



# Capital Blues Messenger

July 2009 Volume 3 Issue 7

## 5TH ANNUAL FISH FRY 'N' BLUES 'N' BIKE CONTEST

SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 1, 2009  
4:00 PM – 11:00 PM

IT'S AN ALL NIGHT BLUES PARTY!

See Page 4 for more details



**Upcoming events -- details inside**  
**July 18: Bryan Lee and The**  
**Blues Power Band**  
**Sept 5: 21st Annual DC Blues**  
**Festival (and it's FREE)**



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 prior to publication. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

Inside This Issue

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes President's Drum (3), Blues Music Education (4), Augusta Heritage Center (6), 2010 Rhythm Road Tour (8), Requiem (9), July Blues Calendar (10), Tinner Hill Panel Discussion (11).

Cover: Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike flier by Julie Fanning Designs www.jfanningdesigns.com 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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Members are invited to attend the monthly DCBS Board meetings. For information, send an e-mail to president@dcblues.org.

Become a member, get a FREE CD and more...

Time is running out - new members signing up at DCBS events or at the DCBS exhibit booth will receive a special, limited edition CD featuring 17 tunes by some of the best bands in the DC area.

Becoming a member is simple, quick and easy:

- Use the mail-in application (left)
Apply on-line at www.dcblues.org or
Sign up at DCBS events or
DCBS-sponsored events and venues where the DCBS booth is exhibiting.

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.

Membership Application/Renewal

Form fields for Membership Application/Renewal: Date, Name, 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

Form field: Family members (Please list names)

I can volunteer doing
Mail with check to THE DC BLUES SOCIETY P.O. BOX 77315 WASHINGTON, DC 20013-7315

ADVERTISE IN THE DCBS CAPITAL BLUES MESSENGER

Table with 2 columns: Ad Type and 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 and white. Artwork must be received by the 15th of the month. Ad size and space allocation contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. For ad specs and on-line rates, go to www.dcblues.org. Questions? Email: ads@dcblues.org

# President's Drum

## Help!

Despite the Herculean efforts of our current part-time webmasters, the DCBS is hurting for more help maintaining our website. Our website is the organization's most important public face and represents and serves all of you DCBS members and other visitors—who might become members and attend our events. All we ask is a couple of hours a week dedicated to this task. Having only one webmaster is ideal. But the concerted efforts of several persons limits time commitments for all involved. So, I hope to hear from a number of you cybernauts eager to put the best face possible on your organization.

We also need help transforming the *Capital Blues Messenger* into an E-newsletter. The results of a survey we conducted last year indicated that a majority of you favored such a change. As I said in an earlier issue, those of you who do not use email or opt out of the E-newsletter will receive a printed copy of the *CBM*. This need has been made more critical with our postage expense recently increasing by over 25%. The funds we spend on postage means we have less to spend on our annual festival and other activities. While we offer the festival free to the public, artists, printers, and suppliers do not provide services for free. Creating an E-newsletter has long been on the table, but has languished for the lack of expertise. All we need is consulting to our editors, who will actually develop the newsletter in the new format. This a very short-term commitment only requiring your leadership and expert direction. Once the editors have a handle on the process, your job is done.

Another critical need is for someone to handle public relations. This involves sending our event announcements to media outlets. We maintain a database of media outlets complete with contact information and submission requirements. This job requires a couple of hours per month.

Help us get the word out! If you can help with any of these important tasks, please contact me at [president@dcblues.org](mailto:president@dcblues.org).

## What's Happening! Triple Threat Show July 12<sup>th</sup>



Photo © joeygilmore.net



Photo © AZ Kenny Tsak

DCBS opens July with the hot Triple Threat Show, Sunday July 12, 5-8pm (see ad Page 5). This early show is just the thing to start your week with a bang. The show features Joey Gilmore, AZ Kenny Tsak & the 56 Deluxe Band and Nadine Rae. If you haven't seen South Floridian Gilmore (left) before, this is a great opportunity to become a fan as I have.

I first saw Gilmore at the 2006 International Blues Challenge in Memphis and was wowed by his performance. I saw him again at the Poconos Blues Festival where he heated up the stage to thunderous applause from the audience. Gilmore has over 50 years in the music business. He is also a two time IBC winner, although one year he was denied the first place prize because of a technicality. [The following year the rules were changed to eliminate that particular technicality.] Gilmore has over 30 international releases and a recent photo spread in *Vogue* in addition to a lengthy write up in *Living Blues* magazine. For more, go to [www.joeygilmore.net](http://www.joeygilmore.net).

