



Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania  
[www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com)

# BLUES NEWS

April – June 2020

## Lil' Ed show CANCELED

Members,

Due to escalating dangers of the corona virus, and government actions to severely limit public inter-action, the April 19 show at Champions featuring Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials has been cancelled.

The BSCP hopes to reschedule Lil' Ed and show opener Benjamin Vo Blues Band for a future show.

The decision to cancel came very close to Blues News press-time, and as a result, editors decided to keep BSCP's scheduled headliner and Benjamin Vo as the cover story. Please enjoy reading about these two exceptional bands.

The BSCP is doing its due diligence to combat the spread of this deadly virus. Our number one priority is keeping our members, friends, musicians, patrons and Champions staff safe. We had already cancelled Thursday jam sessions until at least April 2 prior to Champions halting its in-house dining. Up until very recently, we held out hope that the April 19 show would go on as scheduled.

More cancellations may be forthcoming. Your safety and venue availability will guide our decisions moving forward. Please go to BSCP's website at [www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com) and your email for updates on our scheduled events.



# Really Big Show

## Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials

### Opener: Benjamin Vo Blues Band

## CANCELED: No Reschedule Date

Enjoy the newsletter and keep safe,  
Board of Directors, Blues Society of  
Central Pennsylvania

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**BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Mission Statement**

The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation, promotion, support and enjoyment of the truly original American art form, the blues.

# From your President...

This has certainly been one of our mildest winters making it so easy for all of us to get out for music events and weekly blues jams.

I especially appreciated being able to make the road trip to Memphis with the Blues on the Loose (BOTL) band for the International Blues Challenge (IBC) January 29 - February 1 (see Lewy Bechtold's Road Trippin' article).

What a perfect year for me to finally make the long-awaited trip! It was so fun to be there at the same time as BOTL and the Benjamin Vo Band. And I loved that within the first five minutes of being on Beale Street, we ran into Tas Cru from our 2019 Christmas Party and Gabe Stillman from our Spring 2019 Show.

Some of the IBC highlights for me included hearing bands from other countries, meeting people from other blues societies, being in the beautiful Orpheum Theater for the IBC finals, and touring the Civil Rights Museum. I found the biggest surprises to be just how excellent the soloist performers were and how much BBQ I can eat in four days. BB King's was the best!

I also had some really great local BBQ at the Barn at Stoner Grille in Lancaster at the Blues, BBQ, & Boogie Show, February 21. NOLA Blue Records featured musicians extraordinaire Benny Turner, Daryl Davis, Dale Wise, and Steve Grills, with Blues On The Loose opening. I will be getting another chance for more BBQ on Saturday, May 2, at the historic Capitol Theater in Chambersburg at the 10th Annual Blues, Brews, and Barbecue.

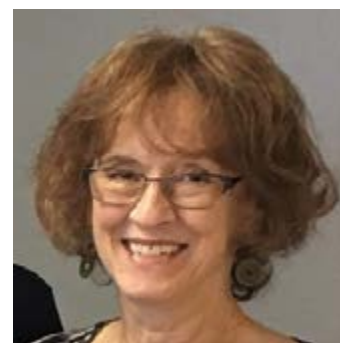
I am proud to say that BSCP is a sponsor of both of these Blues events.

Have you had a chance lately to go on the BSCP webpage? Just type in [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com) and see what is going on with your blues society. Our newest board members Dan Mowery, Rebecca Young, and JD Drudul are in the process of updating the BSCP website and other social media outlets. We are so grateful for their willingness to share their expertise and time with us.

We also wish to express appreciation for the years of contributions by Nina Vacante, our former webmaster who developed and maintained our original website so tirelessly.

There are many faces in our blues society that over time become familiar to us as we attend our events and jams. When someone is no longer with us, there is a deep sense of loss. Recently Jeff Webster unexpectedly passed away, and he is already missed. How heart-warming to see the love of his life, Sheryl, at the last jam and to know that he continues to be with us in spirit.

As we move into Spring, each day brings with it new delights and another minute of light - all the better to fully enjoy life and the blues. I look forward to seeing you all at our BSCP Spring Show with Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, Mom I's Picnic, and our weekly jams.



Keepin' the Blues alive!  
Kathy Gregoire  
[bluesmunga@gmail.com](mailto:bluesmunga@gmail.com)



# What's For Launch?

## A new website for one, as BSCP recommits, revitalizes and repurposes exposure

BSCP recently launched a new website with a new address ([www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com)) but in case old habits die hard for you, the old .org URL will also bring up the new website, for now.

At [bscpblues.com](http://bscpblues.com) you'll still find all the content that you're accustomed to from the old website, but we've added many enhancements to help you stay connected to the blues community and BSCP.

Here are some highlights:

- Easier to navigate
- Fresh look
- Fewer menu options but more content
- A comprehensive online calendar in two different forms of local and regional blues events, including maps of where the events are taking place.
- A BSCP store where you can purchase your BSCP membership online as well as buying select merchandise like the Backyard Blues CD (including digital downloads)
- Social Media from the BSCP in a one stop shop. (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube content presented by BSCP)
- In addition to this stunning new website designed by Dan Mowery and JD Drudul, we've formed a Social Media committee, headed up by Rebecca Young (Chair) and includes members Mowery (Webmaster), JD (Web Committee), and Rocky Woodling (Graphic Artist Extraordinaire).

Our commitment is to use the website and social media to spread the blues throughout Central PA and strengthen our local blues community.

**Please visit our new page at [www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com)**



## BSCP BOARD INTERVIEW KICKS OFF NEW "CHASING THE BLUES" PODCAST SERIES

By KATHY GREGOIRE

The Blues Society of Central Pa. has drawn the honor of being the first blues society to be featured on a special series highlighting America's blues societies produced for the blues podcast "Chasing the Blues."

