



The South Sound Blues Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the blues as an American art form on behalf of its performers and fans through education, community and performance.

The SSBA is an Active Affiliate of



since 2005

Gray Sky Blues Music Festival

The Eighth Annual Gray Sky Blues Music Festival starts on Saturday, April 11th, 2015 immediately following the Tacoma Daffodil Grand Floral Parade (NOON) in downtown Tacoma, and will feature some of the finest blues musicians to be found west of the Mississippi. Venues in downtown Tacoma include the Harmon Brewery, The Swiss Pub and more. An "After Festival Party" is planned at the B Sharp Coffee House in Opera Alley starting at 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome!!!

This year's headliner is **TEDDY**

LEE HOOKER from Long Beach, California. Teddy Lee is recognized as one of the top blues performers in the country. He will be performing at the Swiss Pub, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. To date, these are the scheduled performers:

King Kom Beaux, Little Bill and the Blue Notes, Blues County Sherriff, Jerry Miller Band, Emily Gardner, CD Woodbury Band and Maia Santell and House Blend with more to be added! For more information please visit www.southsoundblues.com and www.tacomaevents.com.



IBC 2015 WINNERS

Here's the rundown on the winners of the 31st Annual International Blues Challenge. The information about each act was submitted by the artists themselves for the IBC program, so they're self-composed. Any text you see in italics is Jane's commentary.

1st Place Band:

Eddie Cotton

Vicksburg Blues Society

Eddie Cotton Jr. is a classic electric-blues guitarist from Clinton, Mississippi. With mesmerizing, funky rhythms, soulful vocals, and blistering guitar playing, his energy, style, and passion on stage reflect his understanding of what the blues is all about. His performances are highlighted by powerful vocals, absorbing lyrics, magical expressions, engaging moves, and stunning guitar skill. His commentary draws you in to listen intently. He studied music formally and served as minister of music at his father's church. These experiences are precisely what engages Cotton's audiences. They take notice of this blues artist who demonstrates deep respect and appreciation for his craft. *Several folks from the PNW mentioned that Eddie has appeared at Winthrop and the Safeway Waterfront Rhythm and Blues Festivals in our area. Maybe you've seen him perform!*



2nd Place Band /Winner Best Guitar Award:

Noah Wotherspoon

Dayton Blues Society

The Noah Wotherspoon Band hails from Dayton, Ohio. Wotherspoon has been immersed in the blues and mesmerizing audiences with his soulful guitar playing since he was a teenager. A prolific songwriter as well, he weaves his six string skills and expressive vocals into original songs that possess

FROM CD WOODBURY

There are so many people to thank for the Memphis Trip. First and foremost - on behalf of the CD Woodbury Band - a big, big thank you to SSBA President Jane Henderson and Board of Directors, volunteers and members of the South Sound Blues Association for selecting us as your 2015 Band Representatives and for funding the essentials. Being frugal with airfare and motel rooms still comes close to \$4000 for a five-piece band for five nights. We were proud to represent you, and your fundraising made this trip possible for us; thank you!

And as a personal aside, thanks for all your support, smiles & laughter and great memories of this year's trip. I hope we're back again next year.

CD



© 2015 Leslie.Joseph@Blues411.com

(Continued on page 5)

The Prez says ...



Greetings from Memphis, Tennessee! As I write this, my plane for home is sitting on the tarmac waiting to take off, Madam President having been way too occupied during the International Blues Challenge to record what

happened as it happened. I managed to see all but two of the Pacific Northwest acts on Wednesday night – 9 acts, 7 different clubs. I judged 10 bands at Blues City Café on Thursday, cheered on all our PNW semi-finalists in several clubs, as well as being there to support and bask in the glow of a well-received set by our Youth Showcase representatives on Friday. And then there were the finals at the Orpheum on Saturday. Somewhere in there, I managed to squeeze in my first visit to Graceland, attend several of the many showcases that were presented in clubs every afternoon and attend the Keeping the Blues Alive luncheon, where “our” Winthrop Blues Festival was honored. After five full days of music and camaraderie, my ears are satisfied and my heart is full.

The CD Woodbury Band and Emily Randolph were excellent ambassadors for our South Sound Blues Association.



CD Woodbury, Quarter-Finals, Alfred's, by Rhea Rolfe

CD and company performed Tuesday and Wednesday night at Alfred's in the quarterfinals - CD in red from head to toe (literally), with Mike Marinig, Mike Fish, Chris Kliemann and Don Montana looking very sharp in black tuxedos with red ties and pocket squares.

The band executed their Memphis set flawlessly and with their characteristic animation and humor, much to the delight of this blues-loving audience.

At the end of the two-day quarterfinal contest, 140 of the 250 acts that registered for the 31st IBC were eliminated, with the remaining bands and solo/duo acts from each venue moving on to the semi-finals on Friday. All of the Pacific Northwest bands except one moved on to the semifinals – CD Woodbury, Rafael Tranquilino, Randy Oxford and Rae Gordon, as well as one of the solo/duo acts – Ben Rice and Lucy Hammond. I managed to catch all of their semi-final performances, and they all really brought it on!

