

Blues Society of Tulsa Celebrating 17 Years! 2002 - 2019

Volume 17, Number 4

www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com

July/August 2019

BLUES LOVE CONQUERS ALL

Story by David Dover



Jim Robinson, Bixby Rotary Club, David Dover; Christina Rybacki, Blues Society of Tulsa - Photo by Alice Dover

I always knew Alice could keep a secret but I never thought she would keep one from me and “about me”. She’s a little sneak ... haha About a week ago she told me she wanted to go to the **Bixby Blues and BBQ Festival**. Of course I said “OK”, as I learned a long time ago if the woman wants something, “don’t argue Dave”. So Saturday rolled around and she started getting ready and told me I need to get ready. Still no argument from me. I did think it a little bit peculiar as our kids are grown so that wasn’t the reason

she wanted to go. She doesn’t really like BBQ but she will eat it because she knows I like it. Blues music isn’t really her thing but she will listen because she knows I like it. So I figured she was doing all this to make “me” happy, so I did not question it. Turns out she was contacted about a week before the event by the **Blues Society of Tulsa** and **RadioIDL** because they wanted to give me their \$500 gift that they give to someone each year. This year it was for me and my fight against cancer. Alice has never kept anything from me like that before and I just know it was killing her... haha Alice usually does not respond to friend requests from people she does not know, so when they sent her a friend request and she did not respond they started messaging her. She accepted, they chatted and now we all know why. Thank you to the **Blues Society of Tulsa**, **RadioIDL** and the **Bixby Rotary Club** for your kindness and generosity. They all played it off so smoothly too, they said, “aren’t you David?” Yes... “Hey, come with me, some people want to talk to you”... haha, they had me fooled. Then they got me up on stage and I still didn’t know why until they handed me the money. I ‘almost’ started balling right there, but I held it together. I’m supposed to be a tough Westsider, but I’m not, I’m a Teddy Bear when it comes to this stuff. People can be so kind and we have such good friends. Oh, and **Seth Lee Jones** is one bad ass on the guitar. He is fascinating to listen to. This area is the best kept secret in music in the world. Some of the players here are as good as it gets, Seth is one of them ...

BLUES CHALLENGE:

July 19th is Challenge Band Deadline; Solo/Duo Deadline not yet set

Once again, artists will have the chance to enter both blues challenges, sponsored by the Blues Society of Tulsa. This is because the deadline for entries for the solo/duo competition will be after the band competition is held. The band challenge winner will not be eligible to enter the solo/duo competition. The band competition will be held at historic Cain’s Ballroom, 423 S. Main, while the solo/duo event location is TBD. The time to start each event will be determined by the number of entries.

BAND COMPETITION: Deadline for entries is July 19th, 6:00pm. The competition will be August 17th. Entry fee: \$50

SOLO/DUO COMPETITION: Event date and deadline for entries has not been finalized. Entry fee: \$25. Information will be available on Facebook and on our website as it becomes available. www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com.

Benefit for Polly Ess,

In loving memory of our dearly beloved **POLLY ESS**. She probably had as much soul as any artist we ever knew. Polly certainly chose her own path, chased her own dreams, and sang the blues like no other. In 2005 she received the **Blues Choice Award for Vocalist of the Year**. Ms. Polly, you will be missed as we recall the many times you brought our hearts such joy singing the blues. You were passionate, kind, loving, thoughtful and caring. - **Bill Martin**

A benefit for Polly is being organized to be held **Saturday, August 3rd at the VFW Post #577 from 5-10pm**.

Great friends, musicians and fun-fond memories shared and made. Food and concessions will be available. Silent auction items and donations needed and accepted. Volunteers welcome.

Contact Wanda Watson. More information to come, check our website for updates www.bluessocietyoftulsa.com



Photo by Diana Hines

INSIDE:

Pinetop Perkins Scholarship, Upcoming Events, CD Reviews and more ...

Welcome Our New Members!

Kevin Varnell, Brad Cheqwidden, & Kelly Poorboy

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

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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.

Blues Society of Tulsa

Annual Membership Application

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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!