The podcast, produced by Marc Allen, owner of the Factory Underground Studio in Norfolk, CT., and hosted by podcast founder Tom "The Suit" Forst, has in the past year explored the roots of the blues through musicians of today sharing stories of original blues pioneers who influenced them. It also shared stories of non-musicians who have kept the genre alive in unique ways.

To kick off its new series, Tom interviewed BSCP board members Buster Grubb, Dot Grubb, Gary Rothrock and Kathy Gregoire. Over the course of the 30-minute conference call, the panel talked about the history and nature of the BSCP, the weekly jam, the local blues scene, and current activities and events. Marc said he and Tom believe that blues societies are vital to pushing the cause of the blues forward.

Marc will be letting BSCP know when the podcast will be scheduled and that information will be posted online. Marc and Tom are interested in attending one of BSCP's upcoming events.

The podcast has the endorsement of the Blues Foundation and sponsorship of the Blues Festival Guide. It can be heard by going to [www.chasingthebluespodcast.com](http://www.chasingthebluespodcast.com)

Marc explained that Tom was once a corporate media VP of Sales at Cox Communications; around 12 years ago he "quit it all to play the blues." He is currently a part of the Connecticut Blues Society and is on the Board for the Hudson Valley (NY) Blues Society. Further research revealed that Tom is a 2018 Blues Hall of Fame inducted guitarist-singer-songwriter.

**Review by Kathy Gregoire of Podcast: "Talking Lightning Hopkins with Seth James."**

I found it to be like sitting around a table listening to two musicians talking with each other about their favorite subject. And since they are both blues musicians, they had my full attention



Seth James is a 42-year-old guitarist from Texas who was just releasing a 12-song album called "Good Life." Tom gave his thoughts on Seth's latest songs and Seth gave his insights into Lightning and his ability to play pretty much any ole guitar.

I found Tom's podcasts at [www.ChasingTheBluesPodcast.com](http://www.ChasingTheBluesPodcast.com) to be a great resource for learning about both past and current blues musicians.

## WXCS 92 FEATURES BSCP'S BACKYARD BLUES

Congratulations to everyone responsible for the production of the BSCP CD "Backyard Blues" for being the featured album of the week on Feb. 10 on WXCS 92.9 FM.

four different time slots from Feb.10-14. The online radio station also released a description of "Backyard Blues," which had this to say: "The variety of styles is striking and the creativity and musicianship are impressive."

The BSCP Board gives a big shout out and a hearty thank you to WXCS 92.9 FM for the air time and recognition of our latest CD.

## Want to write for Blues News?

Editors of Blues News would like to hear from you if you'd like to be a contributor to the quarterly newsletter.

Editors are seeking compelling, accurate blues CD reviews, festival and show reviews, venue food and atmosphere reviews, playing tips, letters to the editor, short features or anything else you think Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania members would like to read. Photographs will also be considered.

Adhering to deadlines is very important. Contributors will be told well ahead of time what their deadline is. Final approval of all contributions is up to Blues News editors.

Please contact BSCP President Kathryn Gregoire with your idea. She comes to most Thursday night jams or can be reached by email at [bluesmunga@gmail.com](mailto:bluesmunga@gmail.com).



The "Backyard Blues" CD or any song individually can be purchased on the BSCP's website [www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com).

# JAM INSIGHT EVOLUTION OF A JAMMER

(First in a series of rotating columns by  
Thursday night Jam musicians)

By **GEORGE CARVER**

The first jam I went to was in the late 1990's at the The Lochiel Hotel. My good friend Beverly McCormick asked me if I wanted to go and I said sure.

So, we went that Thursday night and it became a weekly event for us.

I was a drummer and just learning how to play the blues and was not very good. I would go and listen and then go home and practice.

I bought some blues CDs and would spend hours playing along with them. The different beats sounded easy but were difficult for me after playing country and gospel music for years.

I remember walking in the back door of The Lochiel and standing behind the organ and watching Gary Harrington play and trying to pick out the different grooves the different drummers would play. I'd then go home and practice.

The Jam then moved to the 40 & 8 Club and there they would last into the early morning hours. It was a private club and there was not



*George Carver*

really a closing time.

I remember playing and looking at my watch and seeing that it was 1:30 a.m., and I had to be at work by 8:00 a.m. I don't know how I pulled it off back then, but I always made it to work on time.

The thing about playing at the jam, you have no idea who you will be playing with and what songs they will decide to play. They always managed to play the songs that I hadn't practiced that week at home, but I struggled through it.

Needless to say, I was so nervous, especially if I was in Mitch Ivanoff's set.

Mitch stood well over 6 feet tall and weighed well over 200 pounds and there wasn't an inch of fat on him. He would turn to me and say, "We're going to play a shuffle and don't you dare make it swing." I had no idea what he meant but after the song was over he didn't say anything, so I breathed a sigh of relief.

I eventually found Mitch to be a gentle giant who taught me a lot about the blues. I would practice every night for at least four hours trying to come up to the level of the other musicians.

From there, the Jam moved for a short time to a place called The Liquid. When it closed, I got a call from Rocky Rothrock asking if I could help move all the equipment to storage, where it stayed while the Blues Society searched for a new venue.

Dale Roat told us that he found a place on Route 230 in Highspire called Champions Sports Bar and Grill. I remember we played our first jam there and a massive crowd showed up and filled the place and they only had one waitress working. The manager got on the phone and called more waitresses in to cover the large crowd and we have been there ever since.

