



# BLUE INK

www.BLUSD.org

MARCH 2013

Vol 15- Issue 3

**HEADLINES: HARP FEST ... BILL MAGEE B'DAY PARTY... HOB/BLUSD JAM... HARP BLAST-OFF ... BLUSD PARTY RECAP**

**S**pring Harp Fest, known as the "Best Harmonica Party in the Southwest," is coming **Saturday, March 30th** to **Harry Griffen Park** (9550 Milden St., La Mesa 91942), from 11:30 am-6 pm, the day before Easter Sunday. All ages welcomed.

Now in our 14th year, we are committed to bringing some of the best local talent, as well as some internationally known harmonica stars. If you have never been to Spring Harp Fest, something you may not realize about this great event is that we use the funds raised to support school music programs. For example; over the years we have purchased thousands of harmonicas and funded harmonica instructors through the Blues in the Schools (BITS) program. We are happy to be partners with Blues Lovers United of San Diego (BLUSD) and their BITS program as a way to achieve the SHF mission of spreading the joy of the harmonica to the next generation.

Spring Harp Fest (SHF) XIV will kick off with local legend Rafael Harp, followed by "MarkofTheBlues" Abbott and the Soul Penetrators and some chromatic blues stylings. Next is Nick Walsh who moved here a few years ago from New England and is referred to affectionately as "Chowda." Dan "Dirty" Rice from Kansas City, Kansas follows. Filling out the first half of the show will be 145th Street with Steve Bulger. In 2012 BLUSD sent them to Memphis to represent San Diego in the International Blues Competition (IBC). We are proud to bring them back to SHFXIV.

One of the unique things we do at Harp Fest is the world famous "Unknown Players Jam." For a small donation, anyone in the audience with a harmonica has the opportunity to play 12 bars of blues with a pro-backing group in front of an appreciative crowd. Our friend, Chet Cannon will be controlling the mayhem.



**MARCH 30th ~ HARRY GRIFFEN PARK**



When everyone has played, a winner will be judged by crowd response and receive a trophy and the adulation of thousands.

After the jam, we will have a set by a player who is known sometimes less for the Mississippi saxophone than the regular one, but plays harmonica with skill and feeling. Allen Ortiz is Rod Piazza's

horn man and gets to travel and play with Rod. Being that close to harmonica greatness on a regular basis has to rub off on a guy. Coming with him is one of the great West Coast guitarists, also from the Mighty Flyers, Henry Carvajal. Hold onto your hats, people.

One of the world's most entertaining players and the only harmonica artist to have performed at every



Harp Fest so far, making his 14th appearance, the fabulous Billy Watson and his International Silver String Submarine Band. Billy will amaze and captivate you with his humor, hi-jinks and harmonica hoodoo. Thank you, Billy, for your continued support.

After Billy, Harmonica John Frazer will try to bring the crowd back to earth with some original compositions performed with guitar and racked harmonica.

We're blessed this year to have with us the very talented Ronnie Shellist, from Denver, CO. Ronnie is a world renowned and respected harmonica instructor and performer. Ronnie will also be hosting a harmonica seminar on the afternoon of Friday, March 29th. You can sign up for that on our website for the opportunity to soak up some harmonica knowledge and techniques to raise your game to the next level.

Finishing the day on a high note, the ever so cool and debonair Karl Cabbage and his group, Red Lotus Revue, will leave you humming the blues until your next fix.

Artists will have CD's for sale at the event.

We would like to say special thanks this year to: Bill Howe Plumbing, Tom Safreed, Boss man at Hodad's Burgers, Hooters Mission Valley, Wicked Harem, Allegra Printing, Dane Terry, John Legge, Alex Gomez, Chet Cannon, Ric and Karen Lee and Nelly Burns. We also want to express appreciation and thanks to all our wonderful friends that we have made over the last 15 years. See you Easter weekend!

