



# Capital Blues Messenger

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

August 2016

Volume 10, Issue 8

## Annual DC Blues Festival Offers Something for Everyone!

by Pat Bransford

Saturday, Sept. 3 promises to be a soulful blues day in DC, when the **FREE 28th Annual DC Blues Festival** is held at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre. This family-friendly event offers five bands on the Main Stage, plus several workshops, performances, and an instrument petting zoo on the newly named Dr. S.O. Feelgood (aka Chet Hines) Workshop Stage, located along the path right before you enter the Amphitheatre area.

Year after year, blues fans return to this annual event to enjoy a full day of listening and dancing to music performed by a mix of local bands and national/international-touring blues performers. Grab your friends, pack your sunscreen and a snack or two, and head to the Carter Barron Amphitheatre at 16th St. and Colorado Ave., NW. Parking is free; food, beverages, Festival t-shirts, CDs and other DCBS merchandise are available.

This year, singer, writer and guitar player Slam Allen, right, headlines the Festival. Allen and the other Main Stage performers represent an outstanding, well-rounded group of musicians:

**DC Mudd with special guest Gayle Harrod** kicks off the Festival. DC Mudd is a local band and winner of the 2015 DCBS Battle of the Bands. "DC Mudd, Righteous Blues, Rhythm and Roots Music from Washington, DC" is the band's self-description, and they ooze authenticity. They also describe themselves as a "new band of old guys with 'young fashioned ways.'" Clearly, their hearts

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### MAIN STAGE

- 12N Festival Opening
- 12:15pm DC Mudd with Gayle Harrod
- 1:25pm The Countess & Royalty Blues Band
- 2:45pm Lauren Mitchell
- 4:20pm Jackie Scott & The Housewreckers
- 6pm Slam Allen (above)

*\* Schedule subject to change*

### DR. S.O. FEELGOOD (AKA CHET HINES) WORKSHOP STAGE

- 1-4pm Children's Musical Petting Zoo
- 1pm Guitar Workshop with David Cole
- 2:30pm Harmonica Workshop with Geoff "Stingy Brim" Seals\*\*
- 4pm Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Ensemble

*\*\*A limited number of complimentary harmonicas is available for workshop attendees.*



*photo by Pat Bransford*

*The 12th Annual Fish Fry brought smiles, full tummies and smokin' hot Blues. See more photos on page 8.*

## Party Time for a Good Cause

*Aug. 27 Fundraiser Benefits **FREE** DC Blues Festival*

by Pat Bransford

Why is DCBS having a Fundraiser for the upcoming Annual Festival? It takes a village to put on a free Annual Festival like the one that will be held on Sept. 3 at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre, and DCBS has been producing this Annual Festival for 28 years!!

Even in the years when DCBS has been fortunate to get a grant from the DC Government, those grants only covered half of Festival expenses. This year, for the second year in a row, there was no grant. That means DCBS is fully funding the event — with your help!

The Festival performers don't perform for free, and nor should they. DCBS covers the performers' fees, refreshments for performers and volunteers, and costs associated with the actual production of the event.

Please help us! You can donate to DCBS through our website; visit [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) and see options for Festival sponsorship. Contribute \$100 or less to be a Blues In Your Heart Patron or from \$101-\$500 to join the Friends of DC Blues Society. Or you can attend our events, such as the Aug. 27 Fundraiser and participate in the raffles and other fundraising activities that evening.

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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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@dcblues.org)

Blues listings for bands should be sent to [calendar@dcblues.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.dcblues.org)

Ads also may be placed in DCBS eblast emails for only \$50 for postings on two eblasts. Visit the DCBS website for more or contact [ads@dcblues.org](mailto: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](mailto:ads@dcblues.org)



Before your next online search, go to [www.dcblues.org](http://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](http://www.GoodSearch.com). It's easy — just click, search and support. Looking for the perfect gift? Try [www.GoodShop.com](http://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!