Champions was the place that I started to feel relaxed when I played and really started to learn how to play the blues.

The musicians who now show up to play really have their act together. Now, the Blues Society is nationally known and I remember once at the 40 & 8 club a blues band from Denmark was in the area and played at our jam.

I'm so proud to be a member of this great organization. Playing at the jam is the highlight of my week.

I turned 73 years old on Feb. 22 and when I come home after playing the jam, in my prayers I always thank God for allowing me to be able to play one more jam and be able to fellowship with all my blues buddies.





THE BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA IS PROUD TO PRESENT

# LIL' ED & THE BLUES IMPERIALS



## SUNDAY APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> 2020

AT CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR

WITH VERY SPECIAL GUEST THE



## BENJAMIN VO BAND

DOORS OPEN AT 1 PM

SHOW STARTS AT

2 PM **\$20**

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# Prepare to get your "Ed-Head" on

## Chicago's Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials brings identity-changing, high-energy show to Champions

By ANDREW KEHE

Memo to all Meatheads, Deadheads and Blockheads everywhere. April 19 at Champions Sports Bar & Grill in Highspire offers an opportunity to upgrade and simplify those unsavory monikers to a more gritty, bluesy one.

Then and there, health regulations permitting, heads of every size, shape and identity will experience Chicago blues legend Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, and will leave having declared themselves proud members of "Ed Head" Nation.

That's what Ed Williams' identity-changing, raucous, playful Chicago blues music can do to you. People align themselves with Lil' Ed, and keep coming back for more.

It's all good. Worry only if you can't resist donning a fez.

The two-time Blues Music Award winning Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, a Chicago-based band Guitar Player Magazine describes as a "snarling, boogie-blues machine" takes the stage at Champions following the 2 p.m. opening set performed by Lititz's The Benjamin Vo Blues Band, itself a band receiving high acclaim as of late.

It seems everywhere Lil' Ed and his band play, glowing accolades follow.

The Philadelphia Daily News described Lil' Ed Williams as "the liveliest blues showman alive, with an explosive, good-rocking guitar sound and the stage moves to match. Raw, gutbucket blues sure to get you up and dancing."

Chicago Tribune: "Although they've been steadily releasing albums and playing clubs and roadhouses since their first gig on the West Side in 1975, the Blues Imperials grow more fiery and energetic every year. Behind his colorful fezzes and jackets and party-time shows is a hard work ethic."

Naples Daily News: "Williams, with what critics call his 'slashing' slide guitar, flinty voice and band of music veterans, has become an institution in the band's blues-centric hometown of Chicago."

BMA has taken notice, nominating

his band eight times for Blues Band of the Year, and presenting them with that honor twice. Lil' Ed is a three-time winner of Living Blues' Performer of the Year award.

Humble beginnings in the 1950s and 60s on the rough West Side of Chicago preceded Lil' Ed's rapid rise to success. Buffing at the local car wash enabled his early musical development. Inspired by the slide guitar playing of his uncle J.B. Hutto, a Blues Foundation Hall of Famer, Lil' Ed developed his own style that caught the attention of Alligator records in the early 1980s. It may not have happened were it not for the insistence by his uncle that his nephew follow his own path, develop his own style.

"No you're not," Hutto told Lil' Ed when the youngster said he wanted to play just like him, Williams told the Naples paper. "You can play my music and you can sing my music, but you've got to make it your own."

Lil Ed had never recorded in a studio before auditioning before Alligator President Bruce Iglauer, so the band didn't know better than to tear into its music in a way they might on stage. Iglauer dug it, signed them to a contract right there and in 1986 the band debuted its first of eight records on Alligator "Roughhousin'." Twelve of the songs used for "Roughhousin'" were recorded during a three-hour session during which the band cut 30 songs.

That's the helter-skelter pace at which this band can function, still.

Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials did dissolve for a time in the 1990s, with Williams filling the gap recording a few solo records. But the band re-formed in 1999 and has been going strong since.

And so has the wardrobe and the come-party-with-me message it emits. The fezzes in particular provide a unique touch, and they are not, he says, to extend his physical stature.

Lil' Ed ain't big, but he ain't little either, at least not with a fez on.

"It's an African thing," Williams told the Naples Daily News. "My uncle used to wear one. It's like a crown. My auntie



Lil' Ed Williams

decided to make one for my uncle because it stands for king."

That appealed to Lil' Ed and now, obviously, to all Ed-Heads who follow.

### Benjamin Vo Blues Band

This charging Lititz band has been coming on like gangbusters since drawing attention from the Reading Blues Festival a few years ago and then winning the Billtown Blues Festival Challenge a year ago. Backed by the Billtown Blues Association, the Benjamin Vo Blues Band joined Lancaster band Blues On The Loose as a competitor at last month's International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Vo earned the sponsorship by edging Blues On The Loose at Billtown's preliminary challenge.

Vo, 32, started out playing nylon string classical guitar, but then caught on to the blues in college after listening to his friend's collection of Delta blues legends. With his sights set on performing and touring, he began writing his own tunes in 2014.

The UK-based Blues Matters Magazine described the band's performance at the Lancaster Roots & Blues Festival in 2016 as "purely magnetic and held the attention of everyone in the room."

The magazine has been following their progress ever since, publishing glowing reviews of their releases "Rain On My Windows" and "Blueberry & Country Sugar."



# Road Trippin'

## The IBC or Bust

By Lewy Bechtold

I believe it can be accurately stated that a trip to Memphis, Tenn. for the International Blues Challenge (IBC) is all that it's cracked up to be. Blues on the Loose (BOTL), representing the Steel City Blues Society of Phoenixville, Pa, had a fantastic experience attending the Blues Foundations 36th annual IBC event Jan. 29 – Feb. 1. Here's a breakdown of our time there...