Pinetop Perkins Masterclasses

This year we had over 40 participants enrolled in the Pinetop Perkins Masterclasses in guitar, piano, harmonica, bass and drums, including 5 international musicians. The musicians range in age from 11-22 and all play at advanced skill levels. The workshops provide valuable instruction for the participants, as well as incredible jamming opportunities with other young musicians and with the instructors. It is truly amazing to see what unfolds each day. We are fortunate to have had 4 young Tulsa musicians this year. Thanks to the Blues Society of Tulsa for providing funds for a scholarship!

- Liz Berntson



Gregg Pagano - piano



Logan Vawter-guitar



Sam Parker - piano



Graham Pagano-drums

2019 SUMMER SHOWCASE

- Mark your calendars!

This year's annual Summer Showcase sponsored by the Blues Society of Tulsa will once again be hosted by Soul City Gastropub and Music House, 11621 E. 11th St., Tulsa on Saturday, July 20th at 7pm. The showcase line up has changed and will be featuring **Dustin & Jesse's Higher Education**. **Scott Evans** will open the evening Cover is \$10 and children 10 and under are free.

LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

July: 2 – Pat Moss; 4 – Big Al Downing (2005); 5 – Official J.J. Cale Day in Oklahoma; 9 – Bob Hendrix; 14 – Rick Gill (2018); 15 – Kenny Cheek (2011); 16 – Little Joe McLerran; 17 – Jimmy LaFave, Joe Lee Wilson (2011); 18 – David Teegarden Jr.; 25 – Jim Downing, Mike Winebrenner, Wally Wallingford, Steve Parkhurst; 26 – Rocky Frisco (2015); 29 – Scott Mariner. **August:** 2 – David McKnight (2011); 9 – Ricky Preston; 10 – Michael MD Johnson; 12 – Pete Huckabee, Dick Gagle; 15 – Robert Wilson (2010); 16 – Bob Taylor; 19 – Chuck Blackwell (2017); 20 – Matt Martin, Mike Bruce (2005); 22 – Jim Karstein; 13 – Matt Kohl; 26 – Ernie Fields (1997); Jimmy Rushing (1972).

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

The next meetings are: 7:00p on July 16th & August 20th Tuesday Bluesday with Wink Burcham at 8:00pm



HENRY SLOAN

Founder of the delta blues? 1870 - ?

There are no known photographs or recordings of Sloan. This mysterious forefather and likely founder of the delta blues taught **Charley Patton** everything he knew.

Located in the heart of the Delta, Clarksdale Mississippi has been dubbed the birthplace of the Blues, with the exact spot attributed to the Dockery Plantation. Many sharecropping families and field workers occupied this space, including one **Henry Sloan**. He was a popular singer and guitarist by the 1900s. He was also a mentor to many future legends, including **Charley Patton**, **Tommy Johnson**, **Willie Brown**, and the great **Robert Johnson**. All of whom claimed him as their teacher and as the originator of what became the delta blues style.

*Very little is known about Sloan or
his life other than the fact
that he lived at Dockery Farms.
Even his date of death is a mystery.*

Sloan was the musician W.C. Handy heard playing guitar at a train station near Dockery Farms in 1903. In his autobiography, Handy wrote that “a lean, loose-jointed Negro had commenced plucking a guitar beside me while I slept. His clothes were rags; his feet peeped out of his shoes. His face had on it some of the sadness of the ages. As he played, he pressed a knife on the strings of the guitar. The effect was unforgettable. The singer repeated the line “Goin’ where the Southern cross the Dog” three times, accompanying himself on the guitar with the weirdest music I had ever heard.” - **Larry Watt**

HOW DO YOU DEFINE THE BLUES?

There seems to be a lot of “discussion” on what genre of music constitutes the blues. With all of the various opinions, I’d like to

share my own with some humor and some truth. Most forms of music have a feel that stimulates an emotional reaction from a given listener. Musical preference, in my opinion then, is the form of music that gives you the most listening enjoyment. Some folks prefer classical, some prefer rock, some prefer country, some prefer jazz, and some prefer blues. Emotions are the result of stimulation of various “levels” of the human consciousness. At the lowest level are the primitive feelings. At the highest level are the intellectual thoughts. In other words, somewhere between your soul and your mind, you relate to music at a certain level. Often, people who enjoy classical music feel that those who don’t are not “cultured” (a measure of social experience/hierarchy) enough to understand or relate to classical. Often, people who enjoy the blues, feel that those who don’t, have never experienced the “hard times” (a measure of emotional experience) in their life so they do not understand or relate to the blues. At times you may see someone walk into a blues bar with their nose held high and a polo player on their shirt. Most often they turn around and walk back out. You’re also not likely to see a cat wearing blue jeans, a black short brim hat and a harmonica in his pocket attending an opera.

