



Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania
<http://www.bscpblues.org>

Oct - Dec 2018

BLUES NEWS

From your President...

Summertime... and the livin' was easy... especially with so much good music and blues lovers to share it with. Seeing the many photos of summer festivals on the BSCP website reminds me that blues music is alive and well!

BSCP held our own annual Mississippi Railroad event on July 15th, featuring Kenny Brown, accompanied on drums by Dale Wise. Kenny and his wife drove all the way from Clarksdale MS to spend the day with us. What a talented guitarist and singer – and so personable and friendly. He kept everyone energized the whole afternoon with his down home Mississippi Hill blues.

A highlight of the afternoon was when BSCP gave the Sonny Award to Dale Wise for his exceptional service and support. What an appropriate place and time to do so – we wouldn't have the Mississippi Railroad if it wasn't for Dale, and we are so grateful to him. You can learn more about Dale and his contributions in the article on the Sonny Award in this newsletter.

The Thursday Night Jam went strong all summer long, with a full house of talented experienced and rising musicians each week. You just never know who you are going to see or meet at the Jam, both on and off stage. One evening in August, a busload of health and safety professionals who were having a national conference in Harrisburg showed up. They were blown away to find such a treasure, commenting how none of them had anything like this in their hometowns. They were dancing up a storm so Rocky got special permission to hold the Jam a little longer than usual. It was a reminder to me once again to be grateful for all those who make the Jam happen.

One of the sad notes of the summer was the passing of Don Judy on August 12th. An avid student of music and a true bluesman, he shared the music in his soul through his amazing voice, original songs, and slide guitar, which were skillfully captured in his 2011 CD *Live in the Studio*. We are so fortunate that we can still listen to his music.

BSCP members celebrated Don's life at Karen Issacman's pastoral farm with a potluck meal and blues jam. Carrie Baker, who regularly visited and supported him, reported that Don wanted to make it to "one last jam"; so we know he was there in spirit, enjoying all of the lovingly chosen songs played just for him. We are so appreciative of Karen and Carrie for making it possible for the blues community to come together for a joyful, peaceful day of remembrance.

My sister, Nadine, who I went to the Juke Joint Festival with in April, is about to visit from Cheyenne, Wyoming. She scheduled her flight so she could go to the Thursday Night Jam soon after she gets here and then get another one in before she leaves. And, of course, we will be getting out for one of our favorite blues bands, Blues on the Loose, while she is here. And I am hoping to introduce her to some of the other local blues bands, maybe even venture from Lancaster up to Harrisburg. We have to get in as much blues dancing as we can before she returns home.



Too bad she can't stay a little longer and be here for the BSCP show with *The Cash Box Kings* at Champions Sports Bar in Highspire Saturday October 6th at 8 pm. Not being familiar with the band, I went on YouTube to listen to several of their Chicago and Delta blues songs. The more I heard, the more excited I got, dancing around in my kitchen. So good! Mike Knott, our BSCP Events Chairperson, has scored again. We paid a little extra for this one, but, believe me, they are worth it. So let your friends know. They will thank you for it!

As I write this, summer is rapidly drawing to a close, leaving me blissfully nostalgic knowing this summer will be all the more memorable for me because of the time we spent together...

keepin' the blues alive!

Kathy Gregoire
bluesmunga@gmail.com

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BSCP Supports Theatre Harrisburg

By Gary "Rocky" Rothrock

The Blues Society of Central PA has been liquidating unused audio equipment for the past year and has sold a number of pieces. Our sister non-profit arts organization, Theatre Harrisburg, is in the process of upgrading their black box theater facility at the Krevsky Center located at 513 Hurlock Street, Harrisburg, PA, and we were happy to be able to donate a few unsold items that met their needs. These items were used to upgrade their sound system and they were very grateful for our support. In return, BSCP received a free ad in their playbills for this season.

As the Capital Region's community theatre since 1926, Theatre Harrisburg has been showcasing volunteer talent under professional direction to the delight of audiences for over 90 years. Known for mounting lavishly produced musicals as well as socially relevant plays, Theatre Harrisburg's live productions can be enjoyed at Whitaker Center as well as at its home on Sixth and Hurlock Streets in Harrisburg. Specializing in top-notch community theatre performance and education, Theatre Harrisburg is a local nonprofit that welcomes all volunteers, patrons and donors to join them "where community takes center stage." Check out their website at www.theatreharrisburg.com and go see a great show soon!