SSBA members, your ears should have been burning – CD and crew took every opportunity they had to thank our association for sending them to the Challenge. The folks at Jerry Lee Lewis' club remembered the band from last year and asked them to host a jam in the club after the competition shows each night. That jam became a favorite for other Northwest players like Randy Norris, Sammy Eubanks, Rafael Tranquilino and Bill Maddox (harp player who used to live in the Seattle area). Later that week, the owner of the club HIRED the CD Woodbury Band to do a show on Friday night

(Continued on page 4) 2

Hey, Blues Fans! Wondering why you should join the SSBA? For a \$20 yearly individual membership fee, you will receive:

- * A regularly produced copy of this newsletter
- * Monthly calendar of South Sound blues events
- * The opportunity to submit articles & music reviews
- * Special event email blasts
- * Event and merchandise discounts
- * A vote on important association matters
- * The satisfaction of knowing you're a part of the South Sound Blues community AND MORE!

South Sound Blues Association Membership Application

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home/Work/Cell _____
 Email _____

NOTE: If you want to receive your newsletter and special events information by email, the SSBA does not give out email or membership information.

- _____ Student/Senior Membership \$10/year
- _____ Individual Membership \$20/year (Email News)
- _____ Individual Membership \$30/year (Snail Mail News)**
- _____ Family Membership \$30/year
- _____ Band Membership \$50/year
- _____ Lifetime Individual Membership \$200 (one-time fee)
- _____ Lifetime Family Membership \$300 (one-time fee)
- _____ Corporate Membership \$TBD/year
- _____ Venue Membership \$TBD/year
- _____ Additional Donation

Occupation _____
 Volunteer Skills _____
 Musicians — Instrument(s) _____
 Interested in a Committee Position? _____

Please make checks payable to:
 South Sound Blues Association
 P.O. Box 26303, Federal Way, WA 98093-3303

Have questions?
 Call Gary at (253) 230-6851, or visit our Website:
www.southsoundblues.com

** The additional \$10 charge for Individual Snail Mail Memberships is required to cover the costs of providing hard-copy printing and delivery of the Association Newsletter and the monthly Calendar of Events.

SSBA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page: \$60 Half Page: \$35 Back Half Page: \$45
 Quarter Page: \$20 Sixth Page: \$12 Business Card: \$8

Ad discount policy: 20%/12-month advance; 15/6; 10/3

Text: Word '97-03 (.doc), text (.txt) or rich text (.rtf)

Graphics: 300 dpi / jpg, gif, tif or pdf formats

Deadline: 20th of every month

The Rootsters

Victory Music would like to invite you to our series of acoustic music concerts. The next one on Saturday, February 7th is called "WinterBlues 2015 -- Roots to Rock: Unplugged Boogie."

Five of the best acoustic-blues acts in the Pacific Northwest will rock the house -- no batteries required!

- John Morse
- Drew Martin
- The Rootsters
- PB&J
- Paul Green Combo



<https://www.facebook.com/events/572703442862930/>

The Blues Sheriff

The **Blues for Beds Benefit** will be held in Shelton. It is to support the **Community Lifeline Cold Weather Shelter**, also in Shelton. The primary sponsor is the St. David's of Wales Episcopal Church of Shelton, with other sponsors to be named soon.

This is a very deserving cause. We will play from 7 to 9 pm. There will also be a silent auction. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door. The Mayor of Shelton, Gary Cronce will be featured on guitar as well.

I am the Blues Sheriff and I approve this message.
(206) 979-0666

Join my mailing list!
Text SHERIFF to 88202

www.BluesCounty.com
[The Sheriff's YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
www.facebook.com/BluesCountySheriff



Maia Santell and House Blend: Swingin' and Rockin' in February

This is an exciting month, as we're gearing up for some fun shows!

Mark your calendar for our second performance at one of the hippest little clubs in Bremerton, Brother Don's Restaurant, on Friday, Feb. 6th, starting at 8 PM. With Tim Malland on drums, Derick Polk on bass and Al Alto on guitar, I will be in a musical heaven of sorts, belting out jazz and blues standards, mixed with some tasteful Brazilian tunes and a dash of Motown and rhythm and blues. Guitarist Al Alto will contribute



his vocals on a few swing, blues and country numbers, as well as offering up his stellar background harmonies, and if you haven't checked out our new bass player, Derick Polk (from Chicago), this is a chance to check out this man's fabulous chops! Located at 4200 Kitsap Way in Bremerton, Brother Don's is a delightful bar and grill with the kindest, warmest staff in town and the best fish and chips in the Northwest! (Kids are welcome, too, and there is no cover charge.)

On Monday, February 16th (President's Day) we return to the Swiss Pub in Tacoma, starting at 8pm. House Blend includes Jeff Ziontz on guitar, Derick Polk on bass and Russ Kammerer on drums. On this special evening we are celebrating February birthdays, including our guitarist's, Jeff Ziontz. President's Day is a holiday. If you are off work, take advantage of it and celebrate the blues with us!

My favorite dance studio in town, Studio 6 Ballroom, is featuring live blues and swing with Maia Santell and House Blend at their fun, unique dinner-dance and restaurant walk on Sunday, Feb. 22nd, starting at 6 PM. This delightful venue offers up a free dance lesson during the band's first break at around 7:30 PM. For more information, tickets and price options, call Natasha or Wes at Studio 6 Ballroom, at 253-905-5301 or see www.Studio6Ballroom.com

Please join me on April 11th as I sing the blues with House Blend at the eighth annual Gray Sky Blues Music Festival, starting at 2:30pm at The Swiss in downtown Tacoma. House Blend features Ted Dortch on tenor saxophone, Jeff Ziontz on guitar, Derick Polk on bass and Mike Slivka on drums. For details, check out our website at www.MaiaSantell.com Keep Swingin' the Blues!