~ Budd and John [www.springharpfest.org](http://www.springharpfest.org)



## BLUES LOVERS UNITED OF SAN DIEGO

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Michele Lundeen – Editor@BLUSD.org

### GIG CALENDAR

GigCalendar@BLUSD.org and/or post at [www.BLUSD.org](http://www.BLUSD.org)  
or use Google Calendar and "invite" BLUSD

### WEB MASTER

Position Open

### CONTRIBUTORS

Janine Harty, Michele Lundeen, DM, Lane Rider,  
Rosa Lea Schiavone

### Deadlines for monthly newsletter:

Articles/Events/Ads/Info should be submitted by the  
23th to [editor@blusd.org](mailto:editor@blusd.org) in order to ensure inclusion.

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### - OUR MISSION -

To preserve and promote awareness of the Blues, America's first musical  
art form. To entertain and educate the existing and growing audience and  
to be responsive to the music community's needs by presenting and  
supporting local and national Blues artists and culture.

**BLUES LOVERS UNITED OF SAN DIEGO**  
**P.O. BOX 34077 - SAN DIEGO, CA 92163**

**Hotline-Business: 619.630.9416**

**info@BLUSD.org - [www.BLUSD.org](http://www.BLUSD.org)**

## BLUSD TABLE GIGS

**MARCH 28, 2013 ~ 7 pm**  
**HUMPHREY'S BACKSTAGE**

**(Shelter Island Dr., Pt. Loma)**

**BILL MAGEE'S**  
**70TH BIRTHDAY**  
**CELEBRATING HIS LIFE IN MUSIC**

**BANDS & VENUES:**  
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or use **GOOGLE Calendar**  
and "Invite" **BLUSD**

**SO ALL CAN FIND YOU & SUPPORT YOUR SHOWS!**

*\*Fans, remind your favorite bands & venues to*

*Post their gigs ... or OFFER to post for them!*  
*Our overall calendar format & retrieval methods have changed.*  
*HOWEVER... If you would ALSO like to email us your regional*  
*Blues related listings as well (or instead of) posting them..*

*If you'd like you can send listings/details to*  
*[editor@blusd.org](mailto:editor@blusd.org)...*

*so at least we have them!*

*Fans want to find BLUES!*

*It takes a village! Just do it!*

## BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

*Live, interactive blues musical presentations*  
*available to share, inform and entertain!*

**Contact: [BITS@BLUSD.org](mailto:BITS@BLUSD.org)**



**The Blues  
Foundation**

**AFFILIATE**

Blues Lovers United of San Diego is a 501(c)3 non profit, membership driven corporation affiliated  
with The Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN, an umbrella organization for Blues Societies worldwide.



# Bill Magee's 70th Birthday Concert Mar 28th to Celebrate His Life in Music

**B**ill Magee has been playing music professionally since his high school days. On **March 28th** Bill will celebrate his 70th birthday with a concert at **Humphrey's Backstage Lounge** on Shelter Island at 7 pm. Bill will be accompanied by his main band, with several Magee "alums" also sitting in. In addition, blues guitar virtuoso Johnny Vernazza will join Bill on stage for the first time ever. The birthday concert will also feature an expanded 3-piece horn section and a surprise female vocalist.

Born in Mississippi, Bill worked the cotton fields during his childhood years. Following the early passing of both parents Bill Magee and his brother Deloy relocated to Ithaca, NY to live with an older sister. Bill Magee joined his first band, The Dynamos, when he was still in high school. The other band members were college students at nearby Cornell, where the band became a fixture at college parties.

After graduating from high school in 1963, Bill packed his guitar and set out for the Big Apple to make his living from



music. Bill took a room in Harlem, near the Apollo Theater, from where he could venture out and get a feel for the local music scene. One of the first places Bill discovered was Small's Paradise on 135th and Lenox. The King Curtis Band was appearing there and the band's guitar player was a lefty who

would later become famous under the name Jimi Hendrix. At the break, Bill asked if he could plug in, and after a couple of songs, Jimi joined back in and traded sizzling guitar licks with Bill for the rest of the night. On that night, a friendship between the two guitar players was born, and Jimi showed Bill around town and helped him line up work. Shortly thereafter, Bill landed a spot as the guitarist for the newly formed Kansas City Playboys – a product of legendary local entrepreneur Jack Taylor and his fledgling label, Rojac Records. As a member of the KC Playboys, Bill toured the country – at one point opening for James Brown, and then actually filling the role of James Brown's guitarist for six weeks after JB's regular guitarist became sick while on the tour.