8th East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festival

by Greg Hogg



(photo courtesy of www.gypsymoonbluesfest.com)

Saturday, September 1st the Borough of East Petersburg filled their community park with live blues music for the 8th time. Our hosts were anxious to continue this annual event on their beautiful newly completed Lancaster Toyota Amphitheater stage. From 3:00 PM until dark the 300, or so folks in attendance strolled the park, sat on the lawn on blankets or settled into their lawn chairs to enjoy the five featured 2018 blues bands. This wonderful event had been the victim of Mother Nature's fickleness in past years, so with the suffocating high heat index days this summer and the deluge rain events and flooding, we all sighed in relief with our upper 70 degree, cloudy but dry day.

Our Gypsy Moon Festival emcee, Randy Bucksner welcomed us and got the party started by introducing Lancaster's Moe Blues. This 4 piece harmonica driven band turned up the heat to begin our gumbo of the day's music. Kevin Gannon's harmonica had the audience movin' and groovin', Abbie von Schaff handled the lead guitar and lead vocal chores and Dave Lippi, on bass guitar held down the bottom and Jeff Shoemaker on drums kept the blues train steadily chugging along. Emcee, Randy joined in on sax for a few final songs of the set.



After a short stage turn around, The Mystic Alpacas brought their musical magic to the stage. The band added to the gumbo a mixture of cover tunes and original numbers which ranged from funky blues to



jazzy smooth ballads. Vocal harmony on several songs was spot on. The Mystic Alpacas are Mike Hess, guitar and vocals, John Healy, guitar, Randy Bucksner, sax and vocals, Vince Coratello, bass guitar, and John Foust, drums.

York, PA's Rose Hudson and her rock solid backing band added some soul food to the pot. Beginning her set with a soulful tribute to the late Aretha Franklin and then hypnotizing her listeners by smoothly delivering her amazing voice ... the Lady Sings the Blues! The Rose Hudson band at the Gypsy Moon Festival was

Rose Hudson, vocals, Dave Franklin, guitar, John McGovern, bass, Keith Knepp, trumpet, Tommy Leanza, drums, guest sax by Randy Bucksner.

York County's Buzzard Luck are returning artists to this event as they awed East Petersburg festival goers in past visits. This power trio of young men stand and deliver! Predominantly blues rock, Buzzard Luck is Drew Kiniry, guitar and lead vocals, Keith Weiser, bass and vocals, and Kelly McClain, drums. In 2017 and again this event Buzzard Luck Band provided the PA system and sound engineering for this festival. Kudos for a great job!



A doctor that makes house calls? Yes indeed! In another repeat appearance Delaware's Dr. Harmonica and Rockett 88 returned to East Petersburg to send us home after administering a big shot of blues. Mark Keneally AKA Dr. Harmonica has been curing blues fans for nearly 40 years and hails from Milford, DE ... the land of "Poultry and Adultery" (the title of his latest CD). The Dr. also prescribes a cure for the world's problem ... World Peace Through Hard Liquor. The Dr.'s staff for the festival included Quentin Jones, guitar, Pat Redding, bass, Tim Thorne, drums, Alan Yandziak, saxophones, and guest help by Randy Bucksner, Sax.



The festival finishes each year as darkness falls with a blues jam combining the musicians of the day. Incredible!

The Blues Society of Central PA have been among the proud sponsors of the East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festival each of it 8 years and our members are often seen attending it Plan on it for next year, 1st Saturday in September! FREE and FUN!