### DCBS Board Members

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The DCBS Board is looking for volunteers to help with the following positions:

**Secretary**

**Volunteer Coordinator**

**Acoustic Jam Coordinator**

**Blues in the Schools Coordinator**

**Grants Manager**

If you can step up to help promote the Blues and keep the organization running smoothly, email [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org)





# President's DRUM

by Felix McClaire  
president@dcblues.org

The focus of this issue of the CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER is the upcoming **Aug. 27 Festival Fundraiser** and the **Sept. 3 Annual DC Blues Festival**, our 28th Annual Festival! The two events, which are only a week apart, include some great music and will hopefully draw a large and enthusiastic crowd of blues fans.

## Festival Fundraiser

The Festival Fundraiser takes place Saturday, Aug. 27 at the Silver Spring American Legion, and four local bands will be performing. See the flier and article on pages 6 and 7 for the line-up, details and admission cost. All profits go to offset the costs of the Annual DC Blues Festival.

## 28th Annual FREE DC Blues Festival

The DC Blues Festival is a DC Labor Day weekend tradition and an event enjoyed by a wide range of DMV residents, as well as visitors to the area. DCBS has been committed to keeping this Annual Festival as a free event, but to do so means that fundraising before, during, and after the Festival is essential.

There are three main ingredients that go into the musical mix that the DC Blues Society (DCBS) presents at the FREE 28th Annual DC Blues Festival and at other DCBS events throughout the year.

### 1. Member & Non-Member Supporters

Both our members and non-members support DCBS. Members pay annual membership fees (\$35 for individuals) and receive a monthly subscription to our newsletter, CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER, and priority chances to win tickets or enjoy discounts at regional festivals and venues like Blues Alley, Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club and The Hamilton. Non-members also get a shot at these free tickets. However, we encourage all non-members to become members and take full advantage of our many offerings.

Supporters also include folks who attend our annual events, such as the Hotter-Than-July Fish Fry & Show, the Battle of the Bands and the Solo/Duo Competition, DC Blues Festival fundraisers, the College Park Blues Festival and the New Year's Dinner Dance Party. In between these long-running annual events, we feature free monthly 1st Sunday open-mic jams, 4th Friday Happy Hours and touring artists. For example, DCBS will present renowned Joe Louis Walker on Friday, Oct. 14 at the Silver Spring American Legion.

Please show YOUR support by becoming a member today! Visit our membership table on the runway

at the DC Blues Festival to learn more about DCBS, join at any other DCBS event or join online at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org). At the Festival, you can get a "free" membership with the purchase of our classic DC BLUES COOKBOOK, full of recipes by regional Blues notables. While you're there, please buy a souvenir at our merchandise table.

### 2. Donors

DCBS is a nonprofit 501(c3) membership organization. That means you can make tax-deductible donations of any amount. For many years, the "free" Annual Festival was partially supported by grants from DC Government. But no more. This makes donors and other supporters even more critical to our mission of promoting the music and culture of the Blues through education and performance. The educational component includes free-to-the-public educational and entertainment outreach events under our Blues in the Schools and Blues in the Community programs.

### 3. Volunteers

DCBS is also an all-volunteer organization. Board members and other key volunteers receive no remuneration for the many hours spent presenting the Festival and other events. Special thanks to the many volunteers who make the Annual Festival possible! We always need more volunteers, particularly for ongoing staffing needs. Currently we can use help with revamping our website ([www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)), grant writing, sponsor outreach and assisting in editing our newsletter. Learn more

about volunteering by contacting [volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:volunteer@dcblues.org).

Slam Allen headlines the 2016 DC Blues Festival. He spent nine years (2001-2010) as the lead singer, lead guitarist and band leader for the legendary James Cotton. Learn more about Slam and the other Festival performers on pages 1, 4 and 5.

Don't miss the entertainment on the newly renamed Dr. S.O. Feelgood Workshop Stage by the front entrance/gate. The stage was renamed in honor of the recently deceased Chet Hines, aka, Dr. S.O. Feelgood, who managed the workshops and supervised the musical petting zoo for 20+ years. Dr. Feelgood also emceed and deejayed most DCBS shows for the same length of time. In addition, he was a dynamic and memorable singer/songwriter, who was much in demand in the DMV. His and the DCBS family along with his many fans will miss him tremendously.

We also appreciate the support of our Festival sponsors: the National Park Service; media sponsor WPFW 89.3 FM; and our many volunteers. We hope to see you at other DCBS events, as a new member! Check us out at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

## New Membership Option

You can now join or renew your DCBS membership for two years, costing only \$60. This is about a 15% savings on membership fees over two years. Take advantage of this savings, show your long-range support and help DCBS improve its cash flow.

