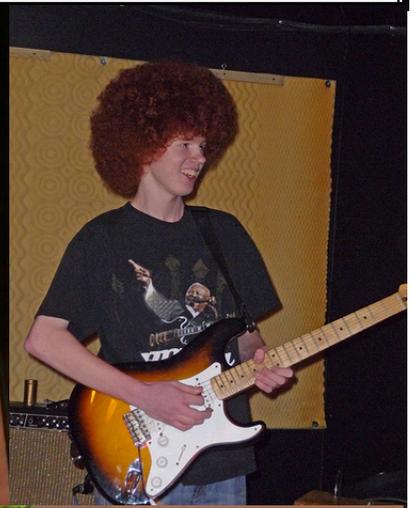


Capital Blues Messenger

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

May 2010 Volume 4 Issue 5



Silver Spring Blues Festival - May 22, 2010

More Blues Events/Reviews/Info Inside This Issue

Photos clockwise from top left: Daryl Davis, Mary Shaver, Andy Poxon, Choo Choo Charlie Williams, The Nighthawks, Jonny Grave, Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner

THE DC BLUES SOCIETY

**P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC
20013-7315
www.dcblues.org**



The DC Blues Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to keeping the Blues alive through outreach and education. It is funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The DC Blues Society is a proud affiliate of the Blues Foundation.

The Capital Blues Messenger is published monthly (unless otherwise noted) and sent by e-mail or U.S. mail to members. Past newsletters are available at www.dcblues.org.

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. Please e-mail to editor@dcblues.org.

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.

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president@dcblues.org

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vp@dcblues.org

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treasurer@dcblues.org

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ads@dcblues.org

Media: Ida Campbell
media@dcblues.org

Merchandise: James Ginyard
merchandise@dcblues.org

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Grants Manager: Michael Organek
fundraiser@dcblues.org

Jams & Festival: Sam'i Nuriddin
jams@dcblues.org

Membership: Sam'i Nuriddin
membership@dcblues.org

Newsletter

Editor: Ken Bransford
newsletter@dcblues.org

Staff: Pat Bransford, Rosalind Hebron,
Mary Knieser, Burney Simpson

Publicity: OPEN

Volunteer Coordinator: OPEN
volunteer@dcblues.org

Website

Administrators: Jazs, Fred Morser
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Become a DCBS member!

Members are key to the livelihood of the DCBS. Member's 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 discounts on advance sale tickets to DCBS events, DCBS merchandise and from area merchants and clubs when you present your DCBS membership card (see p 11). Members also receive the monthly *Capital Blues Messenger* (CBM) newsletter and those with e-mail access get the CBM via e-mail plus additional e-mail updates about DCBS events.

Becoming a member is simple, quick and easy:

- Use the mail-in application
- Apply on-line at www.dcblues.org, or
- Sign up at DCBS events or DCBS-sponsored events/venues where you see the DCBS booth.

Members are invited to attend the monthly DCBS Board meetings. For information, send an e-mail to president@dcblues.org.

D.C. Blues Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: _____ If renewal, check here _____

Name (please print clearly above) _____

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Dues per year (circle appropriate one):

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Please allow up to six weeks for processing

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Your volunteer time/talent is always welcome. If interested in volunteering, check interest(s):

Update Website

Work a shift at a show (DCBS table, door, etc.)

Promote shows (distribute flyers, handbills, etc.)

Raise funds (sell ads, organize auctions, etc.)

Write reviews or take photos for Newsletter

(see your name in print!)

Other? _____

**Mail with check to
THE DC BLUES SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 77315
WASHINGTON, DC 20013-73**

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DCBS needs volunteers for several continuing and one-time assignments. Visit www.dcblues.org for information or contact volunteer@dcblues.org.

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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

Rates are based on camera-ready artwork and must be received by the 7th of the month. Design service is outsourced and a fee will be charged. Ads should be at least 300 dpi in either PDF or JPG. Submit in B/W and color when possible. Ad size and space allocation contingent on prior commitments and editorial content. DCBS reserves the right to refuse advertising it deems inappropriate. Ad specs and on-line rates: www.dcblues.org. Questions? E-mail: ads@dcblues.org

President's Drum

Nadine Rae Benefit

Much thanks to the bands, fans, and supporters, who participated in the benefit fundraiser for Nadine Rae on April 11 at the Silver Spring American Legion. I hope you'll read the articles on p 4 that Burney Simpson, one of our Assistant Editors, wrote about the April 11 DCBS Jam and Nadine Rae Benefit. The articles nicely capture what the Jam and Benefit were all about.

