



# Capital Blues Messenger

May 2009

Volume 3 Issue 5



Photo courtesy Cathy Mills

## Bryan Lee

### Festival Fundraiser July 18, 2009

Details on Page 6



THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC
20013-7315

www.dcblues.org

Hotline:

202-962-0112



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

The DCBS' newsletter, The Capital Blues Messenger, is published monthly (unless otherwise noted).

Send changes in name, address or membership status to membership@dcblues.org or mail to DCBS Attn: Membership at the address listed above.

The Capital Blues Messenger is your publication and members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas for articles, reviews, cartoons and photography.

Blues listings for bands should be sent to calendar@dcblues.org or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd. College Park, MD 20740.

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

Table with 2 columns: Article Title, Page Number. Includes 'President's Drum' (3), 'Interview with Bryan Lee' (3/6), 'Festival Audition Recap' (4), '5th Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike Contest' (9), 'Music Calendar' (10). Footer: Cover Photo by Cathy Mills. Unless otherwise noted, photos and articles were contributed by DCBS board members and editors. This issue is © 2009 DC Blues Society

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Membership Application/Renewal

Form fields: Date, Name (please print clearly), Address, City/State/Zip Code, Telephone, E-mail, Renewal? (Y) (N)

Dues per year (circle appropriate one): Student: \$15 (Include photocopy of student ID) Individual: \$25 Family: \$35 Corporate: \$200 Canada: \$35 (US funds) Other Countries: \$50 (US funds)

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

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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.

ADVERTISE IN THE DCBS CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

AD RATES

Table with 2 columns: Ad Type, Rate. Includes Business card (\$20), 1/8 page (\$25), 1/4 page (\$40), 1/3 page (\$55), 1/2 page (\$75), 2/3 page (\$110), Full page (\$140)

Ads should be at least 200 dpi; optimum 300 dpi. PDF or JPG preferred. Print edition is in black & white. For on-line rates, go to www.dcblues.org Questions? Email: ads@dcblues.org

# President's Drum

## Festival Auditions: Congratulations to Capital Blues Ensemble!

Ten bands competed on April 18 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DC Blues Festival Auditions for a spot in the DCBS 21<sup>st</sup> Annual DC Blues Festival. After the dust settled, the Capital Blues Ensemble emerged the winner. CBE will also get to perform at the First Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival. The bands performed twenty minutes sets and were scored by a panel of judges in four categories: Blues Content, Talent, Originality, and Stage Presence. There was lots of talent on display at this year's event. Hugh Feely & Talk is Cheap and Ida Campbell & The Blues Nation were clearly crowd pleasers. (See Page 4 for audition review and photos). The judges scored the two bands neck and neck, with Ida and her band only a tenth of a point behind Feely. The crowd was not as large as last year's auditions and DCBS fell short of its expectations for donations. DCBS depends on donations to cover the free auditions and food and support the annual festival. However, the weather was perfect, the music exciting, and the food fabulous. Thanks to all the bands who participated and the volunteers who did magnificent jobs as judges, event organizers, operations, food prep and service. I hope more of you will make it next year to hear talent very much worth your time — and donations to DCBS.

## He's Baaaaaack! CW Harrington Plays the Surf Club Live!

CW Harrington's scheduled return to the Surf Club Live! was aborted in March due to the club's unexpected closing. The old saw, "Good things come to those who wait," holds up in this instance as CW and his dynamic band will be back in the Surf Club Live! On Saturday, May 2 at 8:30 pm. CW plays a mean guitar and sings and swings with heated intensity. The two-piece horn section sets off this versatile and energetic band.

I'll say it again: If you missed CW Harrington at our ObamaRama Pre-Inaugural Party, correct yourself before you regret yourself! See you in the house. Get tickets at [www.dcb Blues.org](http://www.dcb Blues.org) or call 301-322-4808.

