

BLUES NEWS



www.bluesblowtorch.org

www.myspace.com/blues_blowtorch_society

August 2010-March 2011

Official Ramblings from the Prez

In This Issue of Blues News

| | |
|---|---|
| Official Ramblings from the Prez | 1 |
| NEW MEMBERS | 1 |
| Board Members and Officers | 1 |
| The International Blues Challenge | 2 |
| This Editors Take on the IBC | 3 |
| Eatin' and Bluesin' Our Way Through Memphis | 3 |
| International Blues Challenge Winners | 4 |
| Up and Coming Events | 4 |

Although we've been at the Castle Theater since December, I thought I should expound on it a bit. In an effort to bring the blues society into the mainstream, our relationship with Castle seemed to be a natural fit. Their slogan is 'Where music is King' fits the venue very well. We have also tied in to the Downtown Bloomington Association, by moving most of our events to the First Friday. We hope to be able to draw people already downtown for their events, into the Castle...and entice them to become members. It seems to be working!! The weather has been a bit of a challenge, but the availability of parking right across the street is a big plus. The Castle's co-owner Rory O'Connor, has been a real pleasure to work with, and with their interest in the WHIP radio station gives our events a lot of airtime. We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship, benefitting both of our organizations.



Photo courtesy of 1057therocks.com

The next event will be Saturday, March 5th.
See ya out bluesin'
Randy

We Are Very Excited to Present These NEW MEMBERS!!

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Laurel AUGSBERGER | Rex & Patti BEAN | Tim KELLER |
| Dennis & Becky BALLENGER | Michael & Dianne BIELFELDT | Lyn & Bonnie SMITH |
| Tony & Sharon BECKER | Barry & Lynne CONDER | Gene WHITEHOUSE |
| Dan BRADY | Fran GARRETT | Marta ISLEY |
| Joe & Alice SPENCER | Mary & Tom HAYNES | Bob & Joni WOLFFE |
| Bob WAZIENSKI | Ken & Kris KATCH | Laura COEN |
| Kathy McKINNEY | Adeke KRONES | Alan McKimmy |

Officers

- President: Randy Hoffman
rd.hoffman@frontier.com
- Vice President: Jeff Augsburger
- Treasurer: Deborah Mehlberg
- Secretary: Sallie Able
- Parliamentarian: Leonard Beach

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Education: Steve Mehlberg
- Entertainment: Deborah Mehlberg
- Merchandise: Bob Wills
- Membership: Frank Black
- Newsletter Editor: Lena Sacco
- Webmaster: Deborah Mehlberg

GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS

- Larry Duchanois
- Mike Sacco
- J Balmer
- Rick Tull

The Blues Foundation has selected the location of its first permanent home. The organization hopes to move into its new home in Downtown Memphis in March 2011 after more than 30 years of temporary spaces. The establishment of a permanent home will centralize the Foundation's educational, audio-visual and retail opportunities, in addition to housing its staff and operations. The move will fulfill a dream that dates back to the Foundations founding in 1980 and will serve the mission of Blues music preservation, celebration and education and meet the demand for a space for Blues music fans to visit, interact, learn and listen.

In order to expose blues music to even more people, we need a place that's open to the public and encourages visitors. For far too long, our visibility has been through our events or our website.

Online presence allows us to reach members, prospects and fans easily and efficiently, but it's no substitute for the real thing. We need a brick-and-mortar home that respects the past but has a contemporary feel that leaves people knowing the music is alive today.

We want to thank all the former board members and foundation members for helping with their support over the past 30 years to make this happen today. This is not the end of anything but a beginning and with the new building comes even more expectations that we continue to do all we can, to help and support the blues. -- Blues Foundation board President Bill Wax, Program Director and Host of B.B. King's Bluesville on SiriusXM.

The new location at 421 South Main Street will feature 4000 square feet of public showroom, which in addition to housing staff, will present its Hall of Fame inductees through exhibits of memorabilia, artwork, and audio-visual presentations that will be both educational and entertaining. Items for sale in its retail store will similarly focus on Hall of Fame recordings and literature as well as Blues Foundation-branded merchandise.

The move will place The Blues Foundation in the South Main Arts District of Memphis, a historic area on the south edge of downtown. It will neighbor the Folk Alliance International, Memphis Music Foundation, the Memphis chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), and the National Civil Rights Museum, among other Memphis destinations for art, history, and culture.

People of all ages, races, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds travel to Memphis from around the world for one primary purpose: Blues music. We're so excited that now there will be a

visible center for them to visit while they're here. -- Blues Foundation board member. -- Kevin Kane, President and CEO, Memphis Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

The Blues Foundation's relocation to a permanent home also signifies the organization becoming a more vital part of the growth industry that is Blues music in the Delta: an ever-expanding Blues Marker Historical Trail, an emerging Blues scene in Clarksdale, and a multi-million dollar Blues museum in development on Highway 61 near the Tunica Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"People of all ages, races, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds travel to Memphis from around the world..."