AZ Kenny Tsak (bottom left) and the 56 Deluxe Band are well known on the East Coast for creating a breathtaking combination of original Country, Blues and Rock. Tsak and the band's styles range from slow, moving blues to the fiery Texas-style country-rock fretwork that electrifies audiences. Tsak's latest CD, *Like I Do*, has gone interna-

tional and was added the music rotation of *Blues Deluxe* (internet radio) [www.bluesdeluxe.com](http://www.bluesdeluxe.com).

Although he's now based in South Florida, Tsak learned to play while growing up in Washington, DC. In the 1970's, he performed with bands in DC clubs. Check out his website: [www.56deluxe.com/band](http://www.56deluxe.com/band)

Nadine Rae, a Baltimore native, is a well-known regional vocalist with a smoke and cream voice that has entranced crowds at nightclub shows and festivals all over our area. She recently performed at the Tinner Hill Blues and Columbia Pike Festivals. Rae has also worked with some of the nation's top blues and R&B artists such as Bobby Parker, Tommy Lepson, Ron Holloway, Charles "Big Daddy" Stallings, Tom Principato, Tommy Castro, Deanna Bogart, and Ronnie Baker Brooks, just to name a few. She was nominated in 2006 and 2007 as the Washington Area Music Association's (WAMA) Best Female Vocalist (Blues/Traditional R&B). For more on Nadine, go to [www.nadinerae.com](http://www.nadinerae.com)



Photo: Gary Mester  
[www.gmester.com](http://www.gmester.com)

DCBS is providing a 20% discount to this show for members. Admission for members is only \$12. That's a very good deal for this Triple Threat. Don't miss this show!

## Bryan Lee & the Blues Power Band July 18<sup>th</sup>

A prior issue included my interview with Bryan Lee and I implored you to attend the Bryan Lee & the Blues Power Band show on Saturday, July 18 at the Surf Club Live. I'll recap just a few reasons why you should be in the house. Twenty-five years ago, Lee moved to New Orleans and eventually landed a steady gig at the Old Absinthe House on Bourbon Street. becoming a favorite of tourists in the French Quarter. For the next 15 years, Lee and his Jump Street Five played five nights a week at that popular bar, developing a huge following and a solid reputation. Lee continues to perform in New Orleans with the Blues Power Band. He also tours several times a year in the Midwest, Eastern Seaboard, Rocky Mountain states and recently, Europe. In 2007, Lee appeared with Kenny Wayne Shepherd as musical guests on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. His latest CD, *Katrina Was Her Name*, is chock full of stirring Blues.

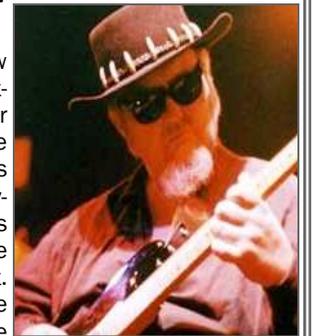


Photo © Bryan Lee

"Bryan Lee doesn't just play the guitar. He makes it scream, and strut, then he twists it and wrings it out until nothing but the purest blues drip from it," said Chick Cavelero in the *Boulder Outlook*.

His dedication to the Blues and to Blues fans is expressed in his own words:

"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. His website is [www.braillebluesdaddy.com](http://www.braillebluesdaddy.com)

We need a whole lot of you to come out to see Bryan Lee on July 18 and support the free annual blues festival (Saturday, September 5, at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre. See Page 4 & 7). Help make this year's festival a fun-filled success. Get your tickets now at [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org) or call 301-322-4808. You can also contact any of the volunteers listed on Page 2 of the *CBM*. They all have tickets that must be sold!

PRESIDENT'S DRUM continues Page 4

PRESIDENT'S DRUM continued from Page 2

## 5th Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike Contest August 1st

This event is more fun than shooting fish in a barrel! Last year we had seven bands, a dozen bikes competing for first and second place prizes, and all the fish you could eat. We're hoping this year's Fish Fry is even bigger and better. Interested bands should contact [jams@dcb blues.org](mailto:jams@dcb blues.org) now to sign up to perform.

It takes place at the American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20910 (next to the Greyhound Bus Terminal). The entrance is on Fenton adjacent to the public lot (also on Fenton).

The \$12 admission includes a fish sandwich. Fish dinners are also available. Make plans to attend this summertime extravaganza.

## Attention Bands! Annual Battle of the Bands Entry Deadline, August 17th

The DC Blues Society is sponsoring its annual Battle of the Blues Bands. The winners will compete at the 2010 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN.

The deadline for entering the Battle of the Bands is August 17, 2009. The competition will consist of a CD review competition and a live final competition on Saturday, October 10, 2009. For information and entry form, go to [www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org).

