

THE BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE SAINT LOUIS BLUES SOCIETY Nov/Dec 2014 Number 71

Congratulations to the Winners

of the Kingdom Brothers Road To Memphis Blues Challenge

Remembering The Shanti

Profile: Kaleb Kirby Pokey LaFarge plays for vets at Jefferson Barracks A Year-End Thank You from The Blues Society

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The St. Louis Blues Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Missouri corporation. Memberships to the Blues Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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The BluesLetter readers would like to hear from you. If you have a local story idea you want to share with blues fans in St. Louis and beyond, contact Jeremy Segel-Moss or Mary Kaye Tönnies. Submissions are accepted until the 15th day of the month preceeding each issue.

The Bi-Monthly Magazine of the St. Louis Blues Society The St. Louis Blues Society is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating blues music in and from St. Louis, while fostering its growth and appreciation. The St. Louis Blues Society provides blues artists the opportunity for public performance and individual improvement in their field, all for the educational and artistic benefit of the general public.

Nov/Dec 2014

Number 71

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUPPORTING BLUES MUSIC IN ST LOUIS



On the Cover:

The winners of Road to Memphis Blues Challenge will be heading to Memphis to represent St. Louis at the 31st Annual Blues Foundation International Blues Challenge in January 2015. Photos by Reed Radcliffe.



dear blues lovers,

While we still have a couple months left in 2014, this is the last BluesLetter of the year. It seems as good a time as any to take stock of the work The St. Louis Blues Society (STLBS) has accomplished this year – our 30th year as a not-for-profit organization with the mission of supporting St. Louis blues music.

The BluesLetter has been one of our most visible tools in getting the word out about what's happening with the STLBS, events around town, musicians and St. Louis blues history we should all be aware of. I'd like to take some time to thank all of our writers and photographers who have kept the BluesLetter going.

Thank you to this year's contributing writers: Mike Aguirre, 'Hound Dog' Brown, Brian Curran, Jon Erblich, Lee Howland, Rich Hughes, Michael Kuelker, Ethan Leinwand, Mark 'Sonny Boy' Mason, Frank Mastromatteo, John May, Karen Murphy, Bruce Olson, Joe Pastor, Nick Pence, Tom 'Papa' Ray, Keith Robinson, Marty Spikener, Alonzo Townsend, Kim Vrooman, Kelly Wells, and Johnny Willis.

And, thank you to this year's contributing photographers: Mark Gilliland, John Hams, Ralph Heine, Virginia Harold, Michael Murphy, Peter Newcomb, Richard Nichols, Nicole Olea, Reed Radcliffe, Madison Thorn, Jessi Schoenwies, Diane Trombino, and Sara Woodridge.

Also, I'd like to especially thank Mary Kaye Tönnies for working the long hours making sure the BluesLetter looks good. Without her, there probably wouldn't be a BluesLetter out regularly.

This year we were also very proud to have been involved with several blues related events; *Taste of St. Louis, Bluesweek, The Big Muddy Blues Festival, STL Rise Up Festival*, and the *Webster Blues and Jazz Festival* to name a few. These sort of co-sponsored events really have been a great help for the STLBS to get the word out about our mission, sign up new members and find folks interested in volunteering. Big thanks to everyone in St. Louis who has produced, performed at, volunteered at and attended St. Louis Blues events!

The Road To Memphis is another event the STLBS was proud to coordinate this year. For the last few years, we have been sending local representatives to Memphis to participate with several hundred other acts from all over the world at the Blues Foundation International Blues Challenge. One of the things we've learned in doing this event is that there are just so many good acts, so many dedicated fans, and so many venues in St. Louis. We are very lucky to live in such an amazing musical city.

Most importantly, we'd like to thank all of our Blues Society Members. Basic memberships are \$25, which goes towards programing and mailing expenses to send the BluesLetter out to members. That money, however, is not as important as knowing there are people all over the world who support our mission. As our membership increases, we know we are on the right track. So thank you for your support!

2015 is looking to be another great year for the STLBS. On top of being involved with everything above, we are hoping to have a compilation cd full of locally performing blues acts ready by the end of this year and are in the midst of planning events and educational programing for 2015. Keep your ears open for the new efforts and please let us know if you would like to be involved.

The St. Louis Blues Society wishes everyone a safe and happy new year. Thanks for helping keep the blues alive in St. Louis.

