Capital Blues Messenger

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

July 2019 Volume 13, Issue 7

DCBS + JV's Restaurant Partnership = More Giveaways!

by Pete Salsbury

The DC Blues Society is happy to announce a new partnership that will offer ticket giveaway contests with the legendary JV's Restaurant in Falls Church, VA!

JV's has been a timeless favorite for live, local music since 1947 and has a long, sustained reputation for promoting the blues as well as other roots music. JV's is family-owned and operated, and the current owner, Lorraine Campbell, took over from her parents in 1999.

Specializing in delicious home-cooked meals and soups, JV's features the DC Metro area's outstanding local entertainment, plus national and regional touring artists, 365 days each year, seven days per week, 13–14 shows per week. JV's hosts an excellent blues jam every Monday night, coordinated by local legend Wolf Crescenze.

JV's slogan, "Ageless charm without yuppie bastardization," makes clear the restaurant's avid support for down-to-earth clientele. Since expanding the original room a few years ago, JV's now features a large dance floor and many tables and booths in addition to a bar area.

Our first ticket giveaway contest will be for two tickets to see the Albert Castiglia Band at 9pm, Friday, July 12. To enter, send an email to **entry@dcblues.org**. In the subject line, type in Albert Castiglia July 12 show. Include your name, your phone number and if you are a DCBS member in the text of the message. Priority goes to DCBS members. Deadline to enter is July 10. Look for this and other contests in the weekly eblasts.

And remember, DCBS members should bring their membership cards and the coupon from page 15 to get a "buy 1 drink and receive a 2nd drink FREE" special, valid once per visit. JV's is located at 6666 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22042. Call them at 703-241-9504 or visit **www.jvsrestaurant.com**

Get your tickets NOW for July 20 FUNraiser to support 2019 DC Blues Festival!

Blues fans, five bands and delicious food are getting together to raise some fun and funds on Saturday, July 20. The DCBS piggie bank that finances the DC Blues Festival is hungry! Join us for music, dancin' and good company to feed the pig and raise money to cover expenses of the 2019 DC Blues Festival.

Admission is $15 and includes a delicious gourmet sub sandwich from Filippo's in Wheaton (formerly Marchone's) and chips. Additional food, homemade brownies and more will be available for purchase. Food is served 6 to 8pm. Post 41 features an affordable cash bar. DCBS merchandise will be for sale, and raffles and door prizes will be offered.

Doors to American Legion Post 41 open at 4:30pm, live music goes 5:15 to 10pm. See pages 6 and 7 for profiles of the bands and more info. Post 41 is located at 905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, Md 20910, entrance is on Fenton Street, parking in the adjacent county lot is free all day.

The 2019 DC Blues Festival is set for Sunday, Oct. 13. The Festival has always been free to the public, and DCBS wants to retain that practice. All proceeds from the FUNraiser are earmarked to cover this year's event. See page 11 for more Festival info.

Come feed the pig, enjoy an evening of blues and support DCBS FUNraising efforts. Beat the crowd and buy your tickets today on eventbrite: **https://www.eventbrite.com/e/funraiser-for-2019-dc-blues-festival-tickets-62881680800**

photo by Wayne Botts

Blues guitarist James Armstrong, left, and local vocalist Carly Harvey feed off each other's energy at the All-Stars Band Jam at the conclusion of the Silver Spring Blues Festival last month. More on page 9.

DC Blues Society

P.O. Box 6289

Washington, DC

20015-0289

www.dcblues.org

The DC Blues Society (DCBS) was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. Its mission is to celebrate, preserve, and promote the Blues as an original American art form. DCBS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that depends on grants, membership, contributions, and volunteers to operate. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

DCBS is governed by its Board of Directors. Only DCBS Officers and designated board members are authorized to speak, represent and make commitments on behalf of the organization.

The Capital Blues Messenger is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by email to members. Back issues are available at **www.dcblues.org.**

DCBS members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, cartoons, reviews and suggestions to the newsletter. Please submit material via email to **newsletter@dcblues.org.** Listings from bands and venues should be sent to **calendar@dcblues.org.** Deadline for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Articles should be submitted in MSWord; logos and graphics should be in vector format (.eps or .ai); and photos should be in color in high resolution .jpg format. DCBS reserves the right to edit or refuse any content, including advertising, that it deems inappropriate.

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Enjoy the Benefits and Fun of DCBS Membership

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
- Friendship 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
- Eligibility to win free tickets to area Blues concerts and performances (e.g., City Winery, DC; The Soundry; The Hamilton and more)
- 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

Join or Renew Today!

