



Keeping Classic R&B Alive

Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society

Affiliate Member of the National Blues Foundation

www.bluespreservationsociety.org | 12 Kipling Street, Providence, RI 02907 | 401.461.0012

RHYTHM & BLUES NEWS of NOTE

Newsletter Editor: Sylvia Whiting

April – June 2023

Volume 18 No. 2

From the Editor

This issue of **R&B News of Note** is dedicated to Board updates and Summer 2023 with highlights of TAPA Graduation, St. Martin dePorres Center Juneteenth Celebration Tribute to Arthur Hazard and the summer ‘A Day in the Life’ schedule.

We look forward to seeing you and supporting our events and the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Cleveland Kurtz
Vice President: Max Whiting
Sec/Treasurer: Sylvia Whiting

Instruments Program Director

Tom Colantonio

Board Members

Tom Colantonio
Guia Sanchez
Clarice Smith
Paul Williams
Dhana Whiteing

Honorary Board Members

Richard & Donna Pena
Lynn & Elizabeth Pegg
Sylvia Ann Soares

20th Anniversary Tribute to R&B

Friday, August 11th 8-midnight

Front & Center Band

CV Club, Grosvenor Ave., E. Providence, RI

\$15 in advance / \$20 at door

From the President’s Desk

I know you remember when you were 20 years old. I can imagine you felt like a thoroughbred kicking around in the starters’ gate, waiting for the race to adulthood to begin. Adulthood, in fact, was staring you in the face and you were going to go out and get it.



President Cleveland Kurtz

The Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society is now 20 years old, but we are not quite as dramatic about our age as you were, being 20 does have great significance for us. Rhythm and Blues brought people together. It gave us a chance to huddle and hang together. If you remember, it gave us a sense of unity and cohesion. Didn’t it? I know you remember those wonderful times. Yes, it was all much fun and celebration, but it had deeper meaning, too.

Our annual **August Rhythm and Blues Festival** is on its way, and I would like for us to seek out some of those deeper meanings. Can we turn this coming Festival into a 20-year reunion celebration? I would love it if all the friends, supporters and community members who cherished the Rhythm and Blues tradition get-together for Rhythm and Blues appreciation day.

You can renew or refresh old friendships, share your many memories, resurrect our departed loved ones by sharing memories of them with each other. There are young people who were not around during the Rhythm and Blues heyday, but I know they will love it, so invite them, too.

I would love it if all of us come together and make this festival a 20-year reunion celebration. I hope that sounds as good to you as it does to me, so let's give it a try.

Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting



Over the past year we've been working on creating events and activities that will bring lasting memories of R&B in Rhode Island. '**A Day in the Life**' series highlights life on the road of R&B musicians through music and 'shop talk'. This series began last summer at several local libraries with four dates scheduled for 2023.

The First Annual Dr. Edward 'Prof' Coates Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to a graduating senior at the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA). We hope this will create a lasting memory for TAPA and students in Rhode Island.

The **R&B Heritage Month R&B Festival** will be special this year as 2023 marks the 20th Anniversary of RIRBPS. We are working to develop a special event to commemorate the organizations' accomplishments. Plans are focusing on musicians and entertainers as well as others, past and present, who are why this organization was founded and has existed for the past 20 years. As plans develop, we will post information on the website and in local media. Stay tuned!

Director, Instruments for Children Program, Tom Colantonio

The program has a decent inventory. We're ready to assist schools in September when school programs are gearing up and they assess their needs. We are still collecting occasional instruments and having them checked out as our web presence leads donors to our program. Our Instruments for Children Program is receiving instrument donations and will run an ad when requests increase.

Anyone with a musical instrument to donate or information on a school or program in need of our assistance, please contact Tom at 401.793.1281 or Cleveland at 401.461.0012. We will arrange to pick up the instruments, if necessary.



🎵🎵🎵 **OF INTEREST**

20th Anniversary Tribute to R&B

Friday, August 11th 8-midnight

Front & Center Band

CV Club, Grosvenor Ave., E. Providence, RI

\$15 in advance / \$20 at door

Tickets may be purchased on our website

www.bluespreservationsociety.org or at 401.461.0012.