Jeremy Segel-Moss, Vice Chairperson





The Shanti, located at 825 Allen Avenue in Soulard, will sadly be closing its doors at the end of November. The corner of 9th and Allen has hosted a bar since the 1940's, although most might remember the Allen Avenue Bar which was open for many decades before The Shanti opened in 2000. Owner/operator, Teresa Parker, is also a tradition in Soulard. She opened Molly's in 1991 and for over 20 years has been on the forefront of carrying on the tradition of hosting music in Soulard. The Shanti

is clearly a place where people come to meet and get a good buzz on. Local musician Kimmy V has hosted a Tuesday open mic at The Shanti for over a decade. Here are her thoughts on the passing of a special St. Louis music venue.



has served as a volunteer and board member for many years helping to develop TOCO's mission of family empowerment. She also mentors other young folks in the community on how to develop summer music festival protocol by utilizing her expertise from years working at Camp Zoe and managing other summer festivals.

The Shanti is absolutely unique. Its walls are filled with posters, pictures, memories of patrons through the

years and a patio filled with bricks hand-laid by Shanti supporters. The Shanti remains one of Soulard's only non-corporate pubs, focusing on true genre-spanning music, instead of breasts and booties. However, most importantly, it is accessible to every kind of patron and every type of musician.

The atmosphere owner Teresa Parker creates is absolutely unpretentious. Attracting all kinds of folks who enjoy the delights the bar has to offer. The Shanti is a favorite, especially to local blues artists, such as Melvin Turnage, Bootigrabbers Delight, The Bottoms Up Blues Gang, Billy Barnett and many others. All of these artists are going to be sad to see the Shanti go. Truth is, when The Shanti closes and local musicians begin looking for another place to jam, they will never find one quite like The Shanti. Photo by Virginia Harold

Teresa has a genuine love for people and for her long running establishment full of merry pranksters. That is why folks love to be around her. She is probably ready for a long-time-coming vacation; perhaps to some exotic port for a month or two to reminisce on the good times, and look ahead to a bountiful future. Unless of course, Teresa's pied-piper-like ability to attract musicians and patrons manifests itself into another fresh endeavor. For Ms. Teresa Parker's successes precede her wherever she goes, and her ability to bring folks together in the name of music will follow her to whatever project she thinks up next. And I'll be right there following along too. Teresa Parker...thanks for the memories and thanks for the musical love. May your light shine on, and even brighter, as we await your next music loving adventure.

While The Shanti will be missed, Teresa will be

missed more. You see, Teresa is not just a bar owner.

She spends every bit of the rest of her busy life per-

forming community work with organizations such as

The Soulard Business Association, Mardi Gras Inc.,

Tapestry of Community Offerings (TOCO) where she

and philanthropic work with organizations such as

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Midnight Blue Authur Williams I'm 80 Years Old (I'm Worried About It) Big George Brock Knocking Boots Eugene Johnson & Co. Little Woman of Mine Al Holliday It Don't Matter Soulard Blues Band Mojo Syndrome Rough Grooves Made Myself Lonesome Brian Curran Caught in the Act Bob "Bumble Bee" Kamoske Bucket Heat Ground Floor Band Usual Suspects Miss, Molly Sims Who Do? Hudson and the Hoodoo Cats Pressure Cookin' Woman Jeremiah Johnson South Broadway Blues Bottoms Up Blues Gang The Devil's Taxi Funky Butt Brass Band

THE NATIONAL BLUES MUSEUM RADIO SHOW www.christiancudnik.com/nbmradio/ by Jeremy Segel-Moss

The NBM Radio Show, hosted by Christian Cudnik, debuted on February 7, 2014 on the Radio Arts Foundation. Today, the show is syndicated to 26 stations including affiliates in the United States, Canada, Romania, New Zealand, Russia and the UK. Cudnik has paired with Jeff Konkel, of Broke and Hungry Records, to create well rounded blues content for the radio show. In October Cudnik hosted the first, of what will hopefully be many, live recording of the radio show at the Missouri History Museum. He hosted several guests, including Bernie Hayes, as well as live performances by Mojo Syndrome which included Eric McSpadden, Larry Griffin and his son Aaron, Derek Morgan and Country Bill Edwards.





If you are keen on staying current in the St. Louis music scene then Kaleb Kirby is somebody you might want to keep your eye (and ears) on. At just 23 years of age, Kirby has already built an impressive list of credentials. He is the drummer in Tommy Halloran's critically acclaimed Guerilla Swing, drummer and composer-in-chief of his own group Animal Children, and can be found freelancing with some of the most recognizable names in the local jazz scene, including Dave Stone, Adam Mannes, and Bob DeBoo. He teaches an ensemble at Jazz St. Louis' "Jazz U," a program that is proud to claim him as alum, and he accompanies modern dance classes at

Washington University.