Date _____ ❑ New ❑ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Family email _____ Second 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 6289
Washington, DC 20015-0289

Becoming a DCBS member is quick and easy! Use the mail-in application on this page, sign up at the DCBS table at any DCBS event or apply online at **www.dcblues.org**

Fourth Friday Blues Happy Hour

Friday, July 26

featuring the music of

Carly Harvey's Kiss and Ride

photo by Wayne Botts

Music: 6:30–9:30 pm
FREE Admission

Affordable Cash Bar + Food
Dancin' + Door Prizes + Fun

American Legion Post 41
905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910
Entrance on Fenton St., adjacent to public parking lot
***FREE** Parking AFTER 7 PM*

www.**dcblues.org** ★ **240-876-8295**

DC-MD-VA Blues Performers:

Deadline for Entries: Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019
www.dcblues.org

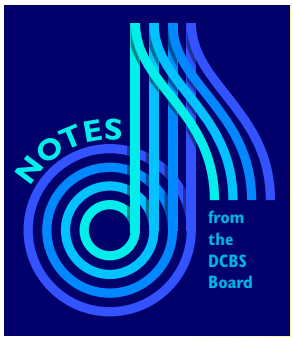
On Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019, DCBS will host its annual competitions to determine which band and solo/duo acts will represent DCBS in the International Blues Challenge (IBC), Jan. 28–Feb. 1, 2020, in Memphis.

The DCBS also may send a youth band or solo/duo act to perform at the IBC in the Youth category and also will accept entries for the IBC's Best Self-Produced CD category.

Deadline for entering the band, solo/duo, and youth categories is Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019. The deadline for entering the Best Self-Produced CD category is Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019. The DCBS Battle of the Bands and Solo/Duo Competition comprise a CD review and an all-live competition at the American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Winners of the Band and Solo/Duo competitions represent the DCBS at the 2020 International Blues Challenge AND also are paid to perform at the 2019 Free College Park Blues Festival (an IBC Fundraiser) on Saturday, Nov. 9 AND at the 2020 Annual DC Blues Festival (subject to change). Complete entry requirements and eligibility criteria are available on the DCBS website: **www.DCBlues.org**

Enjoyin' the Summertime Blues



Hello Blues Fans:

I hope you are enjoying the Summertime Blues! There are many events going on in the area and they include:

Feed the Pig! FUNraiser for the 2019 DC Blues Festival. Come on out to the July 20 FUNraiser at American Legion Post 41 on Saturday, July 20. Music from five great bands, good food, drinks and dancing will chase away any summertime blues. The DCBS piggy bank that funds the annual DC Blues Festival is low and all proceeds from the FUNraiser go to help cover festival expenses. **Tickets, which cover entry, music and dancing, a delicious gourmet sub sandwich and chips, are only $15 and are availabe at dcblues.org**. See the article on page 6 for profiles of the bands and the flier on page 7 for more info. Thanks to Carly Harvey, the Crossfire Band, 3 Song Sadie, Cadillac Jump Blues Band and the Jose Ramirez Band for offering to play and help us raise needed funds. And thanks to the other bands who offered to play, but we couldn't include them on the show.

DCBS is now friends with Wolf Trap, and it's always nice to have good friends in high places! An amazing ticket giveaway announced in a late June eblast for tickets to Buddy Guy and Kenny Wayne Shepherd, with Samantha Fish as the opening act. This was a last-minute opportunity offered exclusively to DCBS members, thanks to Keith at Wolf Trap. We will be doing more events with Wolf Trap later this summer. Be sure to read those eblasts and don't miss out!

Area blues bands, have you ever dreamed of playing in Memphis? This is your chance if you enter and win our Battle of the Bands or the Solo/Duo Competition on Saturday, Sept. 14. See page 4 or visit **DCBlues.org** to sign up. The winners of each competition represent DCBS at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January 2020!

1st Sunday Blues Jam. You never know who is going to show up, but DCBS can promise a good time playing or listening to top area musicians at the jam. The next jam is Sunday, Aug. 4, music goes from 4–8pm.

4th Friday Blues Happy Hours. The amazing Carly Harvey's Kiss and Ride will entertain from 6:30–9:30pm on Friday, July 26! Carly and her band represented DCBS at the 2019 IBC, and you don't want to miss an opportunity to hear her powerful and soulful voice.

More Ticket giveaways! DCBS is very grateful for the incredible partnerships we have with the City Winery DC, the Hamilton Live and The Soundry. These relationships enable us to offer tickets to some great shows every month. Check the weekly eblasts, and visit **DCBlues.org** to keep up with the latest giveaway. Shows are always being added, and priority goes to DCBS members! If you win tickets and can't go, please let us know ASAP so we can offer the tickets to someone else.

Partnership benefits! See my interview and review of John "Papa" Gros at the City Winery on page 12 and my article on Johnny Neel at JV's on page 13. The musicians I have met all say they appreciate very much what local blues societies are doing to keep the blues alive. Thanks to JV's and City Winery for bringing in outstanding blues artists and arranging interviews with them.

Festival Season continues. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth at the Tinner Hill, Silver Spring and Big Funky Festivals in June. We sure had a good time! Judging by the photos, lots of folks enjoyed an afternoon of hot blues! See pages 8, 9 and 10 for photos. Check out other nearby festivals set for this summer and support the promoters who organize these festivals.

