

# RELAY CHATTER

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

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

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May / June 2022

From the Joliet Patch

### Rialto Needs New Director: Val Devine Retiring In April

It's hard to put into words how significant her work contributions have been. It's nothing short of a miracle, Bob Filotto remarked.



The Rialto issued a news release late Friday afternoon, March 25th indicating Val Devine is retiring from the entertainment industry. She has been the Rialto's executive director since April 2017. She came to Joliet from the Paramount Theatre in Aurora. Val plans to stay in the Joliet area and continue with her passion of serving the community, the Rialto announced.



*Click on the picture for the full story*

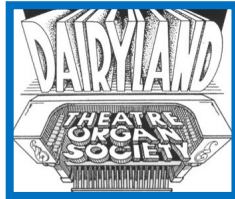
She is a truly remarkable woman. She always supported JATOE. No one knows all that she has really done or the time it takes to run a theater like the Rialto. While I am very sad to see her go, and will miss her, I understand it. From all of us at JATOE, **CONGRATULATIONS** on your retirement. You certainly have earned it! Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



# 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 Rick Steinke

Hi Everyone

Hope you didn't miss the great socials of January and February. Jelani Eddington and Taylor Trimby provided us with fantastic concerts. They really showed off the wide range of tones that our Barton can produce. They both received standing ovations from the Audience.

The Barton is receiving a facelift. See the pictures on page 5. We will keep you updated on the future progress. The hard part is yet to come. We will need to remove the top of the organ and take apart the pedal-board.

In the months to come, we will be bringing you Taylor's Trivia. The answers will be in the next issue. Please let us know how many you knew.

## President's Message

By Joel Martis

While it saddens me that Val is retiring, I get it. I'll miss her witty way, her support and humor. I wish her all the best.

We will have to wait and see who the new director of the theater will be. I hope they will be as supportive as Val was.

The Barton is being repainted. Its been 20+ years and she is really sparkling now. The detail work is time consuming, but well worth it. Its going to look great for the convention in 2023. May 22nd will be our "feast" JATOE will buy the meat and our members will fill in the rest. Come Hungry! See page 4. Some much needed electrical work is being done in the chambers, lobby organ blower and in the theater. A huge Thank You to Terry Marsala and Lee Rajala.



By Don Walker

Hi Members and Friends,

As I write this letter, myself and JATOE member, Norma Peters will be traveling to O'Fallon, IL to attend the memorial service of Jack Moelmann. As many of you know, Jack was very generous to JATOE, ATOS and theatre organ for more than fifty years. Jack donated his time, talent and treasure to promote theatre organ, serving many years on the board of the American Theatre Organ Society in a variety of positions. The memorial service will be held at his church in O'Fallon, then a party will be held in his honor at his home. He will be remembered and missed by his many friends from around the world. I wish all of you a happy spring season, and hope that the weather will warm up very soon. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

## RIALTO SQUARE THEATER

# GREG OWEN

## MAY 22nd



Greg Owen has established himself as a widely known concert artist throughout the United States. Born in 1965, he has had a love for the organ since the age of 9. Inspired by artists such as Virgil Fox, Lyn Larsen, Walt Strony and Tom Hazelton, Greg has taken a style all his own. He has concertized for numerous chapters from the east and west coasts. He has performed for the Garden State theatre organ society at such venues as the Trenton War Memorial, The Loews Jersey Wonder Morton, the Pascack Theatre, the Rahway Theatre and for NYTOS at the Lafayette Theatre in Suffern, the New York Military Academy in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York and at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. He has also played at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, as well as the

Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, Alabama. Equally at home with electronic organs, he has his own custom instrument he brings to different venues around the country as well as having played in restaurants throughout the years. He has played the Wanamaker organ on numerous occasions as well as many other venues including the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ and the Sanfilippo Residence Organ, including the Wichita Wurlitzer. He has held the prestigious position as staff organist at the Organ Loft in Salt Lake City for over 4 years. Equally at home on electronic organs, Greg has played for many electronic organ societies including the Hammond Organ Society and the Monmouth Organ Society in New Jersey. He is a Yamaha National Electone Organ Festival Competition winner. He has performed at the Kansas City Music Hall in Kansas City on the large Robert Morton organ. Recently, he performed for the River City Theatre Organ Society at the Rose Theatre Wurlitzer and his Allen MDS317EX with Hauptwerk in his home.

**Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 1:30 pm Show starts at 2:00 pm. Bring Refreshments!**





MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS, **MAY 22ND**  
**JATOE** will provide the  
main dish.

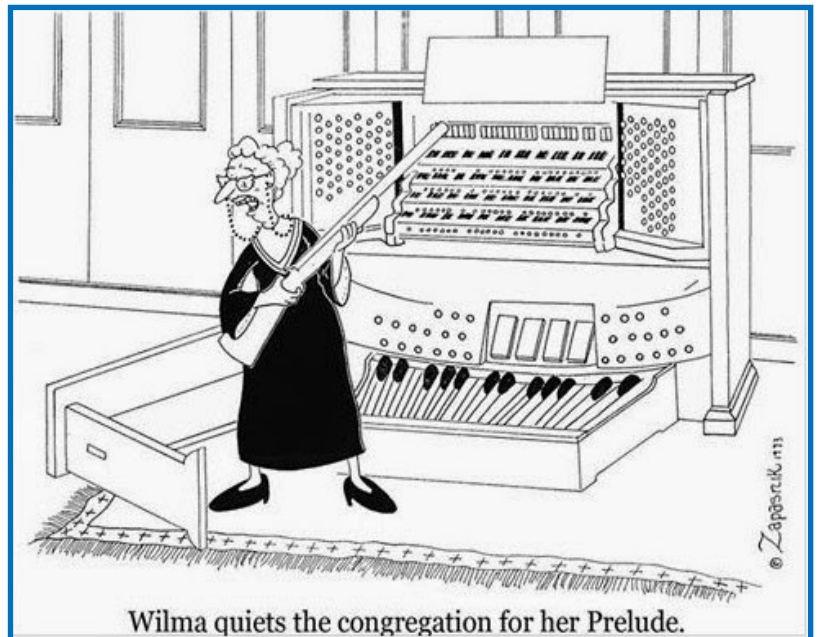
Members A-M please bring  
a side dish.

