



# RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

[WWW.JATOE.ORG](http://WWW.JATOE.ORG)

January / February 2025



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## RIALTO IS OPEN

The Rialto has been open since the end of October. Many, many shows have been booked especially for the Christmas season. Some have been sell out crowds. Lee was able to get in for three days with Brian from Peterson to complete the wiring. That is one project we can check off the list. It looks so clean in the console. All the “not used anymore” and wires that went nowhere are gone. A new configuration file was loaded to address the piston issue. That is off the to do list too. The console is finally maintenance friendly. That’s our number one goal when redoing anything on this organ.



Toby Washburn came down December 2nd to completely tune the organ to A440. The organ played with the American Legion Band in December. Toby will be coming down to start rebuilding some of the chests that are in desperate need of help after the first of the year.

Before the asbestos issue happened, the theater did have the entire lobby and rotunda floor restored. All the cracks were filled in and fixed and the finish they put on is a mirror finish. It really looks beautiful. I can only imagine that is how it looked on opening day in 1926.

As of now our work crew is still not allowed in the basement and we have no idea when we will be. Whatever we can do has been done. Without our tools and supplies we are just waiting. Hopefully it won’t be much longer.



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2PM**

**RICHIE GREGORY ON THE BARTON GRANDE**

Richie has had a lifelong interest in the theatre organ since age 1, when his grandparents began taking him to visit the Roaring 20's Pizza and Pipes (Ellenton, FL). This continued each year up until its closure in 2010. At age 4, he was given CD's of Bill Vlasak and Dwight Thomas, which he burned into his head, now triggering various nostalgic memories.

Richard began playing the piano by ear at age 6, interested in only perusing organ, later obtaining his first spinet (Kimball) when he was 9 years old. He took up percussion for school, eventually participating in all three concert bands, and put in charge as head "section leader" for the percussion section of the elite band (with a preference for Timpani). Richard also enjoys arranging for ensembles. He has arranged for big band ensembles and marching band, as well as scored several short films.

Richard studied organ privately with Chad Baker of Capital University (Bexley, Ohio), and has come around to a deep and satisfying appreciation for the classical pipe organ.

Richard is currently Organist and Music Associate at New Hope Global Community Church based in Columbus, Ohio.



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



**FEBRUARY’S SOCIAL TO BE ANNOUNCED  
 A SPECIAL EDITION WILL BE SENT OUT LATER IN  
 JANUARY ONCE THINGS ARE FINALIZED**



**OFFICIAL NOTICE  
 of Business Meeting**



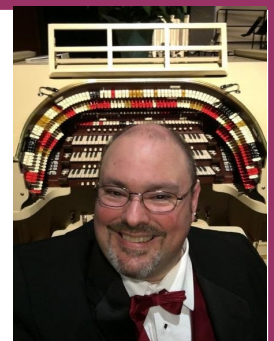
At the January social, there will be a business meeting, nominations and elections of officers for the JATOE Board of directors. JATOE is having elections early due to the availability of the theater. This is a very important meeting. We need the memberships input about future socials and what you our members, are willing to do. Rear stage doors will open at 12:30pm with the meeting starting at 1pm. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. In the event that the January social gets canceled due the availability of the theater, we will move this to our February social which will be announced later in a special edition news letter.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Scott Foppiano 1965-2024

You can read his obituary by holding your ctrl button and clicking here.

[Scott Foppiano Obituary | Dec 19, 2024 | Charlotte, NC](#)

May Scott Rest in Peace



*Happy*  
**2025**  
*New Year*



### **Our Mystery Donor**

Lori Moreland had called and said she played for his funeral. She also told me Robert W, Chesney worked for CBS as a cameraman. He was also a photographer. Who knows why he left JATOE the money . Maybe he did some kind of coverage at the Rialto and heard the organ. It must have really impressed him. We are very grateful for whatever reason he did.

### **Upcoming Elections**

Soon you will choosing the JATOE Board. As mentioned before Dennis does not want to be nominated for President, also Rick does not want to be nominated for Secretary. That are the two current openings for the board. The rest said they would stay on. If you would like to run for any position, let us know.



### **Where there's a will, There's a way.....**

Bequests and other generous, thoughtful gifts do make a difference. When you write or review your will or trust, please consider leaving JATOE a charitable bequest. Ask your attorney to include such wording as this: "I give to the Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts the sum of \_\_\_\_\_dollars to be used for furthering the goals of JATOE for promoting, preservation, care and maintenance of the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ." Your loved one will be forever remembered with their name engraved on the plaque that's on the back of the organ.



## 2025 Annual JATOE Dues

Dear JATOE Member,

Below is your annual due's notice. Please fill it out so we have your updated information, especially your email address and mail it to **Jim Patak at the address below**. Thank You for your continued support of JATOE. We are looking forward to a great 2025 and seeing all of you. You can affix an address label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box if you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail.

Do you belong to the American Theater Organ Society (ATOS)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: JATOE**

**Mail this form and remittance to:**

**Jim Patak  
1406 Mandel Ave  
Westchester, Ill 60154**

Annual Dues Amounts	
Students	\$15.00
Regular	\$40.00
Supporting	\$50.00
Sponsoring	\$100.00
Sustaining	\$500.00
Presidents Club	\$1000.00