## Silver Spring Blues Festival in Downtown Silver Spring

You don't want to miss this free festival co-sponsored by DCBS on Saturday, May 9 from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Silver Fountain on Ellsworth Drive, downtown Silver Spring. The festival headliner is internationally acclaimed bluesman Memphis Gold. Our own DC Blues Society Band debuts at the festival and includes band leader and second guitarist Sam'i Nuriddin, Sam Brawner (drums), Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark (harmonica), Dave Jackson (bass) and featured guest vocalist/guitarist Ivan "Illinois Slim" Jackson. Also sharing the stage is Silver Spring's own Jonny Grave, the youth blues band Three Chords and the Truth, and of course, the DC Blues Festival audition winner, Capital Blues Ensemble. Dr. S.O. Feelgood and Dale Music will be on hand with a musical instrument petting zoo for children. Face painting artists and Stokey the Clown will also provide entertainment for the whole family.

## New Orleansian Bryan Lee Featured in Festival Fundraiser

Bryan Lee and The Blues Power Band will shake up the Surf Club Live! on Saturday, July 18. I talked with Bryan Lee last week by phone. The interview begins below and continues on Page 6.

Blues Always,



*"People used to ask me, 'Why are you working so hard at all these stupid little bars, who cares?' But hey there are people who care. I have to be sincere about it. In all walks of life you search for sincerity and there doesn't seem to be a whole lot of it.*

*I really feel the good Lord has blessed me with this gift and if I can reach 2 or 3 people in an audience I feel I have done a good job. I believe that I have a gift that makes people smile and I want to share that." "The Braille Blues Daddy" Bryan Lee*

CBM: You've mentioned your faith in God. Are you particularly religious?

B.L.: Definitely. God often gives you something else in place of some-

thing. [My sight was replaced] by good ears and a good voice. I had a bad accident 15 years ago. I fell down three flights of stairs and bounced outta window. Half of my diaphragm was paralyzed. I only have 50% lung capacity. Only the grace of God [helped me survive] with those odds. I found God after my first marriage broke up in 1977. I was living by myself in Milwaukee. I had to cross a couple of busy streets. Nobody was around. I took a deep breath— and made it to the other side. I didn't do that by myself. That's the day I found God. Never lost him since. So, I share my gifts with people. The Blues is a Black art form [born] from pain and suffering. It's divine music. It's victorious music. It chose me. As I get older I understand that better. [Through the Blues] I teach people about harmony between races. I only see hearts and minds.

CBM: How does your faith inspire or affect your music?

B.L.: I love people. Sometimes with this emotion I'm just on! It feels right. Everything's working. It's a heavy spiritual feeling.

CBM: When and why did you decide to start playing guitar and the Blues?

B.L.: My [maternal] Grandma had a guitar. She called it her Hawaiian guitar. It was tuned to an A-chord. I thought it was cool. Around that time I still had some vision. I was about five years old and I would pound on that guitar for hours. We had a record player and plenty music. Mom was a singer in barbershop quartets. As a kid I liked adult music. Mom bought me an acoustic guitar when I was about 11.

I went to blind school where I listened to radio stations in Little Rock, Shreveport, and Nashville—all playing the Blues. Later in the night they'd play gospel. I'd lie under the covers after lights out and softly listen through the night. I couldn't put it away. My mom said she didn't know if I should be listening to that Negro music...I couldn't get the record, *Tutti Frutti*, by Lil Richard. But I could get it by Pat Boone. I didn't want Boone's version.

I got my first electric guitar at 15 and formed my first band. We played music by Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry, the Kings (B.B., Albert, and Freddie) and Howlin' Wolf. I enjoyed doing the screamers. I tried to quit [a number of times]. It wasn't easy to sit in, hop in the car, etc. But something would always prevent it, like a very good gig. At 38, I decided to stick with it. The Blues kept calling me, no matter how hard things got. I'd pick up my guitar, hit those bent notes, and lift my spirits.

CBM: You say you want to "hit folks between the ribs with your music and make something stick." How do you accomplish that?

B.L.: I take a bit from everybody. On my last four to five CDs, I've had more control. I grab obscure recordings, like Buddy Guy's "Early in the Morning," which will be on my next CD [release date August-September 2009] Buddy will make a guest appearance. The new CD will also feature an original, "My Lady Don't Love My Lady," [about the tension between the love for my woman and the love for my guitar]. I'd say 65% of the material on my CDs is original. I like minor grooves. I love to bring lots of energy to the stage, like the Kings.

CBM: What led you to move from Wisconsin to New Orleans in 1982?

