

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

Nov/Dec 2011, Jan 2012

Join us on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at the Gawenda residence in Rensselaer, IN. The doors open at 1:30pm and the program begins at 2:00pm. Paul Johnson is the artist. The Gawenda's have a fabulous pipe organ, Young Chang concert grand piano, Hammond B3 and other amazing organs to try! You won't want to miss this special social. It is worth the drive! Bring refreshments, please.

Join us on Saturday, December 17, 2011 as we feature a program of eclectic music at the Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Plainfield, IL on the Wicks pipe organ. The doors open at 5:00pm, and the program will begin at 5:30pm. Organist will be the popular Milwaukee area organist, Dean Rosko. Please bring refreshment to share. Dean is going to provide us a wonderful seasonal program that you won't want to miss! Enter the church off the Illinois Street entrance. There is handicap access.

President's Message

We are getting into the holiday season, which is coming too quickly. If you have a chance, be sure to come to the Rialto for the Festival of Trees held during the Thanksgiving week. I will be playing the Barton Grande on Wednesday (Nov 23) at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

Since we cannot get any Sundays in November and December at the Rialto, please read Don Walker's schedule for those months. Our next time at the Rialto will be January 15, 2012.

I received a letter from the Buzard Pipe Organ Builders who have been commissioned to restore the 90 year-old Wurlitzer organ at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, IL. This rebuilding is in honor of our friend Warren York. Warren kept that organ playing and performed there for the past 25+ years. They are increasing the size of the organ so that it is able to fill the theatre properly.

If you can make a donation to help fund these exciting additions to the organ, they would be tremendously grateful. Please make your check payable to **The Champaign Parks Foundation**, make a note in the memo line for the **Warren York Fund**, and send it to the Champaign Parks Foundation, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, IL 61821.

Our CD from the last Extravaganza has not been produced as yet. We are trying to decide some issues with the band and ensemble recording part of the program. We hope to have this resolved soon.

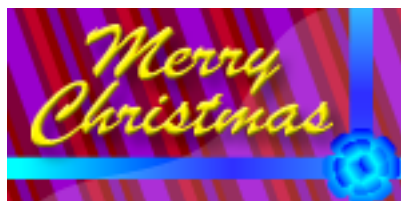
If you are not able to be with us on the 20th of November, you might want to attend and organ program from the teaching staff at Trinity College in Palos Heights, IL This will be at 7:30pm at 6601 W College Dr. in Palos Heights. The program is open to the public and free of charge.

I hope to see all of you soon. Be well.

Jim Patak

After Christmas Social and Business Meeting, January 15, 2012!

Join us back at the Rialto Theatre on Sunday, January 15, 2012 as we feature our after Christmas social. JATOE will provide catered meat dishes. Members whose last names begin with A-M should bring a dessert dish. Last names of N-Z should bring a salad, vegetable or potato dish to share. The doors will open at 1:30pm and the program will begin at 2:00pm. Our organist is the President of the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society of Rockford, IL, Bob Bates. We will also have our annual membership meeting as required by our by-laws. Please attend to support your chapter.



Paul Johnson at the Gawenda Residence, November 20

Born right here in Joliet, Paul Johnson has been playing keyboards for over 40 years. At six Paul started on piano and at age ten added the organ to his musical instruction. Paul honed his skills at the organ serving as organist/musician at various area churches. He served as Worship Arts Director in Frankfort and Downers Grove.

Paul's performance and "entertainer" skills were developed in Naperville's top fine dining restaurants during the 1990's. In Chicago he entertained for a year on Rush Street where numerous Chicago celebrities became regular fans. Bill Zwecker of the Chicago Sun Times said, "Paul Johnson tickles those ivories with style, he'll make you smile."

In 1995 he released a CD entitled, "Night Moods," which sold thousands of copies across the country. That made Paul a voting member of the NARAS (the Grammy Association). This year he is composing selections for a new CD of original piano music. Another CD is in the works with Paul's arrangements of Andrew Lloyd Webber songs.

Locally he entertains at the keyboard Monday evenings from 6 to 9 PM at Bonfire Steaks and Seafood in Homer Glen where you can enjoy an outstanding meal with exceptional service in a warm, intimate atmosphere. The music is present, but not overpowering. For more information you can visit www.pianobypaul.com or www.bonfirehomerglen.com.