I was pleased to see a good-sized crowd turn out for the Jam (postponed due to Easter) and Benefit. We actually had a lot more players queued up than got a chance to play. (Sorry about that...) Dr. S.O. Feelgood set the stage for the Benefit with a rousing set highlighted by odes to an out-of-town visitor that included his signature tune, "I'll Drink Your Bathwater." [The visitor, June Taylor, was enchanted by the attention and interrupted her videotaping to sit raptly. Not an easy achievement reports her sister and supportive DCBS member, Pat Taylor.]

All the Benefit performers were great. I just want to call out a couple of bands that were notable. This was my first time hearing the Electrofied Band perform live, staffed by Tony Fazio on guitar; Richard James Burgess, drums; Rob Rusteburg, bass; and Scott Taylor on vocals. Scott joins Electrofied for the group's second recording, *Bad Case of the Blues*, to which I was listening in the week before the Benefit. While the CD is highly entertaining with original, creative lyrics and energetic and thoughtful Fazio solos, one doesn't get the full measure of Scott Taylor's powerful voice and showmanship. Both were on full display at the Nadine Rae Benefit, as Scott brought down the house



Photo by Pat Bransford

with his gospel-rooted shouts, soulful crooning, and outrageous showmanship ala Sreamin' Jay Hawkins—without the costumes and coffins. Check out the *Bad Case* CD. The funk that courses through all the cuts is distilled in two of my favorites: "Cadillac" (I dare you to keep still.) and "Life is Like a Boomerang."

Another pleasant surprise for me was Lady Rose and Band. Lady Rose's passionate voice and intimate delivery were no surprise as

she has performed at jams before and fronted the DCBS Band at last year's College Park Blues Festival. The surprise came in the magical chemistry of her newly assembled band, including Kevin Robinson and Tony Harrod on guitars; Michel "Judge Farrell, bass; Dave Harris, harp; and drummer Tony Brown. With Kevin and Tony's fiery guitar work and Lady Rose's vocal command, I'm betting you'll see more of this group — and Electrofied—in the future, perhaps at one of the Society's events.

Nadine was in the house and sang two or three tunes with an energy that belied her obviously weakened condition. Bobby Parker closed out the show with his typically crowd-rousing guitar playing and singing. Bobby was in his groove and wanted to keep on playing, indicating "One more!" with his index finger waving at emcee, Dr. S.O. Feelgood. But the show had already run over an hour longer than scheduled and the plug was pulled around 9:30 pm.

Thanks again to Barbara and Chester Chandler (Memphis Gold) for organizing the Benefit and everyone who helped raise over \$1000 for Nadine with one helluva fun show.

Blues Alerts!

Be on the alert for these upcoming DCBS events:

The 6th Annual Fish Fry 'n' Blues & Bike Show on Saturday, July 17 at the Silver Spring American Legion. Sign your band up to play at our 1st Sunday jams or email jams@dcbblues.org. See p 12 for more information.

Festival Fundraiser featuring Grady Champion on Saturday, July 31 at the Silver Spring American Legion. Don't miss this outstanding harmonica player and vocalist, who won this year's International Blues Challenge. See p 6 for more information.

Battle of the Bands tentatively on Saturday, October 9. Entry deadline is August 13. We will also sponsor a solo/duo IBC entrant based on a submitted sample CD and short letter telling why DCBS should sponsor you. See p 6 and visit www.dcbblues.org for more information and to enter the contests.

Spring Surprise. We may present a dynamic show in late May or June featuring local talent for a world audience. To say more would ruin the surprise.

Up the Road Blues

After several false starts over a month, I finally drove the 60+ miles to Waldorf where rumor claimed there was a Blues oasis. In the midst of southern Maryland a block off U.S. Route 301, in a region where trees still grow with natural abandon and the roads are kept safe by ever-roving Charles County deputies and MD State Troopers, sits the Delta Blues Juke Joint & Diner. On the Friday night I visited, The Stacy Brooks Band (photo at left) was commanding the stage. The Juke Joint opened in the fall of 2009 and began booking live Blues in January. Live music is scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays. There's a bar you



Photo by Ida Campbell

nearly belly up to soon as you enter the door, and a dining area that sits about 75 with a small performance area.

I call the Juke Joint an oasis for being the only Blues-themed restaurant and show-place in the area. [Blues Alley notwithstanding. Unfortunately, Uncle Sonny's spot in Landover shut down some time ago, and DC's St. Bourbon Street Grill closed down recently.]

The owners, Michele Collins and Gene Cook (in photo at right, with me), serve up Southern cuisine and soulful Blues. I tried the jumbo wings, coleslaw and cornbread. All were delicious and the portions pleasing. Though the Juke Joint doesn't have a formal dance floor, Stacy raised folk from their seats and the dance floor unfolded right under their feet. She treated the patrons to several jumping, original tunes from her upcoming CD.

