

BLUES NEWS

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BLUES SOCIETY OF TULSA



Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 17 Years! 2002 - 2019

Volume 17, Number 3

www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

May/June 2019

Blues Choice Awards Recipients Rock the House at Juice Makers

Story by Bill Martin

Stephen White Group certainly rocked the house at the Annual Blues Choice Awards where the Blues Society also was celebrating its 17th birthday on Marche 23rd at one of Tulsa's newest live music venues, Juice Maker's Lounge. SWG was voted 2018 Group of the Year by Blues Society members.

accompanied by Dave Morrow on harmonica.



Christina Rybacki & Dave White. Photo by Sandi Morrow.



Pictured left to right: Matt Leland, Matt Martin, Stephen White, Travis Fite & Dylan Layton. Photo by Bill Martin.

Comprised of some of Tulsa's finest musicians, the group's namesake leads the band on vocals and guitar. Stephen has an impressive resume with other bands and notably was guitarist for the late great **Gus Hardin**, not to mention having the genes of his father, Tulsa music legend Don White. Stephen also has a killer guitarist with him in **Travis Fite**. There also is veteran **Dylan Layton** on bass (who fronts his own band, **Whirligig** on guitar); **Matt Martin** may have the record for playing drums for the most bands in town; **Matt Leyland** ably substituted on sax for band member and B3 organist **Robert Day**. Special guest appearances were made by 2018 Vocalist of the Year **Beau Roberson** (Pilgrim) and Rhythm Player of the Year bassist **Steve White** (Steve Pryor, Dustin Pittsley, Dirtbox Wailers). Best Lead of the Year (guitar) award was accepted by **Amber Pittsley**, on behalf of her husband **Dustin Pittsley**, who was on tour in Europe.

Opening the evening's entertainment was a solid performance by past International Blues Challenge semi-finalist Wink Burcham,

The inaugural **Billy Austin Media Award** was presented to **Bill Martin** by Blues Society President **Christina Rybacki** and Vice President **Amber Pittsley**. It was presented for his many years of service as BST president and editor of the BST's newsletter, Blues News. The name Billy Austin was used as a pen name off and on for decades when Bill was a freelance journalist. He then "named" Billy Austin Editor of the newsletter in the early days of the Blues Society saying if McKinley Morganfield can be Muddy Waters, why can't he be Billy Austin.



Christina Rybacki and Bill Martin. Photo by Sandi Morrow.

Not only was the Ruffin family at Juice Makers great hosts, but the quality audience certainly adhered to the Horton Records motto, "Talk Less, Listen More." A great night of music.

more photos on page 2

INSIDE:

2019 Blues Challenges, Upcoming Events, CD Reviews and more ...

Welcome Our New Members!

Wilma Mann

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

We don't want to miss "What's Happening." Send us pics and notes regarding events and performances.

Website: www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com
e-mail: info@bluessocietyoftulsa.com

BST OFFICERS:

President: Christina Rybacki
Vice President: Amber Pittsley
Secretary: Kevin Payne
Treasurer: Tammy Hodges

BLUES NEWS STAFF:

Editor: eLiz Hollis
e-mail: eLiz@radioidl.com
Design: Venisa Bingham
e-mail: venisa.bingham@gmail.com

COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership: Christina Rybacki
Awards: Harry Williams
Blues in Schools: David Berntson
e-mail News: Curt Fillmore

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Kerry Kudlacek, Curt Fillmore,
Bridget Kenyon Wood, Bill Martin,
Andrew Rethmeyer, eLiz Hollis,
Larry Watt

FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Jeff Bullard, John and Sharon Eskew, Jeff Falali,
Tammy Hodges, Max Ishmal, and Mark Rauser.