Maia Santell and the boys in the band!

Little Bill & The Blue Notes

Drive the Blues Away
Saturday, February 7 at the American Car Museum.

- Performers:
- Little Bill and the Blue Notes
 - Kim Archer
 - James King and the Southsiders
 - VIP: 6 PM
 - General Admission: 7 PM

Please visit <http://www.lemaymuseum.org/page.php?id=681> for more specifics about the event, in which we will be inviting over 300 guests to enjoy live blues entertainment, gourmet light bites and samples from local breweries and distilleries to help drive away the winter weather blues.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The March Annual General Membership/ Board Elections and MOB Event is tentatively scheduled for March 13th at Uncle Thurm's. All SSBA members will receive an e-mail as soon as the date is confirmed!!

(Continued from page 2)

after their semi-final performance, making them the only competing band that scored an actual paying gig on Beale Street during the IBC. There was a huge crowd for that show and, in an effort to keep it that way, the owner asked the band to play for another hour and UPPED their pay. Spotted in the audience listening intently was Bruce Iglauer, founder and head of Alligator Records.

Jay Sieleman, retiring President of the Blues Foundation, wrote in his thank you to those of us who judged at the competition, "I am just like every other fan (or judge) who wonders why 'so and so' did not advance to the semi-finals or finals. I do not focus on it long though because taste in music is subjective, scoring is even more foreign to our normal listening and enjoying processes, and the IBC, imperfect as it may be, is still one tremendous 'vehicle' for advancing the genre." So, there's really no point in trying to determine why all but one of our PNW acts ended their IBC appearances on Friday night, at the semi-final level. I will say, for our own members' information, that the CD Woodbury Band competed in the semi-finals in the same venue as the band that eventually won the whole enchilada. Only one band from each of the eight venues moved on to the finals and in that venue (Club 152), it was Eddie Cotton and his band.

Watching the finals – 15 acts, both bands and solo/duo – one could either ponder why our band wasn't included or just marvel at how at this level, all the bands are SO good. It was a great show, but there wasn't any band there that was any better than ours. We are all very proud of the CD Woodbury Band!

And Emily Randolph and Oaklawn – what a class act! I was so impressed that she started their set by praising the other Youth Showcase Band (a group from the Philippines) that performed just before ERO at Flynn's. She thanked the SSBA, the Blues Foundation and the venue coordinators by name, and expressed her appreciation for the fact that each of the band members received a signed copy of the just released book, "Blues on Beale Street: Memoirs of the International Blues Challenge." You may recall from the article we published about this book last month, proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Blues Foundation's Generation Blues fund, which provides scholarship money for music study by youngsters. During the IBC, the authors donated one book to each kid who participated in the Youth Showcase for every book sold, so the six members of ERO each took home a special memento, as well as some great memories of playing before a packed house at Flynn's and being a part of the biggest gathering of blues musicians in the world.

We'll be starting the whole IBC process again in just a few short months. Bands should be looking for an email from Gary Grape in April or so, announcing the dates of our local competitions. Meanwhile, we have some events for our members coming up. Our Members On Board (MOB) event for January/February was held at Jazzbones, Friday, January 31, featuring harp player/vocalist Hank Shreve and his band. SSBA members received a 20% discount on food. We'll get back to one of our local bands in March for our General Membership and Board Elections Meeting. Watch your email for word of when, where and who the band will be.

The Tacoma Events Commission has announced their line-up for the Gray Sky Blues Music Festival on April 11th. Check out Gary Grape's front-page spot about this event - one of our favorite annual events in April.

Lots of blues in our part of the world ... let's go out and get us some!

Still Crazy with the Blues,

Jane Henderson
Madam President
South Sound Blues Association
jhendersonwa@earthlink.net

Photo of Mike and Jane by Theresa Southwick

FROM THE BOOTH

Here it comes! Believe it or not, the 2015 festival season is on its way and being kicked off at the Walla Walla Guitar Festival March 13/14 in beautifulyou guessed it... Walla Walla, WA. The SSBA has been proud to have the merchandise booth there every year and would love to have it there again in 2015. But we have a small problem at this point. I won't be able to make it and therefore we are looking for a magnificent volunteer who would love to take a weekend trip, enjoy some fantastic music, meet lots of friendly blues fans and be a purveyor of fine blues memorabilia. If you are interested, please take a look at the website and don't forget to check out the line-up; it's WOW! <https://ckwm.ticketbud.com/4th-annual-walla-walla-guitar-festival>. Then give me a call at 253-314-9369 or email at signguy@nventure.com and we'll get you set up. But please hurry, time is running out to make sure all the arrangements are made. Remember - Volunteers are Awesome!

Mike Brooks,
Vice-President and Merchandising Director

The next **SSBA Board Meeting** will be held Wednesday February 11th at 6:30PM at Uncle Thurm's, 3709 So. G Street. All members are welcome to attend the meeting, but should inform Jane ahead of time if they wish to speak so they may be placed on the agenda. Minutes of the board meetings will be made available upon request.

