



Hello blues lovers,

President Richard MacLaury here wishing you all a fabulous holiday season! I had a great time visiting fans and family of bluesman Craig Horton at Craig's 80th birthday party and concert on Saturday, November 30th. **TGGBS awarded Craig the "Living Legend Award"** at the party at the Mannheim Social Club in Brentwood. The house was packed with Craig's adoring fans, and I am including some cool pics from this event. I drove for over an hour and a half in the rain, got lost in Brentwood, then finally found The Mannheim Social Club. I was greeted at the door by Craig's daughter, Su Mac. Craig Horton is so deserving of this award. He has been performing blues for 65 years! I was thrilled to honor his work. Henry Oden gave a lengthy, heartfelt speech regarding Craig, and we even had a birthday cake.

I also want to congratulate The Bay Area's premiere blues **DJ, Kathleen Lawton, for winning the coveted Keeping The Blues Alive Award for 2020**. TGGBS nominated Kathleen and submitted a formal proposal to The Blues Foundation in Memphis Tennessee, and we are thrilled to learn that she won. The award will be given in late January at the International Blues Challenge event in Memphis.

We lost two veterans that were a part of the Bay Area blues family: **Wee Willie Walker** and **Lisa Kindred**. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these two great individuals who contributed so much to blues and soul. We have included articles and pictures about Lisa and Wee Willie.

Yours Bluely,  
Richard MacLaury, President of TGGBS

**HERE ARE OUR NEWSLETTER TOPICS:**

- **EXCITING BAY AREA BLUES SHOWS COMING** – TICKET GIVEAWAYS IN EXCHANGE FOR TGGBS MEMBERSHIP
- **KATHLEEN LAWTON WINS THE KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AWARD**
- **CRAIG HORTON RECEIVES TGGBS "LIVING LEGEND AWARD"**
- **JOE LOUIS WALKER ARTICLE BY ROBERT FEUER**
- **NORTON BUFFALO 10-YEAR MEMORIAL CELEBRATION**
- **HISTORIC ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL 1969 | DELUXE EDITION**
- **WEE WILLIE WALKER REMEMBERED**
- **LISA KINDRED REMEMBERED** | MEMORIAL CELEBRATION AT THE SALOON DECEMBER 22, 2019 @ 3 PM
- **HELP SAVE BISCUITS AND BLUES** | NEW COURT DATE ON DECEMBER 20, 2019
- **CALL FOR MEMBERSHIPS | DONATIONS | VOLUNTEERS**

**EXCITING BAY AREA BLUES SHOWS****Friday March 6, 2020 | 7 PM | BUDDY GUY & JIMMIE VAUGHAN**

Paramount Theater | 2025 Broadway, Oakland

We are offered **10 ticket giveaways** to [Buddy Guy & Jimmie Vaughan](#) show in exchange for a **TGGBS Membership Purchase**. And we welcome our **10 new members!**

**Tuesday, Jan 14, 2020 | 7:30 PM | ERIC JOHNSON**

Miner Auditorium 201 Franklin St | San Francisco

We are offered **4 ticket giveaways** to see [Eric Johnson](#) on 1/4 @ 7:30 PM, **also in exchange for a TGGBS membership**

We often offer discounts and ticket giveaways! This is one of the benefits of joining TGGBS!

**Always contact us first [HERE](#) (before you buy a membership) to make sure we still have tickets available!**

Once we verify we have tickets left, and your membership purchase is complete, you will receive a ticket in the mail. If you have a friend that also want to join, we can make sure your seats are together.

Learn more about Buddy Guy [HERE](#)

Learn more about Jimmie Vaughan [HERE](#)

### **TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS WITH CHRIS CAIN/ TWO SHOWS IN THE BAY AREA!**



**Friday, Dec 27, 2019 | 8:30 PM**

Mystic Theatre | 23 Petaluma Blvd N | Petaluma

Click [HERE](#) for tickets!