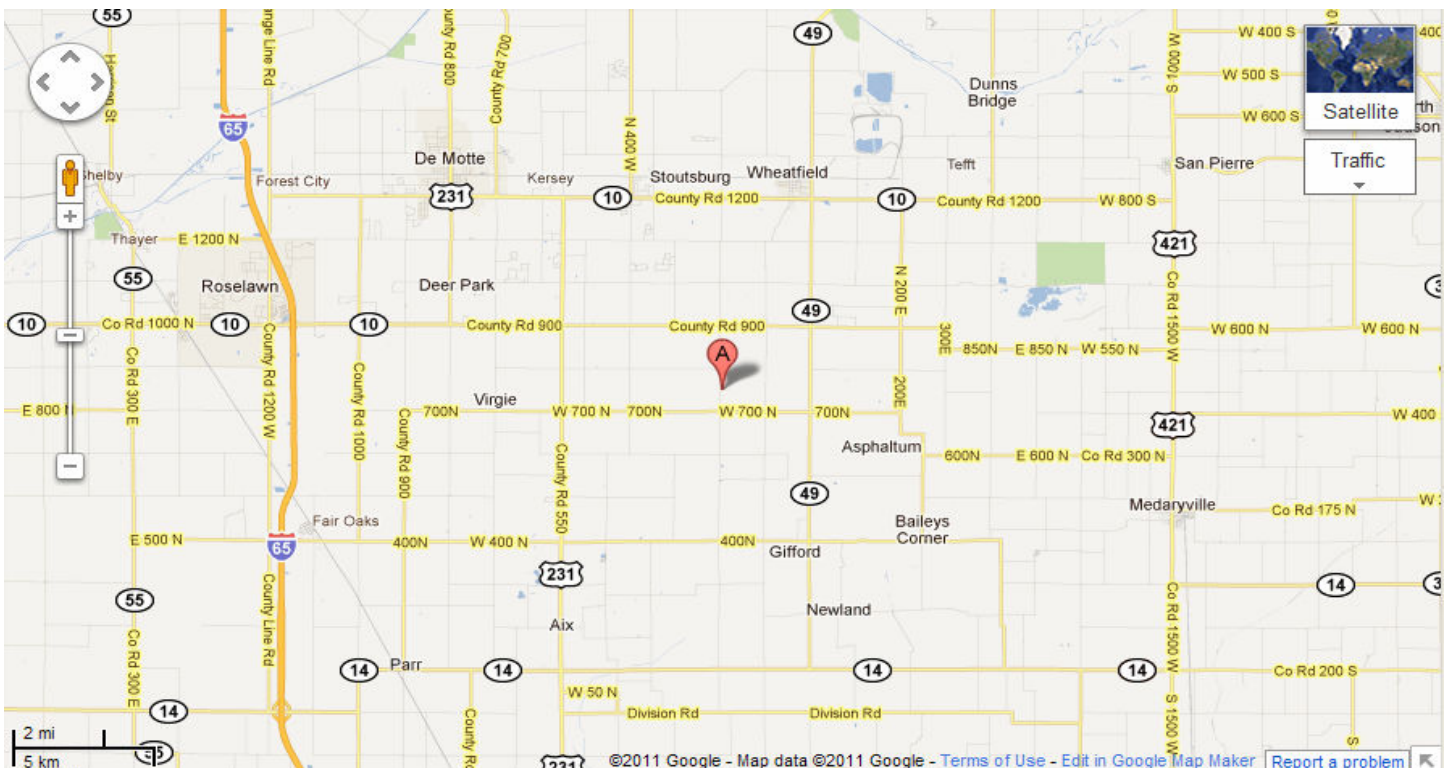
Paul's "gift" is his ability to convey real emotion through the music he plays. Every note, every chord is like the stroke of an artist's brush on a canvas. "The way I perceive performing is this: There are three elements involved in the process of 'playing' a song. The music itself, the instrument, and the performer. My goal is to merge all three elements into one, creating a living and breathing entity which the listener does not just hear with their ears, but feels in their soul."

Please bring refreshments to share.