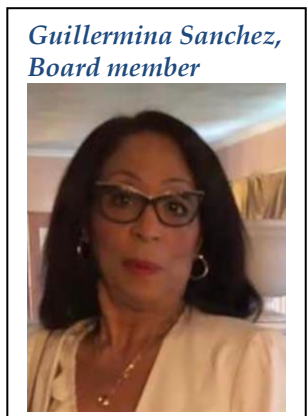


August is R&B Heritage Month. Our event will highlight the history of RIRBPS, key players who created and moved our organization forward while highlighting how R&B has impacted life in RI.

Join us for a musical adventure, dancing, raffle and more.

🎵🎵🎵 **BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT *Guillermina Sanchez***

We are pleased to announce that Guillermina (Guia) Sanchez, Executive Director, Joslin Community Center for 24 years, has joined the Board of Directors of RIRBPS. Guia brings many years of professional, managerial and program oversight experience to RIRBPS. She previously served as an Ambassador for the United Way, a Vista Volunteer and Director for Habitat For Humanity. While at WJAR-TV, she worked as Community Affairs Assistant. Previous experience as Advertising Manager for Brian Supply will be invaluable to RIRBPS, where she designed catalogs and marketing pieces. She has dedicated her life to service to community in various capacities.



Education was also stressed. A proud graduate of Classical High School in Providence, she views herself as a proud product of Providence Schools. After graduation Guia attended Syracuse University, studying Communications and Law. She also studied Planning and Development in the Masters Program at URI. We look forward to her expertise and support as we evaluate our programming and identify resources in the future.

Musical Instruments Needed
Keyboards, Violins, Violas, Trumpets,
Flutes, Trombones, Clarinets,
Saxophones

Call Tom @ 401.793.1281

R&B Official Music of RI



Prof Ed Coates

For the past few months (or years) our founder, Ed ‘Prof’ Coates has been lobbying the legislature to make **R&B the ‘official’ music of Rhode Island**. We’ve reported on these efforts in previous editions of **R&B News of Note** and are pleased to notify our readers that this is paying off. The effort to persuade the legislature to designate **Rhythm & Blues as RI’s official state music** was picked up by Providence PBS Station, Channel 36 reporters and will be highlighted on **Providence PBS station channel 36, July 9 and Re-Broadcast on July 12**.

The Program was broadcast as part of the Rhode Island PBS weekly series. You can **use this link below to stream the program after the first broadcast** on July 9th. <https://watch.ripbs.org/show/rhode-island-pbs-weekly/>. We hope you’ll report back to us on your response to this telecast.

TAPA Class of 2023 Awards Ceremony

The Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society was pleased to award the 1st Annual 2023 Dr. Edward ‘Prof’ Coates Scholarship to a graduating student with plans to continue their education and/or endeavors in music and performance. 2023 Graduating Senior, Elijah Israel Woods was the proud recipient of the \$1000 scholarship for excellence in musical performance, theatre production, song writing, style and willingness to promote the R&B heritage and tradition. Elijah, an outstanding student at TAPA graduated as a Music Major and Film Minor. Elijah received the Scholarship Award at Senior Awards Night on May 24 at the Grace Pavilion in downtown Providence.



Elijah was selected with the full recommendation of music instructors and staff based on his dedication to music performance and excellence. His music instructor, Avi David, stated ‘Eli excelled at TAPA as a vocalist, pianist, guitarist, drummer, trumpet player, a phenomenal songwriter, he is naturally gifted and picks up new instruments with ease. He acted at TAPA in Theatre productions and pours his heart and soul into everything that he does. Artistically, his style is deeply connected to the traditions and lineage of RnB, jazz, blues, gospel, soul musicians. With plans to attend trade school next year, Eli shows immense potential to pursue a career in the arts. These funds will help keep his musical passions and dreams alive in the coming years.’ RIRBPS was thrilled to make this 1st Scholarship Award.