# In Memory of "Da Gator"

by Mary L. Knieser

"It's Blues Time with Da Gator" was a familiar refrain all across the DMV when Rick Bolling took to the airwaves every Saturday on WPFW (89.3FM). Rick "Da Gator" Bolling's voice was silenced by his passing on Aug. 2.

Frederick (Rick) Bolling was born on March 23, 1934 in New Orleans, raised in Jacksonville, FL and moved to Washington, DC after serving in the military. By day, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service, and by night, he frequented DC's jazz clubs. He said his nickname was bestowed on him by his grandmother because "he would eat almost anything, like an alligator." His interest in the Blues? He got that as a child, too, when he heard three neighbors playing music on a guitar, washboard and soda bottle.

It was his love of jazz that brought Rick to WPFW. In time, he was recruited by General Manager Lou Hankins to host a Blues show, as well. In addition to established Blues musicians, Rick included music by lesser known artists and introduced his audience to southern soul, contemporary and adult-themed Blues by Chick Willis, Miss Jody, Clarence Carter, Mel Waiters, Lee Fields, Little Milton and others. He also played music by local favorites like Bobby Parker, Memphis Gold, The Hardway Connection, Charles "Big Daddy" Stallings, Jim Bennett and Lady Mary.

For many years, Rick was Master of Ceremonies on the main stage of the Annual Bluebird Blues Festival held at Prince George's Community College. For several years, he was honored at "Da Gator" Appreciation Day, an annual event at Lamont's Entertainment Complex in Pomonkey, MD. Rick is survived by his wife, Edith, several children and grandchildren, and of course, a vast number of friends and fans in the DMV. Information about funeral arrangements will be posted on the DC Blues Society's Facebook page when finalized.



*Rick "Da Gator" Bolling at the Bluebird Blues Festival, where he served as Master of Ceremonies for years.*

# Soulful Blues Highlight

## 28th Annual DC Blues Festival

from page 1

are in the Delta, and in Chicago and Detroit—striving to find the essence of the music that moved America and finding ways to bring some of that magic to today’s audiences. For the Festival, they will be joined by Blues, Rock and Soul singer, Gayle Harrod. Gayle is the lead singer for the band Shakedown and invokes the spirits of such divas as Koko Taylor, Tina Turner and many others.

### The Countess & Royalty Blues Band

is the second act in the lineup. The Countess comes to DC from Chicago and she will be accompanied by a band of musicians from the DC area. Countess became fascinated with music at an early age, inspired by her grandmother’s singing and music. Her style is one minute sexy and seductive and the next, down right rough and pays tribute to some of the best: Nancy Wilson, Billie Holiday, Gladys Knight, and Aretha Franklin. She has performed with the Mike Wheeler Band, Carl Weathersby, Charlie Love and was a finalist for Chicago Blues Divas at BLUES on Halsted. Her promo material says “she will leave you on the edge of your seat waiting for her next performance.”

**Lauren Mitchell** hails from Sarasota, FL and is known

as a soulful singer and a tour de force with a stellar Blues band. In only a few short years, she has crafted a singular, unmistakable voice in the world of Blues, performing around 250 dates per year, nationally and internationally. Lauren and her band perform in concert halls, venues, historic honky tonks, and festivals. She cites Etta James as profoundly influencing her sound. “People recognize the Etta influence,” says Lauren. “Our music is definitely more soul than straight blues.”



*Lauren Mitchell brings her rich, soulful voice and her top notch band to the DC Blues Festival.*

### Jackie Scott & The Housewreckers

are sure to rock the Carter Barron Stage. They come from the Hampton Roads area of Virginia and their varied backgrounds and influences make for a hot combination of Blues

and R&B packed with Soul. Jackie has spent the last few years honing her craft as a vocalist and her quest led her to the steamy windows of Chicago’s Blues scene where musicians and performers freely shared in their wealth of skill, time and talent to help her grow

as a Blues entertainer. She has since opened for B.B. King, Keb’ Mo’, Taj Mahal, Lyle Lovett and others. Jackie’s onstage style is big, bold, sassy and infectious!

