboys.com

The William Mylar Band

www.williammylar.com

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www.facebook.com/zennvudu/

Zola Moon

www.zolamoon.com



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