Hardcopy SSBA Newsletter Printing Services Courtesy of:
Frank Elliott
ELLIOTT SALES/GEIGER
Custom Printed Promotional Products
2502 S. 12th Street, Tacoma, WA
800-576-3945

(Continued from page 1)

great emotional depth. The band, which includes Rob Thaxton on bass and Brian Aylor on drums, formed in 2009. Each member brings his own unique style to the stage to create an exciting musical synergy greater than the sum of its parts. In 2012 the band made it to the finals at the International Blues Challenge, and their inspired live performances continue to electrify audiences wherever they play.

3rd Place Band /Winner Lee Oskar Harmonica Award:

Nico Wayne Toussaint's Mighty Quartet
Southern California Blues Society

Nico Wayne Toussaint is rapidly becoming one of the top harmonica players of his generation, gaining international recognition through his personality, pure-energy charisma, and repertoire of contemporary-tinged, mainly original tunes deeply rooted in the '50s Chicago blues sound. Nico has been a Dixiefrog Records recording artist since 1998. He's backed by his regular touring band featuring Florian Royo on guitar, Antoine Perrut on bass, and Guillaume Destarac on drums. Together, they're the Mighty Quartet. *Nico was visiting California, was invited to compete, and won. He and his band are from France!*

1st Place Solo/Duo:

Brian Keith Wallen
Dayton Blues Society

Brian Keith Wallen is on a mission to bring his soulful brand of blues to the world. His foot-stomping combination of Delta roots and modern rhythms has won the approval of audiences across America. Since 2008, he has performed more than 1,000 shows in 13 different states. Wallen was the winner of the Cincy Blues Challenge in 2011 and the Dayton Blues in 2013. He was also named Blues Artist of the Year by the Star Gennett Foundation in 2012.

2nd Place Solo/Duo:

Randy McQuay
Cape Fear Blues Society

Randy McQuay is a storyteller, blues musician, and master interpreter of American roots music. His tools are voice, guitar, harmonica, and percussion – each pushed to its extreme with no compromise on emotion. The possibilities are boundless. He sings from the heart, plays guitar with abandon, and blows harmonica like he's from another planet. With soulful, sultry vocals he draws the listener close, wringing every nuance of emotion from each lyric. McQuay's passion for music, culture, and songwriting has taken him full circle, as a traveling solo artist and as a front man for his own ensembles.

Winner Solo/Duo Best Guitar:

Ben Rice (who competed w/LucyHammond)
Ashland Blues Society

The collaboration of two-time International Blues Challenge finalist Ben Rice and charting singer, songwriter, and producer Lucy Hammond vibrates with musical chemistry! Ben's guitar prowess, their powerful vocals, and a high energy stage show keep fans coming back for more! A patchwork of blues influences, their sound fuses strong melody, tight harmonies, and raw emotion. NW Roots Uprising and Destination Clarksdale, their original releases, prove this duo

are as powerful in the studio as they are live! Touring across the country, they have performed before a record audience at the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival and played at Sunbanks, the NW Songwriter Sessions at the Oregon State Fair, and various festivals. *Ben is our "local" winner (Oregon) and he has a strong connection to the Tacoma area. Years ago, his father Cliff used to drive Ben and his brothers from the Portland area to Randy Oxford's kids' jam at Jazzbones. He and his band did a show at the Musiquarium (Triple Door) in Seattle last year, then hit Stonegate the next night where I bought his CD and joined the fan club. This is now his third time in the finals at the IBC.*

Assorted Random Pic's from Memphis



Rafael Tranquilino and
Ivan Gunderson



Greg Johnson and
Jane Henderson



Second and Union; the calm
before the storm



Streetside Beer Vending!



IBC Nightlife on Beale Street

Bangin' Skin in Memphis 2015

No, it's not what you think. Well, think whatever you want.

I'm back on Beale Street for the 31st Annual IBC. For the first time in six years, I am at the Holiday Inn directly across from the Peabody instead of being next door at the Doubletree. You wouldn't know it looking at the corner of Union and Second right now, but in a few hours, just a few blocks from here, one of the most intense blues music experiences on the planet will take place for the next five days.

During this calm before the storm, I'm listening to a cd offered up by Randall Dubis (the solo act representing the Mile High Blues Society out of Denver, Colorado) following our flight into Memphis from Dallas/Ft. Worth and a shared cab ride to the hotel. If you recall, we invited Jack Gaffney from Boulder, Colorado to perform last year at the 7th Annual Gray Sky Blues Music Festival; Colorado blues is on the map!

As usual, my first errand upon arriving in town is to the uptown (beverage) supply depot. Much to the dismay of many of this year's visitors however, the famous Main Street Trolleys had recently been replaced by the Green Bus which, while far less culturally-significant, was more comfortable and certainly more reliable. Apparently, a number of fires and near-fires led to the (temporary?) retirement of the less than adequately maintained and well-worn wooden-seat trolley cars. I've got to remember to put my purchases in a bag of SOME sort, to prevent repeated requests by other riders on my return trip for some piece of my 18-pack pie.