The winning band will also perform at Winterfest Blues Show at the Ritchie Coliseum, Saturday, November 7 and the 2010 Annual DC Blues Festival at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre.

Winterfest will also feature Homemade Jamz Blues Band, the 2007 IBC second place winner. They made history in 2007 as the youngest band to sign with a recording company (Northern Blues Music).

The DCBS Band will there too. If you missed them at the Silver Spring Blues festival or in June at the Surf Club Live, here's another chance to see our dynamic band. Stay tune for more details.

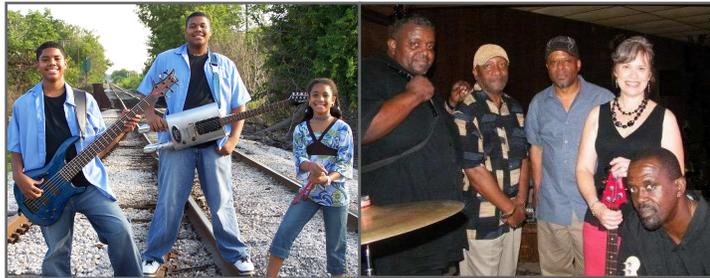


Photo © Homemade Jamz Blues Band; DCBS Band and friends (l-r) Michael Thompson (drums), Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark (harp), Sam'i Nuriddin (guitar), Lisa O'Brien (bass), Ivan "Illinois Slim" Jackson (vocals/guitar)

## 21st Annual Blues Festival Weekend

- **21st Annual DC Blues Festival**, Saturday, September 5 12:00 pm - 7:30 pm at the Carter Barron Amphitheater. *Free Admission!* (See ad Page 6)
- **After-Party with C.W. Harrington & the Blues Messengers** Saturday, September 5, 8:30 pm - 12:30 am. American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910. Purchase tickets at [www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org) or call 301-322-4808
- **First Sunday Blues Jam** at Surf Club Live! 4711 Kenilworth Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781. 4 - 8 pm. *Free Admission!*

There's something for everybody in our lineup of events through the rest of the year. I hope to see you at many of them.

Thanks for your support.

Blues Always,

## DC Blues Society Annual Battle of The Bands

Saturday, October 10, 2009

7:00 pm—12:30 am

Winner represents DCBS at the 2010 International Blues Challenge, Memphis, TN Jan 20-23, 2010 AND plays at

• Winterfest Blues Fest

Ritchie Coliseum

College Park, MD

Saturday, November 7, 2009

• Annual DC Blues Festival

Carter Barron Amphitheatre,

Washington, DC

Monday, September 6, 2010

For information and entry form

go to [www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org)

Deadline for entering:

August 17, 2009



Support your favorite band by attending the show & cheering them on to victory.

Buy tickets in advance and save!

Go to [www.dcb blues.org](http://www.dcb blues.org) or call 301-322-4808

Advance Tickets: \$10 Member

\$12.00 Non-Member

\$15.00 at the door

## Blues Music Education Needs Your Vote

The BonTaj Roulet Tour (Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal) scheduled for August 16 at Wolf Trap is more than just a chance to see these outstanding musicians perform. It's also a fundraiser for BONTAJ COLLECTIVE ACTION FUND. In conjunction with ticketing agencies, some venues and promoters, concertgoers and artists are coming together to raise money for charity through ticket sales. With 25 cents taken directly from the ticket price, matched by 25 cents from Bonnie and Taj, and with Ticketmaster, Live Nation Ticketing and Musictoday stepping up to the plate to match the contributions, the goal is to raise \$1 for charity for every ticket sold. What you need to do is help decide what project(s) the ACTION FUND will support. The Blues Foundation and Blues Societies across the U.S. are urging members to vote for Blues music education. You can do so at [www.bontaj.com/charity-on-tour.aspx](http://www.bontaj.com/charity-on-tour.aspx)

Help Bonnie and Taj decide. Cast your vote for Blues music education. And, as they say in Chicago "Vote early and often."

## Living Blues Announces 2009 Living Blues Awards Nominees

This year's reader's ballot includes three Delta Groove nominees including Jackie Payne, The Mannish Boys and Elvin Bishop. You may cast your vote online at [www.livingblues.com](http://www.livingblues.com). Only one ballot per person is allowed. Ballots must be received by July 5, 2009. Living Blues is America's oldest and most authoritative blues magazine. Founded in Chicago in 1970, Living Blues has set the standard for blues journalism around the world. Check out the latest issue of the magazine available at finer newsstands and book stores everywhere or visit them online at [www.livingblues.com](http://www.livingblues.com).



