THE BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE SAINT LOUIS BLUES SOCIETY Nov/Dec 2016 Number 82



ST. LOUIS BLUES SOCIETY'S REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE



# and the winners are:



## THE GREEN MCDONOUGH BAND



PLUS:



Preveiw of new STLBS compilation CD - Bruce Olson talks about his new book, That St. Louis Thing - Reed Radcliffe's photo spreads from BCD Streetfest and the Road to Memphis - Jeremy Segel-Moss' Q&A with Marty Abdullah - The 15th Annual Baby Blues Showcase - IBC Winners fundraising show



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## PRESERVING AND PERPETUATING BLUES MUSIC IN AND FROM ST. LOUIS SINCE 1984

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Welcome to the last BluesLetter of the year. 2016 has turned out to be an outstanding year for St. Louis' vibrant blues community. The National Blues Museum opened, many new blues-oriented events have popped up, the Big Muddy Blues Festival was all local and a huge success, and the St. Louis Blues Society has been involved at so many levels. We were happy to be involved in well over 30 events in 2016, produced a very well received compilation CD, the BluesLetters have been full of great content, the new website is up and running, education programs are in the works and we are getting ready to send two representatives to the International Blues Challenge. All in all, it was a great year for Blues in St. Louis.

On that note, we are excited to announce the STLBS now has an official office at NEBULA. Nebula opened in 2010 in the heart of the Cherokee Street Creative District as the first coworking space in St. Louis. Thanks to the help of Jason Deem, Michelle Schaeffer and a couple generous donors, we have a space for storage, meetings and events. Look for open meetings, committee meetings and events at Nebula as we get into the New Year.

I'd like to express my gratitude for all of the people who have really made 2016 a year to remember. Whether you are a Board Member, committee coordinator, booth volunteer, writer for the BluesLetter, volunteer photographer or one of our many generous donors...we honestly couldn't do this without you. Thank you ALL for everything this year. Let's make 2017 even better!

Beginning January 2017 the St. Louis Blues Society basic membership will raise slightly to \$30/year. We hope this won't inconvenience too many people, but over the last few years the STLBS has really revved up its content. The compilation CDs, continued production and mailings of the BluesLetter, events, education programming and new website have all added to our cost of operations. We understand folks don't have a lot of money, but we hope that with all the new programming you will feel like you are getting something for your membership NOTE: Sign up or renew before the end of the year and get the \$25/year

rate and the new compilation CD when it comes out in January.

Stay Blues! and thank you for supporting local music Jeremy Segel-Moss, Chairperson



Please write me at jsegelmoss@stlouisbluessociety.org and tell me what you think of our current projects.

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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.

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. St. Louis Blues Society presents

Coming in Jack 2017 **16 local artists performing 16 original songs** The St. Louis Blues Society is very excited to announce the release of the trut STLBS Compilation CD: **"16 in 16**" This was the release of the trut featuring 45 different St. Louis musical acts performing original music. Definitely something to be excited about!







Mannes Brothers



Fab Foehners



Leroy Pierson

recording session photos by Paul Niehaus IV of Blue Lotus Studios

**ORIGINAL PERFORMANCES BY: Skeet Rodgers and The Inner City Blues Band Bob Case David Dee Tommy Halloran** John McVey **Leroy Pierson Tom Hall** Sweetie and the Toothaches **Delta Sol Revival** Marty Spikener's On Call Band Little Rachel

Paul Bonn Gene Jackson Tom 'Papa' Ray The Fab Foehners Maness Brothers

BIG THANKS to Paul Niehaus IV at Blue Lotus Studios. Paul is a STLBS Board Member, local musician, engineer and producer. He has graciously volunteered and donated ALL of the production (time, space, knowledge and talent) for last year and this year's compilation CDs! If you see him around town, make sure to say thank you!