I've just put a call into Jane (Henderson) who is sharing a two-bedroom apartment with kitchen a couple blocks over on Madison with Rhea Rolfe; for those that are interested in saving some money by doing your own cooking, rentals at the Exchange Building are a great option for the event at about \$99/person per night. I need to get together with Jane in the next couple of hours, as she's holding my Big Blue pass, which gets the holder entry to the International Showcase on Tuesday evening, all clubs in which the competition is taking place from Wednesday through Friday evenings, all geographically-based showcases during the day, the Keeping the Blues Alive luncheon on Friday, the Youth Showcase which precedes the Semi-Finals on Friday and last but by no means least, the competition finals at the famous Orpheum Theater on Saturday.

Fast-forward to Monday morning... (As hard as I might try, it seems impossible to keep my accounting current!) Anyway, I am settling in at the airport for a three-hour wait for my first-leg flight back to Dallas/Ft. Worth before heading home, presently Las Vegas, Nevada. My stress moment for the day ended when I was able to get a shared ride back to the airport; I hate having to pay the full fare as a single, but leaving on Monday morning makes things a greater challenge, as the bulk of the attendees from out of town depart on Sunday. Not only was I able to share a cab, I was presently surprised to find myself riding with Big Mama Montse, singer and multiple (European) association/society board member from Barcelona, Spain. I hope she didn't suffer too much inconvenience getting home, as the brutal Northeast storm had crippled airline traffic in the area and she was headed home via Newark, NJ. It's a long enough haul without adding the inevitable delays and accompanying short tempers and attitudes as bitter as the cold.

This reminds me of the tremendous commitment exhibited by IBC participants that travel to Memphis from around the

globe. While many of us had the opportunity to share the IBC experience with blues musicians and fans from around the world (Some 15 countries outside of North America participated this year), my personal favorites were the Latvian Blues Band (yes, from Latvia). These guys made it clear that they were in their own personal heavens here at the IBC, and their enthusiasm was evident in their play sets, their interactions with the attendees and a distinct LACK of concern for the judging aspect of the event. Marcus, the bass player, mentioned to me that the band did not even bother with pre-planned sets, but decided about 15 minutes before taking the stage each night their play lists. Luckily for the crowd, the Latvians moved forward to the semi-finals giving the audience an extra opportunity to see them perform. Another European entrant, The Travellin' Brothers, made it to the finals culminating days of street buzz and bringing recognition home to Spain. As it happens, my cab partner Montshe works with both the Spanish and Latvian organizations and is very familiar with both bands, making for sincere discussion on the way back to the airport.

One thing I have learned by being in Memphis during the IBCs, is that every one of us, whether Blues Foundation Members, affiliate members, photographers, sound personnel, assorted volunteers, musicians and plain old fans - each and every one of us - is an ambassador for not just the event, but for the global Blues community. As I have said for years, blues crowds are some of the most cooperative and supportive groups of human beings with whom I have had the pleasure to know, work and party. You never know with whom it is that you may have stricken a conversation, but no matter the role any person plays in the fabric of the blues community, you always walk away with a sense of sincerity and respect for their heartfelt appreciation for the Blues and everyone that is a part of the community.

So, now that I have the time to put my week into words, let me reminisce... Wednesday brought with it a departure from my usual unconstrained activities, as I had volunteered to provide stand-by event assistance where needed. This ended up being about two hours of running errands and passing along information which was not much of an interruption in my schedule, leaving plenty of time to check out the performances up and down Beale Street. I used this opportunity to identify what I felt to be exceptional acts, which I could then turn into recommendations for anyone asking. I felt some sense of validation having been able to recommend a number of acts that ultimately appeared on the final stage at the Orpheum.

On Thursday, I lost the chance to see some of these acts myself, as my stand-by status turned into work duty, performing the job of Judge's Assistant for the evening at BB King's. The best part of this experience was using the opportunity to "practice" judging acts. While my scoring was significantly different than that of the three judges working this second evening of the quarter-finals, the four of 10 bands I scored highest ended up moving forward to the semi-finals on Friday, and two of these appeared on the final stage. While I felt some level of reassurance that my interpretation of the judged elements - blues content, instrumental content, vocal content, originality and stage presence (in order of importance) - was in line with that of experienced and knowledgeable analysts, I'll leave this role to those with the impressive credentials. Although I was unable to see any other acts Thursday evening besides those performing at BB King's, my

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

suggestions/recommendations to those free to move about were all appreciated, giving me a sense of accomplishment in directing them to “special” acts.

For those of you that are interested, by volunteering for a minimum of 10 hours during the event, one can earn the equivalent of a Baby Blue pass, which is good for all clubs and showcases from Tuesday through Friday nights. In addition, by helping with the monumental move into the Orpheum for Saturday, one can earn a reserved seat at the final event.

Friday brought the first day of cruddy weather (rain ranks highest in my personal crud list), however many of the participants and attendees didn't let what may be more usual weather (for them) interfere with their objectives - playing your best for the fans and sharing their enthusiasm for being in Memphis with as many people as possible. While the rain made my job of scouting out a Youth Guest Performer for the April 11, 2015 Gray Sky Blues Music Festival in Tacoma a little more challenging, I was still able to check out six to seven acts, any one of which would be appreciated by our local South Sound fans at The Harmon. While the SSBA board has to approve any recommendation of mine, I am hoping to be able to invite a very special and very accomplished young duo from Indiana as our guests for this event. This is a good spot to remind our readers and the broader community that our ability to bring guests from around the country is dependent on continued donations for funding. To date, I am proud to be associated with a blues community that has generously contributed to the SSBA over the duration of the organization's existence (Established August 2005). Our membership, while small, has enabled the organization to establish a national (and to some extent, international) presence in the blues scene, having provided the funds to send representative acts to the IBC, bring Youth Guests from outside the area and to bring headliners to Tacoma that many of us might not otherwise have the chance to see.