# TRIPLE THREAT!

3 amazing artists - 1 show

## JOEY GILMORE

2006 International Blues Challenge Winner

## AZ KENNY TSAK & THE 56 DELUXE BAND

## NADINE RAE

### Surf Club Live

4711 Kenilworth Ave.

Hyattsville, Maryland

Sunday, July 12, 2009

5pm - 8pm

Tickets \$15

20% discount to DCBS Members



Easy-Convenient-Fast  
Buy tickets on-line  
[www.briggsfarm.com](http://www.briggsfarm.com)

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570-379-2003

Blues Festival  
July 10 & 11  
2009

- LOUISIANA RED
- JOHNNY DRUMMER
- TOM LARSEN
- JOEY GILMORE
- ALEXIS P. SUTER
- TEENY TUCKER
- LONNIE SHIELDS
- SCOTT WEIS BAND
- BC & COMPANY
- & MORE

Exit 256 off I-80 to Rt. 93 & 239  
Nescopeck Twp., Pennsylvania,  
United States of America

# BRIGGS FARM

Join us on the rolling hills of Briggs Farm  
for our 12th annual Blues Festival

**Hershey's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
4th of July Party!!!**  
 Sat 7/4/09 1:00-11:00 PM  
*Join Us for Great Food & Live Music Featuring:*

**THE BOBBY LEWIS  
BLUES BAND**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 Special guests:  
**Memphis Gold and Jay Summerour**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**THE JUST US BAND**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*Poor Ellen Smith*  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**The Ron Land Band**  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*Stu Judel  
and  
DeRWood Dog*  
**Hershey's Restaurant**  
 17030 Oakmont Ave Gaithersburg, MD (301) 948-9893

**Bring Your Friends and Visit the DCBS Booth at These Festivals!**

There are exciting events taking place all summer and fall and you'll be reading about them the *Capital Blues Messenger* and on the DCBS website: [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org).

Spread the word about DCBS events, especially its FREE *Annual DC Blues Festival* which takes place each year on the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend. **The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual DC Blues Festival is on Saturday, September 5, 2009 from noon to 7:30 pm.** There's also an After-Party with CW Harrington and special guest artists. And on Sunday, a FREE open jam from 4-8 pm at the Surf Club Live.

Visit the DCBS booth and pick up DCBS merchandise and flyers at these events:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Party**, Hershey's Restaurant, Gaithersburg, MD (Ad Pg. 6)
- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Briggs Farm Blues Festival**, Nescopeck, PA July 10 & 11 (Ad Pg. 5)
- **Hot August Blues**, Cockeysville, MD Saturday August 15. (Ad Pg. 8)

DCBS is looking for a few eager volunteers to help at these events. If you can help staff the booth, contact [fest-volunteer@dcblues.org](mailto:fest-volunteer@dcblues.org). Do you know of an event or festival where the DCBS booth should exhibit? Contact [ads@dcblues.org](mailto:ads@dcblues.org) with event date and details!

**Augusta Heritage Center Hosts 25th Annual Blues Week, July 12-17, 2009**

Located on the campus of Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV, Augusta Heritage Center is known nationally and internationally for its activities relating to traditional folk life and folk arts of many regions and cultures. It hosts intensive week-long workshops that attract several hundred participants annually. Thousands more attend its public concerts, dances, and festivals.

Blues Week is always a celebration of a classic form of traditional American roots music. This year's program will reach back to the music's African origins while also showcasing a roster of some of the finest blues talent on the contemporary scene, thanks to coordinator Rick DelGrosso. They include Louisiana Red (teaching Chicago Blues), Gaye Adegbalola and Andra Faye (voice and instruments); Shirley Smith (gospel), Daryl Davis, Ian Walters, Ann Rabson (piano), Phil Wiggins (harp), Eleanor Ellis, Fiona Boyes, Rick Franklin (guitar) and many others. Elijah Wald will teach History of the Blues as well as the Music of Mississippi John Hurt. There are acoustic and electric blues jams in the evening and impromptu sessions during the day.

For more information: [www.augustaheritage.com](http://www.augustaheritage.com)

**The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad Band Applications Now Being Accepted for 2010**

Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs produces an annual series of international tours for ten ensembles performing blues, jazz, urban and other American roots music to countries all over the world. Through performance, education and person-to-person interaction, *The Rhythm Road* program encourages mutual respect and understanding between the United States and the countries visited by its music ensembles. The program also incorporates free performances by each group at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of JALC in New York City, and The National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Over the past four years, 108 musicians from 28 ensembles will have toured with the program, visiting 97 countries on 5 continents.

JALC is now accepting band applications for the 2009-2010 program. American music groups, throughout the U.S., specializing in jazz, urban/hip hop and other American roots music including bluegrass, Blues, Cajun, country, gospel and zydeco are invited to apply for the opportunity to travel abroad, particularly to countries not frequently visited by American musicians, to increase cross-cultural understanding. This will be the fifth year for the tour and it will take place March through December, 2010.

