

NEWSLETTER  
December  
2017



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The  
Blues  
News

It's A  
**Blues Christmas**  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Blues Christmas Sunday

December 3  
8pm

**Nathan Pope Band**  
Charlotte Blues Society The Rabbit Hole

**FREE TO CBS MEMBERS**  
\$5 FOR NON-MEMBERS.

THE RABBIT HOLE

1801 Commonwealth Ave, Charlotte, NC

Where the Blues Live On!

**CHARLOTTE BLUES SOCIETY**

**LOAVES & FISHES**  
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

**ONE CAN?  
I CAN!**

Beginning Dec. 3 CBS requests all members to bring just one item to donate. Loaves and Fishes will feed over 75,000 this year.  
**Half are Children.**

**DEDICATING 12 MONTHS TO LOAVES & FISHES**  
EVERY MONTH WE WILL COLLECT NONPERISHABLE ITEMS AT  
OUR SUNDAY BLUES BASH TO FEED OUR LOCAL CHILDREN

**Hey Blues Family!** It's time to celebrate the season! It has been a very crazy year in this country, but music has united us as we stand side by side to dance, sing & feel the music that makes the world better. 2017 has seen changes at CBS. Our beloved President Rick Ballew, fearless leader the past 4 years stepped down earlier this year to take care of health issues. We are delighted to report that he is looking fantastic, feeling wonderful and is taking time to stop and smell the roses with his lovely wife Libby. You will still see him often, hug his neck when you do. It was also time to make changes on the board, and we are so pleased to add the following new members: Casey Couch, Brandon Adams and Russ Falletich. They will be joining our board with Bill Scullin, Rick Kite, Jim Sellers, Betsy Norton-Stowe, Nick Polyzos, and Dick Gilland.

Something new for us this year: we have found a charity that is very deserving of our help. Loaves and Fishes will have fed about 77,000 people in the Charlotte area this year, HALF of them are children. More info on our website, please read. Also, PLEASE bring a non-perishable item to EVERY monthly event. One simple can of food is all we ask. We will collect throughout the year: not just during the holidays. No one should go hungry. Just think: "One Can? I CAN!"

So excited about having the 14 year old blues wonder: Nathan Pope perform at our Christmas Bash, as you may have noticed on the front page. He is amazing and you will be blown away! By the way, we will FINALLY be drawing the winner of our autographed guitar donated by Sonny & Scotty Jackson. The drawing will be held about 9:00pm on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Rabbit Hole. Many thanks to Sonny & Scotty for this year's Guitar, Rick Ballew who donated the Memphis guitar in 2016, and Jim Sellers, who donated the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Fender guitar 3 years ago. We also wish to thank Rick Kite for donating the Black Fender Squier, case, and Fender amp for our 2018 fundraising raffle! **A VERY LIMITED number** of tickets will be printed for this one: which means your chance of winning will be a whole lot better than being hit by lightning. All proceeds benefit CBS in our mission of "Keepin the Blues Alive!" We are so thankful to each of them.

FYI: Rusty Barkley has also donated a Guitar for us to raffle off in 2018! We have something special planned for that one! Stay tuned!

Some dates to note for early this month: .

December 1<sup>st</sup>: Eric Gales, one of the most respected blues player on the road now, will be at Neighborhood Theatre. Eric has been touring the world to huge crowds. Do not miss this show! Represent CBS! See you there. He will also be the first signature on the Black Fender from Rick Kite!

December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Double Door Inn Reunion with Lenny Federal Band will be celebrating at Neighborhood Theatre.

JJGrey & Mofro will be at Fillmore Charlotte New Years Eve.

January 2018 heralds in the beginning of what will be our 25<sup>th</sup> year! The official celebration will be April 1, 2018. We are already planning a big event for that night, but are looking at outstanding talent for the whole year!

