

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



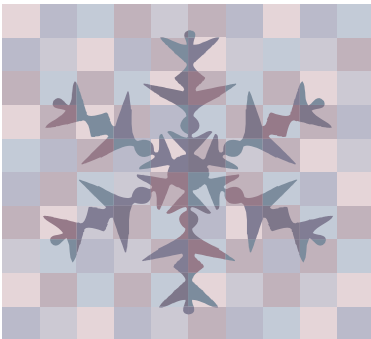
WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

January-February 2010

Join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL on Sunday, Jan. 24 for our Membership meeting and social. We welcome Paul Johnson after hand surgery prevented him from performing for us last year. Doors open at 1:30 pm for this social.

Our February social will take place on Sunday, February 21 and will feature JATOE members, Jim Patak, Don Walker and Sam Yacono. Door open at 1:30pm and the program begins at 2:00pm.



President's Message from Jim Patak

The 2009 Holiday Season has passed us by and I hope your holidays were filled with great joy. Before we blinked another season was upon us as 2009 seemed to fly by. Last year, JATOE experienced some good times and also some losses.

Many of you knew that we lost 3 fine members. Bob Wheeler, John Peters and Dr. Richard Hutchinson all passed on. We wish their families the best in these times of despair. We also lost one of the finest organ technicians (Jim Gruber) to retirement. He did a lot of work on the Rialto Barton. We hope he has a great time loafing.

JATOE had many fine socials throughout the year and we appreciate your attendance at these functions. We also appreciate those that help out on those days. We also thank the theatre staff for being so cooperative with us.

Our 2009 Extravaganza was not as successful as we had anticipated. We believe this was a result of the poor economy our country has been going through. We expect a rebound in 2010.

This year's Pipe Organ Extravaganza will feature Jelani Eddington, Chris Gorsuch, Chris Elliot, Clark Wilson and the Joliet American Legion Band. The program will consist of Patriotic Music. Tickets are already on sale with a reduction in price. Tickets are now \$30. They were \$38 in previous years.

On a good note, the estate of Dr. Hutchinson is leaving \$25,000 to JATOE. Even though the Barton sounds great, there is still much to do and thanks to Dr. Hutchinson we will now have the funds to continue with the restoration. Those who have been worried about the finances of the ATOS can now relax. The ATOS just received a \$900,000 gift from the Lufkin Estate.

Our Christmas Social was a great success with over 100 in attendance. Bill Tandy did his usual fine job at the console and I hope everybody had a good time.

Our next social (January 24) will also be a membership meeting as prescribed by our by-laws. If you have anything to bring to our attention, please let us know at the time.

Our next socials are Jan 24, 2010 and February 21, 2010. Keep these dates on your calendar.

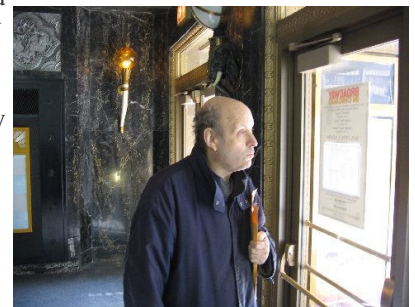
PLEASE SUPPORT THE RIALTO THEATRE AND THE OTHER ORGAN CLUBS IN THE AREA

Jim Patak

Remembering CATOE President John Peters

On December 9, 2009, the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts lost one of their leaders and long time organ enthusiast, CATOE President John Peters. John died peacefully at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston. He was 64. Born at St. Francis Hospital on October 29, 1945 to the late Harry and Leona Peters, he is survived by his sisters Barbara (Roy) Rooker of Phoenix, Arizona, Katherine (Doug) Ward of Elyria, Ohio and brother James (Rebecca) Peters of Maitland, Florida. He was uncle to 10 nieces and nephews.

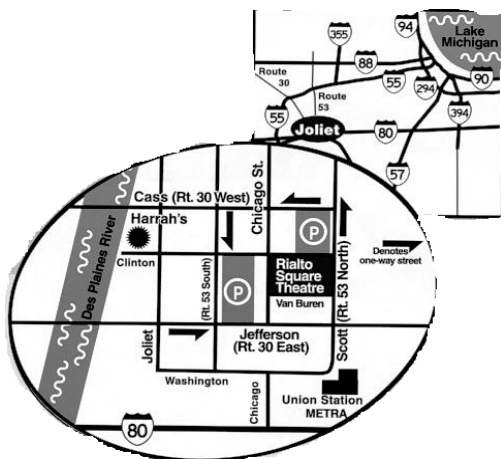
While John's interest was originally the classical organ, he followed his passion of restoring and maintaining theatre organs. John joined the ranks of CATOE in the early 1970's and eventually became the President of the organization. He helped with maintaining and preserving several Chicago theatre pipe organs including Wurlitzer organs installed in the Chicago and Oriental Theatres. John was active in organ preservation and maintenance most of his life. Most recently and until his death, he worked as an organ tuner, installer and builder with the Bradford Organ Company. A memorial Mass will be held at St. Joseph Church, 1747 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091 on Saturday, Jan 16, 2010 at 10am by his friend Rev. Thomas Franzman. John was cremated and memorials may be made to St. Joseph Church or CATOE, 173 S. Rosedale Ave, Aurora, IL 60506. (Information courtesy of CATOE Vox, January 2010 Issue)



Paul Johnson performs after major hand surgery

Born right here in Joliet, Paul Johnson has been playing keyboards for over 40 years. At six Paul started on piano and at age ten added the organ to his musical instruction. Paul honed his skills at the organ serving as organist/musician at various area churches. He served as Worship Arts Director in Frankfort and Downers Grove. Originally scheduled for our August Social, Paul had to cancel due to a serious hand injury. Two tendons on Paul's right hand, fifth finger were severed in a freak accident July 30th. One tendon was completely severed, the other 60%, but after a successful operation and extensive (and VERY painful) physical therapy, along with lots of hard work, he is as good as new. "I went back to work the first week of November while continuing to do the therapy. My right hand was a bit stiff at first, but as it has continued to gain strength, that has gone away. It's amazing actually, during the 2 hour micro-surgery, the tendons were knitted together," Paul says. He is looking forward to doing the program he planned for August, which will include traditional theatre organ selections, as well as a rendition of Rhapsody in Blue, selections from the popular "Harry Potter" movies, and other popular movie themes as well. "It will be a fun program with selections known to children as well as grandparents, a wide range of material." Locally he entertains at the keyboard Monday evenings from 6 to 9 PM at Bonfire Steaks and Seafood in Homer Glen where you can enjoy an outstanding meal with exceptional service in a warm, intimate atmosphere. The music is present, but not overpowering. For more information

you can visit www.pianobypaul.com or www.bonfirehomerglen.com.



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 Paul's performance.



Members perform in February!

After several requests for a social that features members performing, JATOE is proud to announce that Sunday, February 21 three long-time members, Jim Patak, Don Walker and Sam Yacono will each perform twenty minutes of selections on the Barton organ. JATOE offered a similar social in February 2006, and it was well received by the membership. Both Jim and Sam are staff organists at the Rialto and perform for pre-show and special events. Don has been a JATOE member since 1983 and has enjoyed performing for local organ clubs over the past several years.

Be sure to bring your music as there will be plenty of open console time following the performance. Door to the Rialto will open at 1:30pm, and the social begins at 2:00pm. Enter the theatre from the stage door, Scott Street side.

Jim Patak



Sam Yacono



Don Walker