Festival headliner, **Slam Allen**, is viewed as one of the most dynamic and original blues and soul artists on the scene today. More than just a singer, writer, and guitar player, Slam Allen connects with his audience like entertainers from a bygone era. Think Otis Redding, and

B.B., Albert, and Freddie King, with a blend of Wilson Pickett, James Brown, Sly Stone and a little George Benson and Jimi Hendrix thrown in to make a unique musical experience.

Slam spent nine years as the lead singer, lead guitarist, and band leader for James Cotton and is also credited with writing and singing on Cotton’s 2011 Grammy-nominated comeback album, *Giant*. As a solo performer, Slam is the recipient of the prestigious Master Blues Artist award from the



*photos by Pat Bransford*

*Above, Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation Ensemble offers Piedmont- and Delta-style traditional blues. The harmonica workshop led by Geoff “Stingy Brim” Seals, left, always attracts aspiring blues musicians.*

New York Blues Hall of Fame, and he was a 2016 Blues Music Award Nominee.

With seven original albums under his belt, Slam is dedicated to forging his own legacy in the Blues and Soul world. Sam was recently the featured interviewee in the July 21, 2016 *BLUES BLAST MAGAZINE*. Check out the interview at [www.BluesBlastMagazine.com](http://www.BluesBlastMagazine.com)

The Workshop Stage is renamed this year as the Dr. S.O. Feelgood (aka Chet Hines) Workshop Stage, in memory of Dr. Feelgood, long-time Workshop Stage emcee/organizer, who passed away in May. This year’s Workshop is being arranged by Willie Leebel, from Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation, and the Workshop performers are highly accomplished musicians:

**David Cole** will lead the Guitar Workshop. This native Washingtonian is an ace guitarist with soulful vocals and an engaging personality. “He’s a musician’s musician,” says saxophonist and educator Davey Yarborough, who praises Cole’s “attention to stylistic detail.” Another master musician, sax player Paul Carr, says of Cole, “There’s a whole party goin’ on inside his guitar case.” Cole has played with his own band, the Main Street Blues, with the Capital All-Stars and with some of the top names in blues, jazz and R&B, including Percy Sledge, Archie Bell, Little Royal, Regina Bell, the Delfonics, Roberta Flack and others.

### Geoff “Stingy Brim” Seals

will lead a beginner Harmonica Workshop. Participants of all ages are welcome and should bring a key of C harmonica. A limited number of harmonicas is available at the workshop. Originally from Buffalo, NY, Seals was exposed to all varieties of music from classical to country, and soul to heavy metal. He was drawn to the harmonica, but his parents wouldn’t allow one in the house. As an adult he stumbled across one in a store, first learned on his own, and then began taking lessons. He relocated to Virginia in late 2007 and has played with local bands, performing music from soft rock to down home blues. He teaches beginner harmonica classes at the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation, at 4701 Queensbury Rd, Riverdale, MD 20737.

### The Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation (AEBHF) Ensemble

represents the AEBHF, which was formed in 1998 following the death of Piedmont guitarist/vocalist, Archie Edwards. Archie’s barbershop (aka Alpha Tonsorial Palace) in Northeast DC was a meeting place for Blues musicians. The AEBHF continues Archie’s musical work through weekly acoustic jams, workshops, and performances, most occurring at the AEBHF’s current location in Riverdale Park, MD. The AEBHF Ensemble mini-concert will feature Piedmont- and Delta-style acoustic blues with an explanation of the styles.

**FREE  
28TH ANNUAL  
DC BLUES FESTIVAL**

**End of  
Summer  
Blues  
Blowout!**



**SATURDAY, SEPT. 3, 2016**

**NOON - 7:30 PM**

**Carter Barron Amphitheatre**

**16<sup>th</sup> St. & Colorado Ave. NW • Washington, DC 20008**

**Featuring**



**LAUREN MITCHELL**



**SLAM ALLEN**



**JACKIE SCOTT &  
THE HOUSEWRECKERS**



**The Countess &  
Royalty Blues  
Band**

**Music Workshops  
Family-friendly Fun  
Kids' Instrument  
Petting Zoo**



**DC MUDD  
with special guest  
Gayle Harrod**

**Sponsors: DC Blues Society  
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WWW.DCBLUES.ORG  
TEL: 202-413-3609**