While getting to the Juke Joint for me is quite a haul from my home in Germantown, I know there are plenty of you who live in its greater neighborhood. Don't let another joint striving to promote the Blues -- by serving up soul food and soulful live music -- die on the vine. Check 'em out and you'll be rewarded with good food and a good time. Look out for a DCBS member discount coming soon.

Delta Blues Juke Joint & Diner, 2796 Old Washington Road, Waldorf, MD 20601, <http://deltabluesjukejoint.com>

Blues Always,



Photo by Stacy Brooks

April DCBS Sunday Blues Jam Was Smokin'

Blues was jammin' at the monthly DCBS Blues Jam in Silver Spring on April 11, with musicians lining up to get some licks in, show off a bit, check out the other guy, and possibly meet some solid band mates. The bands were a mix and match of friends, hangers-on, ringers and stragglers filling in where they could. The groups were guys and gals, white and black, pro and amateur.

First names were used in the Jam, no full-line up bands played, and most of the tunes were blues standards like 'Stormy Monday,' 'I'm a Man,' and 'Hoochie Coochie Man'.

Some of the performers on April 11 included Dick and Holly Culp of the band Not In Service ("Like every Metro bus you see," said Dick), Dixon on drums, Dave Harris on harp, Dave Jackson on bass, Anthony Clark on harp and vocals, Daryl on guitar, Ed on harp, Jim on sax, and Sam'i getting in some time on guitar.

Dr. S.O. Feelgood closed the session with a tribute to a lady in the audience (June Taylor), bragging he would, "run thru Hell with pants made of gasoline just to get with you." Silver Spring wasn't that hot but there was some smokin'! *By Burney Simpson*

she was the only female. She has always been something with vocals and she knows how to woo a crowd," said Harrod.

Lady Rose (photo at right) played a dynamite set, with the audience treated to some competitive guitar work from Harrod and Kevin Robinson. The evening took off as the crowd danced to power blues from a great band, beverages flowed, the pizza deliveryman brought dinner, and more good people came through the door to add to the benefit.



The supportive nature of the evening was demonstrated by Memphis Gold, who broke his back in a fall a few years ago. Before starting his set, Memphis (photo at left) thanked Nadine for playing at a benefit a few years ago to help defray some of his medical bills. "Nadine came through for me when I was all broke up," he told the crowd. At one time doctors said he might never walk again, but Gold came back to release 'Gator Gon' Bitechu!' in 2009 and tour the country. At the Legion the feel-good spirit of the night even got him dancing for a bit.



When Nadine took to the stage and sang several songs with Memphis' band, the audience was treated to her powerful voice and wonderful stage presence.

Stacy Brooks (photo at left) gave her all at the benefit, with her voice nearly knocking down the Hall's walls. Tony Fazio's band and his energetic lead vocalist, Scott Taylor (photo below on left), had the audience on their feet. Last up was veteran Bobby Parker (photo below on right) who closed the evening with some terrific guitar work.



By Burney Simpson

Photos this page by Pat Bransford



Nadine Rae Benefit Includes Stellar Lineup

A lot of warm-hearted musicians played hot blues music at the benefit for singer Nadine Rae that was held immediately following the DCBS April 11 Jam at the Silver Spring American Legion Hall. Nadine (photo at left) was badly injured in a car accident on Christmas Eve last year. She has had reconstructive surgery on her eye and nose, but more surgery and recovery time are needed.

The audience was treated to a who's who of local blues artists. Several musicians who had performed at the Jam also stayed and performed again for Nadine's benefit.

Dr. S.O. Feelgood provided a gracious but realistic intro to the benefit. "When musicians need assistance, benefits like this take place," said the Doctor. "So we gather and play music and have fun. And we dig deep in our pockets to come up with some cold hard cash."

At the benefit Nadine brought friends up to date on her accident. "The car flipped several times. I had reconstructive surgery. I broke my hand. And my feelings were hurt," she joked.

Still, Nadine was in good spirits, telling the *Capital Blues Messenger* she is gearing up to get back to performing, with plans to sing with the Patty Reese Band on May 22 at the Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival.

Singer and WPFM-FM record spinner Ida Campbell was MC, leading the show "like it should be done," moving the bands along, offering a joke or three, and encouraging the guys to get up and dance.

B.T. Richardson opened the festivities with a strong set, with support from Tony Harrod on lead guitar (photo at left). After several stinging solos, Harrod took a moment to recall working with Nadine.