Members N-Z please bring  
a dessert and come hungry!

*We are sorry  
to see you go!*



For those members who have not renewed for 2022, this will be your last newsletter. For whatever reason you have decided not renewed, we are sad to see you go. If you have just forgotten, just send your dues to Jim Patak. We Thank You for your past support of our mission.



Wilma quiets the congregation for her Prelude.

## Congratulations

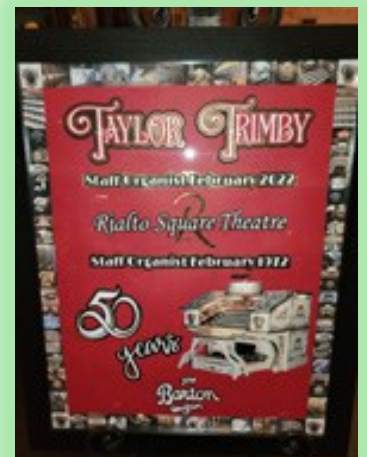
**Taylor Trimby** For Being The  
Staff Organist at the  
Rialto Square Theater

For 50 years!

**February 1972 to February 2022**

And

**JATOE'S Newest Lifetime Member**



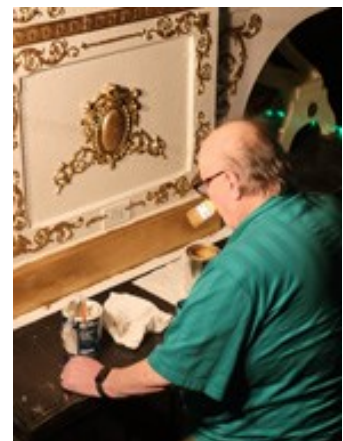
## Some One You Should Know

### Terry Marsala



Terry volunteered his time to help Install the electrical outlets in the chambers for heaters and fans. This equipment will be use to help stabilize the environment for the pipe work. He has also been doing minor work around the Theater to help them out. Thank You Terry!

## Our Barton is Receiving a Facelift





# Taylor's Trivia

- Who was the first organist at the Rialto?
  - Leo Tolstoy
  - Leo G. Carroll
  - Leo Terry
  - Leo Durocher
- What Company supplied the organ to the Rialto?
  - Wurlitzer
  - Barton
  - Kimball
  - Hammond
- What was the first song played on the organ in the Rialto?
  - Because I Love You
  - Charmaine
  - The Desert Song
  - Always
- How many chambers does the organ in the Rialto have?
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
- How many ranks (sets of pipes) did the organ in the Rialto have when installed?
  - 19
  - 20
  - 21
  - 22
- What was the original purchase price of the organ in the Rialto?
  - \$21,000
  - \$26,000
  - \$10,500
  - \$12,300



## THE MIGHTY WURLITZER IN CONCERT



**Organ Piper Pizza**  
**Monday, May 23rd**  
**Doors open - 5:00 pm**  
**Concert - 6:00 pm**



Join us for an evening of pizza and music with world renowned theatre organist, Jelani Eddington featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Tickets sold at the door - \$25 per person, includes the concert and all you can eat pizza and soda buffet. Cash bar will also be available.

Presented by the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society  
 Check out our website for more information - dtoswi.org

Gift Certificates are \$30.00 and are valid for dues and has no expiration date. See a board member to purchase one.



Website:  
[www.SkateAurora.com](http://www.SkateAurora.com)  
 Facebook:  
[AuroraSkateCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AuroraSkateCenter)



Live Organ Music  
 Dance Session  
 with Carl DeSanti  
 Mondays, 7:30-10:00pm



## \$5 Movie Night



Click Here



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!

### JATOE Members that have passed away.

Bill Curry (3-14-1937 - 2-18-2022)



Ben Heer (2022)



### 2022 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

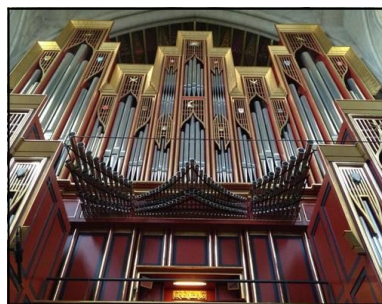
Current JATOE Membership, 86

*Please remember the following people in your prayers*

Bill Reynolds, Don Young, Bernice Walker, Norma Peters and Stan Zimmerman



### DTS MIDI SYSTEMS



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

### Allen Organs

Chicago

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Open by appointment only, please call to schedule your visit.

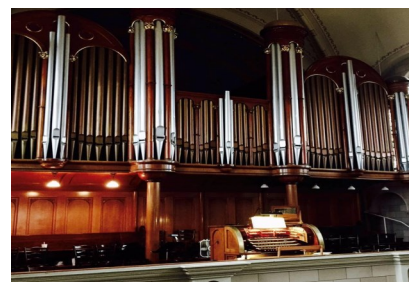


### City Organ Works

We provide tuning, maintenance, re-leathering & full restorations to both classical & theatre pipe organs.

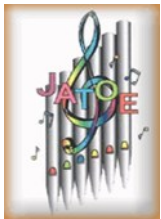
Historically sensitive restorations a specialty.

Call (630) 687-0380





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



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Joliet, IL  
60432