Also in January the artists who won our IBC challenges: Root2 Music (solo/duo) and Moses Jones (band) will be playing our January 7<sup>th</sup> Blues Bash for their Memphis Send Off! We are expecting a huge contingency from CBS to represent us January 16-20 2018 in Memphis. IBC: Here we come!

I have a Blues Highway article this month for those of you planning on heading to Memphis. It's a trip for my bucket list. Check It out.

January 26<sup>th</sup> the incredible Taj Mahal will be performing at McGlohon Theatre at Spirit Square. There are still a few tickets left. He is one of music's legends: don't miss this opportunity to see him live. Besides that, Spirit Square is such a fabulous venue!

Thank you everyone for supporting the blues and live music! Please note: *every blues event*, whether it is a CBS event or not, is an opportunity to support live music and this totally American music form. We are working on keeping our website calendar up-to-date with all the artists coming to town, and hope you will venture out to experience the talent that you may not be familiar with. You will find new gems among them, like Selwyn Birchwood, Davy Knowles, Caroline Wonderland. Benny Turner, James Armstrong, Joseph Michael Mahfoud and Nathan Pope, just to name a few.

There are Blues Jams and local blues players out throughout the week. We are attempting to coordinate that information for you to reference as well. Keep the Blues Alive...Keep Live Music flourishing. Without you, we are nothing!

I want to wish you all a blessed and happy holiday. Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Happy Kwanzaa. Be safe, spend time with those you love, savor the moments. Create wonderful memories. Above all, Let us all celebrate Peace on Earth. And in the words of Tiny Tim "God Bless us, Everyone!"

Mary London Szpara

[CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com)

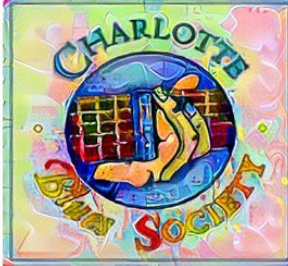
**BRING A FRIEND, IF THEY JOIN, YOU RECEIVE \$ 5 OFF YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR CREDIT TOWARD PURCHASE OF AVAILABLE MERCHANDISE.**

[www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)

**Blues Concerts , News, Movies, Music, Artists, Events, Merchandise, Tickets**

2018 Dates  
Save the dates

Jan. 7  
Feb 11  
March 4  
April 1  
May 6



2018 Dates  
Save the dates

June 3  
August 5  
Sept 2  
Oct 7  
Nov 4  
Dec. 2

Join us for our Sunday Night Concerts

**IBC January 16-20 Memphis TN**

**December 1 2017**



**ERIC GALES**

**The Neighborhood Theatre**

**Anniversary Reunion Party**

**December 17, 2017**

celebrating the legacy of

**the DOUBLE DOOR Inn**

with performances by

**The Lenny Federal Band**

plus: **Crisis**      **The Stragglers**  
The Neighborhood Theatre, Charlotte



**DECEMBER 31, 2017**

**JJ GREY & MOFRO**



— SAVE THE DATE —

**INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE #34**

**JANUARY 16-20, 2018**  
**MEMPHIS, TN**

*PASSES, HOTEL BLOCKS, MERCH, AND MORE ON SALE OCTOBER 1, 2017*



**If you are heading to Memphis to support Moses Jones and Root2 Music in January, consider a few other stops along the way....on the Blues Highway.....**

### **THE BLUES HIGHWAY**

Highway 61 running south out of Memphis forms a legendary route along the Mississippi River evocative of a delicious slice of Americana represented by a genre of music known as the Delta blues.

#### **Overview**

A road is a road, but sometimes it's more. Sometimes a road sings. Drive the old Blues Highway—Route 61 between Memphis and Vicksburg—in search of music, and you'll find it everywhere you turn. Soul, gospel, and R&B spill out of car windows and church doors. Sometimes the music is played on guitars picked with calloused fingers in juke joints tucked under the pine trees. Muddy Waters rode the Blues Highway. So did John Lee Hooker, Bessie Smith, and B.B. King. Elvis knew it, too—his rock-and-roll is as rooted in the delta as a cypress tree in the lowland muck.