"She was my first female vocalist in a band I started in the early 90s. She was great. The band was The Brotherhood and



Excerpt from Letter to the Editor, from Nadine Rae: ...my sincere gratitude is extended towards the combined efforts, provided on my behalf, by President Felix McClairn and the DC Blues Society, along with Memphis Gold and his wife. Many thanks to all in attendance there...Currently, I'm still recuperating and getting stronger, and I hope to see you soon, as I strive to get back on the stage. Music is truly my medicine, and it's therapy for my soul! However, my first appearance will be Saturday, May 22, at this year's Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, where Patty Reese and her band will feature me. We both will open for Buddy Guy. Additionally, on Thursday, June 10, at the State Theatre, Falls Church, VA, I will be opening for Chuck Brown with Bobby Parker and his band. This will be the kickoff for this year's Tinner Hill Blues Festival—"A Tribute to John Jackson."... Love to you all, and may God continue to bless you! Nadine Rae



Chesapeake Bay Events, Inc. Presents

CHESAPEAKE BAY BLUES FESTIVAL

May 22nd & 23rd

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, MD

Gates open at 10:30am • Music: 11am - 8pm both days
Rain or Shine No Refunds

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- Buddy Guy
- Shemekia Copeland
- The Yardbirds
- Tinsley Ellis
- The Patty Reese Band
- Cedric Burnside & Lightning Malcolm
- Moreland and Arbuckle
- South Philly String Band

Sunday

- Chuck Berry
- Jimmy Vaughn
- Joe Lewis Walker
- Bonerama
- Anders Osborne
- Big Bill Morganfield
- Bobby Parker
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Artists & times are subject to change without notice.

Tickets - General Admission

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Kids under 10 FREE with paying adult

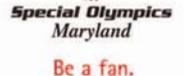
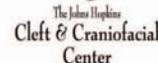
For tickets, call 1-800-514-etix
(Mon-Fri, 9-6 / Sat, 10-5)

Or visit www.bayblues.org

For tickets, festival details and VIP passes, visit www.bayblues.org

Thank our sponsors for making it happen

All proceed benefit these organizations



Grady Champion Is A Bluesman on the Rise

Grady Champion will be the featured performer for the July 31 DCBS Festival Fundraiser at the Silver Spring American Legion. See the notice below for more information on this event and the advance ticket sales. The following article about Grady appeared in the April 13, 2010, Sun Times, Heber Springs, Ark. It has been reprinted with the permission of the author, Mitch McCracken, who has been involved in the music business for over 30 years, working in both the radio and records industries.

"I love it when I can come across a new artist like Grady Champion; he is a bluesman on the rise. Grady is a blues singer, harmonica player, guitarist and songwriter. The first thing that strikes you about him is his charisma and likeability. He looks you in the eye and speaks from his heart. He comes across so sincere and down to earth; I haven't seen that in many artists, not that many people for that matter. He is a Christian who wants to project an image of respectability into his music, a clean cut bluesman and a snappy dresser.

When I interviewed him recently I found out in short order that he is anything but a new artist. He started out almost twenty years ago as a Blues Rapper...I know, I never heard of a Blues Rapper either. A friend pointed out to him that he had a raspy voice and that he would make a better blues singer than a rapper. He thought about that for a while and decided to give it a shot. He knew as a young man that you can't just sing the blues; you have to feel the blues, live the blues. He had a great sense of who he was and where he wanted to go. He knew he would be forty years old before he could perfect what he wanted to do. He was cool with that. So many artists want to be on top yesterday, but like a fine wine or a slow smoked ham, it takes time to reach perfection. Grady is ready to pop the cork now and enjoy where his experiences have taken him.

Like almost all blues greats Grady is from the state of Mississippi, the small town of Canton in his case. He later moved to Florida. In 1998 he recorded *Goin' Back Home* and drew such large crowds to Florida blues clubs he caught the attention of Shanachie Records executives, who signed him.

The album includes a version of "Don't Start Me To Talkin'" that really shows Grady's high energy singing and harmonica playing and an updated version of the traditional mournful "Goin' Down Slow" with an updated AIDS storyline, a hard-edged story of modern life. "You Got

Some Explaining to Do" (co-written by his producer Dennis Walker, who helped Robert Cray reach national fame) demonstrates that Grady is an important new talent.

Grady told me he was heavily influenced by blues great Sonny Boy Williamson who was not only a great harp player but also gave other blues artist a break on his radio show on KWEM Radio in West Memphis, Arkansas. According to Dave McIntyre, BLUES ACCESS magazine, Summer 1996 issue, his excellent singing ability has been compared to other blues greats like Robert Johnson. He can also work the crowd like Johnson or Luther Allison. You can see the influence of Sonny Boy in Grady's performances; in fact his harp playing has been compared to that of Sonny Boy (1999's *Payin' for My Sins*).

What makes Grady Champion such a stand is that he doesn't just cover other blues artist songs, he writes his own material too. When he does sing other's songs, it is never lick for lick the same as the original, as Simon Cowell would say, he makes it his own.

Grady was the winner of the Blues Foundation 2010 International Blues Challenge. He did it by being one of the few acts that played his own material, he had them dancing in aisles at the Orpheum Theatre during the finals. He was in a field of over a hundred acts.

