

BSWPA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

Interview with Sue Foley 2

New Year's Eve Blues Bash 5

The Ladies Sing the Blues 6

Real Deal Blues.....6

Blues Nite Out with Jimmy Adler & Ryan Hartt 7

CD Review – 'Ain't No Rain' – BSWPA's entry in the 2027 International Blues Challenge's Best Self-Produced CD Category.....8

CD Review – Tom Hambridge's 'De Ja Vu".....9

LA Femme Nouvelle.....12

Blues Trivia 13

BLUES SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



Words of advice…. 'Practice your ass off'

She quietly crossed the stage, acknowledged her clapping fans, lifted her signature pink guitar, Pinky, sat down on that lone stool sitting in the spot light and flat out played.
I had heard Sue Foley many times as an electric player but…. her acoustic playing at the One Guitar Woman show blew me away!!!! Her voice soared through that venue. Her playing…. Whew!!! What a show!!!! Sue Foley, that night, showed her many talents as a guitarist… flamenco, country and Blues. I was totally mesmerized and impressed!! Fast forward many shows later and there was Sue Foley taking the stage at the Big Blues Bender. Sue Foley's playing and singing were intense. The audience roared their approval. Mid show, Sue Foley began talking about her self-penned book, ***Guitar Women: Conversations and Life Lessons of Six String Heroines***. Those stories and insights that she shared were so interesting, rich and heartfelt. As a Blues fan, those much-researched insights brought a new understanding to the depths of the Blues.

A talk with Sue Foley was much needed!

Jonnye: Lori Russo who is the lead for Femme Nouvelle, an all-girl group that will compete in the 2027 International Blues Challenge, would like to know what led you to focus on the Blues over anything else. (Lori also asked when she could join you on stage.)
Sue: I got the Blues bug back when I was 15-years-old. I saw a James Cotton show. His background and his stories made me want to know more. He was a Blues historian. I fell into that groove. I loved the history of the genre!

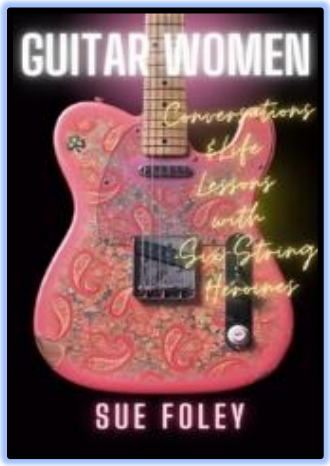
Jonnye: You grew up in Canada, what path led you to Texas. How did that encounter/call enhance your musical journey?
Sue: Clifton Antoine from the historic Antoine's asked me to come down and play. He also had a recording studio. At twenty-one years old, I was drawn as many others were to the vibrant Roots scene in Austin, Texas. (We both laughed when I said that my name was on that marquee long ago. I had called for an interview and a tour. I was surprised to see my name in lights…. At Antoine's)

Jonnye: PINKIE is your signature guitar…how did that come about?
Sue: I play Fender Telecasters and have four in my stable. However, my first back in 1988 when I was almost twenty years old was Pink. Thus, it began …. Pinky I, II, III, and IV. The Pink guitar is my trademark.

Jonnye: Delaney guitarist, Cheryl Rinovato, noted that you have an unconventional and unique style. She would like to know why you chose to not to use a pic.
Cheryl also noted that you play a nylon string guitar and was impressed with your Flamenco renderings. (Cheryl also wants to know if you would need her and her guitar in your act.)
Sue: I have used a thumb pic for Country Blues since I was a teen. I use it on acoustic Blues and work it open handed. I liked developing my right-hand technique that brings out many unique tones in the space of my playing.

Jonnye: Guitarist Jeff Fetterman would like to know what it is like to be a female guitarist in the Blues World. Jeff would also like to know how you navigated your way in male dominated genre?
Sue: The Blues has been very accepting of strong female talent. There are no defining differences between male and female players in the Blues. If you are a good player, do your best and not try to play the princess role. There have been many female guitarists in the past who went toe to toe with the male performers and there was no animosity. It was a sharing of respect for talent, for those that worked their talent and for those who carried their own rigs, etc.

Jonnye: What led a person who was less than enthusiastic about schooling to end up with a PHD in music?
Sue: I was busy with music at an early age. While researching about past female performers, I realized that I really liked researching history. I found a learning institute that allowed me to participate in their Master's program based on my research and my music background. After receiving my Master's degree, I then enrolled in a PHD program. It has been a surprising and an amazing journey. I would like to tell others not to be dissuaded from learning. It gives older students confidence and self-appreciation that it is possible to get to the finish line when seeking achievements in life.