Blues Society of Tulsa, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101, is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with the purpose of preserving and promoting the blues in Tulsa and Northeastern Oklahoma. Blues News is published bi-monthly and encourages your support through personalized membership card and the Blues News newsletter. BST members are encouraged to submit articles, photos and other materials for publication. Deadline for both editorial items and advertising is the 1st of the month (30 days) prior to publication.



continued from Front Page



Christina Rybacki, Beau Roberson & Amber Pittsley. Photo by Sandi Morrow.



Wink Burcham and David Morrow. Photo by Sandi Morrow.

Blues Society of Tulsa

Annual Membership Application

Includes subscription to the bi-Monthly "Blues News"

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Single \$20 _____ Corporate \$125 _____

Family \$30 _____ (for 2) Additional Family Members \$15 Each

Lifetime Membership \$175 _____

____ New Member ____ Renewal; Your MBRShip# _____

Any Questions? Email:

bluessociety@peoplepc.com or snail mail:

BST, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101.

If you want on the BST "what's happening" mailing list, please include your e-mail address:

If you live outside the USA please add \$10 to the single and family memberships listed above.

ATTENTION: A check mark in this box indicates that your annual membership payment is due. Thank You!

LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

May: 1 – Bill Raffensberger (2010); 2 – Susan Herndon; 5 – Heather Buckley; 6 – Steve Munson (1990), Barney Kessel (2004), D.C. Miner (2009); 11 – Ernie Fields (1997); 13 – Perry Thomas; 15 – Pete Marriott; 16 – James Groves; 22 – Doug Wehmeyer; 24 – Frank McPeters (2009); 29 – John Mabry; 30 – Dustin Pittsley. **June:** 1 – Ronnie Dunn; 2 – Donnie Wood; 5 – Scott Musick; 6 – Dwight Twilley, Dale Shipman; 9 – Glenn Sears (2015); 13 – Scott Ellison, Pat Murray (2007); 17 – Annie Walser, Glenn R. Townsend, Alan Thompson, Flash Terry (2004); 18 – Carl Radle (1980), Buddy Jones (2011); 22 – Jesse Ed Davis (1988); 28 – Kent Swepston, Earl Clark (2010); 29 Gary Busey.

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS HELD THE 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH At Soul City, 1621 E. 11th St., Tulsa

The next two meetings are:

Tuesday, May 21st, 2019 & Tuesday, June 18th, 2019



Chautauqua Hills Blues Festival

This Memorial weekend festival is held every year, just north of Pawhuska across the Kansas border. It is held on 100+ acres and the camping is free.

Headlining this year's festival on Sunday May 26th is Mike Zito the reigning Blues Rock artist of the year. Dylan Whitney, the Tulsa Blues Challenge winner, managed to stand out at last year's festival and will be hosting the jam. Also appearing is the Kris Lager Band, Terry Quiett and Earl and Them.



Mike Zito at the Blues Music Awards

Some of you may have seen Terry Quiett perform at The Cimarron bar in Tulsa. Earl and Them is the remaining members of The Cate Brothers, Earl Cates, from Arkansas, has many connections to Tulsa. Kris Lager, from Omaha, is another new face he has been touring regionally and has an outstanding sax player. - more info see cqbluesfest.com

2019 BLUES CHALLENGES

Now accepting applications for the 2019 SOLO/ DUO COMPETITION & BAND COMPETITION

The Band competition will be held at Cain's Ballroom on August 17th and the Solo/Duo Competition will be held in September. Winner goes to the IBC in Memphis. Here's your chance to play on the same stage that has been graced by everyone from **Muddy Waters** to **Sid Vicious!** Winner goes to the IBC in Memphis to be held January 2020. Entry forms are available at www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com or at 918.520-2453. Our rules are very similar to those of the Blues Foundation and you can read those rules at: www.blues.org.

2019 Summer Showcase

Headlining the July event is **Levi Parham and Them Tulsa Boys**. Opening the evening will be **Scott Evans**. So put on your flip flops and come down to the outdoor patio for some fresh air, fun friends and great music. We'll be inside if it rains! More information to come. Mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss this one!