**January 28:** BOTL with me, seven other blues crazed band members and companions, including BSCP President Kathryn Gregoire, traveled in a passenger van from Lancaster to Memphis, covering 975 miles in 16 ½ hours. We rolled into town at 8 p.m. and oh, yeah, Memphis was already rollin' with IBC pre-jams! We dropped off those who had rooms at the Westin and finished with the short drive to the Air B&B house generously provided for BOTL by our guitarist, Jay McElroy, and his lovely wife, Lisa.

Our modest band budget covered transportation, a small per diem and sundries related to promotion. And that's what you want to do in Memphis. Promote yourself. We did the best we could, distributing a demo recording of our originals, table cards, business cards, and Steel City and BSCP materials. Be sure to look for BOTL stickers posted on Beale Street when you visit Memphis!

**January 29:** Wednesday involved getting our official ID badges and registering, which determined our performance schedule, followed by an orientation for band leaders. With over 200 bands and solo/duo musicians in competition from around the world, there were a lot of folks to deal with.

We got our stuff, took a moment to check out the surroundings and the Tin Roof Club we were to play in, then headed back to prepare for that evening's performance at 9:40 p.m. Some of us ran around to other clubs making sure to see the Ben Vo Band of Lancaster, representing Williamsport's Billtown Blues Association,

and Slim and The Perkolators of Philadelphia, representing Central Delaware Blues Society. We loved being able to share this experience with them.

Some of us stayed and watched the parade of groups go through the Tin Roof. A band from Finland, The Lumberjacks, was good fun. All were more or less intimidating in their production. Following our performance, we ran around Beale Street's clubs and sampled the rich flavors of foods and music. A jam of particular interest to me was at the Tap Room where a "blow off" was happening featuring some of the best harmonica players and hosted by J D Taylor.

**January 30:** Thursday was a day of exploration with different parts of the group going to Graceland, Stax Records Museum and Sun Records Studio. I went to Rendezvous Barbeque House which was literally down an alley and into a basement. Wonderful good food as they would say 'round here. A couple of us hit it twice.

That evening, BOTL was scheduled to perform at 6:45 pm. The room was full of folks who hadn't seen us the night before, including the players mentioned above from the home area. The energy was palpable and we played with abandon. However, the points tally announced at 11 pm, while we were reveling in the evenings jam sessions, indicated BOTL had not passed through to the semi-final round.

**January 31:** Friday included sleeping in and more touring of the surrounding area, including the Civil Rights Museum. Semi-final acts at a variety of clubs started at 6 pm and we hit them all before calling it a day collectively exhausted.

**February 1:** Saturday was finals performances at The Orpheum Theater. What a beautifully ornate interior with three balconies! Performances started at noon and continued throughout the



day until around 6 pm. A jam session of previous IBC winners entertained the audience while the judges tabulated their scoring.

The winner was HOROJO TRIO, a three-piece group from Ottawa, Canada, with its guitarist, JW Jones, winning the Gibson Guitarist Award. The winner of the solo/duo competition and the Memphis Cigar Box Award was Hector Anchondo of the Omaha Blues Society. Additional results can be found on the Blues Foundation website.

The BOTL crew finished Saturday evening with final toasts to Memphis and the IBC, while singing karaoke at the Atomic Rose.

**February 2:** Sunday found us all back on the road returning to South Central Pennsylvania and glad to be safely home.

Blues On The Loose would like to thank everyone for their support through donation and best wishes, including, but not limited to: the Steel City Blues Society of Phoenixville and Jim DiGuiseppe and Chris Bailey of The Soundbank in Phoenixville, whose endorsement was the key to our participation in the IBC; the Blues Society of Central Pa. and its dedicated membership; to Ian Smithgall for creating and maintaining a Go Fund Me Kickstarter page and all who donated to it.



### Stay in Touch

Connect with The Blues Society of Central PA for events, gigs, news, and more!

[BSCPBlues.com](http://BSCPBlues.com)

Follow Us on Social Media

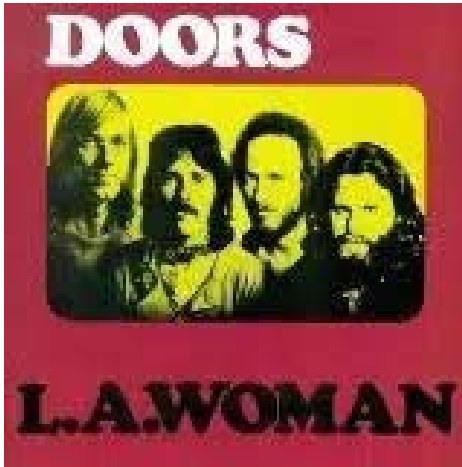


# SONG BUILDER'S NOTEBOOK

## The Story Behind "Rumors Say"

By **ROGER HAMMER**

Have you ever heard that someone's reputation preceded him? Somehow this situation was in my head as a kind of way to reverse time. What if you could know about someone before you ever met?



If you have heard of déjà vu -- in French it means "already seen" -- you may have had that feeling, too. Maybe you've tried the old line, "Haven't I seen you here before?" which in my dating experience had a good chance of striking out. But there are cases when you honestly feel this way. Or you wonder how people know things about you that you didn't even know yourself.

That could belong in science fiction... or maybe the song I wrote "Rumors Say."

With these themes playing in the background, I also had rolling around in my mind the phrase about a place called Rue Marseille. The Rue de Marseille is a street in Paris, just off a canal that connects downstream to the famous River Seine.