B.L.: I wanted to live in Chicago. But I couldn't get settled there. I hate snow and cold weather. I played through Alabama, Mississippi, and finally came to New Orleans and played at Tipitina's. [I discovered] a great after-hours club called Blue Saloon a couple blocks off Bourbon St where I sat in with the band. The next day I went to the French Quarter and a voice said, "This is home."

CBM: Did you suffer any culture shock?

B.L.: I loved it! I had read lots of books on New Orleans. And I loved the food and seasonings.

CBM: Why is it important for your music to make the audience happy?

B.L.: That's my job, sharing my gift. I'm supposed to. I was impressed by B.B. King, who would play longer to a smaller audience.

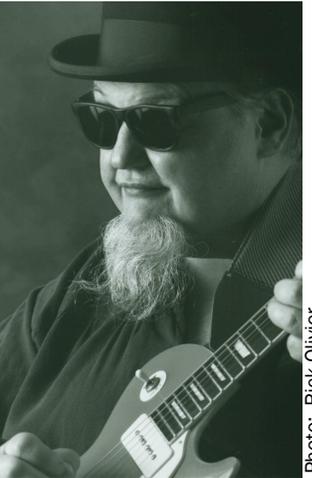


Photo: Rick Olivier

Interview continues on Page 6



Photos from Festival Audition: (R-1) Capital Blues Ensemble celebrate their win; audition judges listening to performers. (R-2) CBE in the act; Corinne & Sheila with a fist full of dollars; soulful dancer. (R-3) Celina Wood getting food service area in order; Ida Campbell and The Blues Nation turn up the heat; Hugh Feeley on harp. (R-4) CBE's Swamp Dog; timekeeper Tina McCloud (middle) with friends; DCBS dancers

### DCBS Festival Audition

The DC Blues Society's Festival Audition Competition last month at the Surf Club Live was once again a great opportunity for Blues fans to get together and listen to some good music, enjoy good food (free!) and boogie all night. A variety of musicians competed for a chance to be the opening act at this year's Annual DC Blues Festival.

Audition participants — Erbiun Blue; The Sherwood Blues Band; Kimiesha & D Space; Rose Between Thorns; Fat Roberta; Hugh Feeley & Talk Is Cheap; Tony Porter; Ida Campbell & The Blues Nation; Jenn & The Tonics; and Capital Blues Ensemble — entertained us with their unique, energetic and enthusiastic attempts to influence the panel of judges who scored each band on the basis of the "blues" content of their performances, talent, original-

ity and stage presence.

The winner — Capital Blues Ensemble! From the smooth horn section of Brian Falkowski on saxophone and Gary Hendrickson on trumpet and fluglehorn, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark's wailing harmonica, Art Mckinney's rocking drums, Bill Carey further driving rhythm on bass, Ian Walters' energetic piano to John Vengrouskie on guitar and lead vocals, they wowed the judges and the crowd. Not only did they win a slot in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Washington, DC, on Saturday, September 5, 2009, (for updates, visit [www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org)) but also an opportunity to perform at the First Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival in Downtown Silver Spring, MD, on May 9, 2009 (Page 5).

Capital Blues Ensemble describes itself as a band that has grown from "humble yet eccentric blues/jazz/reggae beginnings" into a

"horn-loaded, stage-filling thang that aims to make folks dance and keep bartenders busy" using their "blues, hip R&B arrangements and story-drenched lyrics" full of "SEX, LOVE, DEATH, REVENGE, LOST HEARTS, LOST LIVES & LOST MONEY." This "damn-fine collection of musical mercenaries" with their irresistible grooves and poignant solos "regularly break rules other bands only suspect exist." Visit their website: [www.capitalbluesensemble.com](http://www.capitalbluesensemble.com).

Congratulations also to second place winner, Hugh Feeley & Talk Is Cheap, whose fine harp playing on a mix of his original tunes and blues standards got the crowd warmed up nicely, and third place winner Ida Campbell & The Blues Nation. Campbell's infectious funk got people right up out of their seats and onto the dance floor, screaming for more.

A big thanks to that panel of judges, Neil Senning, Elliot Gross, Alan Bowser, Steven Lavenhar, Robin Kessler and Steve Trow, who had the unenviable job of choosing just one winner from a lineup of great performances. You did a great job! To score keeper, Mona Kotlarsky, and timekeeper, Tina McCloud, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this possible, thank you for your help.