While on the topic of the Friday-evening Youth Showcase,

I want to express my appreciation for the outstanding performance by Emily Randolph and Oaklawn, the SSBA's event representative. These youngsters displayed an unusually professional demeanor along with their highly-polished and crowd-pleasing performance. As opposed to many of the acts that I witnessed,

Emily made sure to comply with the request of all Youth Showcase performers to thank (prior to the start of their act) the Beale Street Merchants for their generosity in seeing that every participant in the showcase received a signed copy of the new book “Blues on Beale Street: Memoirs of the International Blues Challenge.” Thank you Emily and Oaklawn for your ambassadorship!

Earlier in the day, I took the opportunity to attend for the first time the Keeping the Blues Alive awards luncheon held in the Doubletree's Tennessee Ballroom. It was here that I met one of the most interesting attendees at this year's event.



Emily Randolph and Oaklawn with SSBA Board Directors Jane Henderson and Aaron Bakalar. Photo by “Oogie” Richards.

Sharon McConnell-Dickerson is an artist that has spent the last several years creating “life-cast masks” of an impressive list of blues musicians including Bo Diddley, Othar Turner, T-Model Ford, Lil' Bill Wallace, Dorothy Moore, Sam Carr, R. L. Burnside and Little Milton to mention a few. Her “Cast of Blues” gallery is only that much more amazing considering the fact that Sharon is totally blind! I urge all of you to take a look at Sharon's works, which can be seen at her website: www.mcconnelldickersonart.com.

Speaking of the date when the SSBA was established, this August will mark 10 full years over which the SSBA has participated as an equal with the much larger and more heavily funded Washington Blues Society and Cascade Blues Association between which we have created a small niche in the South Sound. Look forward to the Annual Summer Party (historically taking place at Doug Skoog's in Parkland). Always a successful event, I'm hoping that we can do something extra special in recognition of our 10-year anniversary.

To close out my Friday evening, I had a bite and a beer with Jane Henderson, Rhea Rolfe, Tony Frederickson, Nick Vigarino and CD Woodbury at Blues City Cafe.

The Saturday finals at the Orpheum went smoothly, in fact overly smoothly, as by the time the final act was due to start (originally 7:30), the next to last performer finished by 6:00 PM. Whether this had anything to do with it or not, the city was left in wonder when the final solo/duo act was nowhere to be found. Apparently, one of the two performers came down with a case of food poisoning, and because they were not able to get to the venue in time to check-in, they just “threw” in the towel. That has to be a tough situation, being unable to capitalize on a spot on the final stage. Maybe over the next few days, tweets, blogs and Facebook posts will clarify what happened to Dalannah & Owen representing the White Rock Blues Society. Today's weather was clearly the most favorable, as the sun shone in a cloudless sky throughout the day's event; it was ALMOST a shame to be indoors!

Starting with last year's 30th Annual IBC, I have begun staying over until Monday, which lets me hang out with the post-event regulars at the Majestic Grille. While the usual suspects including Jay Sieleman and Priscilla Hernandez were noticeably absent this Sunday, I still enjoyed the wind-down brunch with some of my local acquaintances with whom I have formed friendships over the last nine years. Some of the worst weather of the week hit us as we departed the Majestic, and I took advantage of a car ride back to my hotel despite it being a mere three-block walk. Even though the spot of storm-like rain and wind devolved into a light intermittent drizzle, I took the opportunity to curl up in a warm bed and pass the afternoon as just another tourist in Memphis, listening to the many CDs I acquired over the preceding five days and getting a well-deserved healthy night's sleep.

Well, I've got another hour and a half before my flight to Las Vegas via Dallas boards, but I'm putting the computer away to make sure I have something to do during the two flights and the layover. Maybe I'll go find a bar. The airport in Memphis is surprisingly small for a primary-city facility, so it shouldn't take too long to find all the available food & beverage options; I think three minutes ought to be enough!