Applications are available at [www.jalc.org/TheRoad](http://www.jalc.org/TheRoad). The deadline is August 10, 2009. If you need more information, you can also call 212-258-9899 or email: [amap@jalc.org](mailto:amap@jalc.org).

**Join the MS is BS team**

Angela Franklin, daughter of guitarist/vocalist Rick Franklin, sent us a recent note regarding fundraising efforts for MS (multiple sclerosis) research, a disease which has affect her sister, Lexi. Family and friends formed a team called "MS is BS" and each member has pledged to walk 50K over two days and raise \$1500 for the National MS Society during the Capital Challenge MS Walk, October 3-4, 2009. You can donate, join them as a team crew member or buy T-shirts and caps to show your support. For information, go <http://msisbs.wordpress.com>.

**2009 Jus' Blues Music Award Shows August 5 & 6, 2009**

Charles Mitchell, Executive Director of Jus' Blues Music Foundation as informed DCBS that his organization will salute a number of Blues and Soul music artists and industry professionals for their artistry, outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions to the genre at its 2009 Jus' Blues Music Awards Show, August 5 & 6. The 2009 awards voting period is now open and for a limited time, members and patrons of Jus' Blues Music Foundation can vote online for their favorite artist, song, radio DJ and various other categories. All the public tallies will be submitted to the Jus' Blues Music Awards Selection Committee. The nominee with the most submissions will be the winner of the particular category.

The event will be held at The New Daisy Theater, 329 Beale Street, Memphis, TN. For more information on the event and to vote go to [JusBluesMusicFoundation.org](http://JusBluesMusicFoundation.org)

**FREE!**

**21st Annual**

# DC Blues Festival



[www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)  
info: 202-962-0112

## FEATURING:

Teeny Tucker

Eugene  
"Hideaway" Bridges

Eddie Turner

Michael Hill's  
Blues Mob

Billy Thompson  
& Friends

Capital Blues  
Ensemble

## After-Party with CW Harrington & The Blues Messengers

American Legion Post 41  
905 Sligo Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

8:30 pm–12:30 am

Purchase tickets online at  
[www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)  
or call 301-322-4808

**Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009**

**12:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Rock Creek Park  
at 16th & Colorado Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

*FREE FESTIVAL! Musical fun for the entire family  
including an instrument petting zoo, vocal workshop,  
instrument workshops, FREE parking and more....*



In memory of John Cephas  
(1930–2009)

DC Blues Society Founder and 1st President



PHOTOS: Glenn Thompson  
DESIGN: Julie Fanning / [www.fanningdesigns.com](http://www.fanningdesigns.com)

## Festival Sponsors:



GRAMOPHONE PRESENTS



OREGON RIDGE PARK

COCKEYSVILLE, MARYLAND

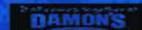
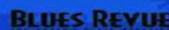
SATURDAY  
AUGUST 15

The Derek Trucks Band  
Joe Bonamassa

JASON ISBELL and the 400 UNIT  
Chopteeth, Old Man Brown

1-877-321-fest

www.hotaugustblues.com





## Requiem



Photo courtesy Alligator Records

### Koko Taylor Queen of the Blues

On June 3, 2009, only about a month after winning her 29<sup>th</sup> Blues Music Award – for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year – and performing her signature song, *Wang Dang Doodle* there for the last time, Koko Taylor died from complications following surgery. She was 80 years old.

Born in 1928 in Memphis, Tennessee, Cora Walton earned the nickname Koko because of her love for chocolate. She also loved the blues and dreamed of becoming a blues singer. After being orphaned at 11 and picking cotton to

survive, 18 year old Koko and her future husband, Robert “Pops” Taylor, moved to Chicago where they frequented the local clubs and Koko began sitting in with the city’s top blues bands. When Willie Dixon of Chess Records noticed the young singer and convinced her to record *Wang Dang Doodle*, her dream became a reality. Although the song was first recorded by Howlin’ Wolf, Koko made it a hit.

After Chess Records was sold, Koko signed with Alligator Records. Her first album on Alligator, *I Got What It Takes*, was nominated for a Grammy and so were six of the other eight albums she recorded with that label. Her last, *Old School*, was recorded in 2007.

During her career, Koko Taylor received every blues award ever offered and received more Blues Music Awards than any other artist. In 2004 she received the NEA National Heritage Fellowship Award, one of the highest honors given to an American artist. As Koko explained to Don Wilcock, editor of *BluesWax*, in a recent interview, “I’m here to please all these people, and you can’t please everybody, but we try, and that’s what I do is try to reach out and please and make everybody feel good and enjoy what I’m out there doing.”