**Saturday, Dec 28, 2019 | 8:30 PM**

Cornerstone Craft Beer & Live Music | 2367 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

Click [HERE](#) for tickets

Learn more about Tommy Castro [HERE](#)

Learn more about Chris Cain [HERE](#)

## **KATHLEEN LAWTON WINS 2020 KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AWARD**



Kathleen Lawton has hosted the radio show “Crazy ‘Bout the Blues” on San Mateo-based KCSM-FM since 1988—that is 31 years. It can be heard live on terrestrial radio at 91.1 FM, and streaming via the Internet, every Friday from 9 p.m. until midnight Pacific time. The program has also aired on Radio Free America ([www.radiofreeamerica.com](http://www.radiofreeamerica.com)) for the past several years. As a result, Lawton’s listenership extends beyond the Bay Area to blues fans worldwide, from Montevideo to Mumbai and Miami. Lawton received the Blues DJ of the Year Award in 2004 from the Bay Area Blues Society. While jazz is KCSM’s core music, Lawton’s mission has been to show listeners how the roots of jazz, and so much modern music, lie in the blues, from Son House and Hop Wilson right up to the Cash Box Kings and Howell Devine. Above all, she aims to entertain and delight all during her three-hour Friday-night show with the passion, wit, wildness, and diversity of the blues — plus gospel, zydeco, and soul music —and make her listeners become “crazy ‘bout the blues.”

Did you know that Bay Area folks have won many awards from the Blues Foundation for The Keeping the Blues Alive Award? **Myron Mu**, the owner of the venerated bar, The Saloon, in San Francisco won in 2014. **Noel Hayes** won in 2016, **Kid Andersen** won for engineering and music production at Greaseland Studios in 2017, in 2018 **Jay Meduri’s Poor House Bistro** won, and now **Kathleen Lawton** has won in 2020 for her work as a DJ. **Congratulations to all the KBA winners!**

2020 Keeping the Blues Alive Award Recipients



Peter Astrup  
(Denmark)



Dr. Rob Bowman  
(Canada)



Dr. Janice Johnston  
(Arizona)



Kathleen Lawton  
(California)



Cali Blues & Folk Festival  
(Colombia)



Hal & Mal's  
(Mississippi)



Jimiway Blues Festival  
(Poland)



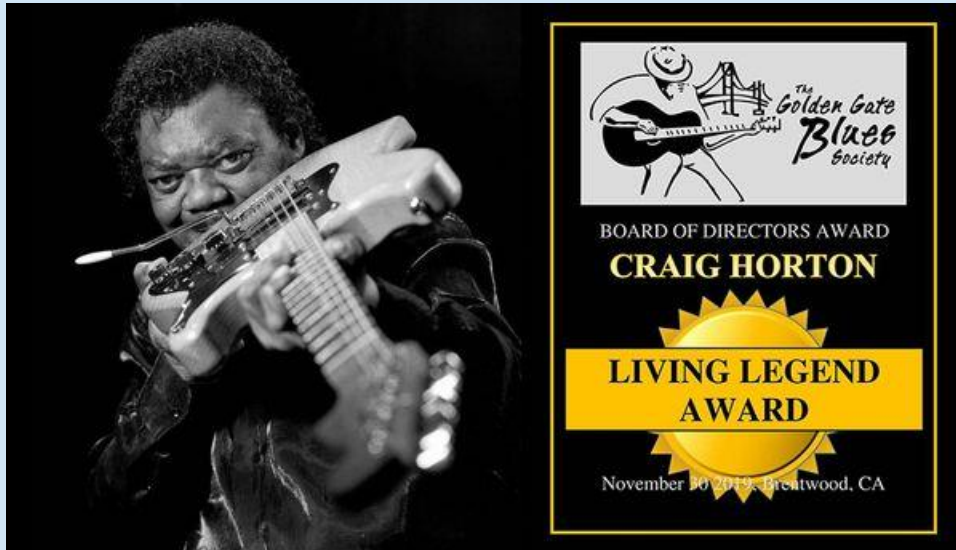
Jus' Blues Music Foundation  
(Georgia)