Jonnye: With the idea of a male dominated genre, what led you to write a book about the many women who came before you.
Sue: I was researching the women from the past who paved the way for today. I was homebound, not travelling for music at the time, raising a son and had the idea that I needed to compile all that research into a book. I was very curious about the past. Again, I found that I am a historian. No one else was doing it. My idea was to bring the forerunners in female Blues to life in print. The more I researched, the more I was driven to bring that information to the forefront and to share.

Jonnye: How long did it take to do the interviews/research for 'Guitar Women'? What images or talks have stayed with you and perhaps helped you to forge your path forward in the Blues? Who stood out the most?
Sue: I had the time and stayed very busy with this project, 'Guitar Women'. Again, my knack for being a historian led me to make many discoveries that needed to be shared. I actually identified with all of them. Guitarist Etta Baker was an interesting interview. She talked about staying in the game to play, growing old with her music and how she was unaffected by celebrity. Etta just played 'quiet'… she kept her head down and made music. Notorious? Lita Ford was a visionary. She broke the traditional mold for heavy metal guitarists. Geeshee Wyley was on the run in the 1930's for supposedly stabbing someone.

Jonnye: Was there ever a point in this long process of self-discovery over the years that you wanted to quit? If not, what inspired you to continue?
Sue: Quit??? NEVER!! Playing music inspires me to forge on, to be resilient. The guitar helps me to express my inner thoughts and feelings. It is my outlet.

Jonnye: What is your next project?
Sue: I have a Christmas Album, '**Along Together'**, coming out just in time for the holidays. It is to help/uplift those who struggle with health, finances and loneliness.

Jonnye: What is your advice from lessons learned for the younger females that will be following in your footsteps?
Sue: Do not expect a "pass" for being a female. Be the best that you can be. Do not bring extra drama. Learn your craft. Learn your strengths and share with others. **'Practice your ass off." Do not be a double standard. Be you, stand tall for what you do and be a team player.**

the Fallout Shelter
Our Awesome, Monthly, Blues/Rock Jam
has been going strong for over 10 years!
Located in the Lower Level of Sheffield Lanes
818 Raccoon Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001 (724) 375-5080
www.thefalloutshelter.net facebook.com/thefalloutshelter
We are a PROUD member of
The Blues Society of Western Pennsylvania



If you have new or gently used instruments and/or band equipment, we have young people who are in great need!! Please consider donating them or making a monetary donation to help others. Contact: Bswpa.org



Lori Russo & the Uppercuts will kick off the evening. Brandon Santini and his fabulous band will follow. Brandon has songs that are currently being playing on shows such as the Marshalls and Tulsa King… Wow!!!

A sumptuous dinner buffet, a late-night buffet, four-hour open bar, and two smoking bands!!!! What a Christmas gift this could be for you and your family!!!Reserve your rooms early, using the code: NYE at 412.329.1400.

Purchase your ticket at BSWPA. SIMPLETIX.COM. If you have three or more in your party, contact bswpa.org and give your name, email for confirmation and contact number to have your party seated together. 5.



The Ladies Sing the Blues

What an amazing time of music, friends and fellowship at the second annual **"Ladies Sing the Blues"**, October 4 at the Coraopolis VFW. A powerhouse of women vocalists and musicians joined Lori Russo and the Uppercuts to raise money for the Light of Life Women's Shelter. The funds raised well exceeded our expectations as well as performing for a sold-out audience. It was indeed an enjoyable day of music featuring: Miss Freddye, Bethany James, Cheryl Rinovato, Lori Russo, Andrea Iglar, Stevee Wellons, Kelly E. Parker, Shelly Hornsby and Emma Dawson. Kudos to Jonnye Weber and the Blues Society of Western PA for their continued humanitarian efforts to help those in need and to provide spaces and events to keep the Blues alive!!! ~Lor Russo (Lori Russo and the Upper Cuts)

