

bluesnotes

Preserving and Promoting the Blues in the Pacific NW

A bi-monthly publication of the Cascade Blues Association | cascadebluesassociation.org



Sep / Oct 2025
Volume 40 | Issue 9 (FREE)

Follow the Journey to Memphis



Lila
J2M Finalist



Nikki Jones Band
J2M Finalist

Follow the Journey to Memphis

By Evelyn Silverman

Get updates,
event info and
donate online

Every January, blues musicians from around the world descend on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee for one epic purpose: to compete in the International Blues Challenge (IBC)—and represent their home scenes on a global stage.

Since the early 2000s, the Cascade Blues Association has proudly sent some of the best talent the Pacific Northwest has to offer. From up-and-coming artists to seasoned soul-stirrers, our local Journey to Memphis competition winners carry the spirit of Portland (and beyond) to the birthplace of the blues. You might recognize some of these acts that represented the CBA over the years including Karen Lovely, Ty Curtis, Ben Rice, Rae Gordon,



J2M Finalist -
Nikki Jones Band

TJ Wong, Tevis Hodge Jr., Johnny Wheels and the Swamp Donkeys and so many more!

Meet This Year's Acts

At the 2025 Journey to Memphis Competition at the Waterfront Blues Festival, two standout acts rose to the top and earned their ticket to Memphis in January 2026:

- **Lilla** – representing the solo/duo category with soulful vocals and raw honesty
- **The Nikki Jones Band** – bringing powerhouse vocals, tight musicianship, and fierce blues energy



J2M Finalist - **Lilla**

These artists will join over 200 acts from around the world at the IBC, showcasing their sound for new fans, industry pros, and a panel of international judges. And if history's any guide, they've got a real shot—past CBA acts have made it to the finals, with two placing second overall.

This Journey Needs Fuel

Getting to Memphis isn't cheap. Travel, lodging, gear, registration—it adds up fast. That's why we're kicking off a full season of fundraising events, and we need your help.

Whether you donate cash, goods for our auctions, or air miles to help ease travel costs, every bit of support brings us one step closer to Beale Street.

Blues Notes is a publication of the Cascade Blues Association

Help us promote and preserve the lyrical emotion and sultry sounds of blues music in Portland, become a member! Visit <http://cascadebluesassociation.org> today!

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Oregon Bluesberries in Memphis



CBA Musicians in Memphis

Save These Fundraiser Dates

Join us at one (or all) of these live music events featuring performances by this year's competitors and special guests—including past Journey to Memphis winners:

- Sept 28, 2025 – The Yard Food Park (Salem) | 1–5pm
- Oct 19, 2025 – Mekong Bistro (Portland) | 1–5pm
- Nov 9, 2025 – Billy Blues Bar & Grill (Vancouver) | 1–5pm
- Jan 11, 2026 – Send-Off Party @ Blue Diamond (Portland) | Noon–4pm
- (TBA) Sept 14 – Tigard, OR

These events are packed with music, raffles, silent auctions, and good blues energy. You don't want to miss 'em.

Follow the Journey:

Want to see how it all unfolds? Get updates, event info, and donation links right here: cascadeblues.org/follow-journey-to-memphis

Let's show the world what the Northwest blues scene is made of!



Musicians and Supporters on Beale Street



**Your Stage
Your Sound
Your Shot at Memphis**



The Blues Foundation

Attention!

Youth Blues Musicians & Bands

Sunday, September 21, 6:00-9:00pm

Hōkū Events on Madison

1125 SE Madison St, Portland

Sign Up Now To Compete!

Scan to learn more:



The Cascade Blues Association is hosting this competition to determine who will represent the Pacific Northwest in January 2026 at The Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge (IBC) Youth Blues Showcase in Memphis

cascadeblues.org

Blues Review: Southern Avenue Family

Alligator Records

Allow me to offer you a piece of sage advice: leave now and go get a copy of Southern Avenue's new release, *Family*. And then, on your way home, swing by the hardware store and pick up a fire extinguisher since this album will certainly threaten to set your turntable alight.

