

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

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From the President's Desk

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

Instruments Program Director

Tom Colantonio

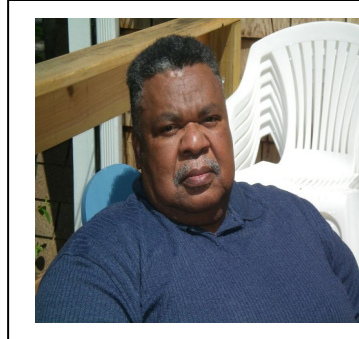
Board Members

Tom Colantonio
Deborah Moore
Guia Sanchez
Clarice Smith
Paul Williams
Dhana Whiteing

Honorary Board Members

Dell Padgett
Richard & Donna Pena
Lynn & Elizabeth Pegg
Sylvia Ann Soares

Our organization had many highlights in 2024. The Awards Celebration of the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) was a wonderful and exhilarating experience for me. I watched as a great assortment of graduating students received awards for their accomplishments during their successful years at TAPA. I felt especially rewarded because I know that the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society played a part in those students' accomplishments. We support



their music program by supplying many of the musical instruments that they play. We also sponsor the Dr. Edward Coates Scholarship Award, a scholarship for one of their top students. We know how important music education is to the student body, and we do our very best to support that effort. I felt proud of their graduating student body and felt proud of the role that we have played in it. We are very thankful for those of you who have supported us as we support them.

On September 4 and October 22, we joined with South Providence community group, JCP Collective, to celebrate our own board member, Dell Padgett. By the way, not only was Dell one of Rhode Island's prominent visual artist, he was also a Board member of RIRBPS and a member of the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame. It was a real pleasure working with this community group; a real privilege. Dell is gone now but he had a wonderful rich

and full life. Many of his friends and admirers showed up at these events to celebrate Dell, his life and accomplishments. Highlights of Dell may be found in the April 2024 issue of ***Rhythm & Blues News of Note***.

One of the rooms in the Southside Cultural Center is devoted to an exhibit recognizing his contribution to the visual arts and to Rhode Island music. If you put on the earphones in that room, you will have the privilege of listening to Randy Ashe and myself teach you a few things; something you don't want to miss.

Lynn Pegg is another significant person that we will miss. In fact, we missed him so much that we hung on to him for more than 100 years. Lynn served both his country in the military and his local community by participating in local community activities. He spent most of his adult life serving by struggling to bring much needed, harmony and understanding to our people.

Lynn is one of the founding members of The Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society. Rumor has it that he was the member who dreamed us up; so we have a very special appreciation for him. We hope that we live up to his dream. Lynn was a great man who loved his community and sacrificed for it. We are grateful that Lynn left us his wife, Elizabeth, who is the mother of Our Instruments for Children Program and his son, Phil, whose exceptional musical talent helps us carry on the Rhythm and Blues tradition in this area. Looking forward to seeing you in 2025.



Vice President / Music Director – Max Whiting

The last several months have been a very difficult period in my life. After my auto accident in May, it is finally loosening it's grip on me. My involvement as Vice President and Musical Director has been limited to phone calls and email to keep in contact with members and fellow musicians. In my absence RIRBPS was able to maintain a wide range of activities involving the organization with the support of our President and other Board members. I appreciate the support and their dedication to 'keeping classic R&B alive'.

I was able to attend the August R&B Heritage Month Festival featuring Steppin' Out New Image at the CV Club in East Providence and look forward to rejoining the 'A Day in the Life' series this spring. We've gained new members and respect around the city and look forward to continuing this momentum throughout 2025. I look forward to seeing you at our next event. Best wishes and happy new year.

Secretary/Treasurer - Sylvia Whiting

Your contribution as a member helps us continue to offer the programming, information, scholarship and instruments that we strive to provide. **It's Dues Renewal Time:** Only \$15 for individuals/Musicians, \$5 for students and \$25 for couples. With your support we continued to grow our Instruments for Children Program with many instruments donated this past year, expanded our music series and celebrated our 21st year. We also awarded our 2nd Annual Scholarship and plan to continue this in the future.

Musical Instruments Needed
Especially: Flutes, Keyboards, Clarinets,
Saxophones, Violin
 Call Tom @ 401.793.1281

Tom Colantonio



Director, Instruments for Children Program, Tom Colantonio

The Instruments for Children Program distributed another 34 instruments to various schools in 2024 including Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, Times 2 Academy, Stephen Olney Elementary School, Pothier Elementary School and Woonsocket Middle School. Inventory is still being maintained with **Clarinets, Flutes and Keyboards** always in demand. We will probably run another request for instruments in the Spring to try to bring up inventory of Keyboards, Flutes, Clarinets and basic Percussion instruments which seems to be where the need is.