The St. Louis Blues Society BluesLetter 3



## BISTRO & MUSIC HOUSE

#### 512 N EUCLID AVE • ST. LOUIS, MO 63108

#### **NOVEMBER**

TUES	1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>Rue Snider</b> (Brooklyn, NY)
		8:45 <sup>PM</sup>	Ian Fit'zgerald (Providence, RI)
WED	$2^{ND}$	<b>7:00</b> РМ	Zachary Kibbee (Los Angeles, CA)
FRI	4 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	BOOGIEFOOT (ST. LOUIS, MO)
SAT	5 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	Danbury Street (St. Louis, MO)
SUN	6 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	HOT JAZZ BRUNCH WITH MISS JUBILEE
		7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	SEE BRIGHT LIGHTS (NEW ORLEANS, LA)
TUES	8 <sup>TH</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	RAGTIME JACK RADCLIFFE
WED	9 <sup>тн</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	Joe Metzka Trio (St. Louis, MO)
THUR 1	<b>0</b> <sup>TH</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	Ethan Leinwand (St. Louis, MO)
		8:30 <sup>PM</sup>	Kosi (New York, NY)
FRI 1	1 <sup>TH</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	The Midwest Jazz-tette
			(St. Louis, MO)
		10:30 <sup>рм</sup>	Lucy Isabel (Nashville, TN)
SAT 1	2 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	SARAH JANE AND THE BLUE NOTES
			(St. Louis, MO)
SUN 1	3 <sup>TH</sup>	11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	HOT JAZZ BRUNCH WITH MISS JUBILEE
TUES 1	5 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	VINCENT VARVEL TRIO (ST. LOUIS, MO)
		<b>10:00</b> PM	Stolar (New York, NY)
WED 1	6 <sup>TH</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	GLENN SMITH & ERIC SLAUGHTER
			(St. Louis, MO)
THUR 1	7 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	The Breakfast Boys (St. Louis, MO)
FRI 1	8 <sup>TH</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	BOTTOMS UP BLUES GANG
			(St. Louis, MO / New Orleans, LA)
		8:15 <sup>PM</sup>	Johnny Azari (New Orleans, LA)
		9:15 <sup>рм</sup>	Rebecca Ryan (St. Louis, MO)
SAT 1	9 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	Wack-A-Doo (St. Louis, MO)
SUN 2	20 <sup>тн</sup>	11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	SWINGIN' JAZZ BRUNCH WITH MISS JUBILEE
TUES 2	2 <sup>ND</sup>	<b>7:00</b> РМ	Pat Joyce (St. Louis, MO)
FRI 2	25 <sup>TH</sup>	8:00 <sup>PM</sup>	Ryan Hoffman
			(Columbia, IL / Nashville, TN)

#### DECEMBER

SAT 3 <sup>RD</sup>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	Wack-A-Doo (Vintage Holiday Show)
<b>SAT 10<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00 <sup>PM</sup>	The Midwest Jazz-tette
		(Holiday Special)
SAT 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7:00</b> <sup>РМ</sup>	DANBURY STREET

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# Anpry streetjest s Blues City Deli Streetfest October 1, 2016



































## GREEN MCDONOUGH BAND



Best Produced CD Winner: Al Holliday and the Eastside Rhythm Band "Natural Remedies"





International Blues Challenge Benefit

## BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups

700 South Broadway

 $3-6pm \cdot $10$  at the door

performances by this year's St. Louis IBC representatives

www.stlouisbluessociety.org





Proceeds go to the band and solo winners to help defray their costs.

# photos by REED RADCLIFFE

## and the winners are:

### Sharon Hazel [solo]

Sharon Hazel is a South City resident who got her start playing live shows in Chicago where she attended DePaul University. She was accepted in the music program at Mesa College in San Diego CA for guitar.

In San Diego she recorded two indie albums. Sharon played every instrument on both albums.

Now in St Louis, Sharon and her band, Sharon Hazel Township, has played all over town including Busch Stadium and an appearance with St. Louis favorites Jakes Leg.

Sharon Hazel Township was a 2016 *Riverfront Times* Music Award Nominee for Best Singer/Songwriter.

### The Green McDonough Band

The Green McDonough Band combines the creative forces of electrifying blues guitarist Rich McDonough and the tough vocals of singer/songwriter Laura Green. A relatively new quartet on the St. Louis blues scene, The Green McDonough Band was formed in early 2016 and they have already released their first album.

In April and May, 2016, they played a three week, European tour and are currently working on a return to Europe in 2017. The Green McDonough Band was recently nominated for Best Blues Band of 2016 by *The Riverfront Times*. Their driving rhythm section, features Vic Windham on drums and Jonathan Schumacher on bass.