#### **Start in Memphis**

The Stax Museum of American Soul Music 926 E. McLemore Ave. [www.staxmuseum.com](http://www.staxmuseum.com) is named for an influential 1960s label that recorded such talents as Otis Redding, the Staple Singers, and Isaac Hayes. The Stax sound—driving, playful, passionate—gave voice to a new optimism rising from the region. "Highway 61 was the road by which black people left Mississippi to find better opportunities," a museum spokesperson says. "And by leaving they took their music to the world." The museum's collection includes more than 2,000 exhibits, videos, stage costumes, photographs, and instruments used to record the Stax sound.

The Blues Hall of Fame Museum 421 S. Main Street. [www.Blues.org/hall-of-fame-museum](http://www.Blues.org/hall-of-fame-museum) opened in May 2015. Dedicated to the preservation and education of Blues music, you will find interactive displays allow visitors to listen to the music, watch videos and learn about the history of blues in America. Instruments, clothing, memorabilia from the blues greats are featured throughout the exhibit. Over 400 artists have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

#### **Live Music**

Want to hear live blues? Just walk down Beale Street. If you want a quick up to date guide, check out <http://www.memphistravel.com/music> From BB Kings, to Rum Boogie, to Alfred's on Beale, to Wet Willie's and Wild Bill's just to name a few, there is ALWAYS music on Beale.

#### **Duck Walk**

You can't go to Memphis without a stop at the Peabody 149 Union Ave. [www.peabodymemphis.com](http://www.peabodymemphis.com) famous for the ducks that traipse through the lobby twice daily.

#### **Good Barbecue**

Memphis is alleged to have more than a hundred barbecue joints. If you don't like BBQ, you better bring your own tofu, although there are plenty of places that have salads...but honestly, who wants a salad in Memphis? REALLY?

THE BLUES HIGHWAY *continued...?*

### Tunica

With its garish, casino-based economy, Tunica looks like Las Vegas. But even if gambling isn't your thing, stop here for a meal at the Blue and White dinner (1355 Hwy. 61 N., Tunica; tel. 1 662 363 1371). It's right on 61, and it's fried chicken and peach cobbler Southern cooking at its best.

### Clarksdale

Travelers and locals alike gather around platters of barbecued chicken for a jam session. The setting is the old commissary of the historic cotton farm, the Hopson Plantation ([www.hopsonplantation.com](http://www.hopsonplantation.com)) in Clarksdale, Mississippi. This is not far from the storied blues crossroads where legend says the devil walks, guitar in hand, at midnight. Hopson's attracts an eclectic mix of fans, writers, artists, and other free spirits eager to travel the byways of the delta and sample the famed Mississippi hospitality. Spend the night on the plantation at the Shack Up Inn. It's a collection of restored sharecropper shacks and boutique hotel rooms built inside renovated cotton bins (Hwy. 49, Clarksdale; tel. 1 662 624 8329; [www.shackupinn.com](http://www.shackupinn.com)).

### More Live Music and Good Eats

In Clarksdale check the "who's playing" board (or the website) at Cat Head 252 Delta Ave. [www.cathead.biz](http://www.cathead.biz), a blues music and folk art store that lists performances at local joints like Sarah's Kitchen (278 Sunflower Ave). Catch a band and a down-home meal at actor Morgan Freeman's nightclub Ground Zero Blues Club o Blues Alley. Next door is the Delta Blues Museum #1 Blues Alley, Clarksdale

### Rosedale

Back on the road south of Clarksdale, you'll notice that Highway 61 is a lot of four-lane now, slicing through the flat, black earth of the delta as easily as a silver knife through moist cake. Divert yourself west to the parallel Highway 1, a quiet two-laner running along the Mississippi's "Great Wall," a never-ending levee. Here you'll find Rosedale, a town famed blues musician Robert Johnson sang about.