While something like "on the Rue Marseille" could have made a good phrase for a song I was working on, I could not connect it to anything else because I've never actually been on the Rue de Marseille, and I'm not the least bit French by heritage or knowledge of the language.

Then it occurred to me that the pronunciation is very close to the English words, "rumors say." What if I could connect what rumors are saying to things that have not occurred? What if Rue Marseille could become "rumors say... something?"

Please bear with me next as I flash to the

### Rumors Say

What do know but what they tell me?  
Suppose that rumor comes true?  
Something mighty strong compels me  
To do what I want to do  
I've been getting around  
Or so the people say  
I've been getting around  
Or so the rumors say  
People look and some will talk on  
About everything they do  
Some will stay and some will walk on  
Tell me, what you been up to?  
I've been getting around  
Or so the people say  
I've been getting around  
Or so the rumors say  
Nothing else promotes you (hey hey!)  
Like that old grapevine can do  
According to that gossip, they say  
I've done things I never knew

children's bedtime story "The Brave Little Tailor," (sometimes given other titles). What happens is that a rather unimpressive village tailor was eating bread and jam, and when a bunch of flies landed on it, he became upset (who wouldn't?) and smashed no less than seven of the flies at the same time.

Accomplishing this feat immediately went to his head, and the plucky little tailor fashioned a wide belt for himself with the inscription, "Seven at One Blow." (I can only play six guitar strings at a time, on a good day, and usually miss hitting one fly, so maybe this is quite impressive!).

Anyway, through a series of lucky circumstances he slayed giants and wild animals, befriended the King, and married the King's daughter. Eventually he became the King himself. His reputation truly preceded him.

Having absolutely no such delusions of grandeur myself, I was content to work on the lyrics of what had now become "Rumors Say," which coincidentally landed in a kind of Reggae beat. (OK, some say, Jimmy Buffet.) There's no connection to the location of Jamaica either, at least that I know of, but things sometimes connect in strange and wonderful ways. I have been to Jamaica and have enjoyed

Reggae artistry for years, so maybe it's not so strange at all.

Besides slightly familiar places and old tales there is yet another story that plays along, from a novel by Jerzy Kosinski made into a movie, "Being There." The movie stars Peter Sellers and is a hilarious yet somehow just plain honest ruse that may remind you of certain powerful people you know. In this story, a simple-minded gardener becomes President of the U.S. only by what he knows from watching TV.

Personally, I prefer music and other activities like research over watching the tube, but it is amusing to imagine a character who does things he never even knew about in reality, which made him nonetheless great in the mind of his beholders. He accomplished great things having hardly a clue himself.

There is a serious lesson here about truth. My mother taught me to tell the truth, which to this day remains golden advice, even in the face of times where getting away with anything and not getting caught seems to be the new truth. But lying about people and spreading false rumors is just not cool.

My mom's and my own personal advice to myself remains the same: don't be guilty of spreading rumors. Period.

I confess, and truth be told (read mom's advice above) I also had in the back of my mind still another phrase that I heard on the great Doors LP, LA Woman. Continuing with the theme of kings, the tune is Crawling King Snake by the blues legend, John Lee Hooker. It has this memorable phrase "... and I rule my den."

I cannot explain how rule my den could have also morphed into Rumors Say, or where the simple but eternal riff I used was stolen or borrowed from, but most original music is not original. We just reorganize and build on what has gone before and add our own personal touch, inexplicable as it may seem.

There, I've tried to explain the inexplicable. Music is like that. So the rumors say.



You can hear Rumors Say on YouTube at  
<https://youtu.be/9qsqadvCFqw>  
or hear an early demo at  
<https://www.rogerhammer.net/RumorsSay.html>.



THE BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA IS PROUD TO PRESENT



# MOM I'S PICNIC


MECHANICSBURG CLUB PICNIC GROUNDS  
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ADMISSION IN ADVANCE \$20 12PM - 7PM ADMISSION AT THE DOOR \$25

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**ROGER HAMMER**

 **DON JOHNSON PROJECT**   
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**SAT. MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2020**

**FOOD & DRINK INCLUDED • MUSIC ALL DAY!**

PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE THURSDAY JAM OR VISIT US ON THE WEB: [WWW.BSCPBLUES.COM](http://WWW.BSCPBLUES.COM)

poster by www.BodyWooding.com

## Band Schedule

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1-1:45 — Ben Brandt Trio     | 4:15-5 — Nate Myers Trio        |
| 1:45-2:15 — Roger Hammer     | 5:45-6:30 — Daniel Mendez & Co. |
| 2:15-3 — Don Johnson Project | 6:45-7:30 — The Mighty Klucks   |
| 3:15-4 — South Bound Band    |                                 |



# SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, May 23:** Mom I's Picnic  
Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds

**Saturday, July 19:** Mississippi Railroad, TBA  
Champions Sports Bar & Grill, Highspire

**Sunday, October 11:** Fall Show, TBA  
Champions Sports Bar & Grill, Highspire

**Sunday, Dec. 6:** Christmas Party, TBA  
Hummelstown Fire Hall

Please visit our website [www.bscpblues.com](http://www.bscpblues.com)

for further information as artists and details are confirmed



## The 31st Annual Billtown Blues Festival June 12th, 13th, & 14th, 2020 • Hughesville, PA Three Days of Great Blues & On-Site Camping!

*Featuring Performances By:*

*The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Kat Riggins, Jason Ricci, The Cash Box Kings,  
Mitch Woods & His Rocket 88's, Noah Wotherspoon, Reverend Billy C Wirtz,  
J.P. Soars, Trudy Lynn, the Lowercase Blues Band....and more great blues artists!*

**Tickets & Camping Packages On Sale Now!**



**WWW.BILLTOWNBLUES.ORG**



# Triple B

## Blues Bands Beat has it covered

By JACK ROBERTS

More blues news you can use . . . .