I first discovered Grammy-nominated Southern Avenue when they performed at the 2019 Waterfront Blues festival and have eagerly looked forward to each new album this dynamic trio of sisters have produced since then, and *Family*, their fourth release, does not disappoint. These sisters from Memphis, Tierinii, Tikyra, and Ava Jackson,



learned their music chops, like so many formidable soul, R&B, and blues artists, singing in church, and they never stray far from their gospel heritage. Add to this soulful mix Israeli guitarist Ori Naftaly's nifty guitar handiwork, and you have a potent musical concoction infused with the fire and energy that Southern Avenue bring to their live performances.

While there are no flops on the album, several tunes stand out. First, "Found a Friend in You" is a splendid blues stomp with some tasty hill country blues lurking in the background thanks to the presence of The Mississippi Allstars' Luther Dickinson sitting in on bass. Then there's "Flying", where Naftaly's fierce slide guitar counters the three sisters torrid vocals.

But finally, there's my favorite cut from the album—the lovely ballad "So Much Love." The harmonies on the song are simply glorious, and it's not hyperbole to suggest that "So Much Love" is the equal of the finest soul ballads that ever emerged from Philadelphia, Detroit, or Memphis. Want proof? Listen to "So Much Love" and then

Review by Randy Murphy

put on Rufus and Chaka Khan's "Sweet Thing." It's uncanny.

Family is a tremendous record, both seductive and incendiary, and it's the best evidence that Southern Avenue's music continues to grow and mature. Bonus points: it's available on vinyl (yay!), and sounds great—it definitely stands up to repeated listening sessions. But, like I wrote, have your fire extinguisher handy. ■

Total Time: 41:05

Long Is The Road / Upside / Found A Friend In You / So Much Love / Family / Late Night Get Down / Rum Boogie / Gotta Keep The Love / Sisters / Keep On Moving On / Back To What Feels Right / Flying / Believe / We Are

Blues Review: Taylor Newville & The Riders

Find My Way

Taylor Newville has been rocking out since she was six, dabbling in everything from heavy metal to jazz. Now, she's all about the blues with her band, The Riders, features Kevin Kelley on bass, Jerry Jacques on drums, Ty Curtis on rhythm guitar and backing vocals, and Ms. Newville on lead guitar and vocals. Her new EP, "Find My Way," showcases her songwriting with three original tracks that blend steady grooves, emotional depth, and psychedelic blues-rock influences. This young musician has been nominated for Cascade Blues Association's Muddy Awards including Best New Artist, and was a runner-up in the Journey to Memphis competition.

Tracks include "See The Next Day" which describes being



caught up in bad habits and in desperate need of a friend or spiritual help to survive. While the rhythm section delivers a fast, pounding beat, Ms. Newville unleashes a frantic rock guitar solo infused with more than a hint of psychedelic flavor.

"Richest One" by Austin songwriter Bill Carter, is a slow blues song about heartbreak and unrequited love, something that most people can relate to. Her experience, a Midas touch in reverse, is revealed in the lyrics:

If teardrops were diamonds, from the African mines, if heartaches were silver, a whole lot would shine. I'd be the richest one in the world.

"Hurts My Soul" is about being haunted by a bad relationship. Sample lyrics: One thing I know he always thinks he's right, no matter what I do he always wants to pick a fight. He is gonna burn me, I just know—I'm in love with a man who hurts my soul. Just like in those Halloween movies when the woman goes into the haunted house alone, you want to yell at the screen for her to get out and run away as fast as she can, because nothing good can ever come from this relationship.

The title track, "Find My Way", starts with a slow, deliberate groove. She is determined to find her own way in this life, but she is unsure how she's gonna do it. To emphasize her

Review by Debra Penk

dilemma, the music changes pace and becomes faster and more daring. While the rhythm section is steady and pounding, Ms. Newville's adventurous guitar proceeds like a runaway train that's barreling down the tracks, barely negotiating every hairpin curve. What a ride!

This EP is an ambitious offering from one of the talented young guitarists of the Pacific Northwest. Although her voice on guitar is uniquely her own, Ms. Newville has a style that is sometimes reminiscent of a young Jorma Kaukonen. This band puts the pow in power trio, and if these four songs are any indication of what a full album could be, there just might be enough juice to light up the entire town. ■

Check out Taylor Newville's music on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and Pandora. See her schedule at: TaylorGuitarGirl.com.