Stone River Music Festival 2019

A weekend full of camping, great music, food, arts & craft vendors



Get your tickets today www.stonerivermusicfestival.com

Located in Chandler, OK
343188 E 1870 Rd





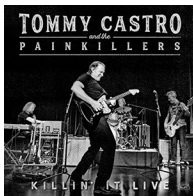
CD Reviews



Tiffany Pollack and Eric Johanson:

BLUES IN MY BLOOD (Nola Blue Records)

Tiffany Pollack is an acclaimed New Orleans Jazz Singer. Eric Johanson is a professional guitar slinger and former lead guitarist for **Cyril Neville**. They've teamed up to record a new record of originals and covers perfectly showcasing both of their musical talents in the name of the blues. Tiffany sings lead and solo on most of the eleven tracks but Eric also takes the mic and does a fine job. I found Tiffany's vocals too much on the nasal side for my tastes so the tracks that stand out, for me, are the ones Eric sang most on including; No Expectations, Get Lost with Me and If I Had a Hammer. This is a nice, new blues record but doesn't really contain anything new or different that could move me to listen to it again. The songs are pretty much plain as are the performances. Don't take my word for it though. Check out this new album and see if you have a different take on it. Your ears just may love it. - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Tommy Castro and the Painkillers:

KILLIN' IT LIVE (Alligator Records)

This is Tommy's 16th Album, recorded, all over the U.S., due to popular demand, for their legion of fans throughout the country, because of which, have made Tommy Castro one of the nation's premier blues performers that promoters love to book. This ten track live album features career spanning rockin' blues songs including two covers and eight original songs that Tommy wrote himself. These are the songs Tommy and The Painkillers enjoy playing the most over the last four years that they have been performing together and love to explore and jam to while on stage, much to the country's many audiences loud, joyous approval. Born in California but known for Memphis style blues and R&B; Tommy's vocals and guitar playing have been compared to listening to **Otis Redding** back in 1967. Standouts include Can't Keep A Good Man Down, Lose Lose, Calling San Fransisco, Shakin' The Hard Times Loose, and Them Changes. A live album sure to please any Castro fan, full of great performances from start to finish. - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Kenny Parker:

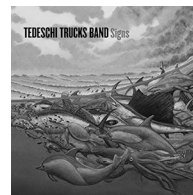
HELLFIRE (Kenny Parker Scribner)

Detroit based Kenny Parker gives us his 3rd album of guitar driven, almost all original blues with special guests **Jim McCarty** and the debut of **Dan Devins** on vocals and harmonica. It's mostly a rockin' blues album with Kenny handling the lead guitar work, Jim playing rhythm

and lead guitar, and Dan handling the vocal and harp work. Adding bass, drums, and piano/organ to the mix rounds out the sound. I think the performances are all ok and recorded well, but all suffer thanks to the vocals. I hear a lot of albums that, musically, sound excellent-if only they had hired a different singer, and this is one of those albums. Check this album out, (I prefer Spotify) and perhaps you will like it. There are 10 studio tracks, a live track, and another live track added as a bonus. Except for those vocals, standouts include Blind and Paralyzed, the Title track, And Then We Danced, and the bonus live track Hard Times. - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



• **TULSA'S LIVE MUSIC WEBSITE** •
LISTING WELL OVER 200
CONCERTS & EVENTS EVERY
SINGLE WEEK SINCE 2009
CURTSLIST.COM



Tedeschi Trucks Band:

SIGNS (Fantasy)