Introducing Dick Waterman: Writer, Promoter and Photographer

by Greg Hogg

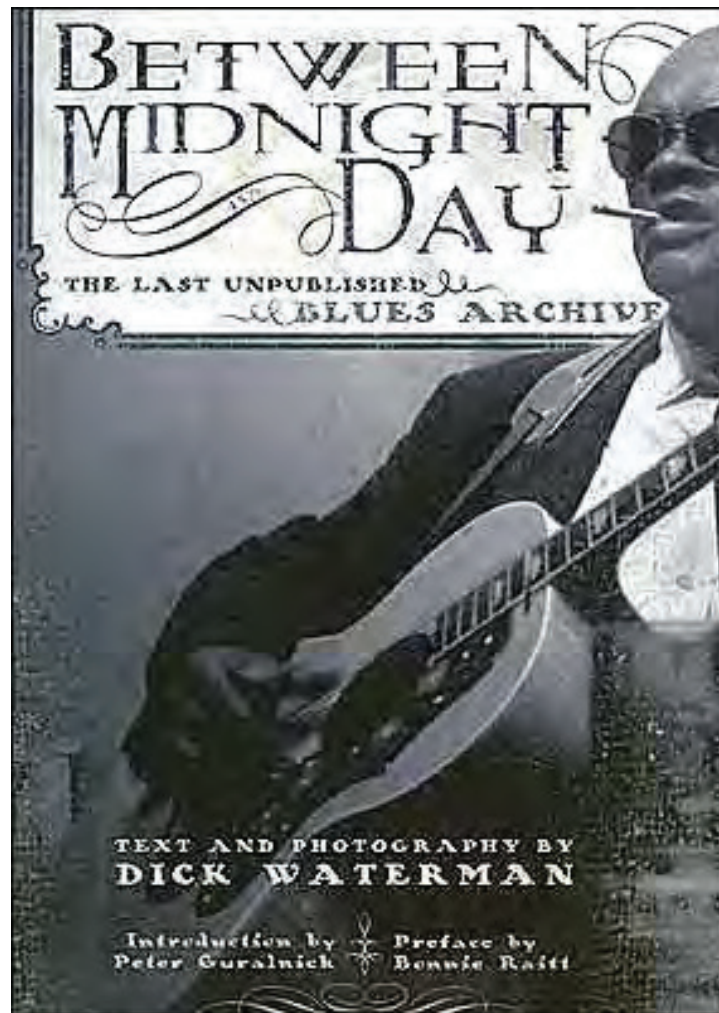
Any of you that know me and/or see me at most BSCP events probably notice that I take a lot of photos. I dabble at it, but I'm by no means a photographer. Especially when it comes to blues photography, Dick Waterman is about as good as it gets. Please allow me to introduce you to Dick and the amazing contributions he has made in the blues music world.



Dick Waterman was born in Plymouth, MA in 1935 and studied journalism at Boston University in the 1950s. His career began as a writer and later as the feature editor on Broadside Magazine. In 1963 he broadened his horizon by beginning to promote blues and folk artists at the local shows. Blues artists that he booked included Mississippi John Hurt, Booker “Bukka” White, Mississippi Fred McDowell and Son House. As his career advanced Dick formed Avalon Productions, the 1st agency to represent blues artists. Along with the previously mentioned bluesmen he added Skip James, J B Hutto, Junior Wells, “Lightning” Hopkins and many more to his Avalon clientele/

In the later 1960s, Dick met Bonnie Raitt performing locally in Massachusetts and encouraged to begin her long and successful career.

As his aging blues friends began to die off and become stricken by illness, Dick began working to aid them and their heirs. In the 1980's he moved to Oxford, MS and began his second career as a blues photographer. In 2003 Dick Waterman's book, "Between Midnight and Day: The Last Unpublished Blues Archive" was released and as a gift from a dear friend, I have a copy in my library. This wonderful book of 168 pages has 100 pages of Dick's photographs of the early blues artists that he so admired.



In 1993 Dick Waterman and Bonnie Raitt working together through the Mt. Zion Fund replace the headstone on Mississippi Fred McDowell's grave in Como, MS and Dick delivered a tribute during the dedication ceremony.

In 2000, Dick was honored as one of the 1st non-performers inducted in the Blues Hall of Fame. Some of Dick Waterman's incredible photos can be viewed online here:

<https://dickwaterman.photoshelter.com/gallery/Blues-Photographs/G00003DGKo6LiWaE/>

BSCP Proudly Presents The Cash Box Kings

Saturday, October 6, 2018 – Champions Sports Bar, Highspire, PA

By Andrew Kehe



The entertainment world is littered with partnerships which went on to parlay extraordinarily different individual styles and personalities to achieve enormous success.

Rowan and Martin, Sonny and Cher, Simon and Garfunkel, Martin and Lewis, Cheech and Chong, Penn and Teller - just a sampling of such duos.

Here's another: Wilson and Nosek. This odd couple of the blues community may not match the iconic status of those greats listed above, but when it comes to Chicago Blues, there may be none more prolific.