The Green McDonough Band is currently working on their second album.







Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for supporting this year's *Road to Memphis* and making it a great day and the largest audience turnout ever for the event! The Blues Society could not do this without the support of our awesome members.



## and the winner of the St. Louis Best Self-Produced CD for 2017 is:

Al Holliday: Natural Remedies



Along with sending representatives to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, the St. Louis Blues Society is allowed to send one recording to be considered for the 2017 IBC Best Self-Produced CD. A team of four judges had a hard time determining the best local recording to send.

All of the CDs submitted for consideration are excellent examples of the fantastic talent and passion of our local musicians. Please support these St. Louis bands by purchasing one of their CDs this holiday season.



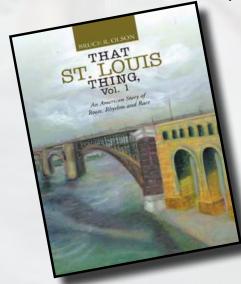




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## THAT ST. LOUIS THING AN AMERICAN STORY OF ROOTS, RHYTHM AND RACE By Bruce R. Olson





Landmark, I was the entertainment booker—three nights a week plus a Sunday jam and special events. Guarantee, free meals, free bed.

The musicians from St. Louis who played the place liked hanging in the bar after the show, sipping a few extras and talking shop, telling me about a scene that had escaped my attention. To me St. Louis was a drab river town, lots of freeways and square buildings. I'd been there a few times—once on a wild night at a club in East St. Louis in the seventies—but nothing else of real note.

The Landmark didn't last. My wife and I cast our nets and came up with St. Louis as a new port of call. Affordable, diverse, cultural. Off we went, heading backwards up the Oregon Trail from west to east.

Upon arrival, I landed a job as a reporter for Reuters News and began looking for a history book on the city. I couldn't find one, at least not one that put together the real stew. Different books highlighted different elements, but none took in the big picture. I decided to apply my skills as a longtime roundup writer for the wire services and round up St. Louis.

I started with the music, went on to the politics, then examined into the civil rights movement. The complexity of the city sent me further and further into the story. The music didn't make sense without the whole context. The city, it turned out, was filled to the rim with fascinating people, places and things. The history helped to explain things, showing how 1876 and 1916 live on, how the Mississippi Delta and New Orleans infused the Mound City, how the trains and boats spread the songs into America.

The two books I've written took five years to complete. I had the inclination and the time to tell the tale. History, like blues music, isn't in a hurry.

"St. Louis was founded by French fur traders in 1764, a group that paddled five boats against the current of the Mississippi River up from New Orleans. St. Louis was launched without priests or soldiers. Unlike their Puritan counterparts who founded America a hundred years before, these settlers conducted no witch-hunts. They displaced no Native Americans. They enjoyed life and danced, even on Sunday."

"That St. Louis Thing: An American Story of Roots, Rhythm and Race" volumes 1 and 2 are available in print and digital form. Print editions can be found at local events and bookstores, or can be ordered at Lulu.com. Digital editions are available online through Amazon.com, Apple iBooks and Barnesandnoble.com.

Contact Bruce through facebook: Bruce Olson, That St. Louis Thing; or his website: www.thatstlouisthing.com



Marty Abdullah has been on the St. Louis music scene for almost five decades. As a front person and singer, he has performed with multiple bands including projects with Billy Gayles and Oliver Sain. For the last twelve years Abdullah has fronted the Soulard Blues Band and performs a few times each year with his own group, Marty Abdullah and the Expressions. Abdullah's story goes far too deep for the space we had here, but he recently turned 70 years old and we wanted to check in.

#### Tell us about performing with the Soulard Blues Band for over a decade:

I enjoy every moment of it. All the guys are great. It's like a family. All the bands I play with are like my family. They are a great bunch of guys with great personalities. Every musician that I work with can play their instrument. They know the musical styles and we are really compatible. I actually think we should be on TV, because I think these guys are just that good. Bands we see on the Tonight Show are no better than these guys. Even the guys who come to sit in are great. I see folks from all over the planet on Mondays at the Oyster Bar. I've met people from England, Russia, Belgium and all over the United States. They all seem to really enjoy it. I also think the Oyster Bar is a great venue.