Let's catch up on what's happening - or about to happen - with local blues bands.

**"Blues On The Loose"** has returned from the International Blues Competition in Memphis with a "refreshed outlook and new ideas for songs," says BOTL's vocalist/harmonica player Lewis Bechtold. Already he's finished writing one song inspired by the trip, "Not Too Far from Bad." Does that sound like a Blues on the Loose tune or what? Bechtold describes the tune as "an easy shuffle that tells the tale of our adventure in Memphis." That should be an interesting tale, to say the least. He said the song was inspired by the sound engineer from The Tin Roof, the venue where the band performed in Memphis.

And they've been busy since their return, performing at the Fill-The-Void concert at Mulberry Arts Studios in Lancaster and opening for the Benny Turner/Daryl Davis NOLA Blues concert in the Barn at Stoner Grille in Lancaster in February.

And things will only get busier. April 11th will find BOTL sharing the bill with New York artist David Fields at The Soundbank in Phoenixville. In May, it'll be performing at the Long's Park amphitheater in Lancaster for the annual Sertoma Chicken BBQ, along with Stu Huggins and Mama Tried. In June, it will take the stage at the Berks County Blues Festival at the Calvaresi Winery, Bernville. For details, go to Facebook or check out the band's website at [www.bluesontheloose.com](http://www.bluesontheloose.com).

**The Skyla Burrell Band** reports they have a new CD "Broken 45's" with 15 original songs coming out in late spring or early summer, the band's second release on the Vizztone label.

The band will celebrate it with a plethora of gigs from Gary's Bar in Palmyra to 147 North in Winchester, Va., and an international tour with stops in Valparaiso, Ind., Edmonton, Alberta, and the Whitewater Music Festival in St. Charles, Minn. For details, go to their Facebook page or to [www.skylaburrell.com](http://www.skylaburrell.com).

**Little Buddy, aka Mark Kormanik**, will in two to three months release his eighth CD, "metro-t." It contains 10 original tunes, eight of them written by Kormanik. For details go to [www.littlebuddyrocks.com](http://www.littlebuddyrocks.com).

Among his more interesting shows is at the Sellersville Theater, his first with former Bluesbreaker Walter Trout.

**Nate Myers** is also in the studio these days, along with fellow band members Pete Netznik on guitars and strings and Chad Salvaggio on drums and vocals. "It's going to be 10 to 13 original songs," said Nate, all focusing on roots-based Americans sounds. They're hoping to finish the project by late May or early June.

The CD will include at least one special guest, Chris Purcell on vocals and guitar. In addition, the band just played a new venue for them, The Rusty Rail in Mifflinburg. For more on Nate Myers, check them out on Facebook or at [www.NateMyers.com](http://www.NateMyers.com).



**Octavia Blues Band's** latest CD, "Talkin bout My Baby," is still in the studio, waiting for a second remix. In the meantime, though, Octavia wants her fans to know that she now has all her previous CDs on her music page, [OctaviaBlues.com](http://OctaviaBlues.com), and fans can review and purchase whatever track they want from the page.

**And kudos to Benjamin Vo**, guitarist/vocalist of **The Benjamin Vo Band**. Benjamin recently got a mention in the Blue Bloods column in **Blues Matters**, a British magazine that covers the blues scene, and highlights new artists on the rise. You should be able to pick up a copy of Blues Matters at Barnes & Noble. You can catch a look at the article on the band's Facebook page. The Benjamin Vo Band will open for Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials at BSCP's scheduled April 19 show at Champions.

And finally, the word is out on this fall's **East Petersburg Blues Festival**. It's from 2-7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5 at the East Petersburg Civic Ground. Here's the lineup: 2 p.m., **Chaz De Paolo**; 3 p.m., **Benjamin Vo Band**; 4 p.m., **Jersey City-based guitarist/songwriter Debra Devi**; 5 p.m., **The Greg Sover Band** from Philadelphia; and 6 p.m., Sweet Leda.  
Hope to see you there!

If you've got a Central PA-based blues band, contact me at [ragtimewilli@hotmail.com](mailto:ragtimewilli@hotmail.com).



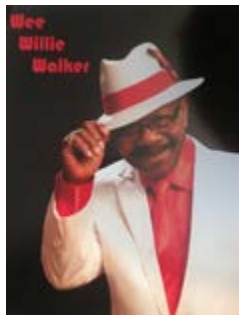
# IN MEMORIAM



**Ola Dixon**

**02/14/43 – 11/12/19**

Ola spent a number of years backing vocalist Victoria Spivey. A drummer/vocalist, she released her first recording, "Blues from the Big Apple" on the Oblivion label in 1973. She was also a member of Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson's touring band. "Labor of Love" was released by Severn Records in 1999.



**Wee Willie Walker**

**12/21/41 – 11/19/19**

Known for his soulful voice, Wee Willie started out in his late teens singing in gospel groups. Once he moved to soul and R&B groups, he recorded in the early 1960's first for Goldwax Records. In 2018, he received five nominations for the BMA Awards (Blues Music Awards) including Album of the Year "After a While" recorded with Anthony Paul's Soul Orchestra. He also earned nominations for Soul Blues Album, and Song of the year ("Hate Take a Holiday") as well as Soul Blues Male Artist and Instrumentalist – Vocals.