Kentuckiana Blues Society  
(Kentucky)

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about The Keeping The Blues Alive Award

**CRAIG HORTON RECEIVES TGGBS "LIVING LEGEND AWARD"**



Craig Horton helped to create the Blues genre in a career that spans five decades. He builds his music on a diverse foundation of sounds, having played jazz, R&B and rock 'n roll, in addition to the blues, during his early years as a musician. Over the years, Craig has earned respect from just as diverse an array of musicians and critics. Joe Louis Walker has called Horton "A Great

Musician, Great Singer, Great Band Leader." Tom Mazzolini, producer of the San Francisco Blues Fest, reported after last year's event that, "Craig Horton gave one of the memorable sets that had people talking. It was impressive and it was deep mountain high! The real thing!" A gifted songwriter, singer and guitarist, Craig prides himself on playing on the edge and taking chances, playing music that comes from his soul.

His hit CD "In My Spirit" from 2001 put Craig Horton on the blues map and it was followed by "Touch of the Bluesman" on Bad Daddy Records in 2004. Before his debut solo CD, Craig performed with such blues greats as **Chuck Berry, Sam Cooke, Dinah Washington, Otis Rush, Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy, Freddie King, Sam Myers** and **The Mississippi Delta Blues Band**. Some of his first gigs on the road were playing with such legends as **Highway QC's, Goose Tatum** and **The Harlem Road Kings**, and **The Ink Spots**. In the late 50's, Craig played guitar in the legendary **Little Walter's Band** and was a touring member of **The Dells**. He was also a big part of the Chicago music scene, opening the Golden Dolphin with Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Craig's musical inspiration came from his family while growing up in Conway, Arkansas. His grandmother played guitar in church and introduced him to the instrument when he was a child. When he turned 14, his grandfather gave him his first guitar. He was later inspired by such icons as Johnny Ace, Ray Charles, Willie Dixon, T-

Bone Walker, Pee Wee Crayton and B.B. King. His accomplishments are critically acclaimed. He received the "**Patience Is A Virtue Award**" from Real Blues Magazine in 2001, and in 2004 his album "**In My Spirit**" earned him "**Best Debut Album of 2001**" from Living Blues Magazine. In February 2004, The Bay Area Blues Society named Craig Horton "**Blues Guitar Player of the Year**" and named Craig Horton and his band as "**Blues Band of the Year**." And now TGGBS has honored him with their newly created "**Living Legend Award**." Congratulations Craig Horton for 65 years of blues performance!



Read more about Craig Horton [HERE!](#)

## **JOE LOUIS WALKER ARTICLE**

BY ROBERT FEUER AND PUBLISHED IN THE SONOMA COUNTY GAZETTE MAR 27, 2019



### **BOSS TALKER**

If telling you Joe Louis Walker is a **member of the Blues Hall of Fame**, a **two-time Grammy winner**, and a four-time Blues Music Award winner, isn't enough to get you out to see him headline the Apple Blossom Festival, I may as well stop typing.

Born in San Francisco, a 1949 Christmas Day present for a family originally from Cleveland, Mississippi, Walker learned the blues from his father's 45s and 78s. "Blues was a natural to me," Walker says during our early March phone interview.

He describes the blues scene during his teenage years as “very healthy,” allowing him to perform with classic East Bay artists such as **Lowell Fulson** and **Jimmy McCracklin**. At age 13, he played the Fillmore, located a half-block from his junior high school. At the time, that venue functioned as an African American “community playhouse,” Walker says. “It was like the Apollo Theater for us.”

