

# RELAY CHATTER

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

VISIT OUR WEB SITE [WWW.JATOE.ORG](http://WWW.JATOE.ORG)

DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: [JATOEBAARTON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JATOEBAARTON@GMAIL.COM)

RICK STEINKE, NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR: [RickB1209@outlook.com](mailto:RickB1209@outlook.com)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



March / April 2022

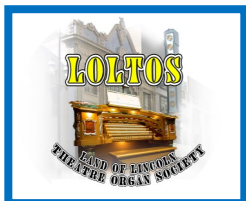


The Beautiful Rialto Square Theatre. Home of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts and the  
4/27 Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ.

# Here's What's Happening!



click on the icon to go to our sister chapters web site for the latest news and events.



## Editor's Note

By Don Walker



Hi Members and Friends!

I'd like to welcome Rick Steinke as co-editor of our newsletter. Rick is anxious to serve in any capacity to help, and it is certainly appreciated! We are not able to have a social in March due to the Rialto Theatre schedule. I'd like to encourage all of you to consider attending the St. Louis Theatre Organ Society, Party on the Pipes in March. See page seven of the newsletter for information. Some of you have already attended the event, and will agree that it is a fun event of concerts, food and fun. I would like to wish all members and friends a healthy winter season, and if you're like me, we are all waiting for spring to arrive. Please contact me at: [JATOE Barton@gmail.com](mailto:JATOE Barton@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

## WILL COUNTY'S NEWS-TALK-SPORTS



By Joel Martis

On January 4th I had the privilege of being on WJOL Radio to talk about JATOE. I want to thank Rich Renik for this opportunity to spread the word about us in a monumental way. Rich is retired and was a broadcaster at WCCQ radio in Joliet. He was asked by Scott Slocum to fill in for him for two weeks. Scott told him to run the show anyway he wanted. It didn't stop there. Taylor Trimby was on the air January 5th and Dennis Nawracaj was on January 6th. Between the 3 of us, we shared our knowledge of JATOE, The Rialto and the Barton Grande.

*Thank  
You  
Rich!*



## Editor's Note

By Rick Steinke



I am the new co-editor of the JATOE newsletter. For those of you that don't know me, I am a director on your board and a member of the work crew. If you have not renewed your membership by now, please get it in by the end of March. We purge the membership rolls at the beginning of April. So please get your membership dues in by the end of March. We do not want you to miss out on any important news. Also, if you know anyone that would like to join JATOE, please give them a copy of the membership form. Forms can be found on the JATOE website under Membership. We are always looking for new content for the Relay Charter. If you have any news or interesting articles you would like to share with the membership, please submit it to Rick Steinke at [RickB1209@outlook.com](mailto:RickB1209@outlook.com).



## RIALTO SQUARE THEATER



Gerard Marian began listening to George Wright at the age of 6 from George's 1956 Hi-Fi recording. From that moment on, he was hooked on the theatre organ! His father bought him his first Hammond organ spinet, model M111 at the age of 9. At South West High School he performed on a Hammond BV - 2 for four years during in the school auditorium from 1965-1969. Gerard studies organ with Dale Zieger who he credits as a great organ instructor. Dale at the time was assistant organist to Stan Kann at the Fox Theatre, St. Louis playing the mighty Wurlitzer every Saturday night. Dale also traveled with the Conn Organ Company for many years demonstrating their electronic organs across the country.

After Gerry graduated from high school, he became assistant organist at the Fox Theatre along with Stan Kann and at Ruggei's Restaurant. At that time he also studied organ with Dr. Fry at the United Methodist Church, and taught organ and piano at two music stores in St. Louis. Gerry did all of this while attending Junior College. Gerry obtained his music degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He enjoyed a ten year internship at the Fox Theatre.

Gerry's father worked for the Wurlitzer Company, and was responsible for installing the Ambassador Wurlitzer pipe organ in 1926, and the Fox Wurlitzer in 1928, and maintained both instruments from 1932-1937. Presently, Gerry is the staff organist at the Chase Park Plaza Cinema, performing on the Conn 652 theatre organ. A post he has held since 1999. In the late 70's through the 1980's, Gerry was guest organist for KSDK-TV for their accompanying a variety of for the organ. Gerry is for JATOE for the very



"Newsbeat" half-hour show entertainment and solo pieces extremely excited to perform first time!