In 1987 Bill moved to San Diego. After taking some time off from the music business to work a day job and raise his family of four kids,

Bill got the itch again and started playing locally in 1993. Fast forward twenty years and, as we all know, Bill has become a respected and beloved fixture on the local blues music scene. Come celebrate this legendary bluesman's 70th Birthday on March 28th. ~ Lane Rider ■

## BLUSD Presents "Jamminout" the HOB

**T**he new, weekly Wednesday night Jam at the San Diego House of Blues Voodoo Lounge will run from 8 pm to 12 midnight. Our first host band for the Jam is Lafayette on lead guitar and vocals, Billy Ray on drums, Kevin Cooper on bass guitar and vocals along with Bubba McCoy on harmonica and vocals.

Our next jam will be on March 27th, and very special indeed. It will be the hard launch for the jam, the official launch party for jammingout.net and is part of the festivities during Harmonica Week leading up to the Spring Harp Fest in La Mesa. Looking to see a whole bunch of you harp blowers that night.

Go to [jammingout.net](http://jammingout.net), register, create a profile and sign up for the jam. Packy B. will be herding all you musical cats and kittens. Doyle Thomas will be there to answer any of your questions about jammingout.net. I will be there to answer any questions about the jam and Blues Lovers United Of San Diego, your local blues society. I think I'll dance. ...rosalea / Blues Lovers United of San Diego, Board Member

P.S. Come down even if you have not signed up for the jam on the website. There will also be a signup sheet and Packy will do his best to work you in. Watch for more details to come! ■

# BLUES JAMS *Call venue to confirm*

## SUNDAY:

- **Downtown Cafe** 2:30-5:30 pm (signup at 2 pm)  
182 East Main St., El Cajon (619) 440-5687  
Host: Chet and The Committee
- **Mr. Peabody's** "Best Damn Jam" 6 - 9 pm every other Sun  
136 Encinitas Blvd, Encinitas, CA 92024 (760) 753-7192  
Host: Gomez Blues Project
- **Sky Box** 6-10 pm (858) 273-1226  
Featuring a very Special Guest set 7-8pm  
4809 Clairemont Dr., San Diego (Clairemont Square)  
Host: Jaz jamtheblues@gmail.com
- **The Kraken** 4 - 9 pm  
2531 So. Coast Hwy, Cardiff (760) 634-6865  
Host: Blues Brokers (858) 481-6580

## MONDAY:

- **Humphrey's Backstage** "Pro Jam" 7 - 11 pm  
(Occasional Mons / call or check Humphrey's calendar)  
2241 Shelter Island Dr., Pt. Loma (619) 224-3577  
Host: The Committee & Friends
- **Gaslamp Speakeasy** "Old School Jam" 8:30 pm - 12:30 am  
708 4th Ave. downtown San Diego (619) 239-9994  
Host: Stoney B. Blues
- **The Kraken** 8:30 pm  
2531 So. Coast Hwy, Cardiff (760) 634-6865  
Host: Doug Allen

## TUESDAY:

- **The Kraken** 8:30 pm  
2531 So. Coast Hwy, Cardiff (760) 634-6865  
Host: Doug Allen
- **Patrick's Gaslamp Pub** "Chicken Wing Jam" 8-11 pm  
Gaslamp (619) 233-3077  
Host: Walter Gentry (all styles welcomed)

## WEDNESDAY:

- **Cafe La Maze** 7 - 10 pm  
1441 Highland Ave, National City (619) 474-3222
- **Last Call** 8 pm  
4997 El Cajon Blvd, El Cajon (619) 287-9505  
Host: Dana Garrett kid\_tater@yahoo.com