Thanks also to Ida Campbell who interviewed members of Capital Blues Ensemble and Hugh Feeley on WFPW during her show on Friday April 24.

### Annual Battle of the Blues Announced

The annual Battle of The Bands has been scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2009. The winner will represent the DC Blues Society at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual International Blues Challenge in February 2010 in Memphis, TN. Also, the winner will perform at two DCBS events: *WinnerFest*, Saturday, November 11, a fundraiser to help to defray the band's IBC expenses, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Barron in September, 2010.

We know there is some great talent out there as evidenced by the performances at the Festival auditions. The deadline for entering is August 17, 2009. Because the winner will compete at IBC, certain rules and restrictions apply. Competition information, rules and entry form are posted on the DCBS website [www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org). Additional information about IBC is available on The Blues Foundation website: [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).

### Blues Wax Tribute to John Cephas

Thanks to the editors and staff of the on-line magazine *Blues Wax* (subscription is free) for it's wonderful tribute to John Cephas.

Go to its website for photos and many heart-felt and funny stories about Cephas: [www.visnat.com/entertainment/music/blueswax/](http://www.visnat.com/entertainment/music/blueswax/) and click on Blues Bytes.

## First Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival

This FREE event takes place on Ellsworth Drive in Downtown Silver Spring, MD 20910. For information: [www.silverspringblues.com](http://www.silverspringblues.com)  
The festival features acoustic and electric blues musicians, crafts, face painting, magicians, Stokey the Clown and a musical instrument petting zoo (courtesy of Dr. S.O. Feelgood and Dale Music) and more.

Start the day at the Silver Spring Farmers Market (9 am-1 pm) and stay for the free Blues Festival. Relax and enjoy the music at one of

the many restaurants providing outdoor seating or bring your own chairs along with your dancing shoes! Ample free parking in public lots or take the Red Line to the Silver Spring Metro Station.

### SCHEDULE (subject to change)

2:00–2:20 pm *Three Chords and the Truth*

2:25–2:55 pm *Jonny Grave*

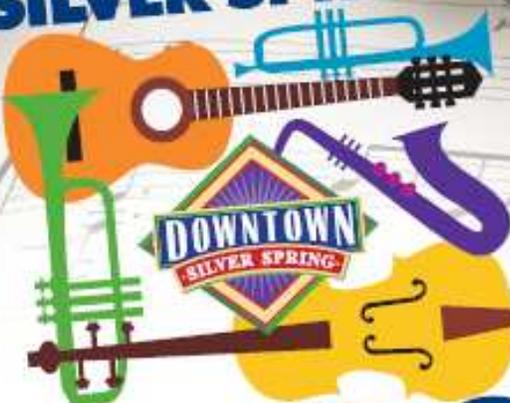
3:05–3:50 pm *Capital Blues Ensemble*

4:00–4:50 pm *The DC Blues Society Band*

5:00–6:00 pm *Memphis Gold*

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CBM: You've done 10 albums or CDs since 1991 averaging a couple years a part. To what do you attribute what some might call your prolific output?

B.L.: A good record label [Montreal-based Justin Time Records]. They don't understand the American hustle game. I have total control of my music.

CBM: You have been with Justin Time Records since your first album. How did you end up on the label?

B.L.: Some folks from an independent record label convention in New Orleans came by the Old Absinthe Bar where I was playing with my six-piece group. Justin Time President, Jim West, [who was among them] asked me if I was signed and interested in being the label's first Blues artist.

CBM: Do you now have a new regular gig in New Orleans after playing the Old Absinthe Bar on Bourbon St. for 15 years?

B.L.: After Hurricane Katrina, I was on the road continuously. Starting in December 2008 I worked at Club Cocoa four nights a week. The club went through some ownership changes and was closed down for a few months. It's open again and I do Thursdays and Fridays there.

CBM: What happened to the Old Absinthe Bar?

B.L.: It's now a daiquiri shop.

CBM: Were you displaced by hurricane Katrina?

B.L.: No. I didn't make out so bad. My house had only a little wind damage. I was outta town the day before Katrina for two weeks afterward. Water was all around me. But, everything was just like I left it. The third day after returning, the power came back on. [Good thing], it was hot! But my studio was destroyed.

CBM: Did Katrina change your life or music?