****



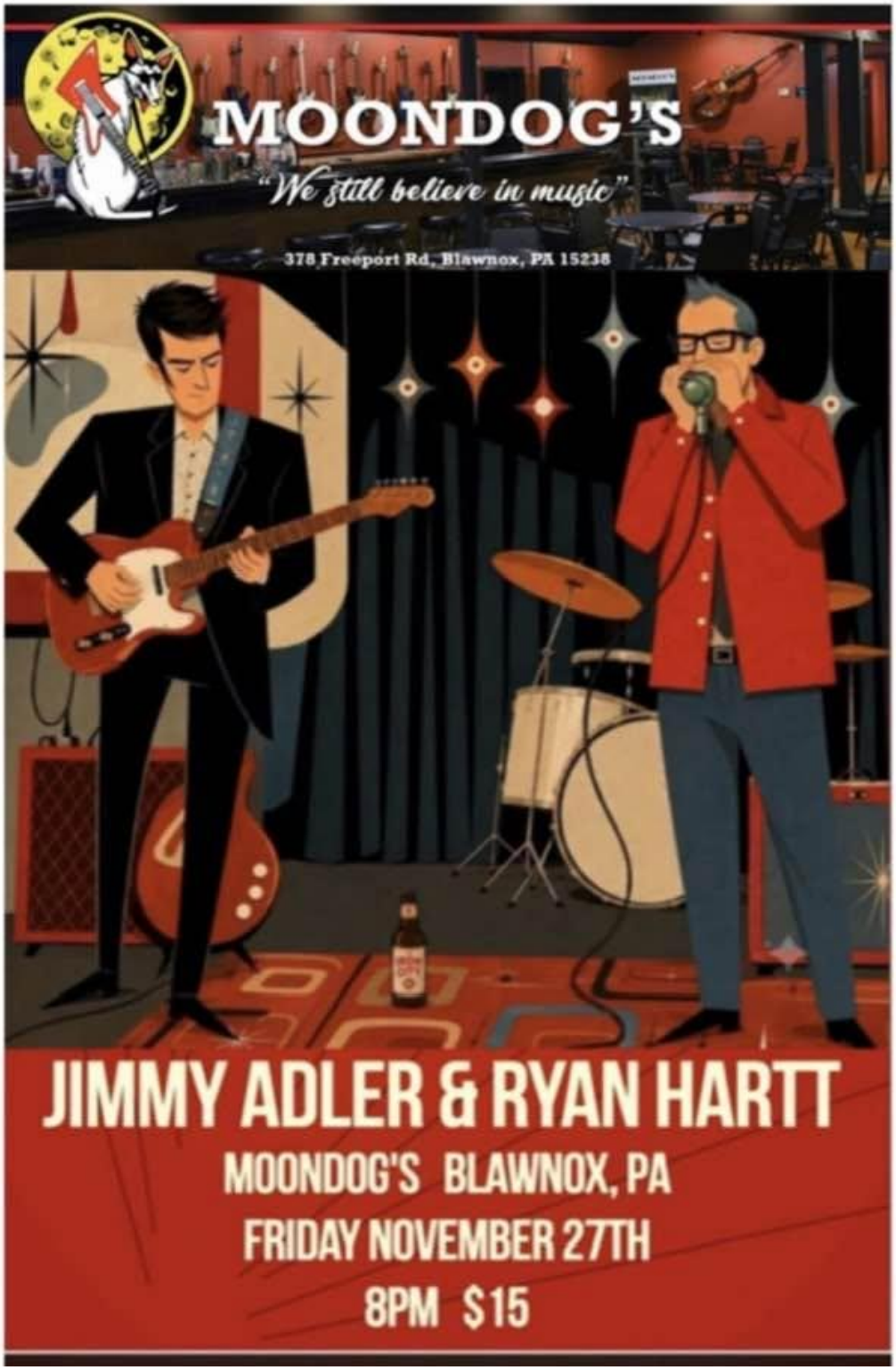
Real Deal Blues

Real Deal Blues presented by the Blues Society of Western Pennsylvania was great fun, comradery and music! Everyone was so supportive, accommodating and professional, from the crowd to the blues society to the soundman to the bartenders, let alone all the musicians (Bill Smith on drums, Steve Binsberger on keys, Jim Spears on bass, Andrew Biscey on guitar, Pierce Dipner and Bobby Thompson). It was truly a blessing to get to play for such an enthusiastic crowd and great atmosphere. *~Dan Bubien & the Delta Struts*

HOLLOWOOD MUSIC & SOUND

Gigmaster Studios

Help us to keep the Blues alive… become a member today… only $20 annually. www.mkt.com/bswpa/bswpa-membership.



Jimmy Adler has invited 'us' in for a <u>Blues Night Out</u>!!!