## THURSDAY:

- **Kaminski's BBQ** 8-11 pm  
12735 Poway Rd., Poway (858) 748-1106  
Host: Alex Gomez & Best Damn Jam

## FRIDAY:

- **Del Cerro Rec** "Slo-Jam" Acoustic 6:30 - 9 pm  
(every 3rd Friday)  
Host: Walt Richards (619) 589-8177
- **Royal Dive** "Happy Hour Jam" 6 - 9 pm (1st & 3rd Fri)  
2939 San Luis Rey Rd., Oceanside (760) 733-1911  
Host: "Mark of The Blues" Abbott

# CD/DVD Reviews.....

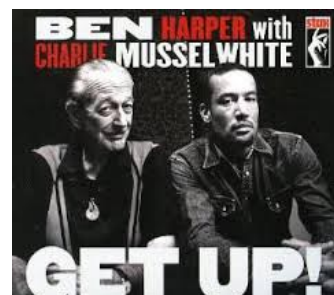


## TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST Grady Champion *Grady Shady Music*

2010 IBC Winner Grady Champion is known for his take-no-prisoners live shows, which have been known to whip a crowd or two into a frenzy. His talents include vocals, harmonica, guitar, and song-writing. "Tough Times Don't Last," his seventh release, consists of 12 originals, and the overall mood is somewhat somber compared to his previous recordings. The songs never surpass mid-tempo, so don't expect to find any booty-shaking material here! All the songs are worthy, and "Broken Down Cadillac" and "Cookie Jar" are particularly effective. The "Grady Bunch" Band includes Caleb Armstrong on guitar, production and string arrangements; Marquis Champion on bass; Lil Cal Jackson on drums; Larry Addison and Steve Wilkerson on keyboards; and additional guitar work by Nathan Keck, Chris Gill and Granard McClendon. Having seen live him several times with just a 4-piece band, this writer finds the production, synthesizers and back-up vocals on this recording distracting and excessive. Grady doesn't need all that to captivate his audience. Here's hoping he will put the embellishments aside on future releases. ~ Janine Harty

## GET UP!

### Ben Harper with Charlie Musselwhite *Stax*



Listen to the first three tracks and you'll know this album of fresh new blues rises right up to the top as something special.

Was it BB King who started the trend of blues godfathers pairing up with musicians of a younger generation, as B.B. did with U-2 on "When Love Comes to Town," a song they wrote for him? Muddy did it successfully on the classic *Fathers and Sons* LP back in 1969. John Lee Hooker and Carlos Santana excelled together in their album, *The Healer*.

Sometimes, these intergenerational collaborations can inspire the artists to delve into new depths of their own creativity. In this album, there's a spark of creative electricity passing between Charlie Musselwhite, born in 1944, and Ben Harper, born in 1969, bringing out the best of each of them.

Ben wrote all the songs on this disk, each with intriguing storytelling lyrics. His blues roots come to fruition in his vocals and guitar. Charlie's inspired harp licks punctuate the songs to perfection, as on Don't Look Twice, the opening track, where Ben's vocals and guitar are reminiscent of Skip James. The creative synergy shines throughout the varied tracks. From the rhythmic We Can't End This Way, where hand-clapping provides the beat, to the thundering I Can't Believe a Word You Say, every song will please you. No Hamburger Helper here. This CD is solid steak. Nutrition for the soul. ~ DM



Cadillac Wreckers & Wicked Harem Promotions present



# Harp Fest Blast-Off

Spring Harp Fest XIV Pre-Event Party

Hosted By...

## Cadillac Wreckers

with harpmen...