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# DC Blues Society Festival Fundraiser

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Doors: 6:30 PM ~ Showtime: 7:00 - 11:30 PM

American Legion Post 41

905 Sligo Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Entrance on Fenton Street by public parking lot



The Mojo Priests  
7:00 PM

**Schedule**  
(subject to change)

Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes  
8:10 PM



Full Power Blues  
9:20 PM



Built 4 Comfort  
10:30 PM

Photos: Rebecca Carroll (Liz Springer, Fast Eddie) Connie Oleksak Warner (Darren Johnson ) William Calbert Jr. (Full Power Blues)

Advance: \$15 members ♦ \$20 non-members

Door: \$20 members ♦ \$25 non-members

*This event helps raise much needed funds for  
the free annual blues festival*

Drawings for full ticket refund  
50/50 Raffle ~ Door Prizes

**WW.DCBLUES.ORG • TEL: 202-413-3609**



◆◆◆ **SAVE THE DATE** ◆◆◆

**28th Annual DC Blues Festival**

**Saturday, September 3, 2016**

**Carter Barron Amphitheatre**

**16th St. & Colorado Ave. NW**

**Washington, DC 20008**

**Slam Allen • Lauren Mitchell**

**Jackie Scott & The Housewreckers**

**Countess Williams Band • DC Mudd**



**FREE**

# Aug. 27 Fundraiser Supports DC Blues Festival

from page 1

The August 27 Festival Fundraiser is party time! The Fundraiser takes place at the Silver Spring American Legion, 905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. Doors open at 6:30pm, music starts at 7pm. Admission is \$15 in advance for members, \$20 for non-members; tickets purchased at the door are \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. There will be three drawings for full ticket cost rebate, a 50/50 Raffle, and door prizes.

Four great local bands each perform one-hour sets and between sets, there will be raffles and other fun activities. If you are an active player in the DMV blues arena, then the bands will need no introduction. Their music is compelling (wear your comfortable dance shoes!) and their stage presence is uniquely their's. In other words, "they own it."

## The Mojo Priests — 7-8pm

The Mojo Priests won the 2014 DCBS Battle of the Bands and competed in the 2015 International Blues Challenge. Ever since, they've continued to hone their skills and performances through gigs at numerous other DCBS events and local venues.

## Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes — 8:10-9:10pm

This band won the 2012 DCBS Battle of the Bands and competed in the 2013 International Blues



photo by Alan Bowser

*The powerhouse voices of Liz Springer and the fiery blues of Built 4 Comfort and Mama Moon with Full Power Blues will play at the Fundraiser to benefit the DC Blues Festival. Both performed at the Silver Spring Blues Festival in June.*

Challenge. The Slowpokes bring varied musical talents and histories to the stage and together produce a sound that is guaranteed to get you up on your feet. Fast Eddie's harp and vocals lead the band through its playlist that includes Chicago to West Coast swing, Motown to Muscle Shoals, and rock n' roll in between.

## Full Power Blues — 9:20-10:20pm

Mama Moon is the powerful lead vocalist for Full Power Blues and she commands the stage with her



photo by John Quinter

huge voice. She is backed by a band of musicians that also rightfully share the stage and the spotlight. The band plays a mix of danceable blues tunes with a heavy tip to blues standards.

## Built 4 Comfort — 10:30-11:30 pm

Liz Springer is the vocalist and manager of Built 4 Comfort, a

local band that has been WAMMIE-nominated and maintains a very active performance schedule. They recently performed at the Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival, as well as at a long list of other outdoor festivals and concert series and indoor venues. Liz is a powerhouse singer who can also croon out the softer nuances of songs.

## Bluebird Blues Festival Takes 2-Year Hiatus for Campus Construction

Paulett McIntosh from Prince George's Community College, recently shared the following news:

For more than two decades, Prince George's Community College, has been deeply honored to present the annual Bluebird Blues Festival to the tremendous community that we serve.

Major improvements to the College's physical infrastructure at the Largo Campus necessitated the decision to suspend this well-attended event for the next two years as construction/renovation begins on three major capital improvement projects, one of which directly impacts the space where the festival is normally held.