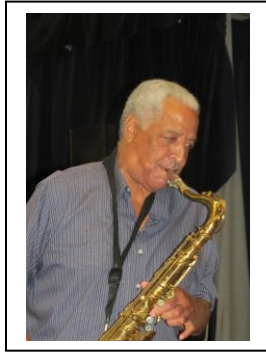


Elijah Woods with Music Professor Avi David & RIRBPS VP Max Whiting



Awardees & Faculty

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR HAZARD

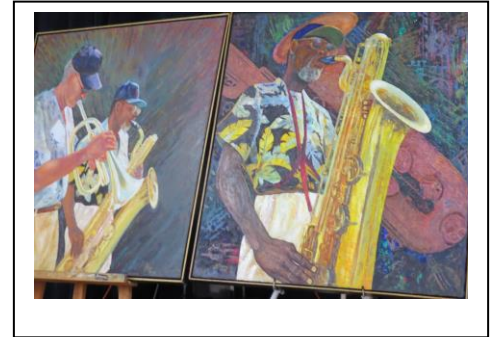


St. Martin DePorres Center was the site of a full house tribute to Arthur Hazard, Baritone Sax player with Little Randy and the Stompers. Arthur spent many years working at St. Martin DePorres Center. He is currently retired and lives in New Mexico.

Randy Ashe, MC & R&B Preservation Hall Band performer.

A highlight of the Tribute was two original portraits of Arthur painted by Fine Artist, Munir D. Mohammed, MA of Munir Studio.

The R&B Preservation Hall Band musicians, Max Whiting, Bass, Paul Williams, Guitar, Randy Ashe Sax, Greg Hanson, Keyboard and Miles Wolcott, Drums played R&B favorites as part of the Musical Tribute.



New Members

We are pleased to announce the following members joined / renewed RIRBPS membership:

Greg Bergman, Kingston, RI

Patricia Chalmers, Kingston, RI

Dave Keller, Montpelier, VT – Blues Performer Extraordinaire

Nancy Perreault, Smithfield, RI

Christine Roundtree, Providence, RI

Gail Silva, New Port Richey, FL

Max & Sylvia Whiting, Stoughton, MA (Board Members)

Sandra Ginsberg, Providence, RI

Lee Teverow, Warwick, RI (Rochambeau Library Manager)

Sylvia Ann Soares, Providence, RI

Tom Colantonio, Johnston, RI (Board Member)

Joe Votta, Providence, RI

Knickerbocker All Stars, Charlestown, RI (Corporate Supporter)

Edwin Warren, Central Falls, RI

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.bluesperservationsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
Application on Page 8

WHERE IT'S AT – *Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!*

A DAY IN THE LIFE

We are pleased to announce the summer schedule of 'A Day in the Life' series. The R&B Preservation Hall Band, led by Music Director, Max Whiting will perform at three Providence Libraries this summer and fall. The series mixes music with dialogue to introduce RIRBPS to new audiences while highlighting the music of R&B to the life of an R&B musician in Rhode Island.

'A Day in the Life'

Knigt Library - July 26th

**275 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI
3:30PM - 5:30PM (Farmers Market)**

Rochambeau Library - August 1

**708 Hope Street, Providence, RI
5:30PM - 7:00 PM**

'A Day in the Life'

Wanskunck Library - August 24

**233 Veazie Street, Providence, RI
5:30PM - 7:00 PM**

Mt. Pleasant Library - September 20

**35 Academy Avenue, Providence, RI
6 - 7:30PM**

Board Members & Friends

Tom Colantonio, Board Member, Bass Player, *Edge of Dreams*

July 8. 8:30-12:30. Bon Vue Narragansett RI
July 22. 9-12 PM. Hills Tavern Chepachet RI
July 23. 3-6 PM. Enrico Caruso Club Manville RI

Aug 19. 8-12 PM, Lafayette Club 289 Aylsworth Ave., Woonsocket, RI.
August 26, 8-12 PM. Copperfields Johnston RI
August 31, 5:30-8:30 PM. Attleboro Town Concert Attleboro MA

Sept 2, 6-9 PM. Safe Harbor Marina. Warwick RI
Sept 9. 8-12 PM, Elks Club, 380 Social St., Woonsocket RI
Sept 15. 7-11 PM. McT'S Taver, 940 Mendon Rd, Cumberland. RI

Paul Williams, Board Member, Guitar & Vocals

Check website for up-coming gigs. www.sweetpguitar.com. 401.465.0542.

