

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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President's Message

Join us on Sunday, October 3 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL as we enjoy Don Springer at the Barton. Doors open at 2:00pm and the program begins at 2:30pm. Don is a JATOE favorite and you will not want to miss his program!

On Sunday, October 10 at 1:30pm, we have been invited by member Joe Fisher to his airplane hanger G8 at Lewis Airport in Romeoville, IL. We will hear the Welte hybrid theatre pipe organ. This is an outdoor venue, so dress accordingly, bring your lawn chair, and be prepared to enjoy some great music. Please bring a refreshment item to share. (More organ information is available at: www.flighttech.com/orga n.htm)

Join us on Saturday, November 6 at Steinway of Chicago in Downers Grove, IL as we welcome ATOS board member Col. Jack Moelmann. Jack will provide a program on the 4 manual GW IV Allen digital organ. Doors open at 1:30pm, and Jack's program will begin at 2:00pm

Some sad news to report. The brother of our good member, Mary Sylvester, passed away recently. Also the mother of Col. Jack Moelmann left us. Our sympathy goes out to both families.

On the good side, Alexander Kouvalis along with his son Demetri are planning a fall re-opening of the Patio Theatre. The theatre is being cleaned, seats are being re-upholstered, new toilets and many other repairs are being made. CATOE also hopes that the original Barton Organ will again play. You can check progress on their new website. (www.patiotheater.net)

JATOE's member, Joe Fisher, has invited us to a social at his hangar based pipe organ. The organ is located in Joe's plane hanger (G8) at Lewis Airport. The date is October 10 at 1:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and some refreshments to share. (Directions elsewhere in newsletter.)

All of the chandeliers at the Rialto are now back in place. They are beautiful. The Duchess has also been cleaned/rewired and is now in all her glory. On September 14, the theatre had a special event for the Duchess. I played a program during that special day.

Coming up during the Thanksgiving week will be the Festival Of Trees. This week long event is always spectacular. Be sure to pick up an event brochure when you are at our social on October 3. You may also check the Rialto website for more information (www.rialtosquare.com).

I hope all is well with you.

Jim Patak

Directions to the October 10th social at Lewis Airport

The organ is located at hanger G8 at Lewis Airport. The airport is located on Joliet Road, also marked as Rt. 53, Broadway and old Rt. 66. Joliet Rd is also accessible from I-55 (southbound only) or the Rt. 53 exit. Head south of Joliet Rd or Rt. 53, both roads merge into Joliet Rd.

Taylor St. will be the stop light before Airport Rd. At the Taylor St. light, Romeoville High School will be on the west (right) side of the street. The next light is Airport Rd. Proceed west to the first gate, (marked Gate 1.) There will be a STOP sign. Proceed carefully to the gate of your left.

Coming from the south on Joliet Rd., there is a stop light for Lewis University. The next stop light will be Airport Rd. Turn left (west) and drive to Gate 1.

Renwick Rd borders the south side of the airport and connects Weber Rd and Rt. 53. The north side of the airport is accessible only from the intersection of Rt. 53 and Airport Rd. (Airport Rd no longer goes to Weber due to a runway extension.) **Warning!!! Enter slowly as the driveway is in poor condition!**

Don Springer performs at the Rialto on October 3!

Don Springer, who grew up in Whiting Indiana, began his musical studies at the young age of nine. Only four short years later after the Hoosier Theatre re-opened with the installation of a Wurlitzer pipe organ, Don became a regular feature creating spectacular music at the mighty theatre pipe organ. It was during high school that Don met the great Al Melgard, who was the staff organist at the Chicago Stadium

for over four decades. Don studied with Al for several years during which Al not only imparted invaluable information about playing the organ, but also gave Don the pipe organ expertise, and showmanship that a great musician must have. Then it was on to DePaul University for classical organ studies under Mr. Herman Pedtke who headed the organ faculty. Don had an opportunity to return publicly to the theatre

pipe organ at the unique north side venue, Sally's Stage which featured a Barton Pipe Organ. With roller skating waiters, musical revues and amateur gong shows Don had an opportunity to provide comedy routines in additions to his playing. One of his favorite routines was finding a sweet young lady to ride the organ lift with him. Don recorded an album while employed there called "Don Springer Live from 'Sally's Stage" on the Barton Theatre Pipe Organ. Much later Don provided organ interludes at the Kimball-Wurlitzer hybrid organ in the Hinsdale Theatre up until the closing of the theatre. During this time Don recorded a new album on the Hinsdale organ called "Intermission Interlude."

Doors to the Rialto will open at 1:30pm, and the program will begin at 2:00pm. Please bring refreshments to share with our members and guests. Open console will follow Don's program.



Jack Moelmann featured at Steinway of Chicago on November 6!

Jack has combined his musical interest and electrical engineering background to put together an elaborate Theatre Organ instrument (both electronic and pipe) in his home in O'Fallon, Illinois. He consistently shares his organ and talent with many groups around the St. Louis area and beyond.

Jack Moelmann is currently an active member in the Joliet Area (Joliet, Illinois), Dairyland (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), River City (Omaha, Nebraska), Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicagoland, Chicago Area, Central Illinois (Springfield, Illinois), Central Indiana (Indianapolis, Indiana), La Crosse Scenic Bluffs Chapter (La Crosse, Wisconsin) and Magnolia (Meridian, Mississippi) Chapters of ATOS. You will find him at most of the American Theatre Organ Society Annual and Regional Conventions not only as an attendee but on several occasions as the Master of Ceremonies or as an artist at the various Jam Sessions. He is an Honorary Lifetime member of the River City (Omaha, Nebraska) ATOS Chapter. He has held ATOS Chapter affiliations with the Connecticut Valley, Los Angeles, New York, Garden State Chapter (New Jersey), Alabama Chapter, and Charter member of the Magnolia Chapter (Meridian, Mississippi), River City Chapter (Omaha, Nebraska), Central Illinois Chapter, and Kansas City Chapter. He served as President of the Garden State Chapter in New Jersey from 1982-1983. He has been listed in Who's Who, the Dictionary of International Biography, and Notable Americans.

Steinway of Chicago is located at 1205 A. Butterfield Rd, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Their phone number is 630-512-9200. Please bring refreshments to share. Enter the showroom from the south parking lot adjacent to the organ showroom. The doors will open at 1:30pm and Jack's program begins at 2:00pm. Many thanks to Lee Maloney for allowing us to use the facilities for our social!