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



# Jack Moelmann

**April 2, 2041**

**December 30, 2021**

Jack Moelmann, 80, of O'Fallon, IL, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at Memorial Hospital East in Shiloh, IL. Jack was born on April 2, 1941, in Oak Park, Illinois, and has been a resident of O'Fallon, IL since 1986.

In 1965, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Bradley University in Peoria, IL. He then received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and rose to the rank of Colonel at the time of his retirement in 1991. His medals included the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

In addition to Jack's Air Force career, he also had a career in music, particularly playing the organ. Jack started in music (with the piano and as soloist in the church choir) at age 8, and had pursued this avocation ever since. His main interests were classical, theatre, and popular stylings on both the organ and the piano. Jack had been a member of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) since 1967, served on their Board of Directors in one capacity or another continuously for 23 years (1983-2006), chaired several committees, and was the President of ATOS from 1985 until 1988. He was also the ATOS Secretary 1993-2006.

He was elected as ATOS Honorary Lifetime Member in May 1994 and inducted into the ATOS Hall of Fame in July 2008. In 2018, he was named the ATOS Organist of the Year.

He also served as the Executive Director of the Theatre Organ Society International (TOSI). In August 2008, he was inducted into the TOSI Hall of Fame. In July 2009, he was appointed a Staff Organist at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis, Missouri; served as a volunteer organist at the Lincoln Theatre in Belleville, Illinois; and has been the organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in O'Fallon since 2001.

During high school and college, he was always in demand to perform on the organ or piano at social functions, as well as concerts in local churches, auditoriums, and theatres. In 1960, he went on a family tour of Europe during which time he was able to play at such famed places as Westminster Abbey in London and the Pantheon in Rome. Jack became the 2nd military person to perform in concert at the Chapel of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1972.

He has performed and given concerts in many of the famous movie palaces and auditoriums across the country. He has been featured on the TV programs "CBS Evening News" with Walter Cronkite and "Good Morning America", St. Louis television news programs, as well as many other television and radio programs in support of the American Theatre Organ Society, the theatre organ, and its music.

In August, 2008, he was the featured performer at an organ concert held at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. The concert and his performance were headlined in the New York Times, New York Post, CBS Evening News and covered in several hundred other news medias around the world.

In 2015 and 2017 he performed at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis, putting on a musical event featuring its Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ. He also served as staff organist at the St. Louis Fox Theatre as well as the Historic Lincoln Theatre in Belleville, Illinois. He was also organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon, Illinois.

He has appeared with Bob Ralston of Lawrence Welk fame in Omaha, Chicago, and Meridian, Mississippi, and performed on the mammoth Kimball Concert Organ in the St. Louis Scottish Rite. He has also performed at the famed Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, the Redford and Senate Theatres in Detroit, and played at the Arcada Theatre, St. Charles, Illinois. In May 1991, he rededicated the Grand Barton Theatre Pipe Organ (originally from the Orpheum Theatre) in the Springfield, Illinois.

In October, 1992, he made his second appearance playing with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra on the Omaha Orpheum Theatre's Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ during their Halloween Pops Concert Series, his first appearance being during the Christmas Concert Series in 1988. In November 1992, he had the honor of doing the first concerts for the official unveiling of the American Theatre Organ Society Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ installed in the Towe Ford Museum in Sacramento, California. In December 1992, 1993, and 1994, he performed Christmas Concerts at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, Illinois, on its Grande Barton organ.

Jack had 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 frequently entertained groups in his home from around the St. Louis area and beyond.