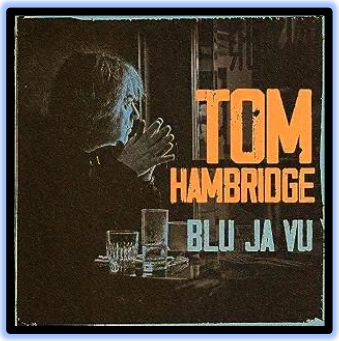
Ain't No Rain
G.E. Long Band

Do a search sometime of the music venues in your local community. Dotting communities all over the USA, Canada, and Europe are clubs that feature Blues music. On any given weekend, there are blues bands playing clubs (and during the summertime, festivals) somewhere near you. The Blues artists performing at these events are, by and large, doing this because they love the Blues. They are not seeking fame and fortune but the opportunity to help spread the word about the "badass Blues" and have some fun doing it. Many of these Blues groups offer up original music that addresses the world they live in. Unlike rock music, which still in many ways is driven by teenage angst, Blues music often reflects the real world and the hard choices faced at the proverbial crossroads.

One such group is the **G.E. Long Band** from Pennsylvania who have released a new album, **Ain't No Rain**. The recording is what is called an "indie" release. Like many artists playing those Blues clubs that dot the land, the G.E. Long Band probably relied on family, friends, perhaps some club owners or patrons, and their own hard-earned money to put out the recording. In the case of the G. E. Long Band, the result is a great album reflecting the best values of the contemporary blues: great musicianship and thoughtful lyrics.

The recording starts with the title cut, *Ain't No Rain,* that also features *Kate Miterko* on vocals. It is a song about getting past all the strife raging around us, loving one another, and addressing those among us that truly need help. The tune *Drowning in Shallow Water* addresses the challenges of raising a family when the paycheck never quite keeps up with rising prices. There are also a couple of great mid-tempo tracks that I love: '*1965 Lincoln Continental Blues'* and my personal favorite, *Trouble's Knockin'*, which has a great drivin' beat. For straight up badass Blues, you can do no better than '*Working Man'* which reflects the blue-collar values of the overall recording.

Gregory Long is a founding member and songwriter for the Lone Crow Rebellion. **'Ain't No Rain'** is his debut solo recording and has been selected to represent the **Blues Society of Western PA in Memphis for the Blues Foundation's Best Self-Produced Blues Album Challenge in January 2027**. If you live in Western Pennsylvania, sometime soon check the "local listings" for a Blues club near you and if Greg and his band are on the ticket, go give them a listen. Help the Blues to thrive in 2026! And, as always, you will hear tracks from 'Ain't' No Rain' on Blues Music Fan radio. The 'Ain't No Rain' listing: Ain't No Rain (featuring Kate Miterko, Who's Eyeing Up Our Happy Home, Change, Drowning in Shallow Water, How Many Days, 1965 Lincoln continental Blues, Simple Life, Working Man, Baptize Me, Trouble's Knockin'. ~ Ben Vee, bluesbeats.com. The album, Ain't No Rain, can be downloaded at Amazon.com or iTunes. Physical copies will be available soon at www.gelongband.com/store.) **Wish Gregory Long success in Memphis with his outstanding offering!!!!**



Blu Ja Vu
Tom Hambridge

Every once in a while, I'll read something on the liner notes or the one sheet that accompanies and album, and I feel like I should share it as stated. That said, here are a few lines from Jim White, a former writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette who now writes for Blues Roadhouse. "When you have a musical career as a singer and drummer that includes writing over 1000 songs, producing 100 albums, and working with everyone from Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley to Buddy Guy – two things come to mind. You must be exceptionally talented. You must be Tom Hambridge." By the way, he has also worked with: Mick Jagger, Gregg Allman, B.B. King, Carlos Santana, Van Morrison, Keith Urban, Johnny Winter, and on and on.

If the saying about time flying being associated with having fun holds water, then I must be having a ball, because I cannot believe it has been over five years since I reviewed the NOLA Sessions, Tom's last release.

Just like that last release, Tom's ninth – Blu Ja Vu= also features thirteen original tracks and gang of great musicians. Joining Tom – on drums, percussion and vocals are: Buddy Guy, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, and Joe Bonamassa on guitar and vocals; Josh Smith on guitar; James Cottono on harmonica; Chuck Leavell, Kevin McKendree and Jon Coleman on keyboards; Glenn Worf and Tommy MacDonald on bass; Rob McNelly on lead and rhythm guitars; Bob Britt on guitars; and Emil Justin on background vocals.

What better way could there be to kick things off that with a song that features your long-time good friend, band mate and client" Absolutely none! That is exactly why Blu Ja Vu opens with Tom and Buddy taking turns sharing barbs that relate to the pros and cons of love. Musically, it goes without saying – as will the rest of the tracks, as well – that the rhythm Tom and Tommy (bass) are banging out is nothing short of thunderous; and where there is Buddy there is always gritty guitar licks and they do not get much grittier than what he is laying down right here. Additionally, as he was on that NOLA Sessions release, Kevin McKendree is all over the Barrelhouse honky-tonk piano runs. Fabulous opening track.