B.L.: When I went to the studio, there were cars upside down in trees because the water rose so high. The studio was still standing, but I couldn't open the door. Water hit from the back and pushed stuff against the door. We broke it down. The smell was unbelievable. I lost tapes, records, a killer stereo, and 15 vintage guitar amps. I picked up an amp by the handle and it fell apart. The waterline was six inches from the ceiling. The devastation got to me. My faith in God grabbed me. It was only stuff. I had no missing or dead loved ones. [The experience] made me much more appreciative and aware of other people.

A minister told me that people were dying from broken hearts...Lots of things [in New Orleans] I loved are gone. Leases on clubs were cancelled. A new wave of owners came to town. Restaurants are fine. But the clubs are totally different. They go for younger crowds. The only club with Blues is where I work [Club Cocoa]. [After this gig] I don't see ever working in the French Quarter again. There's not really a good club for the over-30 crowds.

CBM: What do you think about the rescue and recovery efforts in New Orleans and surrounding areas?

B.L.: New Orleans [as we knew it] is gone, I'm afraid. There are no signs of what was here. Katrina displaced mostly Blacks and flooded areas where projects were.

CBM: How much time do you spend on the road?

B.L.: 10 months. I just bought a motor home with a bed, kitchen, bathroom, shower, and TV. If I was really making big money, I could afford a satellite dish.

CBM: What would you like to accomplish or experience in your musical career that you haven't yet?

B.L.: I'd like one of my albums to win a Blues Music Award. I'd like to be able to win a B.B. King Entertainer of the year award. I work hard at it. In the end though, I want the Good Lord to say: "Job well done." As Cootie Stark said: "I never seen no U-haul behind a hearse."

CBM: The Surf Club Live is an authentic roadhouse joint with a big wood dance floor, dark as a cave, with chairs and tables that have been around possibly as long as the 54-year old club. How do you feel about playing such a

spot? What can folks expect from your performance?

B.L.: I love it! Everyone should expect a lot of energy. I'm looking forward to it.



Photo: Bryan Lee

Experience the dynamic music of Bryan Lee and the Blues Power Band, Saturday, July 18, 2009, 8:30 pm-12:30 am at Surf Club Live! This is a fundraiser in support of the 21st Annual DC Blues Festival.

Get advance tickets and save! \$15 member/ \$20 nonmember ; \$25 at door. Order on-line at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) or call 301-322-4808

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At the Gate: 1 Day \$65 / 2 Days \$115

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## Saturday

- Los Lonely Boys
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Ana Popovic
- The Lonnie Brooks Band
- Davy Knowles & Back Door Slam
- Sugar Blue
- The Chesapeake Bay Ladies of Blues with Deanna Bogart, Melanie Mason, Patty Reese and Nadine Rae

## Sunday

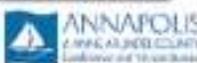
- Jonny Lang
- Eric Burdon and the Animals
- Shemekia Copeland
- Lydia Pense & Cold Blood
- The Nighthawks featuring Hubert Sumlin
- Zac Harmon
- Albert Cummings

Artists & times are subject to change without notice.

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### 5th Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike Contest



Photo: Ron Weinstock

Saturday, August 1, 2009  
4 pm -11 pm  
Admission: \$12 (includes fish dinner)  
Bike Contest Registration: \$5.00  
First Place Winner: \$100.00  
Second Place Winner: \$50.00

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### Henry Chung: Hong Kong Blues Scene



Photo: Ron Weinstock

I returned to Hong Kong (HK) in September 2006 and can report there seems to be a minor resurgence in the blues scene here although the recent economic tsunami does not render the situation wholly favorable. Audience love the blues even though we are not nurtured in its history and some can't tell the difference between jazz and blues. However, whenever blues music is played, the audience always enjoys it, gets up and dances. That's a good start.

There aren't many "official cats" in HK, but we managed to bring in international acts such as Duke Robillard, Mitch Woods, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Georgie

Fame, Zoot Money, Paul Lamb and the Kingsnakes, etc. These shows are usually packed, often with ex-pats.