We believe that the construction of the three facilities — Queen Anne Fine Arts, Lanham Hall, and the new Culinary Arts Center — will assist the College with securing more opportunities for our students and our community.

We want to thank you for your continued support. The Bluebird Blues Festival will be back!

**20th FEDERAL**  
**14th Annual GREENBELT BLUES FESTIVAL**  
**"Women Sing the Blues"**  
**9/10/16**  
**12:00-11:30**  
**NO CHARGE**  
**Roosevelt Center**

**Find us on Facebook at**  
**Greenbelt Blues Festival**  
**GreenbeltBluesFestival.com**

**HEADLINER: URSULA RICKS!**  
**Featuring: Eleanor Ellis, Gina DeSimone and the Moaners,**  
**Tish Martinez, Carly Harvey, Mary Shaver,**  
**Jennifer Cooper & Groovespan, Mama Moon - Full Power Blues**  
**Sponsored by FONDCA (Lineup subject to change)**



photo © Ron Weinstock



photo by Pat Bransford



# DCBS 12th Annual Hotter-than-July Fish Fry & Show

*Outside, the weather was hot and the fish were fryin’;  
inside, the music was even hotter and the dancin’ lasted all night!*



photo by John Quinter



photo by John Quinter



photo by Pat Bransford

*Above left, The Ron Hicks Project demonstrated their tight arrangements; above, Ida Campbell and Eclectic Soul mixed fiery and sultry tones; at left, Cookin’ With Gas got the crowd on its feet.*



photo by John Quinter

# Remembering Blues Master Jesse Yawn

by Ron Weinstock

Jesse H. Yawn, a fixture in the Baltimore and Washington area blues scene for more than 25 years, passed away in Florida on July 5.

Born in Florida on Sept. 4, 1937, Jesse cut his teeth on Gospel music. Later he was recruited by National touring acts such as The Violinaires and The Trumpets of Joy. Jesse moved to Rochester, New York in the early 1950's to join the Traveling Six Spiritual group and later formed his own group, The Flower City Gospelaires.

Turning to the blues scene, Jesse worked with giants such as Jack McDuff, George Benson, Grant Green and Albert King. Drafted in 1962, he served in the military and earned a spot with the 77th Army Band as lead vocalist, entertaining at military and civilian functions. He later recorded demos for Golden World Studios in Detroit and Chess Records in Chicago, but none were released.

In the 1960's Jesse performed as lead singer for Bill Doggett, Bill Black Combo and the Ohio Players. When he moved to Baltimore in 1971, he brought with him a successful construction business and blues took a back seat, until his performance at the club 8x10 in Baltimore made it impossible for him not to be noticed. He was back into the music

scene full time in 1989. Jesse went on to front guitarist Rick Serfas' Band, The Soul Providers, and they won the DC Blues Society's Battle of the Bands Competition. They travelled to Memphis representing the DCBS at The Blues Foundation's International Blues Competition.

Jesse regularly played Baltimore's New Haven Lounge, T.T. Reynolds in Fairfax, VA and other area venues. He also performed at the DC Blues Festival, the Baltimore Blues Festival and the Pocono Blues Festival. He played with a who's who of area musicians, and for several years his band featured DC legend Jackie Hairston on keyboards and the criminally underrated Harold Flood on guitar. Jesse was regarded by many, including fellow blues artists, as the best male blues vocalist in the Baltimore-DC area.

A live recording of Jesse was issued as part of Wayne Kahn's *The Blues You Hate to Lose Anthology*, and in 1997 Horseplay Records issued the critically acclaimed *Forevermore*. Jesse subsequently recorded a live album during an Italian tour that he sold at performances.

I believe he moved to Florida in 2006 or 2007, and resided the rest of his life there. At the time of his death, at the age of 78, he was a resident of



photo © Ron Weinstock

Vocalist Jesse Yawn at the 2004 DC Blues Festival

Bradenton, FL. He was still performing in Florida and in Europe, and had returned to the Baltimore-DC area at least once. I understand that he recorded another album, for Full Tilt Productions, with Ron Holloway, Harold Flood and Bernard 'Pretty' Purdue among those playing on it. Fans of this late blues master eagerly await its release.

