

# Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

Nov/Dec 2015

## President's Message

### Social dates:

**Sunday, November 15—Rialto Theatre, Joliet 2:00pm, Bob Bates, artist.**

**Saturday, December 19, Rialto Theatre, Joliet 2:00 pm, Dean Rosko, artist.**

**Stage door opens at 1:30 pm for both socials.**

**The JATOE Board wishes all member and friends a happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!**



Well, here I go again, but I'm running out of things to write.

You have probably heard that the Rialto is not having the Festival of trees this year. There will be other events during the time. The Nutcracker will be preformed and there will be the live radio show (It's A Wonderful Life) during the Thanksgiving week. Also don't forget to support the Joliet American Legion Band. Tickets are free if you bring in some canned goods.

Tony Bennett is coming to the Rialto on December 6. Check the Rialto website (rialtosquare.com) for ticket info and other shows that are coming in.

We have been very fortunate that the theatre lets us come in on Sundays when available. They set up the tables for us and clean up after we leave. This is a real privilege for our club.

We have had some interesting artists of late and on October 4th we had Tony Thomas perform for us. He did a great job on our Barton. He is a well-respected musician in many parts of the country.

We have finally received all of the Master CD's from the last 3 years of our shows. Getting some of these was a long time problem. If you have any thoughts on what JATOE should do with these, let me know at our next social or send me an email. (jpatak31@att.net).

Keep in mind and prayers those of our members that are on the mend. Joyce Borre' (neck fusion) Sam Yacono (knee replacement) and especially the family of Jim Bradley who just recently passed on.

Well, fall is here, so be sure to start getting your snow blowers ready and your snow shovels waxed. We may need them in the near future.

Stay Healthy, Jim

Jim Bradley, 94 years young, slipped quietly into the next world on September 8th. This husband, father, and grandfather worked 40 years at Electro Motive of General Motors.

Brad enjoyed railroading, thresher men, and especially the Rialto's Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ. He was a member of the Barton workcrew for many years and served as a Director on the Board of JATOE for several terms.

Jim was a true gentle man, always speaking a good word, always giving a big smile. It was my pleasure to be invited to his 90th Birthday Party at Rosewood Nursing Care.

Brad and Madeline were original volunteers for the Rialto Square Theatre. I'll always remember Jim in his black and white, behind the bar, and especially the night he danced the "Jitterbug" on stage with, at that time, the Executive Director of the Rialto, Lynne Lichtenauer. We extend our condolences to wife Madeline Bradley, 560 Forest Lane, Lockport, IL. 60441. (Submitted by Jan Challender)

- Frank Pellico had a quadruple bypass operation recently and is doing very well recovering from his surgery. Our prayers and well-wishes go out to him as he gets stronger each day.

## **Bob Bates returns to the Barton!**

Bob Bates is a member and past president of the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society, for which he plays socials and tours on the Grande Barton organ at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, IL. Before retiring in 2013, he was organist for 21 years at Second Congregational United Church of Christ in Rockford. He is a member and past Dean of the Rockford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Organ from the University of Colorado (Boulder) in 1970. He has played several socials for CTOS, and has also played socials for the JATOE and Quad Cities chapters of ATOS. He is photographed here at the console of the WurliTzer organ at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, AZ. He resides in Belvidere, IL, and continues to substitute at churches in the Rockford area.

**The stage door to the Rialto will open at 1:30 pm and Bob's program will begin at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Social date: Sunday, November 15, 2015**



## **JATOE favorite Dean Rosko to perform in December!**

Dean Rosko began playing piano as soon as he could reach the keys! When he entered First Grade at St. Sebastian's Elementary in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, he began piano lessons, coupled with three years of accordion. Shortly after that, a trip to the Organ Piper Music Palace piqued his interest in the organ, theatre organ in particular. After subsequent trips to hear Walt Strony at Milwaukee's Riverside Theatre, and an opportunity to attend the final hockey game ever played at Chicago Stadium (home of the largest theatre organ ever built), the deal was sealed. In 1994, he began classical organ and theory lessons with Marilyn Stulken in Racine, WI, which lasted for 6 years. At the age of 13, Dean began regular duties playing for skating sessions at Rollaero Skate Center in Cudahy, Wisconsin, and in the summer of 2001, he played for his first USA Roller Sports Great Lakes Regional Championships, and has been doing it ever since, also playing for many local competitions. The summer he graduated from High School, he was hired by the Milwaukee Brewers as the Official Organist of Miller Park, and the following winter, was offered a position as Associate Organist at Milwaukee's Organ Piper Music Palace. This was the very place that had sparked Dean's interest in the instrument, so it has been a real thrill to be able to perform there. Dean had the honor of being invited to furnish the music for all dance events at the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Valley Skating Invitational, the largest invitational roller skating contest in the country. Also, Dean currently serves as Organist and Music Director at Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Antioch, IL.

In addition to his duties at the roller skating rink, which unfortunately came to an end in late 2005, at Miller Park, and at the Organ Piper, he has had the honor of performing several times for the Land Of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at Rockford's Coronado Theatre, for the Chicagoland Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (CATOE) at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, Illinois, and for the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (JATOE) at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, and also provides occasional intermission music on the fabulous Kimball organ at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre. From about 1994, until the time theatre closed in 2000, Dean provided intermission music on the 3/27 Wurlitzer in Milwaukee's Avalon Theatre. Dean also serves as President of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society (DTOS), a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), and also on the Board of Directors of CATOE.

**Social date: SATURDAY, December 19, 2:00 pm, Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL**