Many of those in the St. Louis music scene have watched Kaleb for decades because they have been familiar with the careers of one or both of his parents. His mother is Margaret Bianchetta, a flutist, music teacher, and one of the finest vocalists here in St. Louis. Kaleb's father is Steve Kirby, who played bass with Elvin Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Cyrus Chestnut, Steve Turre and others before settling into a professorship in Canada.

After high school, Kaleb spent two and a half years at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, followed by a short stay at the University of Manitoba, where his father is the director of jazz studies. "In that time I really developed a good practice habit and was exposed to a lot of musical influences I wouldn't have had had if I hadn't gone." Kirby said. Since his return to St. Louis and enrollment at UMSL, he has done a lot to elevate the area's music scene.

As a jazz drummer, Kaleb is already one of the best St. Louis has to offer and if you listen for any length of time you will hear him continue to grow. As a composer, he shows incredible promise. Although



Photo by John Hams

the songs he has written for Animal Children are both progressive and adventurous, they do not alienate the casual listener. In fact, Animal Children captivate their audience at once, drawing them into the novelty but comforting them with traditional timbres. The potentially hard angles of odd time signatures and sudden changes in tempo and tonality are softened by clever and logical structures and well-crafted melodies and riffs.

Kirby say, "I have a lot of experience playing with people who are trying to bring something new to the table and I consider that my overall goal." He lists among his influences for the Animal Children project Kurt Rosenwinkle, The Bad Plus, Sufjan Stevens, and Mos Def.

Kirby plans to make, play, and spread music for as long as he lives. "I also want to make music that I actually enjoy listening to, which is easier said than done. My short term goal is to accomplish whatever is front of me to the best of my ability and my long term goal is to remain open to any opportunities with a sense of forward motion."

Kaleb Kirby and Animal Children will appear at the 13th Annual Baby Blues Showcase. BB's Jazz, Blues and Soups on Sunday, November 30.



BLUESLETTER - volunteer for creation of content and advertising representation.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH - help sign up new members and arrange for new membership benefits.

EVENT COORDINATOR - help coordinate all SLBS events and work on promotion.

EDUCATION - help create curriculum for Blues in Schools and fill SLBS website with content.

BUSINESS OUTREACH - help get more local businesses involved with the SLBS.

STREET TEAM - help with getting the word out about the SLBS by hanging posters, passing fliers and distributing BluesLetters.

Contact Jeremy Segel-Moss to volunteer jsegelmoss@stlouisbluessociety.org 314-482-0314





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The St. Louis Blues Society

On Sunday, October 19, the St. Louis Blues Society (STLBS) hosted *The Road to Memphis*, the St. Louis regional challenge to select representative blues artists to send to the *31st Annual International Blues Challenge* (IBC) on Memphis' Beale Street section next year. The IBC, that brandishes itself as the world's largest gathering of blues acts (225 acts in 2014), begins Tuesday, January 20 and goes through Saturday, January 24, 2015 starting with the Blues Foundation International Blues Showcase on Tuesday night (Jan 20) and ending Saturday night with the challenge Finals at the Orpheum Theater. For more information, see the Blues Foundation website: <u>www.blues.org/international-blues-challenge/2015-international-blues-challenge/</u>



by Jeremy Segel-Moss photos by Reed Radcliffe

This year The STLBS is proud to send Tom Hall & Alice Spencer and Kingdom Brothers as St. Louis representatives.Last month's Road To Memphis showincluded performances by The Maness Brothers, Jason David Cooper, The Ivas John Band, JD Hughes, Slick Ice Blues Band and the above mentioned winners. The STLBS would like to thank all of the participants, volunteers and especially our judges who came in from the River City Blues Society in Peoria IL, the Decatur Blues Society and the Ozark Blues Society.

Special thanks to The Kirkwood Station Brewing Company (105 E. Jefferson, Kirkwood MO). for hosting the event as they have done for the last few years. The STLBS has found the venue to be perfectly suited for our regional challenge—a locally owned establishment with a big room and a great stage, tasty food and tasty local brews. For more information on the Kirkwood Station Brewing Company go to <u>www.kirkwoodstationbrewing.com</u>.

On Sunday, December 14, the STLBS will be hosting a benefit concert to raise the necessary funds to send our representatives to Memphis at BB's Jazz, Blues and Soups. The music begins at 3 pm with a performance by Tom Hall & Alice Spencer followed by the Kingdom Brothers. Please come down and help us send our fine musicians to Memphis!

St. Louis Blues Society Treasurer, Jerry Minchey, congratulates the winners. Tom Hall and Alice Spencer, and The Kingdom Brothers.