There are some notable local players whom I brought to the forefront of the blues scene:

- 1) Tommy Chung, the foremost blues guitarist in HK, released three albums distributed by EMI. He's famous for finger-picking on the National Steel guitar.
- 2) Helter Skelter, a young blues, rock band led by Vincent Lam, is deeply rooted in the blues tradition with a touch of Stevie Ray Vaughan.
- 3) Jesrael Lucero, a young blind piano sensation, is well-versed in all kinds of music but with a great touch on blues and boogie-woogie piano in the tradition of Fats Waller and Meade Lux Lewis.
- 4) Anthony Fernandes, an authentic shuffle drummer who has paid his dues with legends such as Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Eddy Clearwater, Bobby Rush, Guitar Shorty and Carey Bell.

DC-based piano phenom Bill Heid, despite his busy schedule at Ritz Carlton, Guangzhou, China, managed to stop by HK a couple of times to sit in with my blues band. We played some crowd-pleasing post-war blues (a la Willie Mahon, Roosevelt Sykes, Wynonie Harris, and Sonny Boy Williamson). What a show!

As for me, in addition to putting together many sold-out blues shows, I'm also lending my harmonica help to Canto pop artists. Some of their songs have made it to the top of the HK charts. My brother Roger Chung and I will release our first gospel CD in June 2009. It features Bill Heid on the organ and Howard McCrary, gospel Grammy vocal nominee. We hope you'll give your support when it comes out.

Henry Chung  
Hong Kong

# The TINNER HILL BLUES FESTIVAL

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN JACKSON  
Friday June 12th through Sunday June 14th

Friday June 12th at the State Theatre in Falls Church ([www.statetheatre.com](http://www.statetheatre.com))  
Down Home Blues — Featuring Chuck Brown Singing the Blues accompanied by The Bobby Parker Blues Night Band and Mr. Bobby Parker

Saturday June 13th at Cherry Hill Park in Falls Church VA  
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Sunday June 14th — Blues Brunch & Jam at Bangkok Blues Art show and MSG Band



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4711 Kenilworth Ave, Hyattsville, MD



**Editor Notes from the Jersey Shore**

About 300 miles from NJ and the ocean, there is a very small town in northwest Pennsylvania called Jersey Shore. The road sign made me smile every time I saw it as I drove through to my hometown of Olean, NY. Took me years to get to the *other* Jersey Shore and it was a jazz festival that did it. Yes, jazz, the relative of the blues that divides my loyalties and often, my time. This year's Cape May Jazz Festival gave blues a big spotlight. So, while DCBS was holding its Festival Auditions at the Surf Club Live, I was sitting in a high school in Cape May, NJ, listening to James Cotton backed by a marvelous band. Its members included Slam Allen, guitar and vocals, Noel Neal, bass, Kenny Neal, Jr., drums, and Tom Holland, guitar. Age may have slowed him down but musically, Cotton still plays a soulful and sweet harp. He rarely spoke, relying instead on the band and his music to convey the message. Allen, an absolute delight, does most of the vocals, and instrumentally, it doesn't get much better when members of the Neal family are on stage. Noel is a madman on bass and Kenny, Jr., a third generation bluesman, has been playing since he was 2. Back stage, I got to meet Mr. Cotton and the band. I'm beginning to think this editor thing is paying off! James Cotton will be at Blues Alley July 23-24.

Later that night I caught another associate of Muddy Waters (Cotton joined Muddy's band in 1955), Chicago bluesman Eddie Shaw with The Wolf Gang. I got there for the last set and as the club began to shut down around 1 am, it was obvious that Shaw (vocals, sax, harp), who had already played for four hours, was just hitting his stride. The previous night, it was Texas singer/guitarist Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones who kept the crowds on the dance floor. Although I was not familiar with Jones, who played with Freddie King, Charlie Musselwhite, Katie Webster and others, I left the club a definite fan.

DC's own Juke Joint Central featuring Dick Smith (vocals) and Greg Lamont (keyboards) closed out the blues side of the festival. Smith, who

organizes Friday night jazz at Westminster Church in DC, is fond of saying "the more you drink, the better we sound" but my enjoyment of JJC had nothing to do with the excellent bloody marys at Cabanas. Smith is one of DC's finest vocalists which explains why dozens of festival attendees from DC were on hand for his performance so far from home. Yes, I got to hear some good jazz too like Sharón Clark (another of DC's best), Odean Pope and a bunch of dynamic young kids. It was a great weekend and a great start to the festival season.