Events from Sep 1st



Mon Sep 1st 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Tevis Hodge Jr with Bayou Boyz Band at Mekong Bistro

Special Guest: Dan Berkery



Mon Sep 1st 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Blues Jam w/Chad Rupp at McMenamins White Eagle Saloon

\$5 cover



Mon Sep 1st 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Dave's Lowdown Student Blues Jam at Artichoke Music



Mon Sep 1st 8:00pm - 10:00pm

Lloyd Jones at Muddy Rudder Public House



Tue Sep 2nd 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Sarah Loda

Travis...
...has,
...Saylor



Wed Sep 3rd

...Bad

...Jam at Dublin

Pub

Doors Open 6pm Music at 6:30pm Free for Members/\$5 non-members



Wed Sep 3rd

...Bad

...Jam at Dublin

Pub



Wed Sep 3rd 7:30pm - 10:00pm

Grace London Productions at Trails End Saloon



Thu Sep 4th 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Thurs Jam hosted by Dan Hess & Friends at Beach Hut Deli



Thu Sep 4th 8:00pm - 11:00pm

Ed Neumann & Friends at Cl Bar & Grill

\$8 cover



Thu Sep 4th 8:00pm - 11:00pm

The Fenix Rising Band at The Blue Diamond Bar & Grill



Thu Sep 4th 8:00pm - 11:00pm

Thursday Night 1 4 5 Blues Jam w/Chad Rupp at The Lair Bar & Grill



Fri Sep 5th 7:00pm - 9:00pm

First Fridays with Lloyd Jones at Artichoke Music

Tickets \$18 Special Guest Dave Fleischer



Fri Sep 5th 9:00pm

Ms Vee and a Bad Ass Band at Club...



Sat Sep 6th 8:00pm - 10:00pm

...pm PDT



**** FREE FOR MEMBERS ****

Suggested Donation of \$10 for non-member adults, under 14 free

...at Clackamas Park



Sun Sep 7th 2:00pm - 5:00pm

First Sunday Gospel with Rae Gordon and Special Guests

1st Sunday Gospel every first Sunday of the month. Start



Sun Sep 7th 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Sunday Night Blues Jam w/Kevin Selfe at Blue Diamond Bar &



Sun Sep 7th 6:00pm - 9:00pm

First Sundays - Myrtle Brown's Executive Groove at Canary

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR!
CASCADEBLUES.ORG/CALENDAR/

Treat Yourself to a Local Gig

CBA Blues Calendar

Weekly Shows

Mondays

- Lloyd Jones at Muddy Rudder, Portland
- Tevis Hodge Jr with Bayou Boyz Band at Mekong Bistro, Portland
- Dave's Lowdown Student Blues Jam at Artichoke Music, Portland

Tuesdays

- Ed Neumann & Friends at Conways, Clackamas

Wednesdays

- Grace London at Trails End Saloon, Oregon City

Thursdays

- Ed Newman & Friends at CI Bar, Tualatin
- Fenix Rising Band at Blue Diamond, Portland

Sundays

- Bayou Boyz at Spirits Pub, Portland

September

- 2 - Sarah Lodge Band at Trails End Saloon, Oregon City
- 3 - CBA Monthly Showcase & Meeting at Mekong Bistro,

Portland

- 5 - Kenny Lavitz Kombo at McMenamin's Grand Lodge, Forest Grove
- 5 - First Fridays with Lloyd Jones at Artichoke Music, PDX
- 5 - Ms Vee and a Bad As Band at Clyde's Prime Rib, Portland
- 6 - Kenny Lavitz with Greg Somers at McMenamin's Edgefield, Troutdale
- 6 - Beacon Street Titans at Arriverderci Wine Bar, Milwaukie
- 6 - Duffy Bishop at Jack London Revue, Portland
- 7 - CBA Member Appreciation Picnic at North Clackamas Park, Milwaukie
- 7 - 1st Sunday Gospel with Rae Gordon and Jenny Moriarty
- 7 - First Sundays with Myrtle Brown's Executive Groove at Canary, Portland
- 7 - First Sundays with Suburban Slim Band at Slims, Portland
- 12 - Kenny Lavitz Kombo at Ruzzo's Retreat, Damascus
- 13 - Beach, Bike & Blues Festival, Waldport
- 13 - Norman Sylvester