Some say it is a “simple” music form because it often contains only three chords known as the 1 4 5 pattern (tonic, dominant, and sub-dominant for you intellectual types) and repeats itself every twelve bars. Some blues even stays in the same tone (never leaves the tonic) for the entire song. I do love all forms of music when done well and with feel, but the blues? Oh lordy, gimme some!

The blues IS about expression of the soul. The blues IS interpreted in many ways, both electric and acoustic. There is the Delta sound, and the Chicago sound, and the Texas sound, and the Tulsa sound, and the...

*I do think that the Blues has a hell of a lot more to do with “feel”
than it does with technical ability of the source...*

So... How do you define the blues?? I don’t have a clue! But I know it when I hear it! I especially like it when it has a good groove, and a sufficient amount of FAT. - **Larry Watt**



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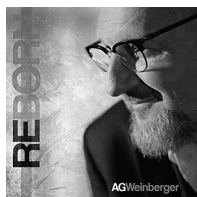
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CD Reviews



AG Weinberger: **REBORN**

(Bigfoot Records)

AG Weinberger is a Romanian singer, songwriter, lapsteel/guitar, guitar player, and producer offering up his tenth album of 12 tracks

for music lovers like you and me to give a listen to and hopefully enjoy. Romania's "Premier Blues Artist" sounds more like jazz than anything. The songs on this album mostly have a rehearsing jazz ensemble vibe to them, with "not quite in the pocket" timing, and vocals that never, quite, hit the mark. Although, there are a couple of songs that actually do sound like blues and one; "The Fool's Lucky Day" even features our friend; **Bob Margolin**. There's an instrumental called "Slippery Slope" that, just like the title track, has some sloppy, improvisational sounding guitar work at the end; that, if you're like me, if listened to - too many times, would surely question your will to live. "Just One Minute" is a slow mournful sounding song that has the potential to make you feel worse than the singer sounds. "Cadillac Blues" isn't too bad and the guitar playing isn't bad either. - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Meg Williams: **TAKE ME AS I AM**

The Muscle Shoals Sessions
(Blind Racoon)

Originally from the Finger Lakes of New York, pretty singer/songwriter/guitarist Meg Williams

now resides in Nashville and presents her first Blind Racoon full-length blues album. First take: Meg's guitar playing can sound a lot like **Derek Trucks** on one song and **Warren Haynes** on another. Second take: Her guitar playing is a lot better than her singing. She sort of melodically, loudly, whispers when she sings and most of her vocals have timing and pitch issues to say the least. Her Muscle Shoals rhythm section does a fine job on every song even though you know they're gritting their teeth on almost every song she sings. It's easy to hear why Meg is known mostly for her guitar performances on other artists records as her vocals are just plain horrible. I'd list the standout tracks if there were any. Really nice guitar work though.

- **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



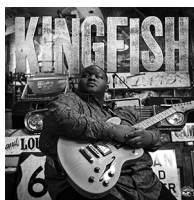
Southern Avenue: **KEEP ON**

(Concord Records)

Southern Avenue is a Blues, Soul, & Jam Band from Memphis, Tn., whom takes their name from a street in Memphis running from the

easternmost part of the city limits to the original home of Stax Records known as Soulsville. This is S.A.'s second full length studio album featuring sisters **Tierinii Jackson** on lead vocals and **Tikyra** on drums and vocals. This is a high energy album of cool, funky songs with great performances including a horn section at times and the rare sort of vocalist that you don't get tired of. Tracks that stand out include the title track, Switchup, Lucky, Jive, We've Got The

Music, and She Gets Me High. This is reportedly the most talked about band in Memphis right now. - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)

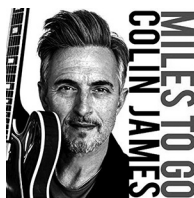


Christone "Kingfish" Ingram: **KINGFISH**

(Alligator Records)