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INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE









The 2014 Road to Memphis Competition was held at Kirkwood Station Brewing Co. on October 19. Challenge contenders each played a short set that included original music. The show included two solo-duo acts, top from left, The Maness Brothers and Tom Hall and Alice Spencer; and five band acts, middle from left, Jason David Cooper and Love Machine, J.D. Hughes, Slick Ice Blues Band, The Ivas John Band, and, at bottom right, The Kingdom Brothers.







CD Release Concert

kelley

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-CASH BOX

∽ 13th Annual ∽ Baby Blues Showcase



PERFORMANCES BY: Marquise Knox The Bottlesnakes - Animal Children St. Louis School of Live Music The School of Rock St. Louis Blues Band Aaron Griffin, Paul Niehaus IV, Devon Cahill, Ethan Leinwand, Lawrence Welby, David Gomez...

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BLUES TO DOS CHECK WITH VENDES FOR SHOW TIMES

CHECK WITH VENUES FO

NOVEMBER

- **18 St. Louis Social Club at BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups**
- 20 Billy Barnett at The Shanti
- 21 Al Holliday at The Beale On Broadway
- 22 Funky Butt Brass Band CD Release Party at Broadway Oyster Bar
- 23 Ethan Leinwand at The Broadway Oyster Bar
- 25 Jim McClaren at Evangeline's
- 26 Delta Sol Revival at Moonshine Blues Bar
- 28 Skeet Rodgers & Inner City Blues at Beale On Broadway
- 29 Marquise Knox at Beale On Broadway
- 30 Baby Blues Showcase at BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups DECEMBER
- 3 Park Ave. Trio at Evangeline's
- 4 Nick Moss Band at The Old Rock House
- 6 Marsha Evans & The Coalition at 1860's Saloon
- 7 Soul Reunion at Beale On Broadway
- 9 Kim Massie & Solid Senders at Beale On Broadway
- **11 Jeremiah Johnson & The Sliders at Moonshine Blues Bar**
- **12 Marcell Strong & The Apostles at Hammerstones**
- **13 Eugene & Company at Hammerstones**
- 14 Rhythm Rockers at Mile 277 Tap & Grill
- 17 Roland Johnson at Beale On Broadway
- 18 The Catapults at 1860's Saloon
- **19 Soulard Blues Band at Moonshine Blues Bar**
- 20 Billy Peek at Backstreet Jazz & Blues
- 21 Tom Hall at Schlafly Tap Room
- 25 Bottoms Up Blues Gang at BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups
- 26 Melvin Turnage at Benton Park Cafe
- 28 Voodoo Blues Band at Hammerstones
- 31 Hudson & The Hoodoo Cats at Joe's Cafe





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On October 20, 2014 the Six String Heroes group at Jefferson Barracks had the pleasure of being entertained by Pokey LaFarge and his band. Pokey delivered an inspirational night to the veterans in the group and their guitar instructors.

The Six String Heroes was founded in 2011 to honor and assist injured U.S. military veterans through free guitar lessons and guitars. Groups meet weekly in St. Louis and Quincy IL to provide a safe setting for US military veterans who are suffering from mental or physical injuries as a result of military service to heal through music. Their mission statement includes their belief that "music has the power to restore the soul!"

For those of you that never heard of Pokey Lafarge, he is the lead singer of a five-piece band, based in St. Louis, that performs in an old American roots genre style. Touring with his band that includes Joey Glynn (bass), Adam Hoskins (guitar), TJ Muller (cornet, trombone) and Chloe Feoranzo (clarinet, saxophone), he has traveled all over the world bringing his heartwarming music and stories to large and small audiences. Pokey has appeared on the

This mid-west young man still calls St. Louis home and when he is performing, he never misses an opportunity to tell folks about the great legacy and inspiration St. Louis soul and blues music had upon him. Pokey and his band blend very well together to present a creative mix of music from the past, early jazz and ragtime, country blues, and western swing (similar to the late great Hank Williams Sr. whom I believe Pokey resembles.)

For more information about the Six String Heroes please contact Jefferson Barracks Veterans Hospital, St. Charles MO (314) 660-7083 or email at <u>sshstl@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>. A donation drop off for used guitars is located at Fazio's Frets and Friends, 15440 Manchester Road, Ellisville MO.

I would like to thank Pokey LaFarge for volunteering to perform for us veterans and for a very enjoyable evening of good music!