Joe Nosek, born in Wisconsin, and South side Chicagoan Oscar Wilson, 20 years Nosek's senior, comprise the backbone of Alligator Records' The Cash Box Kings, a multiple BMA awards nominee which has successfully stayed true to the Chicago Blues style while staying contemporary and relevant in its delivery and content.

Two nights after performing at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, The Cash Box Kings take to the stage at Champions Sports Bar and Grill in Highspire for an 8 p.m. show on Oct. 6, presented by the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania. Popular local blues fusion band Buzzard Luck will open the show.

Nosek, The Cash Box Kings' founder in 2001, a teacher by trade, singer/song writer and harmonica player, and graduate of University of Wisconsin, saw the potential for something special when he brought in the blues journeyman Wilson in 2007 to add the Muddy Waters-like deep, gritty vocals he thought the band needed.

It was a match made in heaven.

"Oscar is my best friend in the music world," Nosek notes on the Alligator Records website. "The band is a marriage made in heaven for both of us. Oscar is godfather to my oldest son. We have each other's back."

The band has established itself as a diplomat of Chicago Blues, but not a slave of original Chicago Blues tunes. It sets out to play Chicago Blues in a style unique to The Cash Box Kings – that of Wilson’s throaty, enthusiastic vocals complimented by Nosek’s vibrant harmonica riffs and solos, plus contributions by an always changing compliment of accomplished musicians.



“I would say (The Cash Box Kings) is a throwback to the golden age of blues with some kickin’ fresh young blood, but yet not goin’ overboard,” Wilson told Blues Blast Magazine during a 2017 interview. “You can tell what it is without there being a bunch of notes in there sayin’ nothin’. You got a lot of people out there claiming they play the blues – and I’m not sayin’ it’s not the blues for them – but we try to stay with the traditional sounds, although our musicians are a little fresher. But our music is all about the feeling it gives you.”

The band does not shy away, either, from taking on contemporary issues, evidenced by two cuts on its latest release “Royal Mint,” a 2017 BMA nominee for Best Traditional Blues Album. “Blues for Chi-Raq,” calls attention to the extreme violence the city of Chicago is experiencing, and “Build That Wall” is Nosek’s satirical commentary on people’s intolerance for minorities and immigrants.

Wilson’s comedic nature comes through in “If You Got a Jealous Woman, Facebook Ain’t Your Friend,” and on a cut not on the album, “Gotta Move Out To The Suburbs.”

“We really strive to avoid being a museum piece,” Nosek told the Chicago Tribune in 2017. “I never sit down and try to learn Little Walter solos note for note. I know a lot of old-school blues bands do that and then they go and reproduce them on the recording or live. We take the spirit of that music, but at the same time we try to put our own spin on it. We’re rooted in it, but we’re not imprisoned or bound by it.”

The Cash Box Kings, named after a long defunct magazine, has drawn accolades from reviewers and musicians alike.

From the Pittsburgh Post Gazette: “It’s one thing to say you’re interested in this old music and even to be able to play a few of the tunes with some accuracy. But it’s another thing entirely to be able to re-create the originals and write new material that’s faithful to the 40s and 50s style and do it with authentic vitality.”

Grammy Award-winner Charlie Musselwhite is a big fan: “The Cash Box Kings play with real taste and feel. Not only is it good blues but it’s a jumping good time, too!”

“I ain’t lyin’.”





In the Spot Light...

ANNA BERNSTEIN

by Andrew Kehe



How many 11-year-olds do you know who count “rudiments” among their absolute favorite activities?

How many 11-year-olds do you know who have their college double major mapped out already?

How many 11-year-olds do you know who are performing once, sometimes twice a week with some of the best blues musicians in Central Pa., all while rockin’ the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar style glasses?

This is how Thursday night blues jam drummer Anna Bernstein rolls.

And, uh, what were you doing at 11 again?

“Probably playing with my Tonka trucks in the sand box,” said drummer George Carver, one of many regulars at the jam at Champions who marvel at how well Anna plays, given her age, circumstance and atmosphere in which she’s immersed herself.

“She just keeps better and better every week.”

Nobody else playing at the jam on the second Thursday in September, or at any other jam for that matter, had a math test to take the next day. And if they did, they’d be sweating it, because you know, they took math 55 years ago.