DCBS membership continues to grow, but we always welcome more members. Thanks to all who have renewed your memberships and a hearty welcome to our new members. Your membership fees and donations are needed to support our events. Your annual membership costs about $3 per month for a year of outstanding blues music and fun.

Thank you for your support!

---Pete Salsbury
president@dcblues.org

2019 DCBS Special Events

July 20: Feed the Pig! FUNraiser

Sept.14: 2019 Battle of the Bands and Solo/Duo Competition

Oct. 13: DC Blues Festival

Nov. 9: College Park Blues Festival

Dec. 31: DCBS New Year's Eve Party

2019 4th Friday Blues Happy Hours

July 26: Carly Harvey Band

Aug. 23: Cooking with Gas

Sept. 27: Fast Eddie & the Slowpokes

Oct. 25: Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner

Nov. 22: The Smokin' Polecats

CITY WINERY
WASHINGTON DC

July 12: Southern Soul Tribute "Music of Muscle Shoals & Stax Volt" ★★

July 19: Nikki Hill ★★

July 27: Masters of the Telecaster "Tribute to Danny Gatton" ★★

Aug. 23: Gary Hoey ★★

Oct. 2: Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues with Lynne Jordan

(★★ designates ticket giveaway)

Line-up for the DC Blues Society's FUNraiser

We're not just raising funds, we're raising FUN! *DCBS members, musicians and blues fans gather on Saturday, July 20 to feed the piggie bank that finances the 2019 DC Blues Festival. The festival has always been a free event, and DCBS wants to assure that it remains a free event. The following musicians have volunteered their time and talents to entertain at the FUNraiser. We appreciate their generosity and are certain you'll enjoy their performances on July 20 and in the future.*

Carly Harvey (solo)

Based in Washington, DC, Carly Harvey combines blues, jazz, soul and Americana roots styles to create a unique sound that calls to mind Etta James, Bonnie Raitt, Nina Simoneand Ella Fitzgerald.

Carly is a two-time DC Blues Society Battle of the Bands/Solo-Duo Competition winner and was proclaimed "DC's Queen of the Blues" in 2016 by Dr. Nick Johnson of WPFW Radio. Carly's band won the 2018 DC Blues Society Battle of the Bands and represented DC in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in January 2019 and advanced to the semi-finals. In addition to her solo performances, Carly has other active music projects, including Kiss and Ride, a high energy blues ensemble; and work with an Italian producer, where she writes and plays a fusion of folk, blues and soul.

Crossfire Band and Show

The Crossfire Band and Show is a band from the Washington, DC area featuring experienced, professional artists that have been playing together performing for clubs, parties and other special occasions.

The band specializes in 70's and 80's Motown, R&B, rock 'n roll, blues and funk Band music. These professional musicians are known to perform listening and dance music for all occasions.

The Crossfire Band prides itself for their dynamic harmonies, discriminating song selection and professional attitude. The Crossfire Band provides audiences with good music and a good time.

Cadillac Jump Blues Band

Hoy, Hoy! Laying it on you straight—Cadillac Jump Blues Band—digging in deep and laying it down! These cats are blues veterans. Having established a solid reputation in the DC region during the past several years, they love nothing more than rockin' the house and getting the joint jumping. They're just taking care of business whether the number is a Chicago-style, deep-dish jump blues; a cool, West Coast chromatic swing; a blues-rock, Texas strat strut; or a hot Cajun shuffle. It's blues with a feeling, baby. This four-piece combo platter features Steve Levine (harp), Matt Coffman (guitar/vox), Curt Lawrence (bass/vox) and Dale Mauck (drums/vox).

Three Song Sadie

Three Song Sadie primarily works the DC Open Mic scene, introducing rockin' blues to the millennials, three songs at a time! Dick Culp (guitar/vocals), Randy Lyhus (lead guitar), Holly Culp (bass) and Gary Ehlers (drums/vocals) create high energy, head-banging blues, utilizing variation in sound and tempo, with a touch of psychedelia. Whether it's an Open Mic, blues jam, or gig, Three Song Sadie hammers out attention-grabbing sets with a beat sure to get the crowd grooving and packing the dance floor. Three Song Sadie: not just another shuffle!

Jose Ramirez Band

At 30 years old, Jose Ramirez is Costa Rica's premier blues artist and has played with some of the biggest names in the industry, including Anson Funderburgh, Mark Hummel, Marquise Knox, Bryan Lee, Shawn Holt and Albert Castiglia, to name a few.

Jose recently completed his second European tour performing more than 30 shows throughout England, Holland, Spain and Belgium. This new DC-based band is getting ready for their first US Tour in August-September, where they already have confirmed shows at Buddy Guy's Legends and The House of Blues in Chicago, plus another 15 shows in the Midwest and South.