**RONNIE SHELLIST**

**Karl Cabbage**

**Steve Bulger**

**Lance Dieckmann**

**Dane Terry**

**Chet Cannon**

**Nick Walsh**

**Bubba McCoy**

**Friday**  
**March 29**  
**8pm-12am**



### Tio Leo's

5302 Napa St, San Diego, CA 92110



**C**adillac Wreckers' Spring Harp Fest XIV Pre-Show-Party, "Harp Fest Blast-off" happens **Friday March 29, 8 pm-12 am, Tio Leo's (5302 Napa St., San Diego 92110).**

Featuring: **Ronnie Shellist** - [www.ronnieshellist.com](http://www.ronnieshellist.com)

**Karl Cabbage** - [www.redlotusrevue.com](http://www.redlotusrevue.com)

**Steve Bulger** - [www.145street.com](http://www.145street.com)

**Lance Dieckmann** - [www.myspace.com/lancedieckmann](http://www.myspace.com/lancedieckmann)

**Chet Cannon** - [www.myspace.com/chetandthecommittee](http://www.myspace.com/chetandthecommittee)

**Nick Walsh** - [www.rhythmandthemethod.com](http://www.rhythmandthemethod.com)

**Bubba McCoy** - [www.reverbnation.com/bubbamccoy](http://www.reverbnation.com/bubbamccoy)

**Dane Terry** - [www.daneterry.com](http://www.daneterry.com)

In cooperation with Tio Leo's, Spring Harp Fest XIV and Wicked Harem Promotions, for this Pre-Harp Fest XIV Blast-off show, Cadillac Wreckers will back the finest harmonica talent available in America's Finest City. This will be the penultimate event of "Harmonica Week in San Diego," the ramp-up to San Diego's annual free, family-friendly charitable event featuring that mainstay of American roots music, the humble and ubiquitous... Harmonica.

Now in it's 14th consecutive year, Spring Harp Fest raises funds and in-kind donations annually to support their efforts to provide San Diego children with musical instruments and to help teach them appreciation for all kinds of music. Visit

[www.springharpfest.org](http://www.springharpfest.org) to find out more about that event held on the Saturday before Easter, March 30, 2013.

[www.cadillacwreckers.com](http://www.cadillacwreckers.com) ~ [www.springharpfest.org](http://www.springharpfest.org)

[www.wickedharempromotions.com](http://www.wickedharempromotions.com)

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## Mr. Earl Thomas & Friends RAISE THE ROOF!

Benefit Concert for the Blues Hall of Fame



### PAY PER VIEW EVENT

SUNDAY • MARCH 24 • 2013

1 PM PDT/USA ... 8 PM GMT/EUR

PPV Tix Details at [VenMundi.com](http://VenMundi.com)



featuring

Kenny Neal

Lady Bianca

Sista Monica

Syreeta Neal

King Tuffnstuff

Shane Dwight

Kyle Rowland

Daniel Castro

John Nemeth

Greg Nagy

Aki Kumar

Tia Carroll

Cheffimi

... and more

**E**arl Thomas has assembled an amazing group of friends to help raise funds to contribute to the Blues Foundation's "Raise the Roof" campaign to build the Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis. The show is on Sunday, March 24 from 1-6 pm.

Earl Thomas & The Blues Ambassadors and friends **Kenny Neal, John Nemeth, Sista Monica, Lady Bianca, Tia Carroll, Shane Dwight** plus more surprise guests, will perform live, together for the very first time on the same stage at The Club Fox, in Redwood City, CA. This amazing show can be seen in its entirety streaming LIVE ONLINE in the comfort of your own living room or on your Smartphone, wherever in the world you may be!

For tickets to this very special Internet event go to <http://bit.ly/V28cxD>.

