

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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Our next social will take place at the Rialto Theatre on Sunday, January 12 as we welcome back to the Barton organ, Don Springer! You will not want to miss Don's program of vintage theatre organ classics! Doors open at 1:30pm, and the programs begins at 2:00pm. Note: this is our annual potluck social.

Join us on Sunday, February 23 at the Rialto as we feature organist Cletus Goens from Fort Wayne, IN! Cletus has been performing since he was four years of age and is an energetic and versatile performer. Doors open at 1:30pm and Cletus' program will begin at 2:00pm.

Potluck social requests for food items:

- 1) Members whose names end with the letters A-M please bring a dessert item to share.**
- 2) Names beginning with N-Z, please bring a side dish, salad, appetizer or vegetable item to share.**

This will assure that we have a great variety of foods! Thank you!

President's Message from Jim Patak

I certainly hope that all of you had a great Holiday Season. Dolores and I spent Christmas Eve in Church and Christmas Day with our 4 grandsons and 2 great grand children. Dolores still sings in the church choir, so I have to sit in a pew by myself. That was all right, since one of our church friends ordered 6 tickets to our extravaganza that night.

While I mentioned the extravaganza, the theatre has sold almost 200 tickets already with 115 on hold. This is better than I thought at this time of the year.

Those of you that belong to the ATOS will see our Extravaganza Ad in the January issue of the Journal and will also see it on our website (jatoe.org) Beside Jelani Eddington, Chris Elliott and Pierre Fracalanza, the University of St Francis Symphony will also perform.

Our Sunday performance will again be at the Sanfilippo Mansion in Barrington, IL. Those of you that have not been to the mansion should bite the bullet and join us there. I tell everyone that this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You will hear the three artists from the Extravaganza performing on the world's largest theatre organ. Our Barton has 27 ranks of pipes; the Sanfilippo organ has 80 ranks. It is spectacular.

I have to thank Glenn Tallar and Don Walker for getting the proper decals for our Barton. Up until the last social no one knew the brand of the organ. Be sure to see the wonderful job Glenn did on the decals.

I also have to thank Norma Peters, Millie Juricic and the Long's for helping set up our refreshment table. There are others that help also, and we appreciate everyone that helps.

I hate to tell all you members, but dues are due. You may give you dues to Don Borre', Dolores Patak or myself at the next social or send them in with the form included in the newsletter.

If you have an email address that I don't have, please let me know since Postal Stamps are going up to 49 cents very soon. This would help our treasury a great deal

The theatre is in the process of replacing all the terracotta on the building since it is falling off. The construction will take a year with the cost of \$2.5 million. The terracotta is being made in England.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE RIALTO THEATRE

Jim Patak

Editors note:

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER BY RENEWING YOUR DUES!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

“Dandy” Don Springer to perform on Jan 12!

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 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 Don's performance. Rialto Square Theatre 102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432



Cletus Goens to perform on February 23!

Cletus began his musical studies on piano at age 4 and voice at age 9. In his mid-teen years, his interest turned to theatre organ after hearing the Wurlitzer organ at the Paramount Music Palace. During high school, Cletus was booked in Muncie Indiana at the Skyline Restaurant and in Anderson Indiana at the Shamrock Bar, just one block away from the Paramount Theatre and its Page organ. Besides playing Hammond and singing in these lounges and restaurants, he began playing intermissions at the Paramount, as well as appearing as a guest at the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne and Pipe Dream restaurant in Kokomo. After two years playing piano and singing with a show band, Cletus decided to return to Marion to perform on piano at Meshingomesia Country Club for the next twelve years. With a strong vocal training background, he has also enjoyed positions as an organist, choirmaster, and Minister of Music for several churches. In 1996 he re-joined ATOS, and has since performed for several Central Indiana Chapter meetings. He has also performed on piano for the 1997 and the 2001 ATOS National Conventions, and was a playoff judge for the 2001 ATOS Young Artist Competition as well as chief usher. Now living in Fort Wayne and working as a telephone bill auditor for Centennial Wireless, Cletus spends time as the first official organist for the Fort Wayne Wizards baseball team, serves on the board of Cantabile! (an Indianapolis-based professional choir), and holds the office of 2nd Vice-President of CIC-ATOS.

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