This tour will prepare the band for the DC Battle of the Bands on Sept. 14 where they plan to compete for a chance to represent DCBS at the 2020 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

FUNraiser
for 2019 DC Blues Festival

Saturday, July 20

The DCBS piggie bank that finances the annual DC Blues Festival is hungry!

We're serving up fine food and cool blues from great local acts with all proceeds earmarked to cover expenses of the 2019 DC Blues Festival on Sunday, Oct. 13.

Come feed the pig, enjoy an evening of music, dancin' and fun, and support DCBS FUNraising efforts to keep the Blues Festival a free event!

Admission: $15

includes a **delicious gourmet sub sandwich** and chips. Additional food, homemade brownies & more will be available for purchase.

Affordable Cash Bar

Raffles • Door Prizes

DCBS Merch

Doors open: 4:30pm
Music: 5:15-10pm
Food served: 6-8pm

Want to volunteer?
volunteer@dcblues.org

Blues from Outstanding Local Bands

5:15pm: **Carly Harvey, solo**

6:15pm: **Crossfire Band**

7:15pm: **3 Song Sadie**

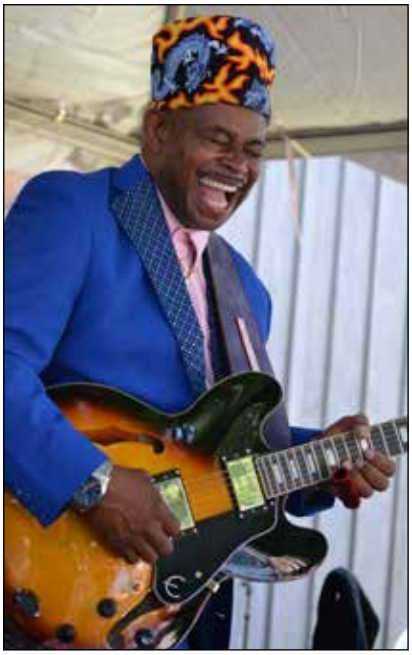
8:15pm: **Cadillac Jump Blues Band**

9:15pm: **Jose Ramirez Band**

Beat the crowd! Buy your tickets today:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/funraiser-for-2019-dc-blues-festival-tickets-62881680800

American Legion Post 41
905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910
Entrance on Fenton St., adjacent to public parking lot • ***FREE Parking*** *ALL DAY!*

www.dcblues.org ★ 240-876-8295



Falls Church City, VA
TINNER HILL MUSIC FESTIVAL
JUNE 8, 2019
TinnerHill.org

photos by Wayne Botts

The Tinner Hill Music Festival on Saturday, June 8 expands and re-brands for 2019 and triples its attendance. Top left: Lil Ed and The Blues Imperials bring their smiles and joy of performing to Falls Church. Top right: The Moonshine Society featuring Ron Holloway gets the crowd movin amd groovin'. Right: The award-winning, all-woman Batalá Washington Afro-Brazilian Band presents its catchy Samba Reggae rhythms. Lower right: Black Betty from Moonshine Society is exuberent about her performance. Below: The crowd enjoys a wide variety of musical genres.

photos by Wayne Botts

Organizers agree the 11th Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival on Saturday, June 15 was a huge success, attracting a big crowd of dancin', singin' and jivin' blues fans. Top left: Headliner James Armstrong leaves the stage and boogeys through admiring fans. Top right: Even volunteers get into the swing of things. Middle left: Lil Bit 'A Blues featuring the legendary Warner Washington play on the acoustic stage. Middle right: DC favorite Linwood Taylor plays a blistering set. Above left: musicians from the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Ensemble please the crowd at the acoustic stage. Above: The Colin Thompson Band present their modern interpretation of the blues. At left: Deanna Bogart gets the fans moving with her sensational keyboard and saxophone work.

photos by John Quinter

Above: local favorites, from left, Mark Wenner, Jay Summerour, Dave Chappell, Daryl Davis, Ron Holloway and Dan Hovey, jam at the conclusion of the inaugural Big Funky Blues Festival on Father's Day, June 16. Right: Patty Reese and her soaring voice are crowd pleasers. Below right: Rockville guitarist Jonathan is a busy man, he leads his trio in a set, then plays guitar behind Patty Reese and Don't Tell Suzie. Bottom: The Big Funky Blues Fest attracted a crowd of 1,000+ to the Mt. Airy VFD Carnival Grounds. The festival was coordinated by the owners of The Music Cafe, Damascus. Below: Dave Chappell and Johnny Neel ge t the crowd moving to their version of the blues.

save the date

Sunday, 10.13.19

DC BLUES SOCIETY PRESENTS

2019 DC BLUES FESTIVAL

1–6PM • FREE • 4 BANDS TBA • LIVE MUSIC + DANCIN'

at WunderGarten at NoMa
1101 First St., NE • Washington DC 20001
at the corner of L Street • one block from the NoMa–Gallaudet stop on the Red Line • commercial parking nearby • craft beers • food trucks • no outside food or beverages

www.dcblues.org ★ 240-876-8295

John "Papa" Gros Brings Funky New Orleans Groove to City Winery, DC

by Pete Salsbury

John "Papa" Gros (pronounced "Grow") and his band performed at the City Winery DC on May 30. I met John before the show, the following is from my interview.