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.

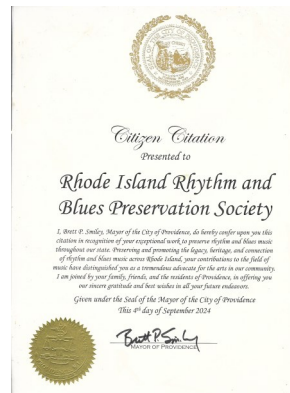
We have a special need for a violin for a student musician. Please contact Tom @ 401.793.1281 if you have an instrument you'd like to donate. Thank you.

🎵🎵🎵 2024 HIGHLIGHTS - *Tribute to R&B*

Celebrating the Arts 2024 --- Honoring Dell Padgett & the Padgett Art Series featured the R&B Preservation Band & Everett 'Grumpy' Mitchell formerly of Dipsy & the Doodles. Held at Jacqueline Clements Park on September 4th the event was created by JCP Collective. With music, song and history, the highlight was the presentation of three Proclamations to the Rhode Island Rhythm & Blues Preservation Society:



Certificate of Special Recognition



Citizen Citation



Official Citation

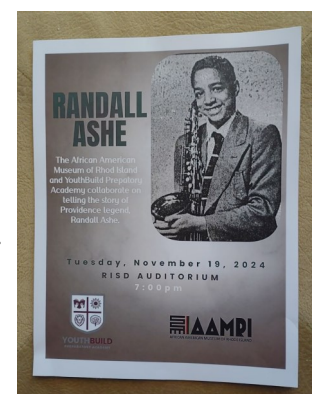


Tribute to the Castaleers --- Presented by RI Latino Arts & JCP Collective featured R&B Preservation Band & company at the Southside Cultural Center, October 22. Music, history, song & dance created an atmosphere of remembrance & nostalgia. RIRBPS was honored to be a part of these events, receive these citations and create a memorial for Dell Padgett & the Castaleers.



🎵🎵🎵 *Tribute to Randall Ashe*

The African American Museum of RI and YouthBuild Preparatory Academy honored Rhode Island music legend Randy Ashe on November 19 @ RISD Auditorium. The evening was dedicated to 'Telling the Story of Providence Legend Randall Ashe'. RIRBPS is proud to have Randy as a member of our RIRBPS family. He regularly performs at our events with the smooth sounds of his tenor sax. He often highlights our events with classic vocals and a performance on drums. A class act all around. Congratulations and 'thank you' to Randy Ashe for your contributions to Rhode Island music and the music scene.



🎵🎵🎵 **21st R&B HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL**

Steppin' Out New Image was the feature band at the **21st R&B Heritage Month Festival** on Saturday, August 24 at the CV Club in East Providence. August marks R&B Heritage Month in Rhode Island. Each year we honor this month with a Festival to recognize and acknowledge the history of RIRBPS, key players who created and moved our organization forward, how R&B has impacted life in RI and musical highlights. Stayed tuned for our 22nd Festival next August.



🎵🎵🎵 **TAPA Awards Night**

Sorayia Marines was the proud recipient of the Edward 'Prof' Coates Scholarship. A scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded annually to a graduating senior who plans to continue their music education at an institution of higher learning. The Scholarship is awarded on the basis of excellence in musical performance in a variety of genres, singer and theatre with a willingness to promote the R&B heritage and tradition.

Sorayia will continue her musical education and was a highlight of the Class of 2024. RIRBPS is proud to be able to continue this tradition.



RIRBPS Apparel

T Shirts are now available at our events or by contacting us at rirbps@gmail.com. Just \$20. Hope to see you in your R&B Tee at our next event.

🎵🎵🎵 A DAY in the LIFE

'A Day in the Life' series held two events in 2024; one at the Rochambeau and the 2nd at Mount Pleasant Library. Paul Williams was able to carry on the tradition with the R&B Preservation Hall Band. The series mixes music with dialogue to introduce RIRBPS



Guia Sanchez & Cleveland Kurtz

to new audiences. We share R&B music with the community and bring stories of the life of an R&B musician during the R&B era. The ups and downs of being on the road, club life, racial tensions and much more.

Performers, Randy Ashe on Saxe, Paul Williams, Guitar and smooth vocals, Miles

Wolcott, Drums and Joe Potenza, Bass played for lively audiences at these events.

Rochambeau Library 2024



Highlights of 'A Day in the Life' summer of 2024.

Paul Williams with Miles Wolcott & Joe Potenza



Randall Ashe



Musical Instruments Needed
**Especially: Flutes, Keyboards, Clarinets,
Saxophones**

Call Tom @ 401.793.1281

JOIN NOW!