#### After being on the scene for so long, what are your thoughts on St. Louis?

St. Louis is different, but it's a generational thing. A lot of the band members and people I learned with are deceased now. So we're trying to carry on a tradition. St. Louis is a wealth of talent. The local guys are also out there traveling around the world. Larry Griffin and Rich McDonough play all over. Henry Townsend and Johnnie Johnson also were out on the road and you can't get better than Fontella Bass-world class stuff. New Orleans is cool, but we do New Orleans here. Memphis is cool, but we do Memphis here. Chicago is cool, but we do Chicago here. We just put our own touch on it and it's authentic.

I used to play fifteen times a week. We were playing at Gene Lynn's, the Voyager Club, Mike & Minn's and Preservation Hall. We'd work twice a day and three times on Saturdays. I like a variety of music. Pop, Blues, R&B, Country. We just wanted to entertain the people. I like all kinds of music so we would just go from one genre to another. I think that's a St. Louis thing.

spotlight on

y Abdullah by Jeremy Segel-Moss

photo by Reed Radcliffe

#### You front the bands you perform with. What is important about being a front person?

The communication between the band and the audience is really important. My job is to entertain the audience, to make them happy and bring them into the music. We're there to make them happy and as long as they're enjoying themselves we're doing our job. I just try to do the best job I possibly can do for the band and the club and the people who come to enjoy the music.

#### As you turn 70, what do you have planned for the future?

First, I just want to say all of these things couldn't have happened without the help of God. I'm not planning on slowing down, even as I'm coming into the achy-breaky part of life. This is what I love and I want to continue on until I can't do it anymore. My own band is working on a new CD and the Soulard Blues Band is about to release a new CD. I just got a copy and it sounds pretty good  $\mathbf{J}$ 

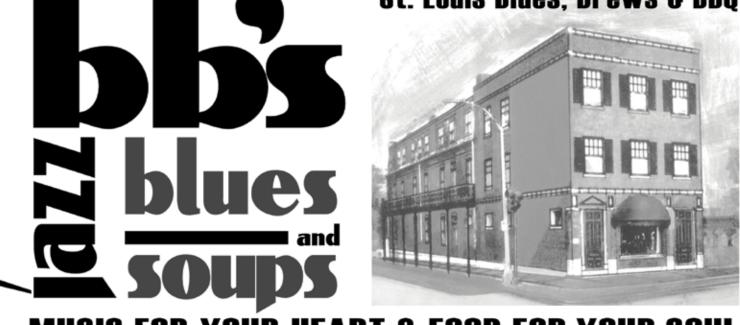


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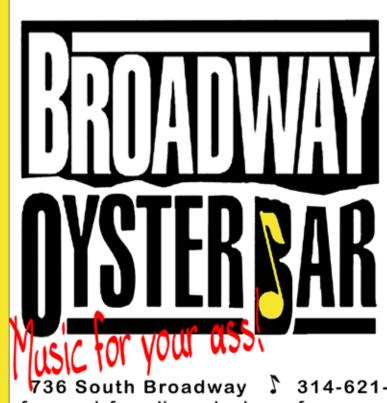


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## **Upcoming Musical Highlights**

Nov 19 All Roostered Up 12 PM (free)

Nov 20 Voodoo Mama's: Ladies of the Lou Fest 1PM to 10PM benefitting TOCO, KDHX and Soul Much Water

Nov 25 Funky Butt Brass Band 10PM

Nov 26 Aaron Kamm and the One Drops 10PM

Dec 7 Sean Canan's Voodoo Players: Voodoo Dylan 9:30PM

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Dave Black www.daveblackstl.com 314.647.1415

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Eugene Johnson & Company www.eugenejohnson.net 314.537.2396

Gateway Blues Band Jeff Sieth www.gatewaybluesband.com 618.830.3347

Green McDonough Blues Band Laura Green www.facebook.com/ thegreenmcdonoughband 314.808.0158 The House of Bishops Zydeco Show and Blues Revue Ron Clingenpeel www.bishopsmusic.net 314.249.5908

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