



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

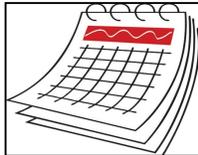
WWW.JATOE.ORG DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: KINURA8@SBCGLOBAL.NET



Dues are Due!

March/April
2018

Mark Your Calendars!



Sunday, March 25, 2018

Stage Doors open
1:30pm

Concert at 2:00pm

Guest Artist: Dave
Stephens

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Stage Doors open
1:30pm

Concert at 2:00pm

Guest Artist: Bert Kuntz

**See pages 3 & 4
for more info!**



A RECENT SUCCESS!

The Barton Lift is Back! After 3 years of trying, JATOE has finally gotten the use of the organ lift back.

The entire board met with Valerie Devine, Executive Director of the Rialto January 11th to express their safety concerns that exists using the dead man switch. Valerie agreed that practice was not safe and authorized the switch be put back to an on/off switch. Valerie wanted accountability, so a procedure for checking the pit was created. The person wanting to use the organ lift must check the pit for any obstructions before using the lift and sign off that the pit is clear. Thank You Valerie!



President's Message

Our January Social last month was a huge success, so good to see so many attend. Don Young presented a wonderful concert and had his own personal cheering section. Don's entire family came out for this event. Great job Don! There was so much food and more food. Norma told me she had to start asking people to take what they brought back home. There just was not anywhere to put one more dish on the tables. Thank You all for the delicious dishes you brought.

Our biggest social of the year was incomplete. Jim and Dolores were ill and could not attend. We all missed you both very much. Of course you all know that Jim and Dolores have stepped down as President and Treasurer. It did take all of us by surprise on January 11th when they announced it and would be official on January 21st. Don Walker moved up to President. It's was now Don's job to appoint and fill the vacancies which he did at our social. Gerry long accepted the position as board member, Dennis Nawracaj accepted the position as acting secretary until Barb comes back, Jim offered to stay on as treasurer and membership chairman and we accepted and I accepted the Vice President position. Don then stepped down because of his work schedule and that made me President. I then appointed Don as Vice President. Wow, the chess pieces are all in place now. This situation as far as I know has never happened before in JATOE

Have some interesting news? An Item for sale? News about one of our members. Email Don Walker to get it in our newsletter.



Extravaganza CD'S



Many Years
to choose
from!

Regular \$20.00

NOW \$10.00 while they last!

WHATS GOING ON

CATOE

February 24th 10am - York
Theatre Elmhurst

CTOS

Jay Warren at Allen Organs
Chicago, Sunday Feb. 25th ,
2:30p 181 W Crossroads Pkwy
Bolingbrook

DAIRYLAND

David Gray at Mundelein

Seminary, Sunday March 18th, 3
PM 1000 E Maple Ave,

Mundelein, IL

ST LOUIS

Party on the Pipes April 26-30th

(President message cont.)

Now you know how all this came to be so with that in mind I thought this is a good time to introduce myself for those who don't know me. My name is Joel Martis, I am 61 years old. I have two children, Nicole and Christopher. I have two wonderful grandsons, Blake who just turned 3 and Austin who is three and a half months. I am retired from Commonwealth Edison/Midwest Generation after 33 years of service as an operator, a union steward, a chief union steward and finally as a shift engineer in management. I have been a member of JATOE for a long time, since the 1970's I believe. I have worked on the organ work crew back when we had one and was membership chairman at one time. My main goal for these next 16 months is getting our organizational name out there. People just do not know we are here, what we are about, or what we do. Joliet proper has a population of almost 150,000. Do you know how many members we have from Joliet? Only 14.

Welcome New Members



Welcome our newest member Mark Crane. Mark comes to us from Waukegan, Ill. Mark and Gail, (Marks wife) have four wonderful sons Derek, Nathan, Kyle and Caleb. All enjoy roller skating. In fact that is how Mark met his wife Gail and roller skating is how Mark was introduced to the Theater pipe organ. Mark has a theater pipe organ in a building that's bigger than his house he told me and is a work in progress and enjoys it very much. Mark told me how his boys think nothing of it, it's like "doesn't every home have one?" They all grew up around the pipe organ. Mark has some very interesting stories about how he met Leon Barry and how Leon helped in making his dream come true, he would be happy to share them with you, so next time you see Mark, stop and welcome him to our JATOE family. Welcome Mark!