### Vicksburg

Nearing the end of the journey, still north of Vicksburg, as old 61 is relegated to "business" status, you brake suddenly for what appears to be a fever dream on the right: a collection of plywood and brick towers rendered in white, pinks, reds, and yellows, with hand-painted Bible verses. Welcome to Margaret's Grocery (4535 N. Washington St., Vicksburg; tel. 1 601 638 1163). While no longer a working store, it is an enduring testament to the faith of Reverend H.D. Dennis. Back in 1984, he promised his beloved Margaret that if she consented to marry him, he would build a palace to honor God. Inside a cramped chapel is his Ark of the Covenant cobbled together from plastic, old Mardi Gras beads, and gold spray paint, illuminated by a string of Christmas lights

~Text by Andrew Nelson, adapted from *National Geographic Traveler* PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 14, 2010  
additional text and editing by Mary London Szpara



CONCERTS  
EVENTS  
FESTIVALS



MUSIC EVENT CALENDAR  
[WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.CHARLOTTEBLUESOCIETY.ORG)



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**TAJ MAHAL** January 26, 2018  
**McGlohon Theatre at Spirit Square**



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The *Blues*  
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PARTICIPATE IN BLUES FOUNDATION EVENTS

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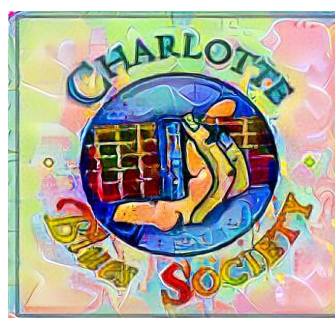
Are you a Teacher or Parent ?  
Would you like us to bring the  
**BLUES in the SCHOOLS**  
program to your school?

email: [CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com](mailto:CLTBluesSociety@gmail.com)



The *Blues*  
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Through the study of Blues traditions, educators can address the important issues of the color line, diversity, and multiculturalism, using interdisciplinary studies in a way that engages students of all ages. The study of the Blues is the study of the African-American culture that produced this music and an investment in the human spirit. Just as important as understanding the evolution of the musical structure of the blues is understanding the ways blues music expressed individual emotions and the feelings of the times. Through the blues, student listeners begin to empathize with what happened in those times and to develop understanding of how to apply that awareness to their present lives.



[www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org](http://www.CharlotteBluesSociety.org)

Charlotte Blues Society



Blues  
Christmas  
Bash

Sunday December 3  
at The Rabbit Hole

1801 Commonwealth Ave Charlotte



Doors open 7PM  
Nathan Pope Band 8pm  
Drawing for Autographed Guitar raffle: 9:15pm

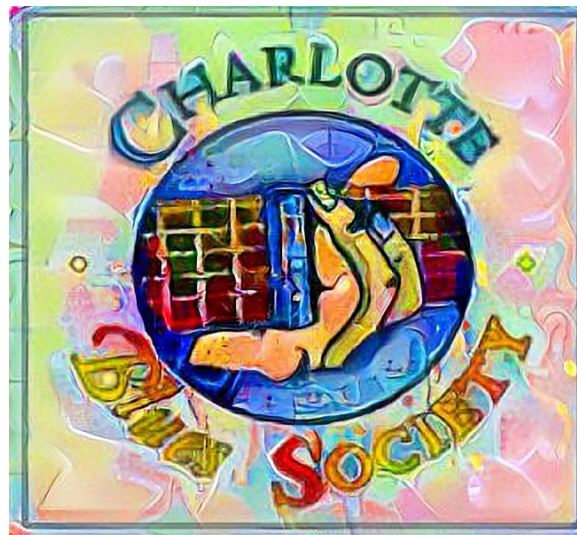
Free to all with valid CBS membership  
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