Pete: Welcome,where are you coming from?

John: We drove up from New Orleans yesterday. This is the first night of a two-week tour. We'll be in Baltimore, the Crayfish Festival in New Jersey, Buffalo and Cape Cod.

Pete: Gotta ask—how did you get your nickname and how long have you had it?

John: It started at a jam session around 2000 when we were starting Papa Grows Funk. The bar owner said he needed a name to advertise in the paper. A friend says, "Papa Grows Funk"—you're the Papa, you grow the Funk…. I said that is the stupidest name in the world! But after a few rounds of beer, it was the best we came up with. I have two daughters so I am a "papa"…

Pete: I understand Allen Toussaint was a mentor to you. How did you meet?

John: I was talking to my manager about the next album, he asked who would be my dream producer, and I said Allen Toussaint. A few days later he says Allen wants to meet you. We hit it off right away. Very kind and complimentary of my playing and my direction with New Orleans music; said I was doing the right things and I had learned the right stuff. Didn't get to be great friends until the last three or four years but I have some lifetime memories. I'll cherish that relationship.

Pete: I heard you led a tribute show for Dr. John and that you play some of his songs in your show.

photo by Pete Salsbury

John "Papa" Gros and his band bring a funky New Orleans groove to the City Winery, DC in late May.

John: Yes. I already had brought in six or seven Dr. John songs. In New Orleans, they wanted to do a special Dr. John show, and I always wanted to do one, especially since he's really not playing out in public now and I've been missing it.* So I got a set together, worked in some horns and we sold out the show! Word got out and we did a show at Jazz Fest. Going to be doing a Dr. John tribute this trip at the Burlington Jazz Fest. Even when not doing a tribute, I always have some Dr. John, always keep Dr. John, Allen Toussaint and Art Neville on my set list. They are my three biggest influences.

Pete: I saw a story about your work as a sideman with Anders Osborne, the Neville's, Little Feat and then with Papa Grows Funk. What was that like?

John: I started playing with Anders around '91. Anders is not afraid of change. He actually changes his band up and plays in different configurations. It's a great model for staying fresh.

Pete: When and why did you decide to change things up a bit and record ***Rivers on Fire?***

John: When Papa Grows Funk broke up, I didn't have anything going on! I took off about three months and started playing with George Porter, Anders and others as a sideman for about two years. It was great. Played with my friends; did different things; then started writing some new songs and slowly put the band together. We've been together about three years now.

Pete: Do you still throw in some Papa Grows Funk songs?

John: Yes, very proud of that band. A lot of fans love that music. Our set can include Fats Domino, to the Meters to Papa Grows Funk, to my new record and stuff I'm working on for the next record. It makes it fun for the band and hope it translates to being fun for the audience.

Pete: What are your plans for the rest of the year?

John: After this tour, we'll go back home for July and August and then come up to the Jersey shore and out for a few weeks. I do three or four months at a time.

Pete: Thanks for meeting with me. I'm looking forward to the show.

John "Papa" Gros and his band started off with "Crazy" that has a funky New Orleans groove with hot guitar licks. I felt like I was in New Orleans. Next was "Sugar & Ice," another song with a great groove with John switching back and forth on piano and organ. I think they might want to call him John "Groove" Gros because he has an incredible groove. "I'm Gonna Give It to You" had people up out of their seats swaying back and forth.

John said he loves Mardi Gras and played a song that sounded like a combination of Dr. John and Allen Toussaint and had the crowd up again with some waving white towels. Next was a beautiful new song he dedicated to New Orleans legend Huey "Piano" Smith who, he said, deserves more recognition. The song had a great groove and touching words about the classic songs Huey wrote; he's best known for "Rockin' Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie Flu".

John said he's been playing some Dr. John songs that are not as well known as his hits but should be and played "Quitters never win and winners don't never quit." Next John played the title song from his new record ***Rivers on Fire*** that reminded me of Allen Toussaint with its beautiful melody and lyrics.

John followed that with "Cocaine and Chicken Fricassee" that featured some screaming lead guitar and another amazing groove feel. I wish I could come up with other words to describe how cool this show was! The crowd was up and dancing again. For an encore, the classic Dr. John song, "Iko Iko" had people dancing and waving white towels like they do in New Orleans. John writes very clever lyrics for his songs and all have that infectious New Orleans groove backed by his fabulous band mates on guitar, bass and drums. I had a great time hearing the wonderful groove that John "Papa" Gros and his band does so well. It was a funky good time at the City Winery DC.

* Sad Note: On June 6, Mac Rebennach, better known as Dr. John, died at the age of 77.