When the hippies arrived, with Bill Graham and Chet Helms, “everything started being thrown together in one big pot.” Walker took up psychedelic rock. “I put it together into my own style.” The Matrix, a nearby club, created for and by musicians, opened, with Jefferson Airplane the house band. The Grateful Dead’s Ron McKernan (aka Pigpen) invited Walker to play there. Walker performed with **Mike Bloomfield** (“a good friend”) and roomed with him for a long time. Buddy Miles introduced Walker to Jimi Hendrix. Walker’s repertoire includes gospel, funk, jazz, soul, and rock. “I speak several languages, but blues is my mother tongue. Though I liked chicken, not seven days a week,” he says.



From 1975-85, he played gospel exclusively, with the **Spiritual Corinthians**, switching back to blues at a performance with them at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. The Boss Talkers became his band in the '90s. Walker has played with a who's who of accomplished blues and jazz heroes. He highlights his times with **James Cotton**, and **B.B. King**, who he collaborated with through three decades. “B.B. was special to me.” He’s extremely prolific in the studio, with a new release every year or two. “I’m sort of like a man catching a plane,” he says. A new live album is coming soon, and he’s also working on a double album, “Feed the Poor,” in his name, but including 17-18 other artists. It’s an attempt to help the less fortunate. “I like to think of myself as an ambassador for the blues and the culture. It comes out of a culture of oppression.”

Walker’s career peaked with his **2013 Blues Hall of Fame induction**. “I didn’t feel like I deserved to be there with all these greats,” he says. He has another two nominations, for an acoustic album, in the 2019 Blues Music Awards. “I’ve been in the trenches. I’d like to be known for the credibility of a lifetime of being true to my music and the blues.”

Read more about Joe Louis Walker [HERE](#)



# THE 10-YEAR MEMORIAL CELEBRATION FOR NORTON BUFFALO



The 10-Year Memorial Celebration for Norton Buffalo (who died Nov 9, 2009 at only the age of 58) was held at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Auditorium on November 17, 2019.

A fantastic celebration took place in the name of the late Norton Buffalo to celebrate his life and to support the American Lung Cancer Foundation. Performers included **Carlos Reyes, Roy Rogers, Kenny Lee Lewis, Johnny Vernazza, Gary Silva Junior Boogie, Tommy Thomsen, Kirk Harwood, Wendy Dewitt, David Aruilar, Codi Binkley & Friends, Aki Kumar, Sean Parnell, Bill Noteman, Andy Just, Tudo Bem, T Luke**, and more. The event was organized by Eli Buffalo.

\$10,000 was raised for the Lung Cancer Foundation of America. This money will be used to help fund ongoing research for cancer treatments and possibly someday they will find a cure!

**NORTON BUFFALO**  
10 YEAR MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY

- CARLOS REYES
- ROY ROGERS
- JOHNNY VERNAZZA
- GARY SILVA
- KENNY LEE LEWIS
- JUNIOR BOOGIE
- TOMMY THOMSEN
- KIRK HARWOOD
- WENDY DEWITT
- DAVID AQUILAR
- CODI BINKLEY & FRIENDS
- AKI KUMAR
- SEAN PARNELL
- BILL NOTEMAN
- ANDY JUST
- TUDO BEM
- T LUKE

-AND MANY MORE FRIENDS OF THE BUFFALO-

A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT THE HIL MUSIC FOUNDATION & THE LUNG CANCER FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17 2019 2:00PM - 8:00PM**

**SONOMA VALLEY VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**

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## **ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL 1969: DELUXE EDITION DETAILS**



*"The Ann Arbor Blues Festival was really like our blues Woodstock. It brought together such an astonishing array of legendary artists, and for me, will always remain one of the greatest and most historic festivals ever."*

**–Bonnie Raitt (musician and festival attendee)**

On August 2, 2019, Third Man Records released a first ever deluxe edition of the **"ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL from 1969,"** a 50th anniversary collection of 24 previously unheard songs by blues legends **Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, James Cotton, Son House, Magic Sam, T-Bone Walker, Junior Wells, Big Mama Thornton, Clifton Chenier, Son House, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Lightnin' Hopkins, Pinetop Perkins, J. B. Hutto & His Hawks, Roosevelt Sykes, Luther Allison, Otis Rush, Big Joe Williams,** and **Charlie Musselwhite.**

This historic recording is available in two individual 2x LP volumes, exclusively on 180-gram vinyl, housed in gatefold packaging, and featuring fan snapshots, with a CD. And it is sold alone as a double CD.