Visit our website (www.bluespreservationsociety.org) or use the QR code. It's easy, fast, efficient.

Join the fun, show your support, be a part of the R&B community. Looking forward to seeing you in 2025!

Lonnie Gasperini 1953 - 2024

Our friend and fellow R&B musician Lonnie Gasperini passed in June 2024 after a long illness. Lonnie was born into a musical family and started out on the accordion at age 6, greatly influenced by his uncle Tulio, master on accordion and well known internationally. His mother's brother played drums and also influenced his early interest in music. In the mid-sixties while still playing accordion he also took up drums while dabbling on a Farfisa organ, Fender Rhodes and piano. He used these skills to later record an Album entitled "Joint Effort " with the group "Cannabis" which toured in the late 60's throughout Texas.



In the early 70's Lonnie started playing more Gospel, Blues, R&B and Jazz with various bands and the Hammond B3 organ was his main instrument. He formed his own band **The What's Up** band which consisted of tenor sax, B3 organ and drums. Later he hired baritone sax man **Art Hazard** and added vocalist, Lavern Sims. This band continued to play for 15 years until Lonnie reinvented his band, **The Lonnie Gasperini Organ Trio** with guitarist, organ and drums. This Trio played throughout New England and NYC and occasionally toured in Florida, California and Chicago featuring different guitar players and drummers. Part of his history includes opening for or performing with Artists such as Lou Rawls, Joe Lee Wilson, Percy Sledge, Dr. Lonnie Smith, George Benson, Melvin Sparks, Al Street, Seleno Clarke, Nate Lucas, Wynton Marsalis, Diane Reeves, Max Lucas, Semanya McCord, Arnie Cheatham, Art Hazard, Willie Love, and many others.

An early supporter of RIRBPS, Lonnie is remembered as a RI based soulful jazz organist. He was instrumental in helping create the Instruments for Children's Program of RIRBPS, distributing instruments to children who may not be able to play without support from our organization. He taught young artists the techniques to be successful music and shared his love of everything music. He will be missed.

Lynn Pegg 1923 - 2024



With heavy hearts we mourn the recent passing of our honorary Board member and friend, Lynn Pegg. Lynn, passed on October 17, 2024, at the age of 102. A cherished member of the Providence community, Lynn was an avid enthusiast of music and songwriting. He was a co-founder and advisory board member of the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society, remaining an active member until his passing. He was an unforgettable Rhode Island legend, who lived through the historic journey of the iconic blues to the rhythm & blues era. He was more than an avid admirer of blues and R&B music. He was a dedicated songwriter and singer that was especially drawn to the tune "I Got the Blues All Night and Day" that he wrote in the early 1950s.

In keeping with his strong musical and many other demanding family, social and civic interests, Lynn found the time to become a co-founder and advisory board member of the Rhode Island Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society created in 2003. He remained an active member until his passing. His presence, support and dedication will be missed.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.bluesperservationsociety.org

New Members

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

Barbara Bardsley, Woonsocket,
Bob & Carolyn Corey, W. Warwick, RI
Dave Keller, Montpelier, VT
Sandra Powell, Warwick, RI
Guia Sanchez, Providence, RI

Tom Colantonio, Johnston, RI
Tinika Evora, Providence
Elizabeth & Lynn Pegg
Diane Roberts, Providence, RI
Clarice Smith, Providence, RI

WHERE IT'S AT -

Where music lovers may go to satisfy a healthy R&B craving !!!

Local Venues

Blue Room, 2197 Broad Street, Cranston, RI. Live music venue.
www.theblueroom.com. 401.365.8785.

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>.

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

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.

TT's 133 Club, Sunday, 29 Warren Ave., East Providence 401.438.1330 – Blues/Jazz Music Series, call for details, dates, times.

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.

RIRBPS Membership / Sponsor Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Instrument played: _____

Membership \$ _____

Voluntary Donation \$ _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Membership Types / Dues

Student	\$ 5/year
Individual/Musician	\$15/year
Couple	\$25/year
Non Profit	\$50/year
Venue/Club	\$75/year
Corporation	\$100/year

Payable to RIRBPS & mail to:

Sylvia Whiting, Treasurer
24 Jennifer Lane, Stoughton, MA 02072
857.222.1785 / sylmax99@yahoo.com

Payable on-line @ www.bluespreservationsociety.org.

Membership renewal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

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.

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
- Donor Support

Our needs have grown along with our organization, and we could really use your help. We are easy to work with, have lots of fun and we serve our community. Now, you can't beat that. Please contact us for more information.



JOIN NOW!

*Visit our website (www.bluespreservationsociety.org) or use the QR code.
It's easy, fast, efficient.*