And that’s what we did - enjoyed every minute of it. Thanks, Koko.

(Ed. Note: Koko Taylor’s funeral, on Friday, June 12, coincided with the first day of the Chicago Blues Festival. That city was her home for over 50 years and its residents as well as Blues musicians who had gathered for the festival provided a musical sendoff befitting a queen.

Contributions in her memory can be sent to the Koko Taylor Celebrity Aid Foundation, an organization providing social services, counseling as well as financial assistance to members of the entertainment and art community. You can go on-line to [www.kokotaylor.com](http://www.kokotaylor.com) or mail to The Koko Taylor Celebrity Aid Foundation, P.O. Box 378, Oak Lawn, IL 60454.)

### Ronnie Eugene Hill

This note from Billy Jones Bluez: Our brother and fellow blues warrior, Ronnie Hill (1958-2009) has passed away (June 16) from complications of throat cancer. We love him and he will be truly missed. He was an irreplaceable part of this organization. He was a wonderful friend and an outstanding bass player who earned his wings on many U.S. and European tours with us. Heaven has gained a great musician.

### Kenny Rankin

A highly regarded guitarist, vocalist and songwriter, Rankin died on June 8, 2009 from lung cancer. He was 69.

Early in his career, he signed with Decca records and issued a few singles but the turning point came when he joined Columbia Records and subsequently played guitar on Bob Dylan’s 1965 album *Bringing It All Back Home* (songs include *Maggie’s Farm* and *Subterranean Home-sick Blues*).

Rankin credited vocalist/songwriter Laura Nyro (*Jimmy Mack*; *Wedding Bell Blues*; *Stone Soul Picnic*) as a major influence and in turn, became an influence on other recording artists in pop, folk, R&B and jazz. His lyrics, though often emotion, can be described as heartfelt, intelligent and mature. The same could be said of his singing.



Photo © krishnaa7gada

### Michael Jackson The King of Pop

Millions of words will be written, tears shed, jokes made, opinions expressed, and video clips played (some positive, some negative) as the world reacts to the death of Michael Jackson on June 25. Fans across the globe responded to the news with a buying frenzy that saw Internet downloads and CD sales hit new highs. Tribute websites sprouted and fifty-thousand photos were uploaded.

Regardless of what criticisms people have of Michael Jackson, the man, Michael Jackson, the artist, leaves a legacy deserving of respect including 19 Grammys,

two inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and numerous other awards. Guinness World Records crowned him “The Most Successful Entertainer” in the world. We know that success is fleeting and that title seems awkward when we look at his behavior, physical changes, legal battles, lawsuits, etc. But, there was a time he owned our hearts back in those glorious years of The Jackson 5. Then he branched out and developed a solo career and we were entranced by his dancing as well as his singing. He moved in ways that shocked our parents and delighted his fans. We tried to master the moonwalk and failed miserably. We bought black leather jackets, raised the collars and tried to be as “Bad” as Michael. Again, we failed miserably. The same can be said of our lame attempts to replicate Michael’s falsetto.

In 1983, we gathered to watch a 14-minute video of the song “Thriller” on MTV. It was unique in many ways – its length, imagery and choreography but it also broke through MTV’s self-imposed color barrier (Tina Turner and Donna Summers were among the exceptions). The album and video soared to the top of the pop charts and its popularity has yet to diminish. As of press time, it was played over 43 million times on YouTube. *Thriller*, the best-selling album worldwide (over 100 million copies) was recognized in 2008 by the Library of Congress as “culturally significant” and is preserved in its National Recording Registry along with the music of Lead Belly, Louis Armstrong, Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, B.B. King, Hank Williams, Aretha Franklin, T-Bone Walker, Muddy Waters and others. A version of *Thriller* was filmed in India; over 1,500 prison inmates performed it at the Cebu Provincial Detention Center in the Philippines; so did the staff of the National Library of Australia and Darth Vader & the Storm Troopers at Disney World. It’s been performed at wedding receptions and in April, 2009, 242 students (all born several years after its release) at The College of William & Mary gathered to break the world dance record (due to a technicality, the prison version didn’t count). The album’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with a reissue and plans for a Broadway play.

In 1985, Michael rallied us to fight world hunger with “We are The World,” a song he wrote with Lionel Richie. The album of the same name was produced by Quincy Jones who had collaborated on *Off The Wall* and *Thriller*. In 1988, the video for “Man in The Mirror” from the album *Bad* (also produced by Jones) repeated his anti-hunger message. All profits from the single were donated to famine relief charities.