**Sleepy LaBeef**

**07/20/35 – 12/26/19**

Sleepy started out with rockabilly music and early rock & roll. His first recording was for Starday Records in 1957. After moving to Nashville in the early 1960s, he favored country music recording for Columbia Records, where his first hit was "Every Day" which was No. 73 on the Billboard Country Charts. He toured the U.S. and Europe extensively through the years and appeared locally in 2007 at the Billtown Blues Festival in Hughesville, Pa.



**Reggie Wayne Morris**

**02/28/53 – 02/03/20**

Reggie Wayne Morris was a Baltimore guitarist/singer/songwriter who was well known for his performances at clubs and festivals in the Mid-Atlantic region. BSCP fans first heard him during his regular appearances at Klinger's Tavern in Hanover, PA. He went on to tour the world. Most recently he was seen backing national artist Joe Lewis Walker. In 2017 he was inducted into the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame.



**Ivan Appelrouth**

**07/09/62 – 02/07/20**

A native of Richmond Va. Ivan Appelrouth was a well-respected musician in the Mid-Atlantic region and internationally. One of his major influences was his friend Duke Robillard. A major pillar with Big Joe & the Dynaflores, he backed many artists such as Nappy Brown, Earl King, Billy

Boy Arnold as well as Mick Fleetwood and more. His touring and recording ventures included the likes of Sugar Ray Norcia, The Nighthawks, Lil Ronnie & the Grand Dukes and, of course, Big Joe & the Dynaflores. By 2015 he was embracing the finger style blues of the Eastern Piedmont region, Mississippi Delta and the Deep South like Blind Blake, Rev. Gary Davis, and MS John Hurt, to name a few. During the fall of 2019 he completed a solo tour of Australia.

**Henry Gray**

**01/19/1925 – 02/17/20**

Born in Louisiana, Henry Gray began playing the piano at the ripe age of 8 years old. By the time he was 16 he was performing in local clubs in the area. In 1946 he moved to Chicago where he is credited with shaping the sound of the Chicago blues piano. His early days in Chicago found him doing session work for Jimmy Reed, Bo Diddley and Billy Boy Arnold, among others. It was 1956 when he joined the Howlin' Wolf Band where he spent 12 years. 1968 finds him back in Louisiana and continuing to back many artists and fronting his own band, Henry Gray & the Cats, who became a festival favorite over the years. In 1998 he received a nomination for a Grammy as Best Traditional Blues Album for "A Tribute to Howlin' Wolf". He has also received six nominations for the Blues Music Awards as Traditional Blues Male Artist and Traditional Blues Album.



**Little Charlie Baty**

**07/10/1953 – 03/06/20**

Little Charlie Baty started out playing harmonica at age 12. Self-taught, he switched to guitar, for which he was best known. In 1976 he formed Little Charlie & the Nightcats along with Rick Estrin. In 1987 the band was signed to Alligator Records and went on to tour the world. The song, "My Next Ex-Wife" from the "Night Vision" album won a W.C. Handy Award (BMA) for Song of the Year in 1993. In 2008 Charlie semi-retired but by 2012 he could be found touring with Mark Hummel's Golden State-Lone Star Revue, which performed for the BSCP on April 17, 2016 at Champions. He later formed his own band, Organ Grinder Swing Project. Charlie has played and recorded with other notable artists over the years, most recently with Sugar Ray & the Bluetones.

# In Case You Missed It

THE NIGHTHAWKS PLUS ROGER GIRKE & THE WANDERING SOULS  
JANUARY 26, CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR & GRILL



*Nighthawks by Greg Hogg*



*Nighthawks by Greg Hogg*



*Roger Girke by Greg Hogg*



*Daryl Davis, Benny Turner, Dale Wise, Steve Grills taken by Sallie Bengtson*



*Daryl Davis, Benny Turner and Lewy Bechtold by Brenda Bechtold*

## Benny Turner & Daryl Davis, with Blues On The Loose

February 21, The Stoner Grille Barn, Lancaster

## Word Search

K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	K	L	U	C	K	S	R
C	U	Y	R	O	H	T	O	R	E	D	O	W	N
O	S	J	W	S	B	E	N	B	R	A	N	D	T
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MANNISHBOY  
CHEESE  
JAIMEHESS  
HOUSEPARTY  
ROTHROCK  
REDHOUSE  
MIGHTYKLUCKS  
TOREDOWN  
JAMCREW  
GORDY  
BENBRANDT

## Word Scramble Blues Basics

RNEDEF

CSPIHNAME

FULEFSH

ECLTOBSYSEIU

LGEIRHSTLION



# Upcoming Gigs

Appearances in the coming weeks and months by Harrisburg-Lancaster-York area bands and touring notables who play some or all blues.