CASCAD BLUES ASSOCIATION

DOVER WEINBERG QUARTET
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
FOLLOWED BY OPEN JAM

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Live Music
Food & Potluck
Drinks
Family Friendly
Playground

FREE for Members

SEPTEMBER 7
11am-3pm

\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION NON-MEMBERS • 14 UNDER FREE

North Clackamas Parks • Shelter A
5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr • Milwaukie
Across from Milwaukie Community Center

- Band at Clyde's Prime Rib, Portland
- 14 - Kenny Lavitz at Tigardville Station, Tigard
- 19 - Tommy Castro & the Pain Killers at Jack London Revue, Portland
- 20 - Nikki Jones Band at Tallman Brewing, Lebanon
- 20 - Kenny Lavitz duo with Greg Somers at Hops on Tap, Tigard
- 21 - CBA Journey to Memphis Youth Showcast at Hoku Events, Portland
- 24 - Soul Cookin' at the Blue Diamond, Portland
- 27 - PDX Preachers at West Linn Cider and Ale House, West Linn
- 28 - Journey to Memphis Fundraiser at the Yard Food Park, Salem

October

- 1 - Blues in the Gorge Acoustic Blues Guitar Camp for Adults at Menucha, Corbett
- 1 - CBA Monthly Showcase and Meeting at Mekong Bistro, Portland
- 3 - PDX Preachers at East Creative Studio First Fridays, Portland
- 3 - Ms Vee and a Bad

- Ass Band at Clyde's Prime Rib, Portland
- 4 - Blues in the Gorge Concert at Menucha, Corbett
- 5 - 1st Sunday Gospel with Rae Gordon and Guest at Trails End Saloon, Oregon City
- 5 - First Sundays Myrtle Brown's Executive Groove at Canary, Portland
- 5 - First Sundays with suburban Slim Band at Slims, Portland
- 6 - Dave's Lowdown Student Blues Jam at Artichoke Music, Portland
- 11 - Andy Stokes + Lilla at Headliners Club, Lake Oswego

- 19 - Journey to Memphis Fundraiser at Mekong Bistro, PDX
- 23 - The Four Kings featuring Louis Pain, Sean Holmes at Jack London, Portland
- 29 - Soul Cookin' at the Blue Diamond, Portland
- 31 - Gatsby Halloween at the Blue Diamond, Portland

This may not be a complete list of blues shows and jams in the area. Please refer directly to music venues and acts for more information or CascadeBlues.org/calendar

To get your show included in the next printing of BluesNotes, email your information to us at BluesNotes@cascadeblues.org



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Looking for Personal tutor
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Please respond with # of years you've used it
and how much teaching experience you have



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Blues Jams

Mondays

- Dave's Lowdown Youth Blues Jam w/Backbeat Music Academy and Clackamas Community College Rhythm Section (1st Mondays) at Artichoke Music
- Chad Rupp Jam at McMenamins White Eagle, Portland
- Kathryn Grimm Jam at Mekong Bistro, Portland quarterly

Tuesdays

- Vic Sorisio at Billy Blues, Vancouver, WA
- Sarah Lodge Band at Trails End Saloon

Wednesdays

- Toby Worthington & The Fabulous Bad Cats Jam at Dublin Pub, Beaverton

Thursdays

- Josh Makosky for the Jam at Lair Bar
- Dan Hess & Friends at Beach Hut Deli, Tigard

Sundays

- Kevin Selfe Jam at Blue Diamond, PDX
- HiTS (Jason Thomas, Marty Henninger, Jim Solberg) at Trails End Saloon, Oregon City
- Scott Steele Jam at Montavilla Station, PDX
- Jerry Jacques Jam at 99 Saloon, Vancouver
- Eric Savage, Bobby Ferrante, Eric Rabe, Ben Jones at M&M Lounge
- Kathryn Grimm Jam at Mekong Bistro, PDX

It was a true gift to witness this level of talent

Right Here, Right Now

On July 27th, I had the honor of serving as a judge for the Washington Blues Society's International Blues Challenge (IBC) finals. It was held at the Aurora Borealis in Seattle—a vibrant, multi-purpose venue with great sound, lighting, and energy. I was joined at the judges' table by Portland's own Chad Rupp and Seattle's Chester Dennis Jones, both respected musicians in their own right.

