

On The Road

November 2006

Kathleen Hudson

Ahead in November is a Hill Country tradition: The Big Band Bash in Fredericksburg. I've attended most of these since year one, watching it grow and transform with the addition of new performers, jazz and blues. I've always had a chance to dance too!

Held in the Pioneer Pavilion Hall at Lady Bird Johnson Park on Highway 16, the event provides an opportunity for Patrons (\$75/ticket) to mingle with performers over a delicious meal catered by The Heritage Boyz. Doors for general admission (\$25) are available at Wolfmueller's Books in Kerrville, Hilltop Café, Martin's Exxon Station and Western Beverages in Fredericksburg. Call Carol to use MC and Visa at 830-257-7182. I hear a rumor that a sellout is already near!

The entertainment lineup includes Johnny Nicholas (founder), Marcia Ball, Greg Piccolo, Jimmy LaFave, Joel Guzman, Floyd Domino, Sarah Fox, Al Gomez, Terry Hale, Kaz Kazanoff, Danny Levin, Damien Llanes, John Mills, Dan Torosian, Keith Winking and Randy Zimmerman.

I could tell a few stories about many of these performers. Johnny Nicholas, dapper and down, brings the blues on home. How can you sit still when Floyd Domino AND Marcia Ball run their fingers up and down the keyboard? And watching those sexy horn players! Al Gomez and I have some stories of the San Miguel de Allende Jazz Festival several years ago. Joel and Sarah bring a sultry look to the stage as they sing in Spanish. Hey, can you tell I'm missing Mexico!

On November 20 Hal Robinson is presenting a talk on "The Split" at the Unity Church of the Hill Country at 413 Lois. He has been a guest in my mythology class at Schreiner, led retreats to the White Shaman Preserve in Del Rio, worked with Jeanne Slobod and the Past is Prologue non-profit, worked as a therapist in Kerrville, and now has the Dancing Bear Teaching Lodge at the Healing Arts Center. He will speak on the split between our words and our actions where judgment, victim-hood, self-importance, and fear all dwell. Since this is a music column, let me add that drumming does indeed affect our health and well-being just like the rhythm in the music we hear. Yes, music is a vital part of our life on this earth, and drumming replicates some important natural rhythms....like our heart beats.

On November 30 Jim Lauderdale will join Ray Wylie Hubbard at the Cactus Café in Austin. I first met Lauderdale in Frutigen, Switzerland at the Songwriters Festival. Years ago. Now he's billed as "Grammy Winnings Songwriter," and he's returning to Texas with two new releases on a new label, Yep Roc Records named "Country Super Hits, Vol. I" and "Bluegrass." The American Songwriting magazine says, "(Jim Lauderdale's) mix of down home and Dylan gives him particular distinction when interpreting a

song....” He was the first Entertainer of the Year for American Music Association. It is worth the drive from Kerrville to Austin to be with Ray and Jim. Need I say more about Ray Wylie Hubbard, the voice for Revolution FM in the Hill Country, 94.3 on your dial? He is the one who says, “Nashville sucks.” Jim has been based in Nashville, so the Austin gig could be interesting. Ray has also shared his music in my Schreiner writing and literature classes. And “Snake Farm,” his latest CD on Sustain Records in Kerrville, has some exotic sounding music on it. Jessica, my 14 year old granddaughter, takes a break from Rap and Hip Hop once in a while to listen to Ray.

A heads up on THMF history. We will be 20 years old in 2007! I started this organization back in 1987 after interviewing Willie Nelson and BB King at the Memphis Blues Awards in 1986. We’ve been producing programming in the Hill Country ever since, including the coffeehouse series at Schreiner (**November 1 with Ruben V and Sylvia Kirk!** 7-9p.m., Cailloux Student Center, free); The Living History Weekend, and a proposed (TBA) songwriting school at Schreiner next summer, if the grant with ASCAP comes through! Call us and volunteer. Join THMF as a member. Your membership supports our events and the music we send into schools, the State Hospital, kids at risk and more. Join us as we plan 2007. www.texasheritagemusic.org or kat@maverickbbs.com or 830-792-1945.

Ils sont partis and down the road. KH