Thanks to Chloe Pannell at the City Winery and John "Papa" Gros for arranging the interview.

Johnny Neel, East Coast Sound Bring Funk to JV's!

by Pete Salsbury

Johnny Neel has been touring throughout the US and Europe, entertaining audiences with his powerful vocal and amazing keyboard technique.

Born blind in Wilmington, DE, Neel had a hit single at age 12 in 1966. Two decades later, he moved to Nashville where he became recognized as a top studio session player. Neel later joined the reunited Allman Brothers Band, which led to a No. 1 hit in summer 1990, "Good Clean Fun", from the ***Seven Turns*** album, co-written by Neel with Gregg Allman and Dickey Betts. Since then, Johnny has released many records and continues to tour.

When Neel stopped at JV's in Falls Church, VA for a show on Sunday, June 9, he was in the middle of a two-week tour of the East Coast with band called East Coast Sound. This band of DC all-star musicians featured some impressive, veteran performers: Dave Chappell, Tommy Lepson, Pete Ragusa, Sonny Petrosky and Billy Pierce.

Dave Chappell introduced me to Johnny before the show, and Johnny told me to listen to the dynamics of the band. "They are the best, most attentive, listening guys I've played with," he said. And he wasn't joking.

The band played a few songs to get the show started and warm up a nice-sized crowd at JV's. The first song filled the dance floor. I could listen to these guys all night!

photo by Pete Salsbury

Legendary musicians at a legendary venue: Johnny Neel and East Coast Sound, a group of all-star, regional musicians, performed at JV's in Fall Church in early June.

And then Johnny Neel came up to the bandstand and kicked off a long version of "I'm Southbound" that had a great groove with fabulous guitar and keyboard solos. After a slow blues, they hit another great groove with Tommy Lepson singing the Billy Preston's classic, "Will It Go Round in Circles" that got the dancers out again.

Other highlights of the night included Dave singing a rocking "She's as Good As it Gets" that featured some fine honky-tonk piano by Johnny and ridiculous good guitar by Dave. Sonny Petrosky showed off his vocals with "Talk to Your Daughter," giving the song a cool R&B-style.

Johnny Neel's mix of blues, funk, jazz, R&B, Gospel, country and southern rock styles and fine vocals were all featured and beautifully supported by the bluesy, funky and soulful East Coast Sound. Don't miss seeing these guys if they come to your town!

JV's, located at 6666 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042, was established in 1947 and offers live music seven days a week. For a schedule and more info, visit **www.jvsrestaurant.com**

Editor's note: Shortly after his performances at JV's and Big Funky Blues Festival, Johnny Neel suffered a stroke and is now recovering. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help: **https://www.gofundme.com/f/johnny-neelneeded-home-care-amp-assisted equipment**

Congratulations, Ticket Winners!

Congratulations to the DCBS members and friends who won free tickets to events at our partner venues!

June 13 performance of Selwyn Birchwood at City Winery, DC:
Paul Brockway ▲ Marcia Coffelt

June 16 Big Funky Blues Festival, Mt. Airy, MD:
Bruce Boxer ▲ Henry Tate

June 23 performance of Buddy Guy and Kenny Wayne Shepherd at Wolf Trap:
Matthew Jefferson

Is your DCBS membership current? Members receive priority for giveaways and special offers. Your name could be among the winners of tickets to City Winery, DC; The Hamilton; JV's in Falls Church; The Soundry and Wolf Trap.
Watch your DCBS Eblasts, visit **dcblues.org** and follow us on Facebook.