Aaron Bakalar
Editor

Calendar Legend

502 502 Downtown: 253-572-9074 - T
 7CE 7 Cedars Casino: 360-683-7777 - Sq
 ALD Alderbrook Resort: 360-898-2200 - U
 AMY Amy's on the Bay: 360-876-1445 - PO
 ART The Art House Cafe: 253-212-2011 - T
 AVA The Avalon Ballroom - T
 B# B Sharp Coffee House - T
 BLE Blend Wine Shop: 253-884-9688 - L
 BRD Broadway Center:
 BRO Brother Don's Bar & Grill: 360-377-8442 - B
 BUD Bud's in Milton: 253-952-7665 - M
 CAS Casey's Grill: 253-236-4137 - K
 CEN Central Ave. Pub: 253-520-7749 - K
 CHA Charlie's Sports Bar & Grill: 360-786-8181 - Ol
 CIT City Hall Saloon and Eatery: 360-886-0569 - E
 CLI The Cliff House: 253-927-0400 - T
 CLU Clubhouse Sports Bar: 253-277-0500 - K
 DAV Dave's of Milton: 253-926-8707 - M
 DAW Dawson's: 253-476-1421 - ST
 DES Destination Harley Davidson: 253-922-3700 - T
 DOG Red Dog Saloon: 360-876-1018 - PO
 DRA Draft Choice Sports Bar & Grill: 253-735-1715 - A
 EME Emerald Queen: 253-594-7777 - T
 FLO The Flotation Device: 253-857-3897 - GH **NEW!**
 FOR Forza Coffee Company: 253-565-4935 - T
 GIG The Gig Spot: 253-853-4188 - GH
 HAF Halftime Sports Saloon: 253-853-1456 - GH
 HAR Harmon: 253-383-2739 - T
 HIG High Tide Tavern: 360-876-2248 - PO
 HUB Hub Restaurant: 253-853-1585 - GH
 JAZ Jazzbones: 253-396-9169 - T
 JER Jersey's Sports Bar: 253-874-5336 - FW
 JOH Johnny's Dock: 253-627-3186 - T
 JRS JR's Hideaway: 360-275-4547 - Be
 JUC Junction Roadhouse: 360-452-9880 - PA
 JUN Junction Sports Bar and Grill: 360-273-7586 - Ce
 LIT Little Creek Casino: 1-800-667-7711 - Sh
 LOU Louie G's: 253-926-9600 - F
 LUC Lucky Dog Casino: 360-877-5656 - Sh
 MAN Manchester Pub: 360-871-2205 - PO

CITIES

A - Auburn	Ol - Olympia
B - Bremerton	Or - Orting
Be - Belfair	OT - Old Tacoma
BL - Bonney Lake	P - Puyallup
Ce - Centralia	Pk - Parkland
Co - Covington	PA - Port Angeles
DM - Des Moines	PO - Port Orchard
E - Enumclaw	PT - Port Townsend
F - Fife	Sh - Shelton
FW - Federal Way	Sp - Spanaway
GH - Gig Harbor	Sq - Sequim
K - Kent	Su - Sumner
L - Lakebay	ST - South Tacoma
La - Lacey	T - Tacoma
M - Milton	U - Union

MAR Marine View Presbyterian Church: 253-927-0557 - T
 MAX Maxwell's: 253-683-4115 - T **NEW!**
 MED Medicine Creek Winery: 360-701-6284 - Ol
 MID Midtown Grill: 253-862-3767 - BL
 MUC Muckleshoot Casino: 253-804-4444 - A
 N9N Bar N9NE: 360-797-1999 - PA
 NIK Nikki's Restaurant & Lounge: 253-236-5623 - Co
 NOR Northern Pacific Coffee: 253-537-8338 - Pk **NEW!**
 NWH Northwest Harley: 360-705-8515 - La **NEW!**
 OAS Oasis Bar and Grill: 360-582-3143 - Sq
 O'CA O'Callahan's Pub & Grill: 253-884-9766 - L
 OPA Opal Lounge: 253-473-2600 - T
 OSC Oscar's Restaurant & Lounge: 253-548-2419 - ST
 PER Harvey's Performance Grill: 253-939-9851 - A
 POL Spar Pole Pub: 360-893-8937 - Ol
 PON Pony Keg Grill: 253-395-8022 - K
 PTE Port Townsend Elks: 360-385-0317 - PT
 RBA R Bar: 360-797-1274 - PA
 RED Red Wind Casino: 360-412-5000 - Ol
 REN Rendezvous Wine & Brew: 360-825-9463 - E
 REY Reyna's Mexican Rest.: 253-538-2368 - T **NEW!**
 RHY Rhythm & Rye: 360-705-0760 - Ol
 ROB Robin Hood Restaurant & Pub: 360-898-4400 - U
 ROC Rock the Dock: 253-272-5004 - T
 ROY Royal Lounge: 360-705-0760 - Ol
 SAL Salty's Redondo Beach: 253-946-0636 - DM
 SAM Sam's Sports Bar: 253-277-0485 - K
 SCO Scotch and Vine: 206-592-2139 - DM
 SCT Scotty's Pub and Grub: 253-268-0246 - P
 SEE Seeders Steak and Brew: 360-802-6685 - E
 SLA Slaughter County Brewing Co.: 360-329-2340 - PO
 SMO Smoke and Cedar: 253-343-6090 - T **NEW!**
 SPA Spar: 253-627-8215 - Ol
 STO Stonegate: 253-473-2255 - ST
 STU Studio 6 Ballroom: 253-905-5301 - T
 SUM Summit Pub: 253-536-1588 - P
 SWI Swiss: 253-572-2821 - T
 TAC Tacoma Cabana: 253-222-4184 - T
 TDC Tacoma Dance Club - T
 TRE Treos Café: 253-301-0478 - T
 TRI Triple Play Sports Bar: 253-752-2800 - T
 TWI Twin Lakes Country Club: 253-838-0432 - FW
 UNC Uncle Thurm's BBQ: 253-475-1881 - T
 UPS Upstage Bistro: 360-385-2216 - PT
 URB Urban Onion: 360-943-9242 - Ol
 USA Uncle Sam's: 253-507-7808 - Sp
 VES Immanuel Presbyterian Church: 253-627-8371 - T
 WIN Windmill Bistro: 253-826-7897 - Su **NEW!**

Live Music Fans - Take Note!