This is the kind of blues debut album that I love to not only review, but to listen to. A guitar driven album containing a few covers like

Buddy Guy's "Fresh Out", and Keb Mo's "Listen" by a Clarksdale Mississippi lad whom started playing at a young age and has already, at age 20, recorded with the likes of **Eric Gales** and **Samantha Fish** and has a following both far and wide just for his incredible guitar playing alone. Yeah, It's pretty evident, from track 1, that Christone can play that guitar and then we find out he can also sing? Yes! Kingfish has a voice that can cut through anything and he adds just enough of the right inflection to make it believable. This entire record is excellent from the first groove to the last. The session band is also excellent and did I mention blues harpman **Billy Branch** even performs on a track? You'll want to purchase this one and play it often and when you do - remind yourself this is album number 1 from the Kingfish and his future will not only be talked about but just may be legendary. Bravo!! - **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



Colin James: **MILES TO GO**

(Stony Plain Records)

This is the kind of blues debut album that I love to not only review, This new Colin James album begins rockin' on track one and continues until

the final track with only one slow track and one acoustic in the mix. Yet another outstanding, rockin' blues artist that I might not have ever heard if not for the Blues Society of Tulsa allowing me to write these Cd reviews for them every couple of months. I actually looked this one up myself, being a few albums short, of my usual delivery count, through the new releases feature on Spotify. Colin James is a canadian born, multi award winning, multi Canadian blues hall of fame inductee, rock/blues singer/songwriter, and guitar slinger whom got his big break back in 1984 when the scheduled opening act for a **Stevie Ray Vaughan** concert in Regina, Saskatchewan; where Colin is from, failed to show up, So when Stevie called; Colin agreed to perform and with only a few hours notice. At the end of the concert that night Stevie invited Colin to perform with him during the encore and was so impressed he asked if Colin would also be his permanent opening act for the rest of the tour. Now, 25 years later, we have Colin releasing his 16th studio album and it delivers in every possible way. It has everything; superb vocals, amazing guitar work, fluid harmonica, incredible rhythm section, and even a killer horn section on some tracks. The songs; unique covers and originals, also deliver in every way and contribute to all 12 tracks being standouts. So if you prefer guitar driven, rockin' blues, like I do, and especially if you happen to already be a Colin James fan, you'll want to purchase this album as soon as you can. I already have! Excellent!!

- **Curt Fillmore** (CurtsList.Com)



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Oklahoma Blues Events

CHAUTAUQUA HILLS BLUES FESTIVAL,

Sedan KS, May 25th-26th – Our own Lil' Joe McLerran and Dylan Whitney Band were among those who performed.



*Jamming: Kurk Lager, Mike Zito, Dylan Whitney and Fiona Boyes
Photo by Tom Leopold*



*Little Joe McLerran, Johnny McLerran & Rob McLerran
Photo by Brian Walker*



*Dylan Whitney band
Photo by Tom Leopold*

BIXBY BLUES N BBQ, Bixby, OK, May 3rd-4th.



Jamming at the end: Kirk McCracken, James Groves, Dylan Whitney, Wes Atkinson & Josh Yarbrough. Photo by Don Whitney



*Dylan Whitney and Chelsea Gann of the Dylan Whitney Band
Photo by Don Whitney*



Matt Teegarden, Bo Hallford & Seth Lee Jones



Marshall Woodson, Jimmy Robinson, Mark Miller, Steve Maggard, & Jerry Muratore



Edward "Spike" Gore, Dan "Oklahoma Slim" Ortiz, Selby Minner & Eric "Little Brother" Walker



Pat Wright, Randy Ess, Irene Poppa, Ronnie Pyle, Cheryl McGee & Bruce Dunlap

Photos by Christina Rybacki



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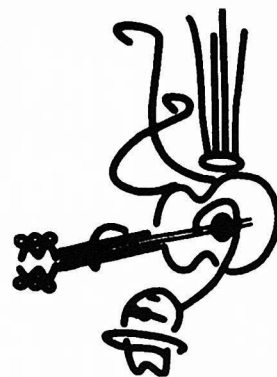
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