

# Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



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Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

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**Join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL on Sunday, August 16. We welcome a new artist to JATOE audiences, Paul Johnson! Paul is a consummate musician and his program is not to be missed. Doors open at pm.**

**Join us at the Steinway Piano Gallery on Sunday, Sept. 13. We welcome our own Judy Matarelli performing on the GWIV. Our CTOS friends are also invited. Doors open at 2:00pm with a 2:30pm program.**

**Long-time JATOE member Elaine Hanok of Bartlett, IL passed away recently. Elaine was very active in both the Joliet and Chicago chapters. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.**

## President's Message from Jim Patak

I stated after last year's ATOS Indianapolis convention that those of you that have not as yet attended a national convention are missing a wonderful time. This year's convention was held in Cleveland, OH over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Cleveland area has many restored theatres with very fine pipe organs in them. If you are an ATOS member, the entire Convention review will be in the next Journal.

Our newest CD is ready (Change Of Seasons) and I will have it at the next social. The price for the 2 CD set is \$30.

We have been invited by CATOE to a social on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove. CATOE is showcasing 14 year old Emily who is a staff organist at the Redford Theatre in Detroit, MI. **The social is a 10am**, and if you are coming, please bring some kind of refreshment to pass. I hope you can make this event along with the Dairyland Chapter, and the Land Of Lincoln Club of Rockford. We always want to support young people and also other Chapters. The problem is that we already scheduled a social at the Rialto Theatre on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a rare opportunity to have two socials back to back. I hope you can make both. I know that I will.

We are already planning the 14<sup>th</sup> Extravaganza to be held the last weekend of April 2010. I was assured by the theatre management that the show will go on.

The theatre construction is well under way with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors being taken by the University of St. Francis of Joliet. Classes will start there this fall. Dolores and I have been told that the ATOS Archives will have to move soon because the University also will want the second floor where the Archives are held. An elevator is also being installed in the theatre. It will be to the right of the bar in the Rotunda. It will open into a hallway not as yet constructed. This will be a great addition to the Rialto.

The Barton is operating very well with a minimum of maintenance required. We had a broken tuba horn which Jim Gruber repaired.

Another event that you should attend at least once is the Hopeful Heart Charity at the San Filippo Victorian Palace. If you have never been at the mansion, this is a must see. This year we heard Lyn Larsen, Martin Ellis and Jelani Eddington. It was a great day.

If you can at all, please attend both events in August.

Jim Patak

## Join our CATOE friends at the Tivoli Theatre, August 15!

When Emily was four years old she told her parents that she was going to be an organist. From age 6 to 9 her piano teachers and parents fielded frequent requests to switch to organ. "Not until your feet can reach the pedals" and "you have to learn piano before you start the organ" did nothing to dissuade her from her quest. At a pipe organ demonstration by Wayne Leupold at Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan she met classical organ teacher Elaine Grover and began her formal organ studies.

About a year later Emily attended a movie and organ overture at the Redford Theatre in Detroit and heard their 3/10 Barton. After hearing Tony O'Brien, Lance Luce, and John Lauter (who is her current Theatre Organ teacher) she was "hooked" and determined to master the Theatre Organ.

Emily attended the 2007 and 2008 Young Theatre Organ Camp in Chicagoland. In the spring of 2008 she became a regular overture organist at the Redford Theatre. She was honored to be nominated and win the Young Theatre Organist of the Year award in 2008.

The Tivoli Theatre is located at 5021 Highland Ave, Downers Grove, IL (630) 968-0219. Free parking is available around the theatre and in the theatre parking lot. The social begins at 10am. Please bring refreshments to share with our CATOE, Dairyland and Land of Lincoln members who are also invited to this special social event! Thanks to John Peters, President of CATOE for inviting our chapter to attend this social.

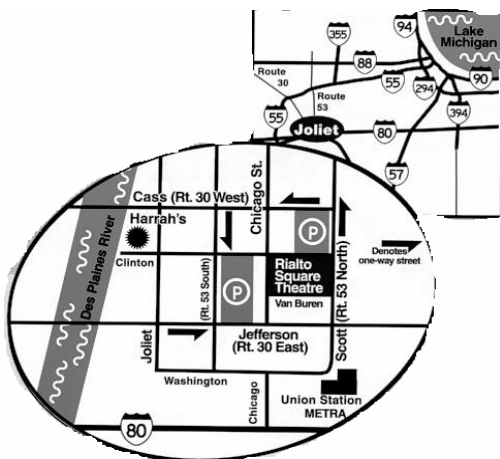
## Paul Johnson performs at the Rialto on Sunday, August 16

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](http://www.pianobypaul.com) or [www.bonfirehomerglen.com](http://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."

arrangements, designed to showcase his musical talents and feature the capabilities of the magnificent Barton Grande Pipe Organ.

**Doors to the Rialto Theatre will open at 1:30pm, and the program begins at 2:00pm. Please enter at the rear of the theatre, stage door entrance on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Paul's performance.**



## Judy Matarelli makes rare JATOE appearance at Steinway Piano Gallery!

Music has always been a big part of Judy's life. Early piano, organ and voice lessons; majoring in Music Education at Eastern Illinois University; and a Master's Degree from the University of Illinois in Music Education; all led to a 34 year career of teaching music to all age groups. Judy had her choirs participate in festivals in St. Louis, Nashville, Northwestern University, Washington, DC and Walt Disney World. She directed Jr. High Productions of Annie, Guys and Dolls, Fiddler on the Roof and Music Man. Besides teaching music, Judy played the organ for church for 39 years.

Since retiring, Judy spends much of her time enjoying theatre organ socials and conventions; going to the Lyric Opera; Goodman and Drury Lane theatres; singing in church choir; singing in the Elizabethans Madrigal group; and of course playing the organ. Travel is a big part of her life and since she retired she has traveled to Italy, Spain, Sicily, Egypt, Russia, Dubai, UAE, all over the USA and she's taken many cruises. The last cruise was a Trans-Atlantic Crossing and Mediterranean Ports.

Judy is very thankful to have a wonderful family. Mom and Dad (Faye and Bob Wheeler) are still very active and also enjoy traveling. Her children are both married and living on the East Coast. Her daughter, Jill, is a Professor of Theatre at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. Son, Paul, lives in Brooklyn, NY and works for the Weather Channel in NYC. Although there are no grandchildren yet, two grand dogs are now part of the family.

For Judy, music has been a passion as well as a career. Classical to pop it fills her life and she would like to personally thank Kay McAbee for what he has done for her and the theatre organ community.

**The Steinway Piano Gallery is located at 1205A Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL and is just east of I-355. Phone: (630) 512-9200.**

**Doors will open at 2:00pm and the program starts at 2:30pm. Please bring refreshments for this social event. Enter the store at the side door by the organ studio, not the front entrance. Parking is available on the east side of the store.**