Knickerbocker All-Stars® (New Corporate Member) **Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Knickerbocker Café with the award winning Knickerbocker All-Stars!** Saturday, July 29th.

Show: 8PM | Doors: 7PM. Info: <https://knickmusic.com/events/2023/7/29/knickerbocker-all-stars>.

Tish Adams

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING, 8 - 10am, "THE VOCALISTS & LOCALISTS SHOW"
90.3 FM WRIU, Kingston / www.wriu.org

Local Venues

TT's 133 Club, Sunday, 29 Warren Ave., East Providence 401.438.1330 – Blues/Jazz Music Series, call for details, dates, times. Mac Odom Band. Motown R&B - NO COVER



ASKEW, 150 Chestnut St., Providence, 774-526-9736. Music evenings, Wednesday Jam. Call for details.

Cady's Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI, 401.568.4102. Blues Jam, Sunday afternoon at 3-7PM. No cover.

<http://www.cadystavern.com/#!ricks-roadhouse-blues>.

Fifth Element, 111 Broadway, Newport 401.619.2552 - Jazz in bar. Sat., Sun., Mon.

Knickerbocker Café 35 Railroad Avenue, Westerly, RI. 401.315.5070. **Featured Events.** Classic Blues, R&B, Rock, Oldies, Pop. <http://www.theknickerbockercafe.com>. No cover.

Murphy's Law 2 George Street, Pawtucket, RI. 401.724.5522. Blues Jams. No Cover.

<http://murphyslawri.com/events>.

Sardella's Italian Restaurant, 30 Memorial Blvd., Newport 401.849.6312 Wednesday, 7-10 PM Live Jazz.

Tarragon Bar, 311 Westminster St., Providence RI. Blues and jazz Sundays, 7:30 PM. No cover.

Parlour Bar, 1119 N. Main Street, Providence, RI. Live Rock & Roots Music. 401.383.5858.



The Pub on Park, 661 Park Ave., Cranston RI. Vintage R&B Ensemble, call for featured bands. 401.781.8888

The Revolution, 2190 Broad Street, Cranston, RI. 401.780.8700. "Excellent Food + Good Music = Fun", Check their schedule for Blues greats.

Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting

Your contribution as a member helps us continue to offer the programming, information and instruments that we strive to provide. Dues are only \$15 for individuals/Musicians, \$5 for students and \$25 for couples. Through your support we continue to grow our Instruments for Children Program with many instruments donated this past year. We're pleased to announce new members.

The Membership Form is attached to the Newsletter. All membership fees are tax deductible. For information, volunteer opportunities, musician listings, programming and donations please visit us at www.bluespreservationsociety.org.

RIRBPS Membership / Sponsor Application

Name: _____
Company/Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Types / Dues		Payable to RIRBPS & mail to:
Student	\$ 5/year	Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer
Individual/Musician	\$15/year	24 Jennifer Lane, Stoughton, MA 02072
Couple	\$25/year	857.222.1785 / sylmax99@yahoo.com
Non Profit	\$50/year	Payable on-line @ www.bluespreservationsociety.org.
Venue/Club	\$75/year	
Corporation	\$100/year	Membership renewal year runs from June 1 to May 31.
Advertising Prices for Newsletter &/or Website: Business Card \$25 (2x3.5) ¼ Page \$50 (4.5 x 5.5) Half Page \$75 (5x8) Full Page \$150 (8x11). All Ads require camera ready jpeg file.		
Sponsor Flyers: Members only, 1 st time free – You Print – We Attach (inserted if mailed).		

Instrument played: _____

Membership		\$ _____
Voluntary Donation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Volunteer Information (optional):

In addition to supporting RIRBPS with my Membership, I would like to volunteer in the following way:

Volunteer Opportunities

Your support is valuable to us in many areas. Here are some ways you may help:

- Promotion and advertising
- Bookkeeping and banking
- Social media coordination (website, twitter, etc.)
- Producing and staging shows
- Coordinating and compiling our history projects

Our needs have grown along with our organization and we could really use your help. We are easy to work with; we have a lot of fun; and we serve our community. Now, you can't beat that. Please contact us at your earliest convenience.