The day showcased the incredible depth of blues talent in the Pacific Northwest. Nine acts brought their tightest



20-minute sets, each pouring heart and grit into the music. It was a joy to discover artists I hadn't encountered before—and a reminder of how deep the blues runs in our region.

Performers included Moonlight and Wildfire, Ryan T Higgins Band, Richard McNamee and

John Henry Kuhlmann, James Howard Band, Sutton and Pitman, Leah T and her MFJB, Cayuse Pass, and the Joel Astley Band. Sadly, the Sheri Roberts Greimes Band had to withdraw due to illness.

After a day of outstanding performances, The Joel Astley Band and Sutton

and Pitman were selected to represent the Washington Blues Society in Memphis this January. They'll be sharing the stage with our own CBA representatives—Nikki Jones Band and Lilla—at the 2026 International Blues Challenge.

I'm already working to bring both the winners and some of the standout competitors to a future CBA Monthly Showcase (held on the 1st Wednesday of every month except December). It was a true gift to witness this level of talent and passion, and I'm excited to share more of it with our community soon. ■

Timmer
(CBA President)



Saturday October 11, 2025 ~ 8-11 pm

Ellen celebrates her musical collaborations with Garry and Sonny. Marking a 30-year milestone for these partnerships! Come experience the fun, love and great music of these three notable musicians on the northwest music scene!

PS: It's Ellen's birthday too! Join us!



Blue Diamond
BAR & GRILL

Chill neighborhood bar with American food features nightly live blues & jazz shows with dancing.

2016 NE Sandy Blvd PDX ~ 503 230-9590

- **Chad Rupp** - Facebook.com/chad.rupp2
- **Chester Dennis Jones** - ChesterDennisJones-Band.com
- **Nikki Jones Band** - NikkiJonesBand.com
- **Lilla** - LillaMusic.com
- **Aurora Borealis** - BorealisOnAurora.com
- **Joel Astley Band** - JoelAstley.com
- **Sutton and Pittman** - wablues.org

Duffy Bishop Returns to Portland to Celebrate 50 Years

By Rae Gordon

Duffy Bishop is a part of NW blues history, has been called a force of nature and it only takes one experience to understand why. A blues belter in every sense of the word, she makes her presence known from her strong voice to the way she deeply connects with an audience. It is obvious why she garnered multiple awards when living in the northwest and was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame. Making her home now in Florida, she still holds Portland and her fans close to her heart.



Which is why she will return to the Northwest to celebrate 50 years of making music. Three albums have been and will be digitally released including her 2003 live album *Ooh Wee*, Duffy Bishop and the Rhythm Dogs, 1985 album *Dogs Run Cheap* and 1987's *On a Journey*.

Duffy started performing when she was barely able to drive a car. In her long and varied career, she has shared the stage with the likes of Ruth Brown, John Lee Hooker, Etta James, Gatemouth Brown, Lou Rawls, Bonnie Raitt, Shemekia Copeland, Bo Diddley and Bobby Blue Bland, and even toured

with Big Brother and Holding Company.

It's been a family affair for a long time with her husband Chris Carlson who also acts as guitarist and collaborator. They've played their music to audiences all over the world and even shared the stage together for Teateo ZinZanni, with Duffy in the lead role. ■

Soul'd Out Presents DUFFY BISHOP

- Saturday September 6, 8pm (Doors: 7pm)
- Jack London Revue (529 SW 4th Ave. Portland, OR)
- Ages 21 and up





MONTHLY SHOWCASES



Juliet Sings



Joel Astley Band



Jesse Lee Falls Band



Billy Stoops & Leanne Trevalyan

September 3rd

October 1st

CASCADEBLUES.ORG • RAFFLES • DRAWINGS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEKONG, 8200 NE SISKIYOU, PORTLAND | FREE | \$5 NON-MEMBERS | 1ST WED | 6:30PM

Membership Appreciation Month

By Evelyn Silverman

Live. Love.
Blues.