It would make a great holiday gift and more importantly by purchasing the albums you are helping to keep the blues alive. All proceeds go to the estates of the performers.

**ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL**  
**• FOUR MAJOR CONCERTS •**  
**AUGUST 1st THOUGH 3rd**  
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**FRIDAY NITE \* SATURDAY NITE \* SUNDAY NITE \* SUNDAY NITE**

Jimmy "Fast Fingers" Dawkins	Luther Allison	Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup	James Cotton
B. B. King	Clifton Chenier	John Lee Hooker	Lightin' Hopkins
Fred McDowell	Sleepy John Estes	"St. Louis" Jimmy Oden	Son House
"St. Louis" Jimmy Oden	Roosevelt Sykes	Big Mama Thornton	Charley Musselwhite & Freddie Roulette
Junior Wells	Muddy Waters		Magic Sam
	Howlin' Wolf		T-Bone Walker

*and other name acts...*

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**ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48104**

• ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### Ann Arbor Blues Festival 1969 Double Compact Disc

Click [HERE](#) to purchase!

#### Tracklist for Compact Disc

#### ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL 1969 - VOL. 1

- 1 Dirty Mother for You – Roosevelt Sykes
- 2 So Glad You're Mine – Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup
- 3 Too Much Alcohol – J.B. Hutto & His Hawks
- 4 I Wonder Why – Jimmy "Fast Fingers" Dawkins
- 5 Help Me (A Tribute to Sonny Boy Williamson) – Junior Wells
- 6 I've Got a Mind to Give Up Living – B.B. King with Sonny Freeman and the Unusuals

- 7 John Henry – Mississippi Fred McDowell
- 8 Everybody Must Suffer/Stone Crazy – Luther Allison and the Blue Nebulae
- 9 Tu m'as promis l'amour (You Promised Me Love) – Clifton Chenier
- 10 Hard Luck – The Original Howlin' Wolf and His Orchestra
- 11 So Many Roads, So Many Trains – Otis Rush

## **ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL 1969 - VOL. 2**

- 1 Long Distance Call – Muddy Waters
- 2 Movin' and Groovin' – Charlie Musselwhite
- 3 I Feel So Good (I Wanna Boogie) – Magic Sam
- 4 Jelly Jelly Blues – Shirley Griffith
- 5 Call It Stormy Monday (But Tuesday Is Just as Bad) – T-Bone Walker
- 6 Ball and Chain – Big Mama Thornton and the Hound Doggers
- 7 Juanita – Big Joe Williams
- 8 Key to the Highway – Sam Lay
- 9 Mojo Hand – Lightnin' Hopkins
- 11 Off the Wall – James Cotton Blues Band
- 12 Death Letter Blues – Son House



## **Ann Arbor Blues Festival 1969 12" Vinyl Volume I**

Click [HERE](#) to Purchase!

### **Tracklist for Vinyl Volume I**

- 1 Dirty Mother for You – Roosevelt Sykes
- 2 So Glad You're Mine – Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup
- 3 Too Much Alcohol – J.B. Hutto & His Hawks
- 4 I Wonder Why – Jimmy "Fast Fingers" Dawkins