He is an Honorary Lifetime member of the River City (Omaha, Nebraska) ATOS Chapter and a Life Member of the St. Louis Theatre Organ Society and the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



# Blast from the Past

## ORGAN LOANED A KINURA!

THE RIALTO GRANDE BARTON HAS SOUNDED A LITTLE BETTER FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS THANKS TO MR. JOE V FISHER. MR. FISHER LOANED JATOE HIS RANK OF KINURA PIPES. THE PIPES WILL BE USED ON THE ORGAN UNTIL AFTER THE CONCERT. THE RANK HAS MADE AN ADDED IMPROVEMENT IN THE ORGAN'S TONAL CAPABILITIES. THE KINURA SOUNDS VERY RASPY AND CAN BE HEARD AT THE APRIL 18 CONCERT AT THE RIALTO AS THE SOUND OF QUACKING DUCKS DURING "RUBBER DUCKY" IN THE SING-A-LONG. THE RIALTO BARTON HAD A KINURA ORIGINALLY BUT IT WAS STOLEN MANY YEARS AGO. A GREAT BIG "THANKS" MUST BE EXTENDED TO JOE FISHER FOR SO GENEROUSLY LOANING THE RANK OF PIPES.

## WORK DONE ON BARTON CONSOLE!

EXTENSIVE WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON THE CONSOLE RECENTLY AT THE RIALTO. JATOE MEMBERS HELEN JACHIMCZAK AND LEE MALONEY DEVOTED HOURS TO REPAINTING THE GOLD TRIM AROUND THE CONSOLE. ALSO, LEE MALONEY DONATED AND INSTALLED A GOLD SHAG CARPET FOR THE PLATFORM THAT THE CONSOLE RESTS ON.

## DICK SMITH IN CONCERT!

THE DOWNERS GROVE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTER OF AFS (AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE) PRESENTS DICK SMITH AT THE MIGHTY WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL... THE ORGAN IS A 3/10 WURLITZER ORIGINALLY LOCATED IN THE OHIO THEATRE IN LIMA, OHIO. CATOE MEMBERS REMOVED THE INSTRUMENT AND RE-INSTALLED IT IN THE SCHOOL. THE CONCERT WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974 AT 8:00 PM AT THE HIGH SCHOOL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 4436 MAIN ST. IN DOWNERS GROVE. TICKETS ARE \$3 AT THE DOOR.

## HECTOR OLIVERA IN CONCERT

CATOE PROUDLY PRESENTS HECTOR OLIVERA IN CONCERT AT THE ORIENTAL THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO ON THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1974. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE CATOE. 6244 W. EDDY ST., CHICAGO, ILL. THE SHOW WILL START AT 7:30.

## LEE MALONEY TO PLAY AT ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION

JATOE STAFF ORGANIST LEE MALONEY WILL REPRESENT JATOE AT THE 1974 ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN DETROIT MICHIGAN. HE WILL PLAY THE 3/10 BARTON IN THE REDFORD THEATRE ON SATURDAY, JULY 13th.

THE RELAY- OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THEATRE PIPE ORGAN.

EDITOR: \_\_\_\_\_ LEE MALONEY  
ARTWORK \_\_\_\_\_ NANCY GEORGE  
ASSISTANCE \_\_\_\_\_ NANCY DANTA  
MAILING \_\_\_\_\_ B. BASKERVILLE



STOP CORONAVIRUS

The nasty little bugger is still around. As much as we love seeing you at the socials, if you are experiencing any of the most common symptoms, fever, dry cough, tiredness we ask that you please stay home until you are better. There will be plenty of socials in the upcoming year. The best way to protect yourself and others is just good old common sense and maybe some home made chicken soup. We want all of our members healthy!





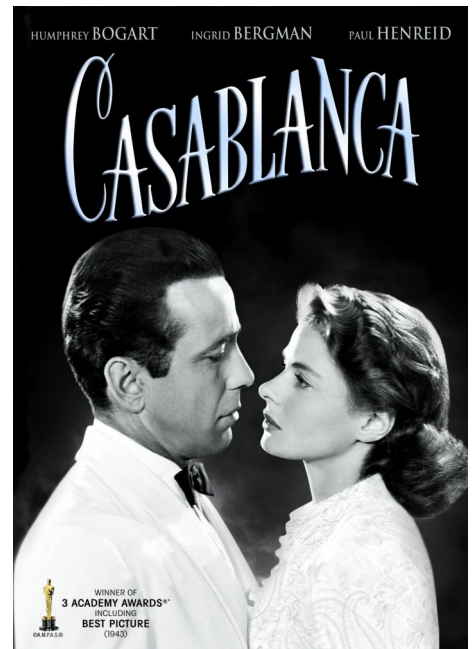
## \$5 MOVIE NIGHT AT THE RIALTO!