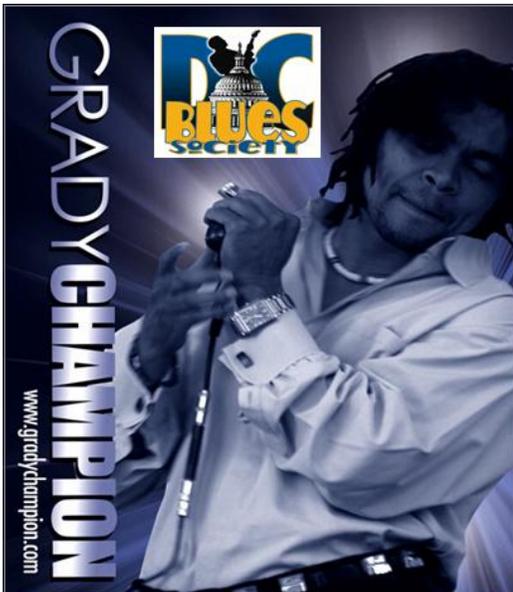
As nice and polite as Grady is, he has no trouble speaking his mind as he did when he wrote songs like "Policeman Blues" (about racial profiling) and "Children of the Corn," a song about the rising tide of youth violence. Champion is one of the best when it comes to the future of blues music.

BB King is the reigning King of the Blues but when his reign is over, I wouldn't be surprised to see the throne taken over by a blues harp player named Grady Champion." *By Mitch McCracken/For Your Entertainment, The Sun-Times. (Note: Mitch McCracken's 1st book, "Off the Charts," about his experiences in the music business, will be released later this year.)*



Grady receiving IBC Award with his band. Photo: www.blues.org

Look for more information on Grady in future issues of the CBM, including a DCBS interview with this rising performer.



Grady echoes the skill and intensity of Blues harmonica legend, Sonny Boy Williamson! Learn more at www.gradychampion.com

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8:30PM – 12:00AM
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www.dcblues.org
or call 301-322-4808**

***22nd Annual DC Blues
Festival September 4th Carter
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Annual Battle of the Bands October 9 Entry Deadline – August 13

The annual Battle of the Bands has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 9. The winning band will represent the DC Blues Society at the 27th Annual International Blues Challenge (IBC) which will be held from February 1 – 5, 2011, in Memphis, TN. The winner will also perform at the 23rd Annual DC Blues Festival, which will be held in September 2011 at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Washington, DC.

The deadline for entering the 2010 Battle of the Bands is August 13. Because the DCBS winner will compete at the IBC in Memphis, certain rules and restrictions apply. Competition information, rules, and the entry form are posted on the DCBS website: www.dcblues.org. Additional information about the IBC is available on The Blues Foundation website: www.blues.org.

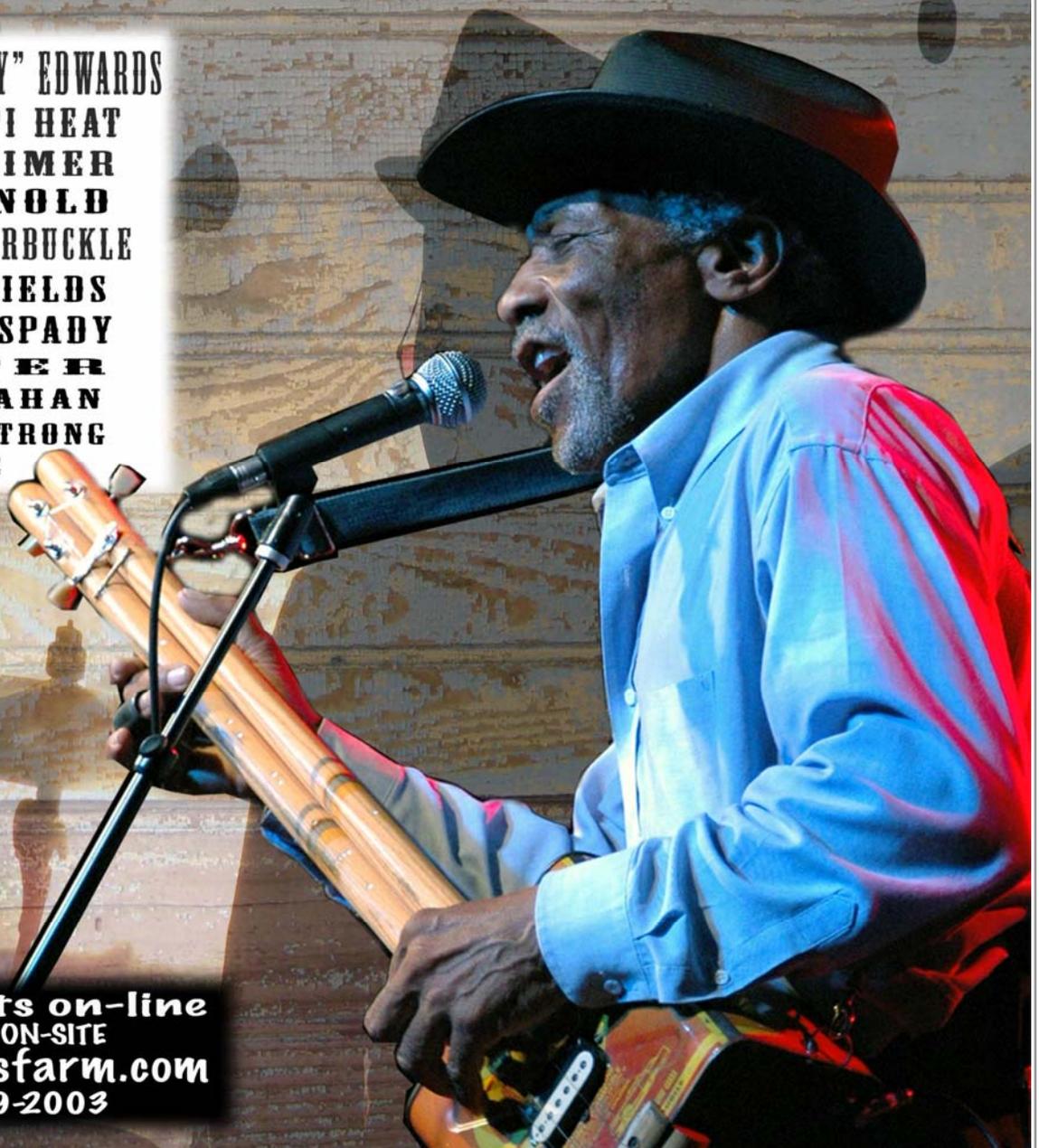
In addition to sending a band to the IBC, DCBS will also sponsor a solo/duo IBC entrant, based on a separate entry process. Again, please visit www.dcblues.org for more information.