All calendar information is the best we have at the time we go to print. It is always advisable to call the specific venues to confirm the date and time for all acts, as changes to schedules are frequent.

~ February 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 PER-Dakota Bob Jam 8 pm DAW-Tim Hall open jam 8pm DAV-Blues Jam 7:30</p>	<p>2 USA-Blues Monday Jam 7pm SLA-Malcom Clark Band Blues Jam 6-9 SWI-Shelly Ely Band Blues Jam 8pm</p>	<p>3 STO-Acoustic Open Mic with Leanne Trevalyan 8 pm DAV Jerry Miller 7pm NOR-SB Slim 7-9pm</p>	<p>4 DAW-Linda Myers Band Jam 8pm B#-open mike 7PM</p>	<p>5 STO-Billy Stoops & friends open jam 9pm DAW- Billy Shew Band open Jam Session 8pm USA Jerry Miller band 7pm REY-Jada Amy w Minor Theft/open mike-jam 7PM</p>	<p>6 BRO-Maia Santell and House Blend 8pm JAZ-Randy Hansen 8pm \$8-\$13.50 UNC-Linda Myers 7:30pm B#-B Sharp Players 8pm \$5</p>	<p>7 B#-Velocity 8pm \$5 ACM-"Drive the Blues Away" Li Bill & the Bluenotes, Kim Archer, James King & the Southsiders 7pm \$40 advance tickets. SCO-Brian Lee Trio 7PM</p>
<p>8 PER-Dakota Bob Jam 8 pm DAW-Tim Hall open jam 8pm DAV-Blues Jam 7:30 JOH-Lil Bill Trio 5:00 SPA-Mark Dufrense 7:00</p>	<p>9 USA-Blues Monday Jam 7pm SLA-Malcom Clark Band Blues Jam 6-9 SWI-Brian Lee Trio 8pm</p>	<p>10 STO-Acoustic Open Mic with Leanne Trevalyan 8 pm DAV Jerry Miller 7pm NOR-SB Slim 7-9pm</p>	<p>11 DAW-Linda Myers Band Jam 8pm B#-open mike 7PM</p>	<p>12 STO-Billy Stoops & friends open jam 9pm DAW- Billy Shew Band open Jam Session 8pm USA Jerry Miller band 7pm REY-Jada Amy w Minor Theft/open mike-jam 7PM</p>	<p>13 JAZ-Carolyn Wonderland 8pm B#-SB Slim 8pm \$3 UNC- SASS featuring Shelly Ely 7:30pm REN-Rod Cook 7pm</p>	<p>14 UNC-Heather Jones & the Groove Masters 7pm USA-Hambone Blues Band 8pm B#-Valentines Day w Eugenie Jones Jazz Band 6:30pm \$25 w dinner \$10 without</p>
<p>15 PER-Dakota Bob Jam 8 pm DAW-Tim Hall open jam 8pm DAV-Blues Jam 7:30 SPA-Dean Reichert Band 7pm VES-Junkyard Jane w/Jim King 5pm</p>	<p>16 USA-Blues Monday Jam 7pm SLA-Malcom Clark Band Blues Jam 6-9 SWI-Maia Santell w Houseblend 8pm</p>	<p>17 STO-Acoustic Open Mic with Leanne Trevalyan 8 pm DAV Jerry Miller 7pm NOR-SB Slim 7-9pm</p>	<p>18 DAW-Linda Myers Band Jam 8pm B#-open mike 7PM</p>	<p>19 STO-Billy Stoops & friends open jam 9pm DAW- Billy Shew Band open Jam Session 8pm USA Jerry Miller band 7pm REY-Jada Amy w Minor Theft/open mike-jam 7PM B#- Keith Henson Octet 8pm</p>	<p>20 UNC-CJK (Crooks-Jaap-Kolstad) 7:30pm</p>	<p>21 GRO-Blues County Sheriff "Blues 4 Beds" benefit 7pm \$10</p>
<p>22 PER-Dakota Bob Jam 8 pm DAW-Tim Hall open jam 8pm DAV-Blues Jam 7:30 STU-Maia Santell and House Blend 6pm SPA-Two Scoops featuring Jim King 7pm</p>	<p>23 USA-Blues Monday Jam 7pm SLA-Malcom Clark Band Blues Jam 6-9 SWI-Audio Elixer 8pm</p>	<p>24 STO-Acoustic Open Mic with Leanne Trevalyan 8 pm DAV Jerry Miller 7pm NOR-SB Slim 7-9pm</p>	<p>25 DAW-Linda Myers Band Jam 8pm B#-open mike 7PM</p>	<p>26 STO-Billy Stoops & friends open jam 9pm DAW- Billy Shew Band open Jam Session 8pm USA Jerry Miller band 7pm REY-Jada Amy w Minor Theft/open mike-jam 7PM</p>	<p>27 JAZ-Tommy Castro 8pm \$15-\$17.50 DAW-James King & Southsiders 9pm</p>	<p>28 JAZ-Tommy Castro 8pm \$15-\$17.50 USA-Fabulous Roof Shakers 8pm</p>

The South Sound Blues Association
P.O. Box 26303
Federal Way, WA
98093-3303
www.southsoundblues.com