**3/16/22 7pm**

**Rocket Man**



Click Here



**4/14/27pm**

**Casablanca**

**Doors will open at 6pm, Movie is at 7pm unless otherwise posted.**

The Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ plays half an hour before the show


Come and hear Chicagoland's only Lobby Organ



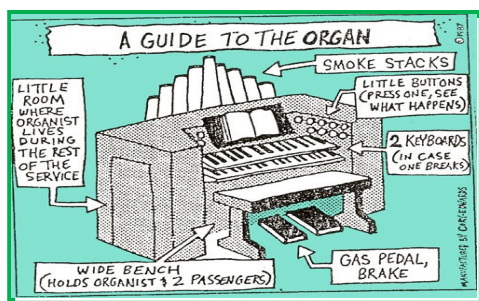
It's time to renew your annual JATOE membership. A renewal form has been emailed to each of you. Regular mail for those without an email address. Please have your dues in by March 31st. Our mailing lists are purged in April every year of members who have not renewed. If you have not received your renewal form, please contact us!



**Featuring**  
 Nick Renkosik  
 Dave Wickerham  
 Mark Gifford  
 Dave Stephens  
 Bert Kuntz  
 Marvin Faulwell  
 Henry Evans



**St. Louis Theatre Organ Society**  
**The Mid-America Theatre Organ Festival**  
**Party on the Pipes**  
**March 4th - 7th, 2022**  
 \$ 475.00 per person for 4 days of music, fun and food!  
 Open Console all venues including the Fabulous Fox!  
 All meals and transportation furnished with  
 pick up at airport, train or bus station.  
 Home Base: Hampton Inn, Columbia, Ill.  
 (618) 281-9000 for hotel reservations  
**Schedule and Registration**  
**call (618) 476-3233**



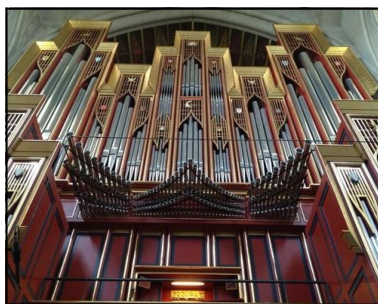
**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**  
 Current JATOE Membership, 117

*Please remember the following people in your prayers*  
 Bill Reynolds, Don Young, Bernice Walker, Norma  
 Peters, Bill Curry and Stan Zimmerman



**We will have a short business meeting before our  
 April 10th social. Rear stage doors will open at  
 1pm.**

### DTS MIDI SYSTEMS



Midi Encoder and Decoder  
 Controller Cards for real and  
 Virtual Pipe Organs operating  
 Hauptwerk and other Systems.

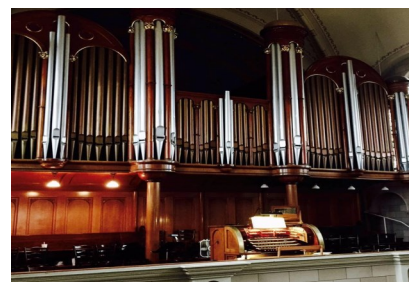
### Allen Organs

Chicago  
 181 W Crossroads Parkway,  
 Suite D  
 Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440  
 1-630-428-9701  
 Open by appointment only, please call to  
 schedule your visit.



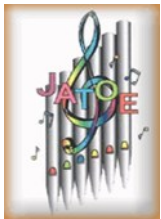
### City Organ Works

We provide tuning,  
 maintenance, re-leathering &  
 full restorations to both classical  
 & theatre pipe organs.  
 Historically sensitive  
 restorations a specialty.  
 Call (630) 687-0380





*Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts*  
*The 4/27 Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ*



JATOE  
15 E. Van Buren St  
Joliet, IL  
60432