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Second Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival – Saturday, May 22

The Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. ("Celebrating Diversity, Creating Community!") is hosting its second annual Silver Spring Blues Festival Saturday, May 22, in Downtown Silver Spring, MD, starting at 2 pm. DCBS is one of numerous sponsors for this FREE event. The schedule of performers is as follows:*

2:00–2:20pm: Choo Choo Charlie and Baltimore Red Jones - acoustic Delta, Piedmont, Ragtime, and Texas style blues featuring harmonica and guitar

2:25–2:55pm: Jonny Grave - acoustic blues from the Heartland, steeped in the traditions of R.L. Burnside, Fred McDowell and others

3:05–3:50pm: Andy Poxon - get up and go with this 15-year old who's writing his own blues songs and has a blues groove of his own!

4:00–4:50pm: Daryl Davis Band - blues and boogie woogie pianist, Davis has performed with musical greats such as Chuck Berry. Band will feature vocalist Ida Campbell, Festival MC & host of WPFW (89.3FM) "Don't Forget the Blues" every Friday.

5:00–5:50pm: DC Blues Society Band - with special guest guitarist Clarence "The Bluesman" Turner. Sponsored by DCBS, the Band brings together local musicians to promote the blues.

6:00–6:50pm: Mary Shaver and the Smokin' Polecats - Muddy Waters style with a female touch—featuring Pete Ragusa (Nighthawks drummer for 35 years)

7:00–7:50pm: The Nighthawks - world-renowned and legendary blues group - WAMMIE Winners of Washington Area Music Association (WAMA) best duo/group and best recording for 2009's American Landscape," in the Blues/Traditional R&B category. Get your signed award-winning CD at the Festival!



Harmonica Workshops 3pm–4pm: Choo Choo Charlie teaches anyone! Bring your harmonica (Key of C) to learn techniques/songs. Under the Big Top 2pm–6pm: Musical Instrument Petting Zoo by Dale Music

Performances will be held at the Silver Fountain on Ellsworth Drive, between Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street, in Silver Spring,. The festival is close to Metro, and parking is free in area garages! www.silverspringblues.com *Schedule subject to change

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Billy Gibson and Dave Fields
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Big Bill Morganfield
Ana Popovic
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Attend These May Events & Visit The DCBS Table

- May 22 Silver Spring Blues Festival, Downtown Silver Spring, MD (see above)
- May 22-23 Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival, Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, MD (see p 5)