JULY 2019 BLUES

1	The Blues Brothers @ Westminster Church ▲ Karl Stoll @ Fish Market, Old Town Alexandria
2	Memphis Gold's "Otis Redding Tribute" @ Blues Alley
3	**AJ Ghent** @ City Winery ▲ The Nighthawks @ Lee District Park ▲ Cadillac Jump Blues Band @ Columbia Lakefront Summer Concert Series ▲ Derwoodstock with Moonshine Society, The Lifters, Danger Bird and others @ Outta the Way Café ▲ Jimi Smooth & The Hit @ JVs
4	The Nighthawks @ Rockville Fireworks ▲ Jonny Grave @ Hamilton Loft ▲ The Power Trio @ Edge, Wintergreen Resort
5	**Carolyn Wonderland, Bad Influence** @ City Winery **DCBS Ticket Giveaway** ▲ Little Bit 'A Blues @ Hershey's ▲ Karl Stoll @ Edge, Wintergreen Resort ▲ Electric Blues Night featuring Eli Cook @ Pearl Street Warehouse
6	**Carolyn Wonderland, Bobby Thompson Trio** @ The Soundry ▲ Bad Influence @ Basin St. Lounge ▲ Carly Harvey with Dave Gorozdos @ Sky Stage Frederick ▲ Patty Reese, Dave Chappell @ Vanish Brewery, Leesburg
7	**DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ ▲ Linwood Taylor Band @ JVs
8	Mark Wenner's Blues Warriors @ Westminster Church
9	**Nick Moss Band** @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Carly Harvey @ The Pub & The People ▲ Matt Kelley & Swangbang @ JVs
10	**Mac Arnold & Plate Full of Blues, Sol Roots Band** @ JVs ▲ Patty Reese @ Yorktown Shopping Center Summer Lunch Concert
12	**Albert Castiglia Band** @ JVs **DCBS Ticket Giveaway** ▲ Mike Tash with Mary Shaver (early show) @ JVs ▲ **Southern Soul Tribute: Music of Muscle Shoals and Stax/Volt** @ City Winery **DCBS Ticket Giveaway** ▲ Blues Beatles @ AMP by Strathmore ▲ Holly Montgomery Band with Kajun Kelly @ Hershey's ▲ Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone @ Lake Accotink Park, Springfield ▲ The Nighthawks @ TGIF Fridays @ Veterans Park, Wheaton ▲ Patty Reese @ Silver New Brasserie
13	Bad Influence @ Clydes of Chevy Chase ▲ Carly Harvey's Kiss & Ride @ Hamilton Loft ▲ The Crimestoppers @ Outta The Way Café ▲ Nobody's Business Blues Band @ Jammin' Java ▲ Kelly Bell Band @ Sterling, VA Summer Concerts ▲ Ron Holloway Band @ The Soundry
14	Carly Harvey @ Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, DC ▲ The Nighthawks @ Hershey's ▲ Dave Sherman, various blues artists @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Jon Spears Band (early show) @ JVs ▲ Memphis Gold Show @ JVs ▲ Stacy Brooks @ Madam's Organ
15	Full Power Blues @ Westminster Church
16	Carly Harvey @ Fat Tuesdays, Fairfax ▲ **Robert Randolph & The Family Band** @ Rams Head Annapolis
17	**Tedesci Trucks Band** @ Wolf Trap ▲ **Albert Castiglia & Selwyn Birchwood** @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Patty Reese @ Ayse Meze
18	Carly Harvey @ Gypsy Sally's
19	**Nikki Hill** @ City Winery **DCBS Ticket Giveaway** ▲ Holly Montgomery Band @ Hamilton Loft ▲ The Oxymorons @ New Deal Café ▲ Sol Roots @ Fridays at Fort Totten ▲ Sol Roots @ Gypsy Sally's ▲ Patty Reese @ Harper's Choice Village Center, Columbia
20	**DCBS FUNraiser with five bands** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Jimmie Vaughan @ Hamilton ▲ Bad Influence @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Soul Crackers @ Clyde's of Chevy Chase ▲ The Crimestoppers @ Bungalow, Chantilly ▲ Rock-A-Sonics @ New Deal Café ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Front Royal Brewing Co, Front Royal ▲ Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone @ Columbia Island Marina ▲ Shaw Davis & The Black Ties @ JVs ▲ Dana Fuchs @ The Soundry ▲ Vintage #18 @ Blackwall Hitch Annapolis ▲ Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark @ Old Bowie Town Grille
21	**Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band** @ Hamilton ▲ Full Power Blues @ Lubber Run Amphitheater, Arlington ▲ Bad Influence and Hurricane Ruth @ JVs ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Bel Air Concert Series ▲ Shaw Davis & Black Ties @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Ron Holloway Band @ Artscape Baltimore
22	Big Boy Little Band @ Westminster Church
23	Mark Wenner & The Blues Warriors @ JVs
25	**Taj Mahal Quartet** @ Birchmere ▲ Moonshine Society featuring guest Carly Harvey @ The Soundry ▲ Still Standing @ Babes Boys Tavern
26	**DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour with Carly Harvey's Kiss & Ride Band** @ Silver Spring American Legion ▲ Puryear, Summerour & Selby @ Whalen Commons, Poolesville, MD ▲ Bad Influence @ Stein Room ▲ Johnny & The Headhunters @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Linwood Taylor Band @ New Deal Café ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Grove City Studios, Cambridge, MD ▲ **Masters of Telecaster: Tribute to Danny Gatton, featuring Jim Weider, Ge Smith, Built 4 Comfort, Tom Principato, with special guest Taylor Barton** @ Rams Head Annapolis ▲ Cadillac Jump Blues Band @ Bertha's, Baltimore
27	**Masters of Telecaster: Tribute to Danny Gatton, featuring Jim Weider, Ge Smith, Built 4 Comfort, Tom Principato, with special guest Taylor Barton** @ City Winery **DCBS Ticket Giveaway** ▲ Built 4 Comfort @ Gloria's Listening Room, Warrenton ▲ Johnny Grave Band @ Hill Country BBQ ▲ Wild Anacostias @ New Deal Café ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Streetcar 82 Brewery, Hyattsville ▲ Kelly Bell Band @ Trifecta Food Truck Festival, Maryland State Fairgrounds ▲ Dave Chappell Band @ The Music Café ▲ Reggie Wayne Morris @ Buckets Sports Bar, Lusby, MD ▲ Vintage #18 @ Blackwall Hitch Alexandria
28	Barry Brady—Heart Spirit & Soul @ JVs ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Mason District Park ▲ The Nighthawks, Bob Margolin, Rev. Billy C. Wirtz, and others @ Outlaw Jam, Anne Arundel Fairgrounds, Crownsville, MD
29	Introducing Jose Ramirez Blues Project @ Westminster Church ▲ Johnny & The Headhunters @ Blues Alley
30	Sol Roots & Guests @ JVs