- 5 Help Me (A Tribute to Sonny Boy Williamson) – Junior Wells
- 6 I've Got a Mind to Give Up Living – B.B. King with Sonny Freeman and the Unusuals
- 7 John Henry – Mississippi Fred McDowell
- 8 Pinetop's Boogie Woogie – Pinetop Perkins
- 9 Introduction – Big Bill Hill
- 10 Everybody Must Suffer/Stone Crazy – Luther Allison and the Blue Nebulae
- 11 Tu m'as promis l'amour (You Promised Me Love) – Clifton Chenier
- 12 Hard Luck – The Original Howlin' Wolf and His Orchestra
- 13 So Many Roads, So Many Trains – Otis Rush

### **Ann Arbor Blues Festival 1969 12" Vinyl Volume II**

Click [HERE](#) to Purchase

#### **Tracklist for Vinyl Volume II**

- 1 Long Distance Call – Muddy Waters
- 2 Movin' and Groovin' – Charlie Musselwhite
- 3 I Feel So Good (I Wanna Boogie) – Magic Sam
- 4 Jelly Jelly Blues – Shirley Griffith
- 5 Mojo Boogie – Big Mojo Elem
- 6 Call It Stormy Monday (But Tuesday Is Just as Bad) – T-Bone Walker
- 7 Announcements – Big Bill Hill
- 8 Ball and Chain – Big Mama Thornton and the Hound Doggers
- 9 Juanita – Big Joe Williams
- 10 Key to the Highway – Sam Lay
- 11 Mojo Hand – Lightnin' Hopkins
- 12 Off the Wall – James Cotton Blues Band
- 13 Death Letter Blues – Son House

Learn more here: <https://thirdmanrecords.com/news/ann-arbor-blues-festival-1969-deluxe-edition-details>



## **WEE WILLIE WALKER REMEMBERED**

12/23/1941 – 1/19/2019

Article from American Blues Scene by [JD Nash](#), published on November 20, 2019



In 2018, Wee Willie Walker and The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra were nominated for **Album of the Year** ("After a While"), **Song of the Year** ("Hate Take a Holiday"), and **Soul Blues Album** ("After a While"), with Walker himself nominated as **Soul Blues Male Artist** and **Instrumentalist Vocal at the 39th Blues Music Awards**. There were no wins, but five nominations meant that Wee Willie Walker had finally been recognized in the blues world. In 2018, Walker was also named **Most Outstanding Males Blues Singer** at the 25th annual Living Blues Awards, which is a critic's poll.

Walker had returned late Monday night from a recording session in Oakland, California and had plans to travel to Chile on Thursday to headline a festival there, according to Minneapolis musician Paul Metsa, who had performed with Willie for nearly the last decade in and around the Twin Cities where Willie hailed.

Born December 23rd, 1941 in Mississippi, Walker was reared in Memphis, where he soaked up the local gospel and soul vibes of the Bluff City. He moved to Minneapolis in 1959 singing with various gospel groups. He switched to singing soul and R&B, several times returning to Memphis to record. In 1968 Walker recorded nine sides for Goldwax Records. Four of these were leased to Checker Records a subsidiary of Chess. Two of his singles were "You Name It, I've Had It", and "From Warm to Cool, to Cold". Although recognized as gems of the soul music genre these singles were known only to a few.

After mistaking a call from influential Shreveport DJ John R as a prank call (losing his shot at John introducing Walker's single "Lucky Loser"), Walker gigged on weekends, and worked as a machinist, then health care worker full-time to provide for his family. "That would have been my break," Walker had said. "John R was a starmaker."

Around 2005 he retired from his health care job and connected with the blues band, The Butanes. They recorded three albums together. Five years or so ago, harmonica ace Rick Estrin caught Walker playing a gig with Metsa in Minneapolis. Estrin realized that Walker's voice was still as strong as ever and that he was one of those great soul singers that just did not make it. His idea was to record a new album for Walker at Kid Anderson's Greaseland studios. He also took Walker along on the Blues Cruise where Willie was reintroduced to the world.

The rest is history!

Wee Willie Walker will always live through his music.