Not Anna, a very confident sixth grader. She expected to ace it, just as she expects to conquer the music industry as a session drummer and producer, just as she expects to earn Penn State degrees with highest honors in music tech and percussion, just as she expects to dominate the slopes on her snowboard, a diversion from music she allows herself.

And, just as she expects to be up on stage at Champions come January or February playing the drums in one set and bass guitar in another. Bass lessons are advancing her toward that goal.

But until then, she relentlessly practices the drums at home in Hampton Township, and the essential drum roll patterns known as “rudiments,” in anticipation for Thursday nights, when she knows she’ll be under scrutiny from musicians she highly respects.

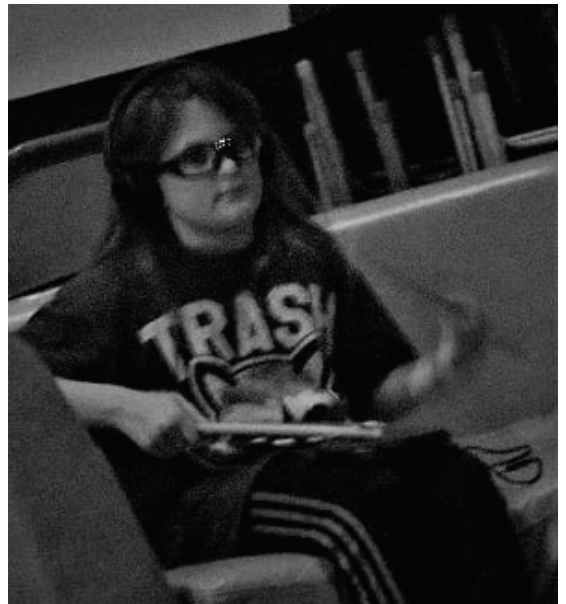
“I have loved it so far,” said Anna, who’s been playing regularly at the jam since January, but only started lessons last year. “I always appreciate all the great musicians who play here and who I get to play with.”

“I think I’m doing pretty good for my age.”

Her proud dad Rich, who accompanies Anna to the Jam, prefers to jettison the age caveat.

“I’m the one who brags,” he says. “She’s the humble one.”

“But I am proud of her. I’m most proud of her for her dedication to the fundamentals. She’ll practice her rudiments for an hour and a half before she even plays any song.”



“I love rudiments,” Anna interrupts, sprouting a broad smile.

“And I’m proud she has the guts to get up on stage,” Rich continues. “I never could have.”

Anna has expanded her exposure beyond the jam. She has her own YouTube page and has joined the “Acoustic Moose” duo of Linda Null and Tim Geisweit to form, yes. . . . “Acoustic Moose and Squirrel.”

She is, at age 11, pulling a rabbit out of her hat.

To complicate matters, Anna, who is left-handed, has had to adjust to playing a drum kit set up for right handed players. But she’s adapted – she doesn’t cross her right arm over left to

strike the high-hat, for instance - and won't let the awkwardness hold her back.

"You get used to it," she said. "It's not as hard as it would be for a right-handed guitar player to have to play a left-handed guitar." At the encouragement of Anna's teacher Jeremy Hummel, a founding member of Breaking Benjamin, Anna and her dad first checked out the jam in early January.

"I think Buster (Grubb) asked me, 'Do you play?' I said, 'No, I play the stereo. But my daughter plays the drums.'"

The very next week, she was up on stage providing the back beat.

"I've seen great improvement compared to the first time I played with her (in January)," said Greg Hoover, who led a recent set with Anna on the drums, during which he called for several abrupt halts, which can be tricky for drummers. She nailed them all.

"She's played through some growing pains pretty darn well. I think everybody's been extremely accepting of her."

Anna could be contributing at the jam for a long, long time. She's a believer that blues is the prerequisite to other musical genres, but eventually jazz and funk or any style that enables her to play as a session musician will dominate her attention.

"I really like playing the blues, but I want to be as versatile as possible," she says, in a very untypical 11-year-old manner. "If you're gonna be a session drummer, you gotta know everything."