Be a part of music history and get your ticket now and help raise the roof. 50% of each PPV ticket goes directly to the Blues Foundation's Blues Hall of Fame "Raise The Roof" endeavors. [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)





# BLUSD PARTY A WIN-WIN!

The roof on the Belly Up Tavern may still be intact, but that's not because the bands at our March 3rd Membership Appreciation Party didn't try their best to blow it off! BIG thanks to 145th St., Mercedes Moore and Scot Smart, Billy Watson and Robin Henkel, Tom Cat Courtney, Black Market III and Little "A" & the Allnighters for keeping the dance floor rocking throughout the afternoon. And MORE big thanks to all the members who attended, and to all those who joined... the highest number ever for a single event! BLUSD Board Members Janine Harty, Donna Mallen, Michele Lundeen and Rosa Lea Schiavone were present, and were ably assisted by volunteers Debbie Kelley and Bubba and Stephanie McCoy. HUGE props to Rosa Lea for putting the event together and keeping it running smoothly. Now that we know we can pull this off, look for many more parties in the future! ~ Janine Harty  
*P.S. Thanks to all those that chose to take advantage of our special offer to apply the cover charge to renew or sign up as BLUSD members! Welcome!*



Top Row Lt: 145th St.  
 Top Row Rt: Little "A"  
 & The Allnighters  
 2nd Row: Billy Watson,  
 Mercedes Moore, Tom Cat  
 Courtney, Black Market III  
 3rd Row Ctr: Scot Smart,  
 3rd Row Rt: Robin Henkel  
 Bottom Rt: Party time!

\*All photos by JOHN HANCOCK except for bottom left of Linda, Nadja, Stephanie and Janine at our BLUSD "table" and top center of Roxanne Blinn of Black Market III, Rosalea and Tom Cat by Dave McGhee. See more amazing shots from Dave McGhee at <http://dmcghee.smugmug.com/Music/BLUSD-member-appreciation>. Find John Hancock on Facebook.

# Be a BLUSD Volunteer! Reap cool benefits!

**W**e encourage our members to volunteer. Get right in there, roll up your sleeves and start spreading the (blues) news with us! We need volunteers for our BLUSD "Festival Team," Regional IBC Team," "Membership Party Team," "Newsletter Team," and "Blues In The Schools Team." If you want more detailed info see our many volunteer team opportunities at <http://blusd.org/volunteer/>.

If you are already a member, either fill out the Volunteer Form at <http://blusd.org/membership/> or give us a call at (619) 630-9416. If you're not yet a member or need to renew, just follow the steps at <http://blusd.org/membership/> using PayPal's secure credit card processing system ... THEN, fill out our Volunteer Form at <http://blusd.org/membership/> and let us know how you can help out! Once you take the first step, our volunteer coordinator will contact you and see where your talents and availability will fit best. Thanks in advance or your interest! You're going to dig this! ■

## BLUES NOTES



3/13: Blues at the Crossroads at the Segerstrom Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, featuring The Fabulous Thunderbirds, James Cotton, Jody Williams, and JJ Grey & Mofro

3/24: Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers ~ Winston's

3/24: Earl Thomas & Friends Raise the Roof Benefit Pay-per-view Webcast for the Blues Foundation's "Blues Hall of Fame" featuring John Nemeth, Sista Monica, Shane Dwight, Kenny Neal and many more, 1-6 pm <http://bit.ly/V28cxD>

3/28: Bill Magee Birthday Bash at Humphrey's Backstage Live  
"A BLUSD table gig"

3/29: Cadillac Wreckers' Harp Fest Blast-Off ~ Tio Leo's

3/30: Spring Harp Fest ~ Harry Griffen Park, La Mesa

## Join or Renew Your Membership with BLUSD Online or by Mail

\*You can renew online via PayPal at [www.blusd.org](http://www.blusd.org) OR return this form to us with your check payment

Membership Level (please check) \_\_\_\_ (\$25) Single \_\_\_\_ (\$35) Couple \_\_\_\_ (\$250) Lifetime or \_\_\_\_ (\$350) Couple Lifetime

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of additional member (couple): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

For Artists/Bands/ with active membership: Do you want to have a free link on [www.blusd.org](http://www.blusd.org)? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

If yes, name of Artist/Band: \_\_\_\_\_ Band website: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of your music: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check out member benefits and join or renew your membership at [www.blusd.org](http://www.blusd.org).**

BLUSD is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible and also support our Blues In The School program.

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