Photo above was taken at Greaseland Studios in San Jose, CA © Bill Henderson



Photo of Wee Willie Walker's last performance with Anthony Paule at The Empress Theater in Vallejo, CA

## QUOTES ABOUT WEE WILLIE WALKER FROM THE BAY AREA BLUES COMMUNITY

*"It is with deep sadness and a broken heart, I share the devastating news of the passing of the greatest singer in the world, a great friend, "a giant at 5'2"*  
**–Christine Vitale (owner of Blue Dot Records)**

*"My heart physically hurts. Always pleasant, always loving, always a delight to share the stage with. Never again will I hear,  
 Willie: Hey... Have I told you today that I love you? Me: No  
 Willie: Well I do and don't you forget it. Me: I love you too Willie.  
 You see from what I know, Wee Willie Walker loved everyone and I am so happy to have been one of many. It gave me so much pleasure to see Willie receive long-overdue accolades. As he told me, he earned it and I couldn't agree more Willie Walker."*  
**–Terri Odabi**

*"I'm stunned and heartbroken – Willie Walker was the world's greatest soul singer – period. He was a genius. He could hear a demo one time, and while reading the lyrics, sing the song maybe 2 or 3 times (just so Kid and I would have options) and absolutely break your heart every time with a different, nuanced interpretation."*  
**–Rick Estrin**

*"Willie Walker will live forever."*  
**–Kid Andersen**



*I can't believe we've lost Willie. Many people know Willie for the great singer he was, and his talent was undeniable. Since we first met in 2015 we have spent a lot of time together and I've been lucky enough to get to know Willie for the beautiful and vibrant human being he was. He stayed at our home on his frequent trips to California, and this gave us plenty of time to get know one another on a personal level. He was full of love and had a zest for life which was unmatched. His laugh was something special and he was definitely his own best audience when it came to his jokes. It didn't matter if you understood the joke because his laugh was the punchline! I'm grateful to have been his friend and musical partner over the last years. We had the opportunity to travel the world together and record some fine music, and I'll never forget the great times we had. Willie has been a blessing in our lives and he will be deeply missed. My condolences to Judy Walker and all the family and friends in Minnesota.*

**–Anthony Paule**



Click [HERE](#) for "Little Village Foundation" Page.

Watch the YouTube Video of "After A While" [HERE](#) (Wee Willie Walker & The Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra from Dec 20, 2018)

Learn more about Wee Willie Walker [HERE](#)

## **LISA KINDRED REMEMBERED**



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of an icon in Bay Area blues, Lisa Kindred. Myron Mu of The Saloon has put together a memorial celebration to honor Lisa. **Please join us at The Saloon, Sunday, December 22, 2019 @ 3 pm!**

Watch a YouTube video of Lisa Kindred | "Wild Child" | Click [HERE!](#)

We want to share the article in the San Jose Mercury that was published on about Lisa Kindred and her contributions in blues music.

### **THE LIFE AND DEATH OF LISA KINDRED, A MARIN BLUES SINGER WITH A BIG VOICE AND A BIG HEART**

By [PAUL LIBERATORE](#) | [p.liberatore@comcast.net](mailto:p.liberatore@comcast.net) | IJ correspondent  
PUBLISHED: November 16, 2019

Lisa Kindred, a beloved Marin County blues singer who gave up an early shot at stardom to pursue her music on her own terms, has died at 79.

"You have to be passionate about music," she once said. "If you want to make money, do something else." Ms. Kindred, a longtime performer at the No Name Bar in Sausalito and the Saloon in San Francisco's North Beach, passed away Nov. 11 at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Rafael from POEMS syndrome, a rare blood disorder that can cause weakness in the arms and legs and eventually respiratory failure. She also suffered from diabetes and had been in various hospitals and rehabilitation facilities since a fall at her San Anselmo home in April. "She was a big-hearted woman and a big-throated woman," said **Austin deLone**, a Mill

Valley keyboardist who played on and co-produced Ms. Kindred's final album, 2013's "Blues and Beyond." "She was a powerhouse of a singer and a great person."