Other than changing the guitarist from Buddy to Joe Bonamassa- therefore making the runs a bit edgier, not much changes on the way next track titled, "That's My Home". With the lyrics centering around the subject of life on the road as a traveling musician= or as they say "our address keeps on changing". Tom's point of view is that where

he lays down his suitcase is his home, while Joe's is wherever he lays down his guitar is his home.

The third of three vocal duets has Tom hooking up with a young man who is surely doing his part to keep the Blues alive, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram. Lyrically, the guys take their turns making points as to why the "Blues Don't Care". Just a few are: "It makes no difference if you're wrong or right"..., "You can try to run but there's no escape, it's the middle finger on the hand of fate..."; "You can buy insurance to ease your mind, lock up your woman and hide your wine"...; none of which will matter because "the Blues don't care and the Blues don't play fair". Music wise, with "Kingfish" keeping it real, this is the most traditional of the 'Guitar Guru' tracks.

When Tom was going over the pre-recording instructions for "Brother John Boogie", it would not shock me if he told the guy to give this one all they have got and then give it some more. It is a raucous instrumental with everyone in full throttle mode, with the late and great James Cotton providing the runaway train vibe on his smokin' chromatic harp blowin'.

This one should cause you to want do one of two things: get up and start dancing or packing a bag and hitting the road- and with many of the places and things Tom addresses on "Get Out of Town", the second of those choices may be hard to resist. This is 'Route Sixty-Six' taken up several notches – lyrically, vocally and musically.

"Smarter Than I Was" is about learning something the hard way. It is a gloomy tale about a woman who took Tom's soul to a darker side. As he tells it, "Halfway there, I got wise... I may not look like it but I am smarter than I was." The intense rhythm and percussion create a strong supernatural vibe with stunningly perfect guitar accompaniments by former Ft. Lauderdale homie, Josh Smith.

As I approach seventy-five years of age, I have lived through my share of eras that were the cause of many protest songs to be written, but "Johnny Winter" is by fare the most unique of these types of songs. What's that you say, Pete" A song titled "Johnny Winter" is a protest song?" Yep, on this song, it sure is! On this song, Tom is downright pissed off as to why Johnny Witner is not in the "Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame". As a matter of fact, on a trip to Cleveland, Tom actually wanted to know who was in charge, because he actually wanted to kick this person's .... I mean this person a piece of his mind. Also, with some very Johnny like guitar licks, Rob McNelley pay homage to him in his own special way. Fun, and very true song. Other tracks on this killer project include: "Wear You Out"; "Sick with Love"; "Automatic"; "Symptoms of Love"; "Meet me in Chicago"; and "End of the Line".

~Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro, Blues Editor @ www.Mary4Music.com



La Femme Nouvelle, an **all-female band,** will be representing the Blues Society of Western PA at the 2027 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN in January 2027. Each are very talented on their own. Together they are a powerhouse!!!!! Come out to see what they have prepared to showcase that talent against acts from around the near and far at that very global event.

Blues Trivia

This 1954 smash R&B hit – ably covered in the later years by Stevie Ray Vaughan – was arranged by Ray Charles for the outrageous guitarist who is forever identified with it:

a. "Double Trouble"
b. "Texas Flood"
c. "The Things That I used to Do"
d. "The Sky is Crying"
e. "Tin Pan Alley"

"BLUES YOU CAN CHEW"
THE GORDON-JAMES BLUES BAND
For Bookings Call: JIM 724-866-8234 /

STUDIO JOE
RECORDING

Jorewiky
AMPLIFICATION
custom amps/repairs
Jim Jorewicz
proprietor
shop 724-981-2130
fax 724-981-0711
soundoctor@live.com
cell 724-866-8234
www.jorewikyamps.com

Blues Trivia Answer



The Things I used to do

What Texas guitarist- Stevie Ray certainly included-does not owe a debt to Eddie "Guitar Slim" Jones?

Born in Mississippi, he moved to New Orleans and was a regular on the Louisiana-Texas circuit, where his live performances became the stuff of legend. He dressed in wildly colored suits (hair often died to match), and no stage was big enough to hold him when he started roaming around a club, trading several hundred feet of guitar cord behind him.

Produced by Johnny Vinent at Cosimo Matassa's renown J & M Studio in New Orleans, "Things" shot to Number One

R&B in early 1954. In addition to doing the arrangement, Ray Charles played piano on the date, but the credit for its success belongs entirely to Slim's fervent vocal and his distorted guitar sound. It provided the basis for several more of Slim's recordings, but was the only one to have any chart success.
~Carey Wolfson