We're throwing a month-long party for our members—and you can be on the guest list.

September is Membership Appreciation Month at the Cascade Blues Association

If you love live music, community vibes, and a good reason to get out of the house—keep reading.

The Cascade Blues Association (CBA) is a volunteer-run nonprofit that's been keeping the blues alive in the Pacific Northwest for over 30 years. We promote local musicians, support live music venues, and create community around one of America's greatest musical traditions. You don't have to play an instrument or know a single Muddy Waters lyric to join—just show up, love the music, and be part of something real.

And this September, we're celebrating our members! Membership Appreciation Month—a full month of music and people-powered fun.



What's Going On?

Sept 3th— Monthly Showcase Kickoff

Held the first Wednesday of each month, our showcases feature two local acts and a whole lot of soul. It's free for members and a great way to see what we're about. New and returning members can sign up on the spot and start reaping the benefits (\$5 for non-members).

Sept 7th – Summer Picnic + Mini-Membership Challenge

This all-ages, all-welcome outdoor picnic brings together musicians, fans, families, and curious newcomers. Bring a friend, and if they join as a new member (or rejoin after being inactive since 2023), you both get a thank-you gift!

What fun would the month be without a little friendly competition?

The member who signs up the most new members in September will win a deluxe gift basket loaded with goodies. Returning members, those whose memberships lapsed in 2023 or before count, too!

What members are saying:

- “If we don't support live music, we won't have any.” – S.W.
- “Preserving and supporting live music is good for your soul.” – D.P.
- “The people make the CBA so supportive, friendly and influential.” – N.J.
- “I love the support for our incredible music community.” – L.B.

Membership Perks Include:

- Free entry to monthly showcases
- Discounts at music events and venues
- First dibs on exciting volunteer opportunities and special events
- A front-row seat to the Pacific Northwest's vibrant blues scene
- And so much more!

Annual membership is just \$25.

Whether you're a musician, a fan, or someone who just loves good music in good company—you belong here.

Join us. Bring a friend. Fuel the future of live blues.

We'll be waiting with music, smiles, and maybe even a basket of treats with your name on it.



Email us: membership@cascadeblues.org or visit our website: [cascadeblues.org/membership/](https://www.cascadeblues.org/membership/)

Sept 10th Wednesday
Celebrating **7pm**

Sonny's Birthday

& 19 yrs **CANCER FREE**



many more
musicians



Get your PINK on and join us!

Rae Gordon - Sonny Hess

Mayibe Rojas - Lisa Mann

GREAT GATSBY HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY OCT 31

Blue Diamond

Kelly Pierce

A collage-style poster for a "Great Gatsby Halloween Costume Party" on October 31. The background is a dark, moody scene with bare trees and a full moon. In the center, a wooden sign reads "GREAT GATSBY HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY OCT 31". Above the sign is a small illustration of a couple in 1920s attire. The poster features several photographs of musicians: Rae Gordon singing into a microphone, Sonny Hess playing guitar, Mayibe Rojas playing guitar, Lisa Mann playing guitar, and Kelly Pierce playing drums. A glowing jack-o'-lantern is in the bottom right corner. The "Blue Diamond" logo is at the bottom center.

Cascade Blues Association **All-Star Members!** ★

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4 STAR MEMBERS (\$1000)

Terry Currier (Music Millennium, 503-231-8926)

3 STAR MEMBERS (\$500)

Mercedez Cruz, Mike Todd (A+ Carpentry, 503-754-2857),
Bob & Lorinda Pope

2 STAR MEMBERS (\$250)

Mike Day, Mike Pollock & Linda Alvarez

1 STAR MEMBERS (\$150)

Michael Allen & Anne J. Schagen, Robert Kraft & Sandra Johnson,
Rob & Carol Shoemaker, Bruce Powell, Jane Roberts, Randy Murphy

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- **Online:** cascadeblues.org
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