An Independent Journal review praised the album as “soul stirring ... a masterwork.” Music critic Joel Selvin called Ms. Kindred “a bona fide blues queen who sings like one of the greats.” And blues harmonica ace Charlie Musselwhite, commenting on her lack of recognition outside of Bay Area blues circles, remarked that she “had been overlooked too long.”

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1940, Ms. Kindred was a fresh-faced young folksinger when she emerged on the national scene in 1965 with the release of “I Like It This Way,” her debut album on Vanguard

Records, a prestigious label for folk, jazz and blues musicians.

“I was a freshman at Harvard and had Lisa’s first Vanguard album on my windowsill,” deLone recalled. “I can still picture it to this day. I loved that record and I loved what was going on at the time musically.”

Ms. Kindred was then part of the 1960s folk revival, performing on the Greenwich Village/Cambridge club circuit, strumming an acoustic guitar and singing at Club 47, Café Wha? and Gerde’s Folk City, legendary venues that launched the careers of Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Dave Van Ronk, Tom Rush, Eric Anderson and other folk stars.

“It was exactly the right time to be starting out,” she said in a [2013 Independent Journal interview](#). “What a phenomenal era musically. I got to hear people like Mississippi John Hurt and Skip James before they died. I would go around the corner from where I lived in New York to the Jazz Gallery, where Thelonious Monk would be playing three nights a week, or McCoy Tyner. I’m glad I’m this age. It was wonderful.”

## **BISCUITS AND BLUES COURT DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2019**



The owner of Biscuits and Blues, Steven Suen, and his wife Tina Suen need your support! They will be going to court to hold Jack in the Box responsible for decades of flood damages to their club. Biscuits and Blues is the home to many a local and national blues great and has earned the reputation as San Francisco’s premier blues club. It would be a terrible loss to lose yet another club solely dedicated to blues music. We need the community to come together to show that Biscuits is an important part of San Francisco culture, and that we, as a community, will not be bullied by a major corporation that refuses to fix their plumbing problem.

- **Friday, December 20, 2019**
- **Superior Court of San Francisco**
- **400 McAllister St./ 5th floor /Room 501/ 9:30 AM** (We highly recommend arriving early to allow enough time for security clearance.)

## **CALL FOR MEMBERSHIPS/ DONATIONS/ VOLUNTEERS**

TGGBS wants to expand its membership so we can do great things in our blues community. Here in the San Francisco/ Bay Area we have internationally recognized blues talent. And we also want to foster new blues talent.

But we can't do this alone. We need your support!

We also need volunteers! We are always looking for skilled professionals to help us with setting up advertising on our website, to help us with our website itself (which we want to remake next year), our newsletter, and we always need help with events!

We also want to get your **input for our monthly newsletter!** Please, if you have some interesting news that has to do with important community events, historic shows, articles on blues musicians, contact Cathy Lemons at [info@tggbs.org](mailto:info@tggbs.org).

- To volunteer, please email us at: [contact@tggbs.org](mailto:contact@tggbs.org)
- Questions re. your current membership? Email Cathy Lemons at [membership@tggbs.org](mailto:membership@tggbs.org)
- To donate, please click on our home page and click the "DONATE" button at: <https://www.tggbs.org/home>



## **THE GOLDEN GATE BLUES SOCIETY**

[www.tggbs.org](http://www.tggbs.org)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Richard MacLaury, President / IBC Coordinator

Wendy DeWitt, Vice President

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Cathy Lemons, Secretary /Membership/ Editor Newsletter

Tina Abbaszadeh, Promotions

WEBSITE: Cathy Lemons



The Golden Gate Blues Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliate of The Blues Foundation, based in Memphis, Tennessee and your donation is tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 27-2191232.

The purpose of The Golden Gate Blues Society is to enhance the appreciation and understanding of the Blues, especially in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.