Signs is the fourth studio album from Tedeschi Trucks Band and was recorded in Derek & Susan's home studio, Swamp Raga, on two-inch analogue tape to capture the warm, rich ambience of the best vintage recordings of yesteryear. It contains eleven original blues tracks with that signature Tedeschi Trucks sound of rockin' R&B and slight jazz fusion. This album doesn't seem to rise above the first two tracks but I'm finding that the more I listen to it, the more I like it. Sometimes an album just has to grow on you and might require a few meetings with your ears before it is accepted. The performances are excellent and the vocals are as amazing as expected. The only flaw I've found if one is even needed, to explain the lack of overwhelming joy that may have come from listening to their first album, are the songs. They aren't as commercial and catchy and some folks prefer that. With that being said the standout tracks are Signs, High Times, I'm Gonna Be There, Shame, and They Don't Shine. Give this one a little time to win you over and I believe it will. It's a fine new blues album from one of our favorite bands. Great Job! - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com) !



since
1988

**30 Years
in Business**



L to R:
Berta, Lana
& Beverly



Prattville Tag Agency

**606 West 41st
South Sand Springs
Berta Holmes, Motor License Agent**

**241-2800
Fax: 241-1870**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday 10am - Noon

Post Office Closed on Saturdays

Services Offered

Transfer Automobile, Boat, Motor, Recreational Vehicle, Travel,
Trailer, Motorcycle and Mobile Home Titles

- * Re-new all Oklahoma tags
- * Renew or replace Driver License & Oklahoma ID Cards
- * Voter Registration * Issue Pike Pass * Fax Service
- * Notary Public * Contract Post Office * Mail Box Rental
- * Money Orders * Selective Service Registration *





hillcrest
Hospital | South
2019 PRESENTING SPONSOR

Welcome to Bixby's
largest family event
Fundraiser for Bixby Rotary Projects



Live Music Schedule

FRIDAY MAY 3
5:00 The Hudramatics
7:00 Kalo
9:00 John Nemeth

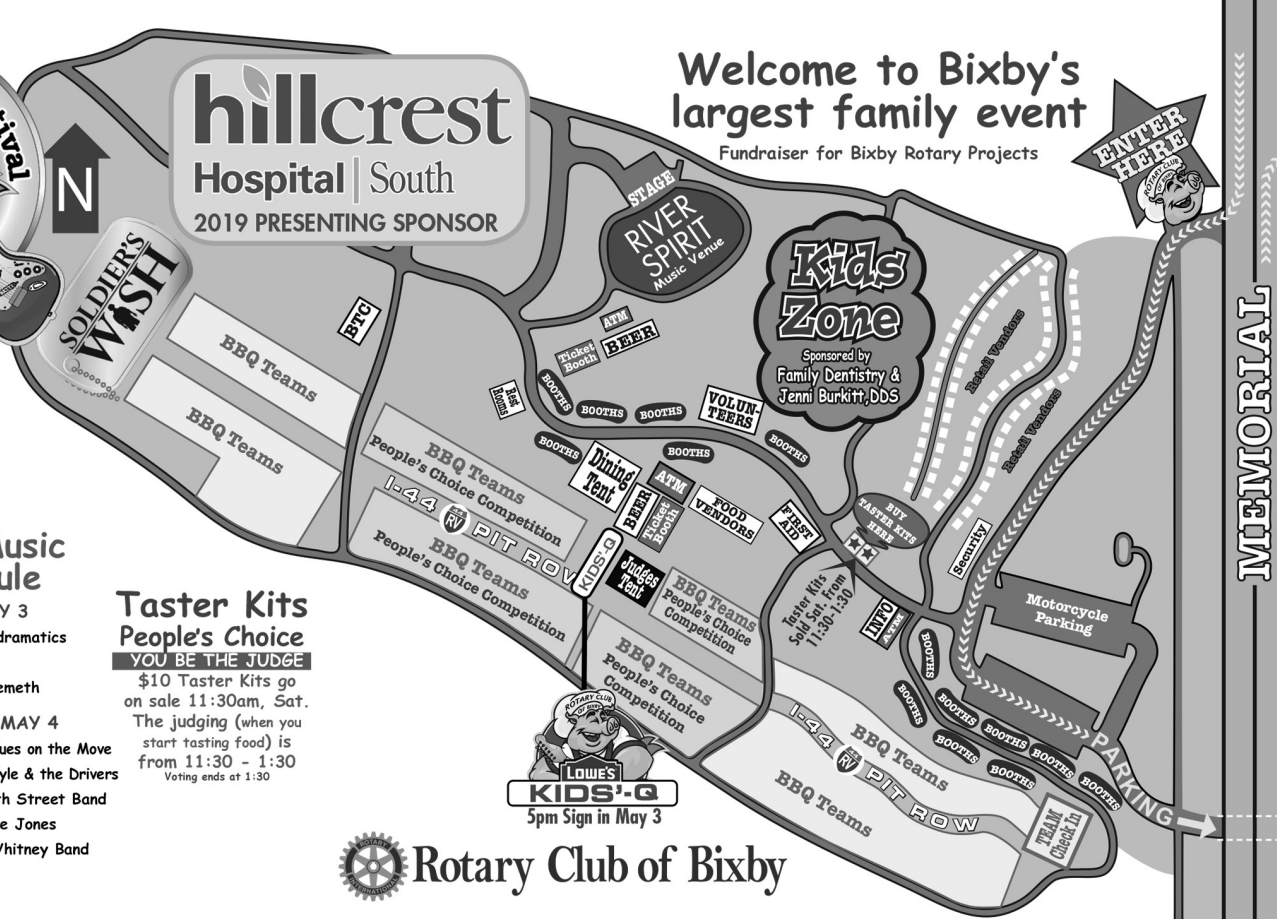
SATURDAY MAY 4
1:00 Selby Blues on the Move
3:00 Ronnie Pyle & the Drivers
5:00 The 29th Street Band
7:00 Seth Lee Jones
9:00 Dylan Whitney Band