As much as we loved Michael’s videos, we also loved the parodies supplied by Weird Al Yankovic. We laughed and sang along with “Eat It” and “Fat” – it was good to know that Michael (the artist) had loaned the scenery to Yankovic to maintain the video’s integrity. In exchange, Michael (the businessman) received a share of the royalties.

Time passed and many of us were drawn to other forms of music, turning away from pop and flipping the channel when disturbing images and stories of Michael emerged. But now he’s gone and the frenzied media that drove us away draws us back with some the positive aspects of his life. Ironically, MTV is providing many revealing and relevant views. We’ll watch for a few minutes, sing along (or dance) to the music he made, and in doing so, say goodbye to Michael as we remember the joy he gave us and with hope that his spirit is finally at peace.



July 2009	
1	Smithsonian Folklife Festival, National Mall July 1-5
2	Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Frederick Yonnet @ Blues Alley
3	Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Fat Boys Country Store
4	<b>4th of July Party featuring Bobby Lewis Band, Memphis Gold, Jay Summerour, others @ Hershey's Restaurant;</b> Big Daddy Stallings @ Quiet Waters Park; Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar
5	<b>DCBS Jam @ Surf Club Live;</b> Big Daddy Stallings @ African American Heritage Festival, Camden Yards; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues
6	Janine Wilson Band @ Hyattsville Summer Jam; Big Boy Little @ JV's; Eric Lindell @ Rams Head; C.W. Harrington @ Westminster Church
7	Idle Americans @ Cat's Eye
8	Idle Americans @ Bangkok Blues; American Roots @ Rams Head
9	<b>BBS presents Joey Gilmore, AZ Kenny, Nadine Rae @ The Whiskey;</b> Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar, Eric Lindell @ The State Theatre
10	<b>12th Annual Briggs Farm Blues Festival,</b> Nescopeck, PA; Idle Americans @ Murphy's Pub
11	<b>BBS presents Lil' Ed &amp; Blues Imperials @ Fish Head Cantina;</b> <b>12th Annual Briggs Farm Blues Festival,</b> Nescopeck, PA; Rich DelGrosso Blues Mandolin Workshop @ Patuxent Studios; GrooveQuest @ Bangkok Blues; BG & Mojo Hands @ King's Contrivance Village Center ; BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai, Bethesda; Snakehead Run @ Lake Anne Plaza
12	<b>DCBS presents Joey Gilmore, AZ Kenny, Nadine Rae @ Surf Club Live;</b> AEIdle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues
13	Nadine Rae & Allstars @ Westminster Church
16	<b>Robert Cray @ Birchmere; Dollars for Dave Chappell Fund-raiser @ Surf Club Live;</b> Jim Weider's Project Percolator, Janiva Magness @ Rams Head; Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar; Snakehead Run @ Riverdale Park Farmers Market
17	Matt Wigler @ Artscape; Indigenous @ Rams Head; Sherwood Blues Band @ Flanagan's; Idle Americans, Paulverizers @ Bangkok Blues
18	<b>DC Blues Festival Fundraiser w/Bryan Lee @ Surf Club Live;</b> Big Daddy Stallings @ Inner Harbor Amphitheatre; <b>BBS presents Los Reyes del K.O w/Bruce Ewan, Big Joe Maher, Robert Randolph &amp; Family Band @ Artscape;</b> Nighthawks @ Glen Echo; Cathy Ponton King @ Flanagan's; GrooveQuest @ Jay's Saloon; Sherwood Blues Band @ Potomac Grill; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Fat Boys Country Store
19	<b>BBS presents Big Boy Little @ Artscape;</b> Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues; BG & Mojo Hands @ Montgomery Village Lawn Theater
20	Lady Di @ Westminster Church
21	Idle Americans @ JV's
22	Ruby Hayes @ Blues Alley
23	<b>James Cotton @ Blues Alley;</b> Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar
24	<b>Jimmy Thackery, Lil' Ed &amp; Blues Imperials @ Birchmere;</b> Cathy Ponton King @ Blackrock Center; <b>James Cotton @ Blues Alley;</b> Idle Americans @ Stan & Joe's
25	Idle Americans @ Mangos; BG & Mojo Hands @ Sala Thai, Bethesda