## 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

Becoming a DCBS member is quick and easy:

- ▲ Use the mail-in application on this page
- ▲ Apply online at [www.dcbles.org](http://www.dcbles.org)
- ▲ Sign up at a the DCBS booth at a DCBS event

## 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: \$35 per year \$60 two years
- Family: \$45
- Corporate: \$200

### 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

# AUGUST 2016 BLUES

- 1 Scott Ramminger & The Crawstickers @ Westminster Church ▲ Samantha Fish @ Ram's Head Annapolis
- 4 Tom Principato @ Cherry Hill Park ▲ Marcia Ball @ Ram's Head Annapolis ▲ The Crowdaddies @ U.S. Botanic Gardens ▲ Moonshine Society @ Watkins Regional Park
- 5 Moonshine Society @ Hamilton Loft
- 6 **Tab Benoit** @ Birchmere ▲ Peach Harvest Sunfest with Built 4 Comfort & others @ Button Farm ▲ Sweet Suzi & Sugafizz @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY** ▲ Downtown @ JVs
- 7 **DCBS Outing to Nats Park** ▲ **DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ ▲ Johnny Neal CD Release Party @ JVs
- 8 Little Royal Live! @ Westminster Church
- 9 Mark Wenner & The Blues Warriors @ JVs
- 10 Bad Influence @ Downtown Crown
- 12 Reggie Wayne Morris @ Bucket Sports Bar ▲ Joy Bodycomb @ Ice House Cafe ▲ **Charlie Musselwhite with Janiva Magness** @ Hamilton **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY** ▲ Bad Influence @ Downtown Silver Spring ▲ Biscuit Miller & The Mix @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY**
- 13 **WPFW Fundraiser with Full Power Blues, Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner, Stacy Brooks, Jim Bennett & Unique Creation & others** @ Lamont's ▲ Joy Bodycomb @ The Winery at Olney ▲ Johnny & Headhunters @ Hamilton ▲ Bad Influence @ Frederick Hard Times Cafe ▲ Capital Blues Ensemble @ New Deal Cafe ▲ Dana Fuchs @ Ram's Head Annapolis ▲ **Biscuit Miller & The Mix** @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY** ▲ Still Standing with Linwood Taylor @ Red Oak Bistro
- 14 **Sue Foley** @ Hamilton **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY**
- 15 Tinaz Blues @ Westminster Church
- 17 **Curtis Salgado, Selvyn Birchwood** @ Hamilton **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY**
- 18 Vintage #18 @ U.S. Botanic Gardens
- 19 The Nighthawks, North Avenue Stompers @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz ▲ Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones with Dennis Gruenling @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY** ▲ Still Standing with Linwood Taylor, Lisa Lim @ Cryer's Back Road Inn
- 20 Sol Roots @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Ursula Ricks @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY**
- 21 Kenny Wayne Shepherd @ Ram's Head Annapolis ▲ The Good Thing Band-Old School Funk @ Madam's Organ
- 22 The Nighthawks @ Westminster Church
- 24 Bad Influence @ Spectrum at Watkins Mill
- 25 Freestate Blues Revue @ Gypsy Sally's
- 26 **DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour with Etufé** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Bad Influence @ Bare Bones ▲ Vintage #18 @ New Deal Cafe ▲ Lex Gray & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY** ▲ Al DiMeola Electric Band (jazz/world music) @ Hamilton **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY**
- 27 **DCBS Festival Fundraiser with The Mojo Priests, Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes, Full Power Blues, Built 4 Comfort** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Boogey Til You Puke with Root Boy Slim All Stars @ Bethesda Blues & Jazz ▲ Tom Principato @ Blue Side Tavern ▲ Bad Influence @ Gaithersburg Dogfish Head ▲ Lex Gray & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ **DCBS TICKET GIVEAWAY** ▲ Bonnie Raitt @ Wolf Trap
- 28 Memphis Gold All Star Show @ JVs
- 29 Charlie Sayles & The Blues Disciples @ Westminster Church
- 30 Still Standing @ JVs

## EARLY SEPTEMBER 2016

- 2 Bad Influence @ Stein Room
- 3 **DC Blues Society Presents 28th Annual DC Blues Festival featuring Lauren Mitchell, Slam Allen, Jackie Scott & Housewreckers, Countess & Royalty Blues Band, DC Mudd** @ Carter Barron Amphitheatre ▲ Tom Principato with Tommy Lepson, Bill Krichen @ Birchmere ▲ Bad Influence @ Ice House Cafe
- 4 **DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ BBS presents Annual Alonzo's Picnic w/ Billy Price Band, Duke Robillard, Quinton Randall & The Cleanse @ Rosedale American Legion

DCBS salutes its members who keep their memberships current and support the organization in other ways. This month, DCBS salutes volunteer

## Delores Washington

who most recently took lead responsibility for food set-up, serving and clean-up at the DCBS Annual Fish Fry.