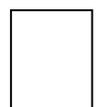


Please welcome returning member Lucy Anderberg. Lucy comes to us from Shorewood and is with her Life partner Dennis Medin. Lucy is a retired engineer from Commonwealth Edison. Lucy and I have known each other for a very long time, and my dearest friend, in fact, Lucy was the first woman to be hired as an operator at Commonwealth Edison which opened the door for other women in the power plant industry. Lucy has a vast love for all kinds of music and instruments. Lucy use to be on our organ work crew and helped with its renovation. She hopes to learn to play the piano someday, but really loves the hammer dulcimer, in fact the picture above, she is with Ted Yoder, a well know player and designer of her newest hammer dulcimer. She has five of them. Lucy participates (when time permits) in the annual Dulcimer festival each year in Morris. She loves teaching her granddaughters how to cook, gardening and baking. She is looking forward to moving back to her home town of Raymond, Illinois in about 3 years where she has bought a house and is fixing it up. Welcome Lucy!

I find it hard to believe that there are only 14 people out of 150,000 are interested in this magnificent instrument. Joliet itself, is a wealth of opportunity waiting to be tapped. Look at all the churches, organizations such as the Moose, Knights of Columbus, VFW posts etc. There are 4 area high schools with music and band departments, 2 major Universities, a Jr College, the list is endless. All opportunities for us to grow. Look at the opportunity of the Rialto itself. All the people that come to see the great shows, but we don't have a booth. It's all just waiting to be tapped. With this in mind, from now until May of 2019 we are going to have a membership drive, sort of an open house, one organization at a time. I will invite them to come to our socials and have the experience of a life time. To come and enjoy everything that you come here to enjoy and hopefully we will get new members out of that. My vision of JATOE is Grand. I hope you will join me in this effort. I am looking forward to working with the Rialto, the New Board and you, the membership to continue JATOE's work as we move forward. I very much look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts. Don't ever think any idea is so ridiculous, so far out, so insane that I wouldn't want to hear it. Working together, we can accomplish many, many, many wonderful things for our club. Joel

Please remember the following members in your prayers.

Jan Challender, Barbara Petry and Ron Newman.



**LIVE ON THE RIALTO'S
BARTON GRANDE THEATER ORGAN
SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018
DAVE STEPHENS**

While sitting at his Grandmother's piano at the tender age of nine, Dave began running his fingers up and down the keyboard. At that time his favorite tune was "Heart and Soul". Soon he realized he could pick out that song on the piano. To his delight, he began to play other favorites. Then, by adding chords and tempo, he could make songs sound like they should. Thus began a lifetime love affair with music. In High School he formed a Rock-n-Roll band, named it "The Teen Beats", and became its arranger. When college came along he was an announcer for St. Louis University's radio station, KBIL, (voice of the Billikens). He'd play music whenever and wherever he could. Among his hobbies of music, motorcycles, classic cars, boating and piloting aircraft, music was always his first love. Today his self-trained musical ability has landed him positions as organist at the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis, Missouri. He is also Lobby organist at the Fox as well as Titular organist at the Lincoln theatre in Belleville, Illinois. Dave recently celebrated his **1000th** concert at the famed Lincoln Theatre. Currently, Dave serves as the President of the St. Louis Theatre Organ Society.

And....he's STILL GOING STRONG!!!



Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 1:30pm Show starts at 2:00pm Bring Refreshments!



Bert makes his Rialto Debut!

Bert found his love for music at the age of 5. He was first introduced to the violin at the age of 5. He then progressed to the piano and accordion. After receiving a few music lessons he withdrew from formal musical education because he “wanted to do it his way”. At the age of 12 he parents bought him a spinet organ and he continued to teach himself to play. He plays strictly by ear by listening to recordings. He formed a dance band at 15 and played all over Illinois for 12 years before moving to California. This is where he encountered his first theater organ and again, taught himself. He became staff organist at Arden Pizza and Pipes in Sacramento California. Bert has played many concerts in northern California. He relocated to Quincy Illinois in 2008 and has now has started to perform in the St. Louis area. Bert has a unique approach to the theater organ. He has a love of ballads, big band, and will sometimes throw in a little old time rock n’ roll.



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Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts

www.jatoe.org

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