Taster Kits

People's Choice
YOU BE THE JUDGE
\$10 Taster Kits go on sale 11:30am, Sat. The judging (when you start tasting food) is from 11:30 - 1:30 Voting ends at 1:30



 **Rotary Club of Bixby**



THE MUSIC STORE

www.musicstoreinc.com

9120 E. 31st. Street
Tulsa, OK. 74145
918-664-7333

The Real Musicians Friend
SINCE 1972

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE TULSA BLUES SOCIETY

- *GUITARS *AMPLIFIERS
- *BAND INSTRUMENTS
- *DRUMS *PERCUSSION
- *PRO AUDIO *LIGHTING



- *DJ *KEYBOARDS
- *LESSONS
- *RENTALS
- *REPAIR
- *SERVICE



Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame

Some halls of fame are grandiose affairs - all marble and steel and expensive lighting and walls covered with paintings and rooms full of statues and awards and artifacts related to whatever the hall is celebrating. But the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame is none of those things. It is a humble affair, which seems more fitting for something related to the Blues - even something as prestigious as a Hall of Fame. Housed in a gray, former house on the edge of Rentiesville (population 64) in McIntosh County- the hall pays homage to some of the greats in the Blues genre, musicians who have contributed a lot to the Blues but perhaps were overlooked by other halls of fame. The house sits on the old family farm (which in the '50s sometimes was noted for being a corn whiskey house).

DC Minner was raised there by his grandmother until he was bitten by the Blues bug and traveled the nation playing first as a bass player for greats like **Freddie King**, **OV Wright**, **Chuck Berry** and **Bo Diddley**, later fronting his own band on guitar with wife **Selby**, an accomplished bassist. Minner and his wife returned to Rentiesville and brought a wealth of music with them. The couple reopened his Grandmother Lura's Cozy Corner as the Down Home Blues Club in 1988, and started the Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival in 1991. This soon required turning the five-acre farm into a music venue, filling in the farm pond and building a fence and two stages as the Festival moved outdoors and to three nights and three stages.