**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@dcblues.org](mailto:calendar@dcblues.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.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) for additional music links and information.

# 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 August Blues Calendar on page 10.

<b>SU</b>	<b>1st Sunday DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion</b> ▲ 4th Sunday DCBS Acoustic Jam @ Mansion on O St. <b>(CANCELLED — Seeking New Jam Leader)</b> ▲ Sunday Afternoon Jam @ Old Firestation #3, Fairfax ▲ Blues Jam @ Battlefield Brew Works, Gettysburg, every other Sunday
<b>M</b>	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church ▲ Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's ▲ Capital Blues Ensemble @ 219 Basin St. Lounge
<b>TU</b>	CrawStickers @ 219 Basin St. Lounge ▲ Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ ▲ Swampcandy @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Hell's Bottom Blues Jam @ Takoma Park VFW Post 350 ▲ Moonshine Society Blues Jam @ Villain & Saint, 2nd Tuesday
<b>W</b>	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Blair's Londontowne Pub ▲ Jesse Shifflet Open Mic @ Pickled Herring Pub, Northeast, MD ▲ Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
<b>TH</b>	Patrick Alban & Noche Latina @ Madam's Organ ▲ Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo ▲ Open Mic @ El Gavilan, last Thursday of month ▲ Big Boy Little's Open Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
<b>F</b>	<b>4th Friday Happy Hour @ Silver Spring American Legion</b> ▲ Glen Moomau & Juke Drivers @ Bertha's ▲ John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe
<b>SA</b>	<b>Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop</b> ▲ John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bluesalley.com)  
Many blues shows, Sundays–Thursdays

**Three Brothers Italian Restaurant**  
4521 Kenilworth Ave., Bladensburg, MD 20710 • 301-864-1570  
[www.threebrotherspizza.com](http://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](http://www.mylogoshack.com)

**10% Discount** **Capitol Hill Books**  
Across from Eastern Market  
657 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-544-1621  
[www.capitolhillbooks.com](http://www.capitolhillbooks.com)

**JV's Restaurant**  
6666 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22042 • 703-241-9504  
[www.jvsrestaurant.com](http://www.jvsrestaurant.com)  
**DRINK SPECIAL**  
Buy 1 drink, receive a 2nd drink FREE

**15% Discount** **A2Z Wireless**  
on Cell Phone Accessories  
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](http://www.bokframing.com)

DC BLUES SOCIETY  
& SILVER SPRING AMERICAN LEGION  
4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY BLUES HAPPY HOUR  
August 26, 2016



HAPPY HOUR: 5:00 - 10:00 PM  
MUSIC: 6:00 - 9:30 PM  
American Legion Post 41  
905 Sligo Ave. ♦ Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Entrance on Fenton Street adjacent to public parking lot  
Free Parking AFTER 7 PM  
No Cover ♦ Door Prizes  
Affordable Cash Bar & Food



WWW.DCBLUES.ORG  
TEL: 202-413-3609



**Want to Compete in the  
2017 International Blues Challenge (IBC)  
in Memphis, TN - Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 2017?**

**If so, then consider entering the DC Blues  
Society competitions to select the DCBS  
nominee in each of the IBC categories.**

**Visit [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) for entry info  
& [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org) for eligibility info.**

**Deadline to enter is August 10!**

**Competition dates are as follows:**

**Solo/Duo: September 23**

**Bands: October 1**

**Youth: September 23 or October 1 (TBD)**

**Best Self-Produced CD: DCBS Board  
will select based on CD.**

**Questions? Write to [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org)**



## 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](http://www.dcblues.org)

**Your membership renewal date is shown on the address label.**

**Renew today and stay in the Blues!**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**