Attention bands
Send your June & July gigs to calendar@dcblues.org by **May 15**

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May Blues Calendar		May Blues Calendar cont.	
1	Johnny Winter @ Rams Head; Taj Mahal Trio @ State Theatre; Stacy Brooks Band @ Delta Blues; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Grandpa Groovey's; Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones @ Madam's Organ; Hollertown, Big As A House Blues Band @ Bangkok Blues	29	Big Daddy Stallings @ 219; Johnny Artis Band @ Madam's Organ; Nighthawks @ Rockville Town Square; Tab Benoit @ Hometown Holidays/Rockville Event
2	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Del Ray Blues Ukulele and Memphis Minnie Guitar Workshops @ Archie's Barbershop; Del Ray House Concert @ Archie's Barbershop; Janine Wilson Band @ Riverdale ArtsFest; Memphis Gold & Jay Summerour @ Eastern Market	30	Nighthawks @ Sunset Grille
3	Dr. S.O. Feelgood @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	31	Jacques "Saxman" Johnson @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
5	Esther Haynes @ La Porta's	Early June	
6	Terry Garland @ Bangkok Blues	3	Nighthawks @ Rockville Town Square; Mike Westcott Band @ University Park Plaza
7	Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ; Retro Deluxe @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Stylemasters @ Bangkok Blues; Phil Wiggins @ Montpelier Folk & Blues Series	4	Western Maryland Blues Festival @ Downtown Hagerstown; Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ; Next Door Ellen, Stacy Brooks Band @ Bangkok Blues
8	Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Backyard Grill; Eric Culberson @ Madam's Organ; Capital Blues Ensemble @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Curbfeelers, Real Krabtree Band @ Bangkok Blues	5	Western Maryland Blues Festival @ Downtown Hagerstown; 30th Annual Washington Folk Festival @ Glen Echo; Chris Polk @ Madam's Organ
9	Black Falls, Big Daddy Stallings (CD Release Party) @ Fish Head Cantina; Daryl Davis @ Eastern Market; BG & Mojo Hands @ Glen Echo	6	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion; Western Maryland Blues Festival @ Downtown Hagerstown; Mem Shannon @ Madam's Organ; Big Daddy Stallings @ Chesapeake Bay Wine Festival; 30th Annual Washington Folk Festival @ Glen Echo
10	Queen Aisha @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	7	Tom Newman Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
12	Roomful of Blues, Janiva Magness @ Birchmere	Regular Blues Events	
14	Jamie Lynch Band @ Glen Echo; Big Boy Little @ Lexington Market; BG & Mojo Hands @ Black Fox Lounge; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves, Damn Skippy @ Bangkok Blues; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ; Idle Americans @ Old Bowie Town Grille	Sunday	DCBS Jam @ Silver Spring American Legion (1st Sunday); Wolf's Blues Jam @ Bangkok Blues; Paulverizers Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille; Z Revue Blues Jam @ JV's (1st Sunday); Nancy Katz & Stray Dogz Jam @ Old Fire Station No. 3
15	Big Boy Little @ Bare Bones; Lex Grey & Urban Pioneers @ Madam's Organ; Mike Terpak Blues Explosion, Big Enuff Band @ Bangkok Blues	Monday	Wolf's and Matt's Blues Night/Blues Jam @ JVs (2nd Monday)
16	Rick Franklin & the Delta Blues Boys @ Eastern Market; Music Café Revival Concert @ Damascus Fire Hall	Tuesday	Old Man Brown @ Madam's Organ (alternating Tuesdays)
17	Black Coffee Experience @ Westminster Presbyterian Church	Wednesday	Wolf's Blues Jam @ Beach Cove; Blues Jam @ Old Bowie Town Grille
20	Mose Allison @ Birchmere	Thursday	DCBS Jam/Open Mic w/Sol @ LA Bar & Grill; Patrick Alban or Johnny Artis @ Madam's Organ; Open Mic w/ Fast Eddie @ Spanky's Shenanigans; Blues Jam @ Eastport Democratic Club; Big Boy Little Band Jam @ Zoo Bar; Slow Blues & Swing Dance @ Glen Echo
21	Janine Wilson Band @ Music Café; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ Blue Fox Billiards; CP Blues, Hey Norton @ Bangkok Blues; Josh White, Jr. @ Montpelier Folk & Blues Series	Friday	Glen Moomau & Blue Flames @ Bertha's; Wolf's Blues Jam @ Fat Boys (3rd Friday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe
22	Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival @ Sandy Point State Park; 2nd Annual Silver Spring Blues Festival @ Downtown Silver Spring; Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ Delta Blues; Esther Haynes @ Cassatt's; Bobby Parker @ Madam's Organ; The Press, Scott Ramming & Crawstickers @ Bangkok Blues	Saturday	Acoustic Blues Jam @ Archie's Barbershop; Big Boy Little @ Zoo Bar (1st Saturday); John Guernsey @ New Deal Cafe; Brian Gross/Steve Levine @ Sala Thai, Bethesda (2nd Saturday)
23	Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival @ Sandy Point State Park; Hokum Jazz @ Eastern Market	<p>Attention dancers: See DCBS homepage for link to dance-friendly venues. To subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter "So Many Choices" with dance-specific information, often with a blues twist, send an e-mail to DCBS member and Blues fan Robin: hc1829@aol.com</p> <p>Bolded items are picks by calendar editor, Steve Levine, and include DCBS and BBS events. Send listings to calendar@dcblues.org or mail to Steve Levine, 5910 Bryn Mawr Rd., College Park, MD 20740.</p> <p>Musicians: Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Events listed are based on the best information possible. DCBS cannot be held liable for errors in schedules, places or performances listed. It is recommended that you contact the venues to verify the event will occur. The DCBS homepage has additional music links and information: www.dcblues.org.</p>	
24	Matt Wigler Band @ Westminster Presbyterian Church		
25	Lisa Lim & Over the Limit @ JVs		
26	7th Annual Congressional Blues Festival @ National Building Museum		
27	Tab Benoit @ Rams Head		
28	Big Daddy Stallings @ 219; Hot Rods & Old Gas @ JVs; Doug Parks & Lone Wolves @ The Clubhouse; Sonny Landreth, Tom Principato @ Birchmere; Carolina Chocolate Drops @ Montpelier Folk & Blues Series		