26	Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues
27	Clarence Turner Blues Band @ Westminster Church
29	Nighthawks @ Lee District Nights Outdoor Concert
30	Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar
31	<b>Deanna Bogart, Tom Principato @ Birchmere;</b> Idle Americans @ Lexington Market
Early August 2009	
1	<b>DCBS 5th Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues 'n' Bike Contest @ Silver Spring American Legion;</b> Big Daddy Stallings @ Publick Playhouse; Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar; BG & Mojo Hands @ Frederick Vintage VW Show
2	<b>DCBS Jam @ Surf Club Live;</b> Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues; BG & Mojo Hands @ Glen Echo
3	Tom Newman Blues Band @ Westminster Church
4	Idle Americans @ Cat's Eye
6	<b>Derek Trucks Band @ National Harbor;</b> Big Boy Little Blues Jam @ Zoo Bar
7	Big Daddy Stallings @ 219; Neville Brothers @ Rams Head; Idle Americans Blues Jam @ Fat Boys Country Store; BG & Mojo Hands @ Grist Mill Park
<b>Attention dancers:</b> See DCBS homepage for link to dance-friendly venues. To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information, often with a blues twist, send an e-mail to DCBS member and Blues fan Robin: <a href="mailto:hc1829@aol.com">hc1829@aol.com</a>	
<b>Bolded</b> items are picks by calendar editor, Steve Levine, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to <a href="mailto:calendar@dcblues.org">calendar@dcblues.org</a> or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740. <b>Musicians: Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.</b> 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 the event will occur. The DCBS homepage has additional music links and information: <a href="http://www.dcblues.org">www.dcblues.org</a> .	

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Have you been to a great concert or found a band/artist you'd like the world to know about? Want to see your photos in print or have a great idea for a featured article or monthly column? Express yourself in the *CBM*. Send your newsletter contributions to [editor@dcblues.org](mailto:editor@dcblues.org).



**Membership means discounts! Show 'em your card**

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><b>Half-price Admission 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 GOT YOGA?</b> Individual Sessions including gentle yoga, breathing techniques, warm up, poses, meditation and laughter therapy Group Yoga Sessions (minimum of 8) available for above and Laughter Yoga Call to schedule: 301-802-1879</p>
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**Whites, Blacks, and Blues: The Past, Present, and Politics of Blues Music by Luvenia A. George, Ph.D.**

The panel of scholars and blues musicians had an interesting and invigorating discussion of Blues history and traditions on Saturday, June 13, at the Tinner Hills Blues Festival. Moderated by Dr. Gregg Kimball, award-winning musician and historian from the Library of Virginia, he led the panel to consider the Blues from many different viewpoints and delve into the lasting impact of the genre.

Dr. Barry Pearson, author and University of Maryland professor [also a founder of DCBS], gave insight into the effect of the music industry on distribution and dissemination of Blues music from various parts of the United States, such as the Piedmont area and others. Dr. Harold Anderson, ethnomusicologist and African-American music researcher and Dr. Luvenia A. George, ethnomusicologist and music educator, commented on the lowly origins of the Blues; the global impact of a music that began in African-American communities, and the need for the education of young people in Blues history and performance. Ida Campbell, WPFW programmer and singer, spoke on the favorable reception of the music among her listeners and called for the establishment of an all-Blues radio station.

Blues musicians Phil Wiggins, Rick Franklin and Warner Williams gave stimulating performances that had the audience "rocking." Questions from the audience ended what was a provocative and stimulating two hours of talk, music, and joyful interaction.

[Ed. Note: This year's Tinner Hill Blues Festival and Tribute to John Jackson saw its largest attendance since its inception 16 years ago. It's evolved from a small, one day event into a 3-day celebration of the Blues. Prior to day-long festival on Saturday, June 13, Blues fans had the opportunity to see Chuck Brown and Bobby Parker perform at the State Theatre as well as many other musicians who played at Metro stops, outdoor spaces, restaurants and bars.

The Tinner Hill Foundation, located in Falls Church, VA, is dedicated to the preservation of the history of African-Americans who settled in the city, fought against segregation and received the first rural charter of the NAACP. To read more about its mission, history, achievements and other events, go to [www.tinnerhill.org](http://www.tinnerhill.org). ]

**Silver Spring Blues Festival airs on Montgomery County TV and Online**

Speaking of festivals, the Silver Spring Blues Festival is being aired (in 4-parts) on Channel 21 in Montgomery County and online. The viewing schedule is available at [www.accessmontgomery.tv](http://www.accessmontgomery.tv).

**Reminders**

- Deadline for entering the 2009 DCBS Battle of The Bands is August 17. The event takes place on Saturday, October 10, 2009. For details, go to [www.dcblues.org](http://www.dcblues.org)
- The 26th International Blues Challenge (IBC) is January 20-23, 2010 in Memphis, TN. The Blues Foundation info: [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org).
- International Songwriting Competition (ISC), entry deadline is October 7. Website: [www.songwritingcompetition.com](http://www.songwritingcompetition.com)



L—R Barry Pearson, Luvenia George, Warner Williams. Photo: Gary Mester

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Photo courtesy Cathy Mills

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