The Blues Foundation Keeps the Blues



Photo courtesy of the briolife.com

Alive With Its 30th Annual Awards Ceremony in Memphis this February

Honorees Include Key Movers from Around the Globe

Memphis, TN - On the heels of achieving its all-time high membership (quickly approaching 4,000 total), The Blues Foundation honored 21 individuals and organizations with its 2011 Keeping the Blues Alive (KBA) Award during a recognition brunch on Saturday, February 5, 2011, in Memphis, Tennessee. Each year, The Blues Foundation presents the KBA Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the blues music world. The KBA ceremony began at 10:00 A.M. and was held in conjunction with the 27th International Blues Challenge (IBC) weekend of events that featured the final rounds of the world's most prestigious blues competition and largest gathering of blues acts.

The KBAs are awarded strictly on the basis of merit by a select panel of blues professionals to those working to actively promote and document the music. Nominations are accepted from affiliated blues societies, past KBA recipients and current members of The Blues Foundation's Board of Directors.

"The recipients of this year's awards, as with

every year, are people and organizations who are an integral part of not only promoting blues music, but of preserving it as well. Their work applies to the business of recorded music, live events, print media, radio and visual broadcasts, and increasingly, the international blues community," notes Art Tiptaldi, KBA chairman.

The 2011 Keeping the Blues Alive Awards recipients are:

- Agent:** Intrepid Artists, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Blues Club:** Chan's Fine Oriental Dining, Woonsocket, Rhode Island
- Blues Organization:** Billtown Blues Society, Williamsport, Pennsylvania
- Education:** Gary Allegretto, Los Angeles, California
- International Festival:** Notodden Blues Festival, Notodden, Norway
- U. S. Festival:** Tampa Bay Blues Festival, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Film, Television, and Video:** Mako Funasaka, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Historical Preservation:** Canada South Museum, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- International:** Paul Jones, London, England
- Internet:** Mary4Music.com, Baltimore, Maryland
- Journalism:** Tim Parsons, Lake Tahoe Action, California/Nevada
- Literature:** Mary Lou Sullivan, Coventry, Connecticut
- Manager:** Paul Nelson, Bullseye Management, Stamford, Connecticut
- Photography:** Bill Steber, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Print Media:** Twoj Blues, Chorzow, Poland
- Producer:** Michael Freeman, Barrington, Illinois
- Promoter:** Didier Tricard, Montferrier sur Lez, France
- Publicist:** Debra Regur, Blind Pig Records, San Francisco, California
- Radio (Commercial):** Mark Pasman, WCSX-FM, Detroit, Michigan
- Radio (Public):** Tom Wendt, KBOO-FM, Portland, Oregon
- Record Label:** Electro-Fi Records, Toronto, Ontario, Canada



21 awards for blues enthusiasts world wide

The IBC 2011 sponsored in significant part by ArtsMemphis, Budweiser of Memphis, FedEx, First Tennessee Foundation, Gibson Guitars, Lee Oskar Harmonicas, Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau, Smokin' Bluz Radio and Entertainment Network, T. Clifton Art, Tennessee Arts Commission, and VividPix & Design.
Media sponsors: Beale Street Caravan, Big City Rhythm and Blues, Blues Festival Guide, Blues Revue, BluesWax, Down-towner, House of Blues Radio Hour, Living Blues, Memphis Flyer, WREG-TV, and Sirius XM Satellite Radio B.B. King's Bluesville.

This Editors Take on the IBC

This year I had the fantastic opportunity to travel to Memphis Tennessee. Already a privilege in itself, I was also privy to the first three days of the International Blues Foundations International Blues Challenge. An amazing conglomeration of artists from all over the world all brought together within a ten block radius for one giant musical competition.

The five day even kicked off on Tuesday with the International Showcase. Approximately 25 artists from far and farther each provided 15 minutes of their personal and sometimes unique interpretation of the blues. I have been a blues fan for say, 23 of my near 27 years, but I had never experienced international blues artists. I loved that even though many of the artists had slightly different styles from anything I had ever heard, I could still note influences from some of my personal faves like B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Ella, and SRV.

Artists from far and farther each provided 15 minutes of their personal and sometimes unique interpretation of the blues.

My highlight of the Blues Challenge was sitting front and center when our very own Matthew Curry took the stage with his Blues Fury. I always enjoy watching Matthew and the Fury play, but my enjoyment was taken to an entirely different level on Thursday night when I saw and heard many seasoned musicians coming to witness the "prodigy" as I heard some call Matthew. Even though our local band did not proceed far into the Blues Challenge I know that they most certainly will one day.