In 2004 the couple launched the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame, headquartered inside the Blues club. More than 70 musicians have been inducted, their pictures hanging on walls inside the club. More pictures will be added to the walls this year at the induction celebration. The couple started the Hall of Fame four years before Minner died in 2008 at the age of 73. He was inducted in 2010. Minner was inducted into other halls of fame as well. In 1998 he was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, and in 2003 to the Oklahoma Music Hall of fame. The popular musician said the reason he wanted to start the Hall of Fame was because: "this induction into the Jazz Hall of Fame has changed my life. I now feel that my grandmother has been validated, even though she raised me in a corn whiskey house, and that my commitment to the music will be remembered and make a difference into the future. We need to start a hall of fame here. We have a place to do it, and the larger halls of fame are going to miss some of these blues people. They have their hands full, but we know the blues community. We have worked with or hired so many of them with the festival and all. We need to induct them while they are still alive." So he began to work to 'share the spotlight,' and to 'give credit where credit is due.'

HOW INDUCTEES ARE SELECTED

Several non profits and blues scholars bring in nominations. The Oklahoma Blues Society in Oklahoma City, the Blues Society of Tulsa, Frank Swain, Kerry Kudlacek, Dr. Hugh Foley, and other inductees have all nominated candidates. To be considered an artist must be born in or have resided in Oklahoma or have a strong blues related relationship to Oklahoma. Important qualities to

consider include:

- Keeping the music alive through demonstrated excellence in performance and/or songwriting
- A long term commitment to preserving and supporting blues music in Oklahoma.
- Support and continuation of the Blues tradition through education or sharing the music.
- Have been alive long enough to be close to retirement age or other extenuating circumstances (illness etc.).

THE INDUCTEES of Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame 2019:

Kelvin "Mr. Guitar" Drake of OKC

Wonda "Sunsetter" Macon – a lifetime of singing the blues from the OKC metro area.

Pat "Bar Room Preacher" Moss works regularly in the Clarksdale area, deep roots blues grooves.

Tank Jernigan does the flute intro solo on one of the biggest hits from the tune Goin' To The Country. He is also a horn arranger at Capitol Records I Hollywood, including working on horn parts for Ray Charles' recordings there. He toured non stop with Larry Johnson's New Breed out of OKC

Shy Willie Mabry of Muskogee. He lived many years in Chicago and performed with Muddy Waters.

Michael "Magic Mike" Updegrave, OKC area, toured with his band across the US opening. Also in Miss Blues' Band

Lauree Watkins, tenor sax, a fixture in the San Francisco area who played there in the 70s, 80, 90s, particularly North Beach. In the short at the beginning of Don Johnson's TV series set in San Francisco.

Smilin' Vic Gutierrez of the Soul Monkeys, great drummer, also smooth vocals.

Morris Atchison of Eufaula OK, sax, toured with Bobby Blue Bland many years and also D.C. Minner Selby and Blues on the Move.

check www.dcminnerblues.com/OBHOF for the complete list of inductees – there is a page there for each year. Over 100 inductees at this point! The procedures and requirements for an artist to be inducted are also included.



Tulsa's BLUES and INFORMATION Source

Help us give local musicians the attention they deserve

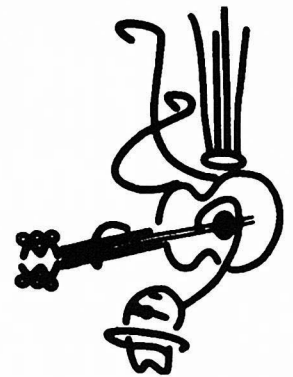
by becoming a patron of RadioidL.com at

patreon.com/RadioidL



LISTEN TO OUR PODCASTS ON ITUNES OR @ RADIOIDL.COM/FEED/PODCAST

Support the Blues by Joining the Blues Society of Tulsa, a non-profit organization.



Blues Society of Tulsa
P.O. Box 2836
Tulsa, OK 74101

NON-PROFIT
US
POSTAGE PAID
TULSA, OK
PERMIT #1957