If you plan to attend some and would like to share your views of the festivals, artists, CDs, photos, etc., let us know. *CBM* is your publication and your contributions are always welcome and appreciated. Email to [editor@dcblues.org](mailto:editor@dcblues.org). See ya soon!

— MK

**Requiem**

**Josh Basson:** April 13. To his wife Marcie, his family and friends, the DC Blues Society extends its most heartfelt sympathies. Josh was well-known and well-loved by the music community. On April 1, there was a fundraiser on his behalf at JV's Restaurant. Portions of the benefit, as well as a few other videos of Josh singing, can be seen on YouTube. From his friend Jonny Steinman "we have lost a great man, a man with huge heart, a huge talent, a great human being, and a brother."

**The Rev. Timothy Wright** (61), April 23. A Grammy-nominated gospel composer and singer died almost a year after an auto accident that killed his wife, Betty, and grandson, DJ. He was paralyzed in the accident. The "Godfather of Gospel" had recorded over a dozen gospel albums, his last released in 2007. He made his home in Brooklyn, NY.

**Randy Cain** (63), April 9. Cain was a founding member of the Philadelphia singing group, The Delfonics, one of the earliest group labeled "Philly-sound" and had several hits including "La La Means I Love You" and "Didn't I Blow Your Mind This Time."



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**FEATURING:**

<p>The Derek Trucks Band                  Roomful of Blues                  Jimmy Thackery and The Drivers                  Campbell Brothers                  Lil' Ed &amp; The Blues Imperials                  Janiva Magness                  The Mike Stern Band                  Bonerama</p>	<p>Willie "Big Eyes" Smith                  The Nighthawks                  Ruby Hayes Blues Band                  Choctetooth Afrofunk Big Band                  Bad Influence Band                  The Kelly Bell Band                  Jumptown                  Rhythm Kings                  Ronnie Ray</p> <p><small>*Listed artist roster is subject to change.</small></p>
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**BLUES-FEST.ORG**

**For more information call: 301-739-8577, ext. 116 or visit [www.blues-fest.org](http://www.blues-fest.org)**

Supported in part by: The City of Hagerstown, Maryland State Arts Council and Washington County Arts Council.



May Music Calendar

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event details. Includes events like 'BG & Mojo Hands @ Potomac Grille', 'CW Harrington @ Surf Club Live', 'DCBS Jam @ Surf Club Live', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event details. Includes 'Western Maryland Blues Festival Hagerstown, MD; 29th Annual Washington Folk Festival @ Glen Echo'.

Early June Music Calendar

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event details. Includes 'Cathy Ponton King @ Westminster Church', 'Janine Wilson Band @ Bethesda Farmer's Market'.

Attention dancers: See DCBS homepage for link to dance-friendly venues. To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information...

Bolded items are picks by calendar editor, Steve Levine, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to calendar@dcblues.org or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740.

Advertisement for Briggs Farm Blues Festival. Includes text: 'Join us on the rolling hills of Briggs Farm for our 12th annual show', 'JULY 10 & 11, 2009', list of artists (Louisiana Red, Joey Gilmore, etc.), website www.briggsfarm.com, and phone number 570-379-2003. Features a photo of a blues musician playing guitar.



<p><b>Membership means discounts! Show 'em your card</b> The following companies offer discounts to DCBS members. You must present your current membership card to receive them. Restrictions may apply and discounts may be withdrawn at any time.</p>	
<p><b>Half-price/Advance Purchase Blues Alley</b> All Blues Shows Sun. - Thurs. 1073 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007 202-337-4141 <a href="http://www.bluesalley.com">www.bluesalley.com</a></p>	<p><b>20% Discount Neil Senning Enterprises</b> Quality Painting and Handyman Services: Plastering/Drywall Deck Cleaning/Power Washing/Staining/Carpentry/Interior &amp; Exterior Work and much more. 301-717-1773</p>
<p><b>10% Discount Capitol Hill Books</b> Across from Eastern Market 657 C Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20003 202-544-1621 <a href="http://www.capitolhillbooks-dc.com">www.capitolhillbooks-dc.com</a></p>	<p><b>15% Discount BOK Custom Framing</b> 5649 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207 703-534-1866 Hours: M-F 10-6, Sat. 10-5</p>
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<p><b>10% Discount J &amp; J Automotive</b> 9160 Euclid Court Manassas, VA 20110 703-368-3600 <a href="http://www.ijautoservices.com">www.ijautoservices.com</a></p>	<p><b>20% Discount Three Brothers Italian Restaurant</b> 4521 Kenilworth Ave. Bladensburg, MD 20710 301-864-1570 Until 9 pm. Not valid holidays or w/ other discounts/restrictions may apply</p>