- Thursday 4 The Kilborn Alley Blues Band
- Saturday 6 Barbara Clifford [Chicago]
- Thursday 11 Funky Butt Brass Band Christmas Show
- Saturday 13 Loot Rock Gang/Rum Drum Ramblers
- Thursday 18 Miss Jubilee and the Humdingers Holiday Show
- Saturday 20 Big Mike Aguirre and the Blu-City All Stars
- Thursday 25 closed Happy Holiday
- Saturday 27 Paul Bonn and the Bluesmen

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NOV/DEC CONCERT CALENDAR

Nov 1	7рм	Sarah Jane & the Blue Notes
Nov 4	7рм	BATTLEFIELD COLLECTIVE (MARIETTA, GA)
Nov 5	7рм	JESS KLEIN W/ LESLIE SANAZARO SHOW (AUSTIN, TX)
Nov 6	7рм	Brewbadours (members of Sidemen)
Nov 7	8рм	Pik'n Lik'n with Ed Belling
Nov 8	6рм	Water Taxi
	9рм	Raw Earth
Nov 9	9 рм	Skyler Clark-Hamel
Nov 11	8рм	Strahan & the Good Neighbors (Austin, TX)
Nov 12	8рм	Adam Levy (from The HoneyDogs)
Nov 13	7рм	Wack-a-Doo
Nov 14	7рм	DANDURY STREET
Nov 15	7рм	The Kevin Mitchell 4
Nov 18	7рм	Genevieve w/ Andy Bibb and the Big Beautiful Band
Nov 19	7рм	The GrownUp Noise (Boston, MA)
Nov 20	7рм	The Wilhelms
Nov 21	7рм	Charlie Oxford with J.D. Eicher
		and quest Dan Tedesco (Nashville, TN)
Nov 22	7рм	JOE BOZZI BAND
Nov 25	7рм	Jim McClaren from the Soulard Blues Band
Nov 26	7рм	SUTTON STREET SHUFFLE
Nov 27	_	CLOSED for Thanksqiving
Nov 28	7рм	Fanfare
Nov 29	7рм	Sarah Jane & the Blue Notes
Dec 2	7рм	Erik Brooks One Man Juke Box
Dec 4	7рм	Bob "Bumblebee" Kamoske with Mike Graham
DEC 5	7рм	JON BONHAM AND TOMMY HALLORAN
Dec 6	7рм	JOE BOZZI BAND
Dec 8	7рм	Alex Smith & the Mountain Sound (Long Lake, NY) with guest Leslie Sanazaro
Dec 9	7рм	Genevieve
Dec 10	7рм	Fernando Findanza (Italian Folk - Italy)
Dec 11	7рм	Franglais (Brooklyn, NY)
Dec 12	7рм	The Southside Creole Playboys
DEC 13	7рм	Christmas Show with The Kevin Mitchell 4
DEC 15	7рм	Соку Візнор
Dec 17	7рм	Rich Mendoza Jazz Duo
Dec 18	7рм	Tom Byrne with Erika Johnson
Dec 19	8рм	The Wise Brothers
Dec 20	7рм	DANDURY STREET
Dec 23	7рм	Nick Calandro
DEC 26	7рм	The Provels
Dec 27	5рм	THREE-1-THREE REUNION PARTY
DEC 31		All Inclusive Bootleggers Ball Speakeasy Dinner Soiree with Sarah Jane and the Blue Notes
		JUIKEE WITH JAKAH JANE ANU THE DLUE INUTES



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NOVEMBER

- Eric Lysaght and Jeff Gallo Acoustic
- Eric Lysaght Acoustic Eric Lysaght and Jeff Gallo Acoustic Bottoms Up Blues Gang

- Eric Lysaght Acoustic
- Eugene Johnson and Company

DECEMBER

- Eric Lysaght Acoustic
- Eugene Johnson and Company
- Eric Lysaght Acoustic The Style Band

- Eric Lysaght Acoustic Eric Lysaght and Jeff Gallo Acoustic
- Eric Lysaght and Jeff Gallo Acoustic The Style Band

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Brian Curran www.briantcurran.com 314.753.1395

Dave Black www.daveblackstl.com 314.647.1415

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DISCOUNTED EVENTS FOR BLUES SOCIETY MEMBERS show your Blues Society Membership card to receive half-price discounts at these venues:

BB's Jazz Blues and Soups 700 South Broadway

November

	14	J.W. Jones Band	7 pm
	16	Biscuit Miller and The Mix	8 pm
	22	Stacy Mitchhart Band	10 pm
	23	Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' Band	8 pm
	28	James Armstrong Band	10 pm
	29	John King	6 pm
	30	Baby Blues Showcase	6 pm
Decei	mber		
Dece	7	Kirby Quartet feat. Steve Kirby	7 pm
	14	STLBS Road to Memphis Benefit	3 pm
	25	Jakes Leg Christmas	9 pm



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