DALE WISE

Sonny Award Winner

By Kathy Gregoire

“The Sonny Award was inspired by Dushan “Sonny” Mudrinich, former owner of the Lochiel Hotel in south Harrisburg where the BSCP weekly Thursday night jam started 20+ years ago. BSCP members gave Sonny an award for his support of BSCP, calling it the ‘Sonny’ in his honor. We continue to give the Sonny Award to people whose support of BSCP has been exemplary.” -Buster Grubb

During the summer, BSCP members come together to celebrate the Mississippi Railroad by listening and dancing to authentic blues music, enjoying each other’s company, and sharing food and drink. This year members attending the annual event held July 15 surprised Dale Wise with the Sonny Award. At break, half way through the afternoon, Mike Knott, BSCP Events Coordinator, recognized and thanked Dale for his tireless efforts in promoting BSCP, both here and in Mississippi, giving him an inscribed silver flask and a certificate of appreciation.



BSCP members describe Dale as a talented, thoughtful, unassuming, generous man who makes the Mississippi Railroad happen, year after year. It all started when Dale and Dave Groniger, after traveling with the Cornlickers to Clarksdale, Mississippi, to play and record numerous times, came up with an idea. They conceived of the Mississippi Railroad as a way to give BSCP members an opportunity to experience some of the best of the old-time real blues artists from the Delta and the Mississippi Hill regions, where many consider the blues to have originated. For a fun-reading, detailed account of the early Mississippi Railroad performers written by Hannah Sherman, see our BSCP webpage.

Dale not only co-started the Mississippi Railroad, but he keeps it going. He does whatever it takes to bring PA and MS blues lovers together, often arranging for and providing transportation, food, and housing for the performers. Dale is our trusted connection helping to bring Mississippi Railroad artists, some of whom have never traveled out of their county before. He has also inspired many BSCP members to make the trip to Clarksdale, MS, for the Juke Joint Festival and other blues-related activities. The relationship between the blues communities of Central PA and the Clarksdale area is unique and highly valued.

Dale started out his career at age 16 as the drum tech for Buddy Rich. He opened his nationally recognized Dale’s Drum Shop in Harrisburg in 1982. Dale plays with a local band, The Cornlickers, which also serves as the house band at Big Red’s Juke Joint in Clarksdale, MS, where they backed Big Jack Johnson (W.C. Hardy Award Winner) until his death in 2011. The Cornlickers consists of Dale Wise (vocals and drums), Dave Groninger (guitar), Bobby Gentilo (guitar), and Tony Ryder (bass).

The Cornlickers have recorded with Big Jack Johnson, Terry “Harmonica” Bean, Cadillac John Nolden, Anthony Sherrod, and Carlos Elliot Jr. The Living Blues magazine chose Right on Time with Anthony Sherrod (Big A) and The Cornlickers for Best Blues Albums of 2016. Dale and the band have toured in the United States, South America, and Europe. Be sure to check out the documentary Del Otun & el Mississippi (2015) and the video Hoop of Life by Carlos Elliot Jr. & The Cornlickers (2018) – a favorite of mine – both available on YouTube.

News Flash: we just learned that Carlos Elliot Jr. & The Cornlickers will be in Central PA the week of October 23rd as they prepare to set off on their U.S. tour. Be sure to check on the BSCP webpage for dates and times they will be playing locally or contact me at bluesmunga@gmail.com for a schedule update. Never pass up an opportunity to hear Dale playing drums!

NOTICE: BSCP Membership Dues Increase for 2019

After twenty plus years, Blues Society of Central PA will be raising the price of memberships, for all the usual reasons. Starting October 2018, the price for 2019 membership will be increased from the low, low price of \$10 to the low price of \$15.....still the best deal going. Please remember that your dues membership has always and will continue to include all the following perks:

- Free admission to the Mississippi Railroad Picnic, held annually in July.
- Free admission to the BSCP Christmas Party, held annually in December.
- Free quarterly newsletter sent directly to your email or mailbox.
- First-hand knowledge of all the blues events and festivals happening within your area.

We will start selling 2019 memberships at the blues jam on Thursday, October 4th.

Roger Hammer Music

Blues and Originals



October 20th – 2pm
Fall Furnace Festival
 Pine Grove Furnace State Park
 1100 Pine Grove Rd. Gardners, PA

November 2nd – 7pm
Fall Coffeehouse
 Susquehanna Folk Music Society
 Fort Hunter Barn
 5300 N. Front St.
 Harrisburg, PA

rogerhammer.com

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Annual BSCP Christmas Party
 Sunday, December 2, 2018

DETAILS FOLLOWING SOON ON OUR WEBSITE
 @ www.bscpblues.org

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