George and Joanne Gawenda

7673 N 200 W, Rensselaer, IN 47978 - Phone number: 219-956-3374

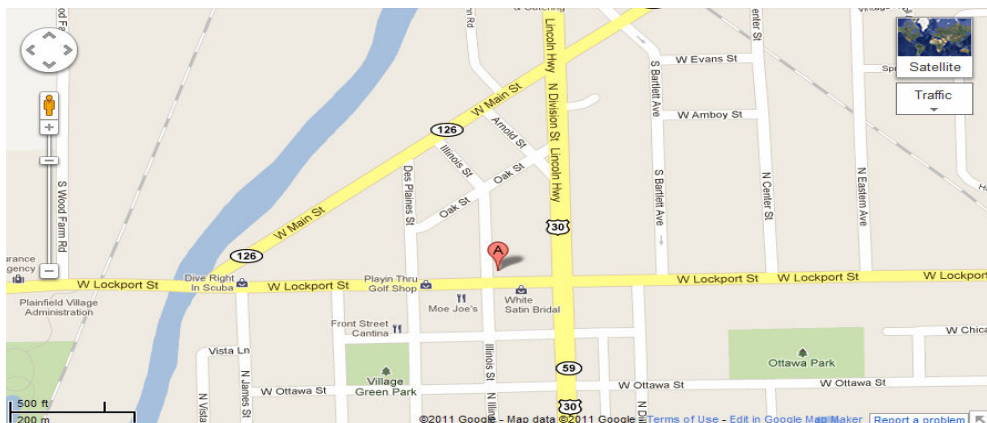
From the Chicago area, take I-65 South to exit #230, Demotte/Roselawn. Turn left (East) and travel about 9 miles through the town of Kniman to 200W road. Turn right (South) for 1.25 miles. The residence is on the left (East side of road.) Look for mailbox 7673.



Dean Rosko at Plymouth Congregational Church, December 17

I started playing piano at age 5, organ about 2 years later. I studied classical organ and theory with Marilyn Stulken in Racine for 6 years. At age 13 I started playing at Rollaero Skate Center in Cudahy, WI, and continued there until earlier this year. I was one of the house organists in intermission organists in rotation at the Avalon Theatre in Milwaukee from 1995 until the theatre closed in 1999. I have been the Official Organist of the USA Roller Sports Great Lakes Regional Championships since the summer of 2001, and will have completed my 6th Championships later this June. I have recorded and released 6 CD's of roller skating dance music, with a 7th soon to be released. Also a competitive skater, I have 5 National medals to my credit. Since the summer of 2003, I have been the Official Organist of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball club in Milwaukee, WI, now in my 4th season with the club. I have been one of the associate organists at Organ Piper Music Palace in Greenfield since November of 2004, playing the 3/27 Wurlitzer/Kimball theatre organ, and since the Spring of this year, one of the volunteer "house" organists at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, entertaining audiences on the beautiful 3/40 Kimball before the 7:00 show on Sunday evenings. I have played programs for the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, IL, for a joint social between the Packerland and Dairyland chapters at Gary Bieck's 3/18 Wurlitzer in Elkhart Lake, WI, and most recently for CATOE at the Pickwick Theatre 3/11 Wurlitzer in Chicago. **(The doors open at 5:00pm, and Dean's program begins at 5:30pm.)**

**Plymouth Congregational Church,
24022 W. Lockport St, Plainfield,
IL 60544, (815) 436-3409**



Join us at the Rialto on January 15, 2012 with Bob Bates at the Barton

Bob Bates grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Organ Performance at the University of Colorado, where he studied with Don Vollstedt and Everett Jay Hilty. He is organist at Second Congregational United Church of Christ in Rockford, IL, a position he has held for 19 years. He has been interested in theatre organ since a very young age, and has attended theatre organ workshops and master classes with Ron Rhode, Lew Williams, Tom Hazleton, Jonas Nordwall, Lyn Larsen, and Rosa Rio. He is a board member and past president of the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society in Rockford, IL. He has performed frequently on the Grande Barton organ at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, and is the regular organist for tours at the Coronado.

This is our after Christmas potluck social and annual membership meeting. JATOE will provide the meat dishes, and members will provide side dishes and desserts. Please see page one for suggestions on what to bring. Doors open at 1:30pm, and Bob's program begins at 2:00pm. Editors note: Bob is probably one of the best surprises in the Midwest. His talent and style is exceptional, and I'm so happy that we have finally found a date to feature this fantastic local artist!