One thought that kept repeating in my mind during the Blues Challenge was, "Man, I do not envy these judges!" I was totally amazed at the level of talent present. There is no way I could ever have made the decisions to eliminate many groups. Even though I knew that blues societies around the world sent their best of the best "unprofessional" blues groups, it was so hard to imagine some of the bands not already being famous!



Matthew Curry and the Blues Fury

Photo courtesy <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Matthew-Curry-The-Blues-Fury/151660781537688>

Coming home from Memphis I bring two pieces of advice for our readers and blues enthusiasts. One, if you have never been to Memphis, make the trip! This city is bursting at the seams with history and music. Two, if you have been to Memphis and seen the history and the everyday music, try and make the journey during the International Blues Challenge. Next year's dates are January 31-February 4, 2012.

Chewin' and Bluesin' Our Way Through Memphis

Memphis Bite By Bite

OK, so I've been to Memphis before but not with "Lena the tour guide", also known as my daughter. She had already scoped out plenty of activities on the Interweb before we arrived enough for two museums and two restaurants each day for 6 days; plus, she started hitting up the locals about said list as soon as we hit the streets. Her food knowledge and research



Photo courtesy of

led us to befriend Lisa, at Miss Polly's Soul Food Café, who "misguided" us to some of her favorite eateries. Had to go back and give her a hard time, of course.

Keep in mind these are only my opinions, but I thought the best food overall was at the Trolley Stop Market, a few blocks straight north of Sun Studios on Madison; all fresh and locally grown food, even the meat. Where else on the planet can you get an AMAZING side order of brussel sprouts?

Great food was also had at The Local and Auto-

matic Slim's. Had to try the "Slap Your Mama Meatloaf" at the Rum Boogie Cafe for the name alone if nothing else. Turns out it was better than Paula Dean's at some casino in Tunica. Best BBQ we tried (and best red beans and rice) was at the Rendezvous. Once again, my opinion.

In Memphis, everyplace claims to have the best BBQ! But be careful!! Do not, I repeat do not, make your decision until you try at least three different places. Hoffman thinks I should become a food critic, but then I would weigh 500 pounds.

You have to go a little off the beaten path to find the less touristy attractions. We did the Graceland, Sun Studio, and Gibson Guitar tours and they were all very cool, but being the mechanical geek that I am my favorite (touristy... but not touristy enough for what it is) was the Ornamental Metal Museum. The entry gate to the grounds, made by a guy from England, is absolutely spectacular. We could have walked there from our motel. Displays include everything from crazy outdoor creations to fine jewelry to wrought iron to handmade knives to wall fixtures; very impressive. The Jacob Burkle Estate AKA "Slavehaven", is an 1850 WOOD-FRAME underground railroad home. Our guide Valencia was very informative, knowledgeable,

and passionate about her work. We also toured an 1870 Victorian home on Adams that was completely outfitted in period correct furniture, some original to the home, all restored and beautiful.

Don't get me started on the music! Someone else will have to write that article. We probably saw more than 50 bands just at the IBC, and that's not counting all the house bands we saw before the Challenge even started (we got there Sat. prior). During the IBC Lena and I kept saying "I'm sure glad I'm not a judge"; the talent was amazing. A wonderful trip overall. We were "heartbroken" that our bus home Wednesday

Had to try the "Slap Your Mama Meatloaf" at the Rum Boogie Cafe for the name alone if nothing else. Turns out it was better than Paula Dean's

night got canceled and we were forced to stay an extra day. One of my favorite cities, I recommend a trip to Memphis to everyone, even if you're not into music.

Mike the Mechanic

International Blues Challenge Winners

- 1st Place: The Lionel Young Band (Colorado Blues Society)**
2nd Place: The Mary Bridget Davies Group (Kansas City Blues Society)
3rd Place: Rob Blaine's Big Otis Blues (Windy City Blues Society)

Up and Coming Events

Monday February 28, 2011

BRUCE KATZ
The Alamo Club
Springfield, Illinois
Show @ 8:30PM

Thursday March 3, 2011

JOE ZACKLAN BAND
Baxter's American Grille
3212 E Empire St,
Bloomington, IL
Show @ 6 PM

Friday March 4, 2011

DANNY AND THE DEVILS
The Castle Theater
209 E. Washington Street, Unit 1
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
Show 7-10PM
\$5.00 Cover Charge
\$3.00 for BBS Members

Monday March 7, 2011

EDDIE SNOW TRIBUTE W/BILL
EVANS
The Alamo Club
Springfield, Illinois
Show @ 8:30PM

Saturday March 12, 2011

TERRY QUIETT BAND
Coconut Louie's
2303 E. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL.
Show @ 9pm. cover \$5.00.
Opening The Night
II TON HEAVY THING

CHICKEN SHACK
Baxter's American Grille
3212 E Empire St,
Bloomington, IL