## APRIL 2020

- 1—Don Johnson Quartet, Dukes Bar & Grill, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 2—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 2—Blue Voodoo @ Open Mic, Shanks Tavern, Marietta, 8 p.m.
- 3—Pair of Aces, Burd's Nest Brewing Company, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 3—Erica Lyn Everest, New Fangled Brew Works, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- 3—Soul Solution, Hollywood Casino, Grantville, 9 p.m.
- 3—Blues on the Loose, Conewago Inn & Pub, York County, 8 p.m.
- 4—Octavia Blues Band, Fredericksburg Hotel, Fredericksburg, 6 p.m.
- 4—The Southbound Band, West Manchester VFW, York, 7 p.m.
- 4—Don Johnson Project, Lawton Legion Post 998, Lawton, 7:30 p.m.
- 7—Nate Myers, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 9—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 9—Blue Voodoo Duo, The Underside at Atland House, Abbottsville, 8 p.m.
- 9—Skyla Burrell Band, Cat's Eye Pub, Baltimore, Md., 9 p.m.
- 10—Blue Voodoo, New Holland Legion, New Holland, 8 p.m.
- 11—Blues on the Loose, SoundBank, Phoenixville, call.
- 11—Skyla Burrell, York VFW, York, 7 p.m.
- 11—Blue Voodoo, Black Knight Tavern, Landisville, 6 p.m.
- 11—Don Johnson Project, The Wharf Bar & Grill, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 14—Nate Myers, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 16—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 17—Blue Voodoo, Lucky Ducks Bar & Grill, Elizabethtown, 7 p.m.
- 17—Don Johnson Project, Hershey Italian Lodge, Hershey, 7:30 p.m.
- 18—Octavia Blues, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.
- 18—Soul Solution, Spring Bash Hummelstown Fire Hall, Hummelstown, 8 p.m.
- 18—Blue Voodoo, The Croaking Frog, Quarryville, 8 p.m.
- 19—Erica Lyn Everest Duo, Mount Gretna Craft Brewery, 11 a.m. (Call to confirm).
- 19—BSCP Spring Show, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, with Benjamin Vo Band, Champions, Highspire, 2 p.m. Please call to make sure show is on.
- 21—Nate Myers, Grotto Pub, Enola, 7 p.m.
- 23—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 24—Acoustic Stew, Burd's Nest Brewery, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 24—Blue Voodoo Duo, Moondancer Winery, Wrightsville, 7 p.m.
- 25—Soul Solution, St. Lawrence Club, Steelton, 8 p.m.
- 28—Nate Myers, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 29—Don Johnson Project, Dukes Bar & Grill, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 30—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.

## MAY 2020

- 1—Don Johnson Project, Vineyards of Hershey, Middletown, 7 p.m.
- 1—Erica Lyn Everest Duo, Newfangled Brew Works, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- 2—Pair of Aces, Reid's Cider House, Gettysburg, 7 p.m.
- 2—Blues, Brews & Barbecue, Capitol Theater, Chambersburg, 7 p.m.
- 5—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 6—Don Johnson Project, Dukes Bar & Grill, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 7—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 8—Don Johnson 3D Trio, Char's Tracy Mansion, Harrisburg, 6 p.m.
- 9—Don Johnson Project, River City, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 12—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 14—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 14—Erica Lyn Everest Duo, Sturgess Speakeasy, Harrisburg, 8 p.m.
- 15—Soul Solution, Lancaster American Legion, Lancaster, 7:30 p.m.
- 15—Acoustic Stew, Downtown Lounge, Lebanon, 8 p.m.

- 16—Blues On The Loose, Longs Park, Lancaster, 4:30 p.m.
- 19—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 21—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 22—Blues On The Loose, Stoner Grill, Lancaster, 8 p.m.
- 22—Flyboys, Duke's on Front, Harrisburg, call.
- 23—BSCP's Mom I's Picnic, Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds, Mechanicsburg, 12 noon.
- 23—Soul Solution, Lawnton Legion, Lawnton, 7:30 p.m.
- 24—Don Johnson Project, Dockside Willies, Lemoyne, 7 p.m.
- 26—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 27—Don Johnson Project, Duke's Bar & Grill, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 28—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 29—Pair of Aces, Burd's Nest Brewing Company, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 29—Soul Solution, Champions Sports Bar & Grill, Highspire, 9 p.m.

## JUNE 2020

- 2—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 3—Don Johnson Quartet, Duke's Bar & Grill, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 4—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 5—Erica Lyn Everest Duo, Newfangled Brew Works, Harrisburg, 7 p.m.
- 6—The Southbound Band, Stewartstown American Legion, Stewartstown, 7 p.m.
- 9—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 11—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 12-14—Billtown Blues Festival, Hughesville, Pa.
- 13—Don Johnson Project, Mount Gretna Tabernacle, Mt. Gretna, 7 p.m.
- 16—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 17—Erica Lyn Everest Duo, King George Speakeasy, York, 8 p.m.
- 18—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 19—Acoustic Stew, Hat Creek Farms, Carlisle, 6:30 p.m.
- 19—Don Johnson Project, Heroes Grove Brightbill Park, Colonial Park, 7 p.m.
- 19—Octavia Blues, The Porch Restaurant, Myerstown, 8 p.m.
- 20—Pair of Aces, Hook & Flask Still Works, Carlisle, 7 p.m.
- 20—Soul Solution, Driftwood Bar & Saloon, Driftwood, 7 p.m.
- 20—Blues On The Loose, 551 West, Lancaster, 9 p.m.
- 23—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.
- 24—Don Johnson Quartet, Duke's Bar & Grill, Hershey, 7 p.m.
- 25—BSCP Blues Jam, Champions, Highspire, 7 p.m.
- 25—Don Johnson 3D Trio, Sunset Golf Course, Middletown, 7 p.m.
- 26—Don Johnson Project, Chick's Tavern, Hummelstown, 8 p.m.
- 27—Soul Solution, River City Blues & Dart Club, Harrisburg, 9 p.m.
- 30—Nate Myers Trio, Grotto Pub, Enola, 8 p.m.

*This schedule is subject to change, may not be all-inclusive and may not include gigs out of state or beyond a 100-mile radius of Harrisburg-Lancaster area. All listings are in Pennsylvania unless noted otherwise. It's advised that you check with the venue in advance to confirm. The schedule will be updated on [www.BSCPblues.org](http://www.BSCPblues.org) as needed. To be part of the Upcoming Gigs, please send an email to Andrew Kehe at [kehe.ja@gmail.com](mailto:kehe.ja@gmail.com)*

## Word Scramble Answer

FENDER, CHAMPIONS, SHUFFLE, BLUES SOCIETY, THRILL IS GONE



P.O. Box 453  
Steelton, PA 17113