Janiva Magness – Blues/Foster Care Advocate

Janiva Magness is “hot!” Her latest CD, *The Devil is an Angel Too* (her ninth album), was just released by Alligator Records and debuted at Number 3 on the Billboard Blues Chart and is the Number 1 blues CD at iTunes. Last year, she won the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year Award, only the second female to win this recognition. **DC area blues fans have the opportunity to see Janiva on May 12, when she performs at the Birchmere in Alexandria, VA, with the Roomful of Blues Band.**

Alligator Records says that Janiva’s voice “possesses an earthy, raw honesty and beauty born from her life experience.” Her life experience has also led her to dedicate her latest CD to “all Foster Youth and Alumni. Kids who know far too much about the dark side of human beings and, in spite of that, are learning to do the right things and make that journey...from darkness into the light.” Janiva is also the National Spokesperson for Casey Family Programs (her fourth year) and was just named Ambassador of Foster Care Alumni of America. In these roles, she is an advocate for children and adults who share the foster care experience, and she is promoting **National Foster Care Month (May).**

Janiva’s teenage years were not easy. By age 16, she had lost both parents to suicide, and was living on the streets, bouncing from one foster home to another. At 17, she was a teenage mother and gave her baby up for adoption (she has since reconnected with this daughter). She recognized that blues was her calling one night in Minneapolis, when an underage Janiva snuck into a club to see blues great Otis Rush. As a survivor and artist, she credits the blues as the source of her power and hope.

If you aren’t able to see Janiva at the Birchmere on May 12, she’ll be back in the area on August 14 for the Heritage Blues Festival in Wheeling, WV. *Photo by Crawlin’ Kingsnake*



‘Lil Choo-Choo’ Tells Blues History in New Book

Book Review — “Lil’ Choo-Choo Johnson, Bluesman” Historical Fiction by Bryan Krull (www.bryankrull.com)

Review by Burney Simpson

Writer Bryan Krull uses a love for the blues in his novel “Lil’ Choo-Choo Johnson, Bluesman,” and writes a history of the music that forms the foundation for much of what Americans listen to today. Krull is well grounded in history, having taught the subject at the high school and college level for nearly a decade.

In Krull’s book, Earl ‘Lil’ Choo-Choo’ Johnson personifies the blues. He’s born on a farm in the Mississippi Delta in 1919, leaves home at 10 with a neer-do-well uncle who introduces him to the acoustic guitar, and stays alive by playing on street corners for change. As a youth, Earl experiences all the tragedies and triumphs of the Southern Delta and the budding blues culture. His uncle is lynched during the Depression, and Earl is forced to ride the rails where he hooks up with a popular player nicknamed Big Choo-Choo.

Earl is a guitar prodigy, and meets Charley Patton, Son House, and Robert Johnson. Patton nicknames Earl “Lil’ Choo-Choo” and our hero is on his way, playing in Johnson’s band, recording his own record, and eventually serving during World War II. He marries and divorces, moves to Chicago, masters the electric guitar, joins Howlin’ Wolf’s band and plays with Muddy Waters. He goes on to enjoy some fame and fortune.

Krull tries too hard to touch all the bases of blues history, name dropping famous players and influential locales, and sometimes the dialogue doesn’t ring true. But the ride is fun and there are passages that give the reader a chill, such as the death of Robert Johnson. In addition, Krull doesn’t sugar coat the racism that African Americans endured as they created and built one of the nation’s greatest arts.

“Lil’ Choo-Choo Johnson, Bluesman” is a breezy and enjoyable read that tells a fascinating part of American history. It is published by Dog Ear Publishing of Indianapolis.

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