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**Don't Forget The Blues**

Editors' Note: It's pledge time at WPFW (89.3FM). The drive kicks off on Thursday, May 7 and runs through Friday, May 22. Volunteers are needed especially for the early morning and after-6 pm shifts. Yes, your pledge is important. But, if you can't pledge – and even if you can – why not make a commitment to go in for a few hours to answer phones or do other jobs?

DCBS and WPFW share the same goals of preserving and promoting America's musical legacy. They also share some of their volunteers. Blues programmers Chris DeProperty and Ida Campbell have contributed many hours to DCBS. Other programmers give their time as judges and as emcees for DCBS events. Editors Donna Shoulders and Mary Knieser provide phone support for Da 'Gator Show and DCBS board members answer phones during pledge drives. WPFW, the media sponsor for DCBS, interviews numerous blues artists, helps to make the blues community aware of DCBS events and simulcasts the Annual DC Blues Festival.

Call volunteer coordinator Rachel Pope, 202-588-0999 x-360 and let her know you can help. It's a great way to support the station we all love.

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SEE IT! • HEAR IT! • TASTE IT!

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**Adopt a Duck – Win a Million Bucks**

Reminder: On Sunday, June 7, 2009 WPFW will host its first *Annual Luck of The Duck Race*. A \$5 donation gets you an adorable rubber duck and a chance at winning a million dollars or another great prize. Your donation helps preserve the unique music programming of WPFW.

Join WPFW staff, programmers and volunteers on the shore of the Potomac to watch 20,000 rubber ducks race toward the finish line. You could be the lucky winner! And wouldn't winning a million bucks just quack you up???

To adopt your duck(s) go to [www.wpfw.org](http://www.wpfw.org) or call the Duck Hotline, 202-588-0999 ext.344.

**Adopt A Duck – Support WPFW**

**Fundraiser for Project Survival Education & Sports**

Jazz and Blues lovers have a chance to combine their musical interest while supporting a worthwhile cause: Project Survival Education & Sports, a program for youth sponsored by Opportunity, Inc. Jazz vocalist Vernon Wolst and Bluesman Whop Frazier will perform at a luncheon on Sunday, June 28, from 1–5 pm at the NDW Conference Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. They will be backed by an outstanding group of musicians: Jackie Hairston (organ), Earl Ivey (drums), Harold Flood (guitar) and Percy Smith (drums).

Tickets are available from Millie Everett 301-464-4397 and Evelyn Washington 202-863-0622.



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8:30 PM—12:30 AM**

**Surf Club Live!**  
4711 Kenilworth Ave.  
Hyattsville, MD 20781  
301-927-6310



## Upcoming DCBS Events

- May 2: CW Harrington & Band
- Jul 18: Festival Fundraiser with Bryan Lee
- Aug 1: Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike Contest
- Sep 5: 21st Annual DC Blues Festival (free)
- Sep 5: Festival After-Party
- Oct 10: Annual Battle of the Bands
- Oct 31: Blues in the Schools (BITS) Fund-raiser featuring Eric Bibb
- Nov 7: WinnerFest featuring Battle of the Bands winner
- Dec 19: Annual Holiday Party
- Dec 31: New Years Eve Dinner & Show

Advance Tickets  
\$15 member/\$20 nonmember  
\$25 at door

Order on-line: [www.dtblues.org](http://www.dtblues.org)  
or call 301-322-4808



Photo courtesy Cathy Mills

DCBS is looking for volunteers! Help staff the membership booth at shows, the annual festival and other events and with DCBS projects.

Contact [fest-volunteer@dtblues.org](mailto:fest-volunteer@dtblues.org) or go to the DCBS website [www.dtblues.org](http://www.dtblues.org).

Got something to say? Send your articles, photos & cartoons to [editor@dtblues.org](mailto:editor@dtblues.org)



**DC BLUES SOCIETY**  
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