EARLY AUGUST 2019

1	Liz Springer Trio @ Hershey's
2	Billy Price Charm City Rhythm Band @ Pearl Street Warehouse ▲ Bad Influence @ Hilton Washington Dulles Airport ▲ Vintage #18 @ Hamilton Loft ▲ Patty Reese @ Hershey's ▲ Skyla Burrell Band @ New Deal Café ▲ Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes @ Kent Island Yacht Club ▲ Kelly Bell Band @ Farm Brew Live, Manassas
3	Bad Influence @ Hershey's ▲ Moxie Blues Band @ New Deal Café ▲ Sol Roots @ Summer Sounds Concert @ Harris Pavilion, Manassas
4	**DCBS 1st Sunday Blues Jam** @ Silver Spring American Legion

Bolded items on calendars of upcoming events are picks by calendar editor and include DCBS, BBS and other events.

Musicians, promoters, and venues: Send calendar listings to **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 venues to verify events.

Visit **www.dcblues.org** for additional music links and information.

BLUES ALL WEEK

Regular Blues Events

The Regular Blues Calendar, below, is provided each month to convey information on recurring blues jams/performance/dances. The Regular Blues Calendar is in addition to the monthly calendar prepared by DCBS.

SU	**1st Sunday DCBS Blues Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion** ▲ Along for the Ride @ 219 (Most Sundays) ▲ Dirty Ed & The Collaborators Sunday Blues Jam @ Paradiso Italian Restaurant
M	Blue Mondays @ Westminster Presbyterian Church ▲ Wolf's Blues Jam @ JV's ▲ Capital Blues Ensemble @ 219 Basin St. Lounge (alternates Mondays with Moonshine Society
TU	Clusterfunk @ Madam's Organ ▲ Hell's Bottom Blues Jam @ Takoma Park VFW Post 350
W	Wolf's Blues Jam with Linwood Taylor or Big Boy Little @ Blair's Londontowne Pub ▲ Jesse Shifflet Open Mic @ Station Ale House, North East, MD (frequency varies) ▲ Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille ▲ Patty Reese @ Ayse Meze Lounge, Frederick
TH	Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ ▲ Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo ▲ Wolf's Blues Jam @ New Deal Café (1st Thursdays, starting Aug. 1)
F	**DCBS 4th Friday Happy Hour @ Silver Spring American Legion** ▲ Cadillac Jump Band @ Bertha's (4th Fridays)
SA	Archie Edwards Acoustic Blues Jam @ New Barbershop Location, 4502 Hamilton St., Hyattsville

Key DCBS Volunteers

DCBS is an all-volunteer organization, and we greatly appreciate the folks who help. The contributions of energy, ideas and time from our key volunteers keep the DCBS running. Behind every event, jam, newletter, ticket giveaway and e-blast are the efforts of key volunteers and board members. Several positions are currently open. If you're interested in helping, please contact **president@dcblues.org**

Advertising Coordinator: Jazs
ads@dcblues.org

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Festival Coordinator: John Neumann

Hospitality Coordinator: Carol Salsbury

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Vacant Positions:
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Blues in the Schools
Fundraising/Sponsorships
Volunteer Coordinator

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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.

Would your business like to increase sales by offering discounts to DCBS members? For more information, visit the DCBS website or contact **ads@dcblues.org**

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by Pete Salsbury

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If you, your family and friends do, all of you can help support the DC Blues Society by using this link to the Amazon Smile Foundation: **https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1517733**

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Area Businesses:
Want Your Message to Reach Local Blues Enthusiasts?

DCBS offers several opportunities for interested vendors to reach its members and the local blues community.

▲ **Advertise** in the monthly Capital Blues Messenger. It's one of several opportunities for interested vendors to reach DMV blues enthusiasts. Ads may also be placed on the DCBS Facebook page, website or included in eblasts. For more information about advertising, including specifications and deadlines, visit **www.dcblues.org** or contact **ads@dcblues.org**

▲ **Donate** a gift certificate or door prize to be presented at a DCBS event. The 4th Friday Happy Hours, 1st Sunday Jams and special events throughout the year attract hundreds of attendees and assure that your firm receives appropriate recognition.

▲ **Sponsor** a DCBS special event. We're seeking financial support for the DC Blues Frestival on Oct. 13 to keep the event free to attendees. For more info, contact **president@dcblues.org**

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