


MAY 2023

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
www.norcaltos.org (510) 644-2707
P. O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way, Between Milvia Street &
Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE OPEN HOUSE

Chris Nichols writes: On Saturday, April 22nd, there was an Open House at Berkeley High School to show off the new classroom wing, which is to the east of Berkeley Community Theatre. This event was for the classrooms, as the theatre's stage upgrades have not yet been completed.

I walked in the campus entrance on the east side of the theatre building, which we have used in the past to get to the box office in front of the theatre. Right outside the cafeteria on the left there was a small student band playing. Across the way, they had some light refreshments.

We entered through the new door at the east end of the building. The foyer is two stories tall, large and has a handicap ramp. I am not handicapped, but handicap access through the entire building was clearly a major consideration in the design. In the foyer they have one of the 16 mm projectors in a display case up at the second level. When you are in the foyer and look up, you stare right at it.

The newly rebuilt east wing of the building, including the basement under the stage, has been completely redesigned. It is a bit of a maze until you learn your way around. To the left off the foyer are six steps up to the entrance to the lobby. Next to the steps is an elevator, which can take you to the basement, the lobby level, and the second floor. The second floor of the east wing is classrooms,

Sierra Chapter event:

Jerry Nagano at the 3/15 Wurlitzer pipe organ
Hunter Hall, 218 California Street, Rio Vista

Saturday May 20th at 2:00 pm

Doors open at 1:00 pm

Suggested donation \$15.00

Note: *First-come, First-served for 95 tickets*

Many thanks to Geoffrey Hansen for making
this concert possible

teacher offices, and storage. There are several large band rehearsal rooms. There are quite a few small (large closet size) individual practice rooms, most of which contain a real console piano. There are windows everywhere to see into the various rooms. All the rooms have labels such as classroom, storage, office, etc. It is a beautiful environment and I'm certain the teachers love it. On the main floor there is a new scene shop with a complete vacuum system for all the machines. There are a number of commercial grade items such as a radial arm saw with a huge bench, programable cutting machines, a planer, and more. It should be a great place for the students. There is now a large walkway across the back of the stage. There is a dressing room off it. There is a passenger elevator back there, which goes to the basement and up to the old backstage balcony where our 32-foot diaphones had been installed. That balcony is completely new and much wider than the old one. For those familiar with the building, this balcony is

two steps above the same level as the shelf holding the piano and the 16' Tibia Plenas. In the basement, there are dressing rooms, a costume shop, and some storage. The electrical rooms have been completely redone.

RETURN OF BLOWERS TO BLOWER ROOM

More from Chris: On May 1st, we were able to use the elevator off the foyer to move the rest of the blower parts, including the two 20 hp motors, down to the basement. (We moved the largest parts a few weeks earlier.) They had been stored in the back of



Kevin King, Wayne Joseph, Ted Hubbard, Robert Woodworth, Neal Wood, Chris Boras, Rudy Frey, & Chris Nichols. Not in photo: Judson Owens &, Art Woodworth



the house while the blower room was torn up to make way for seismic strengthening. With the new design, the only stairs we had to deal with were the six going to the hallway leading to the blower room. See photo). They have done a wonderful job in both the design and the execution.

STATUS OF STAGEHOUSE

As of May 1st, the stage was still covered by protective sheeting and stage wiring was still underway. Your editor suspects that this work will continue until the end of May, if not into June.

CLOSING CORD – WARREN LUBBICH

Warren Peter Lubich - September 23, 1934 – February 8, 2023.

Warren and NorCal:

Warren was a long-time member and Past Chairman of NorCal. He performed a number of chapter concerts at San Francisco's Avenue Theatre and the Cap'n's Galley pizza parlors in Daily City and Redwood City. Warren played a number of concerts across the USA as well as in Great Britain and Australia. And he served as NorCal Chairman for many years.

From the San Francisco Chronicle, February 17, 2023:

Warren was "ready to go" following a six-year medical odyssey. A second-generation native San Franciscan, he grew-up in the Crocker-Amazon neighborhood, attending Guadalupe Elementary School and James Denman Middle School. His formal music education, which included classical piano and pop arranging and harmony, began at age seven. He attended Abraham Lincoln High School (1952) and received his bachelor's in biology from the University of San Francisco (1957).

Childhood visits to San Francisco's movie palaces fostered a dream of someday playing the theatre pipe organ. He realized that dream in 1966 on the Wurlitzer of San Francisco's Avenue Theatre, where he entertained with music of the 1920's and 1930's, and community sing-a-longs, until 1984. He played at the Marin Pizza Pub from

1971 to 1978, and at the Serramonte and Redwood City locations of Pizza and Pipes from 1978 to 2001. He joined the organ staff at the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland and the Castro Theatre in San Francisco in 1993 and 2000, respectively.

Warren played concerts and silent movie programs throughout California and across the country, and between 1980 and 2003, he performed twenty-seven concerts in England, Australia, and New Zealand. Warren recorded four albums during his music career and was a long serving volunteer with the Northern California Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Warren's musical talents weren't confined to the theatre pipe organ; he also played piano, calliope, and accordion, performing with the Red Garter Band – including at 49er football games and in civic parades – and at the Gold Dust Lounge among other venues.

Music aside, he enjoyed a 36-year career as a research scientist at the University of California, San Francisco, working in the fields of osteoporosis and hyper/hypo parathyroidism in the Department of Medicine and brain tumor research in the Department of Neurosurgery. He retired from the University in 1994, having co-authored seventeen papers.

Warren enjoyed his hobbies of vintage automobiles – Packards and Lincolns – and gardening long before his retirement. He was active with Northern California Packards and the Lincoln & Continental Owners Club. He cultivated orchids and dahlias – the official flower of San Francisco – and volunteered with the Dahlia Society in Golden Gate Park and with Filoli in Woodside. He joined the Olympic Club in 1959 and the Bohemian Club in 1999 and developed a penchant for international travel later in life.

Warren is survived by his daughter, Nancy McKinney, and son-in-law, Greg McKinney, of San Francisco, and his brother, Dwight Lubich, sister-in-law, Elaine Lubich, and nephew, Derek Lubich, of Los Altos. A memorial mass will be said on

Friday, March 3rd at 11am at St. Ignatius Church on the campus of the University of San Francisco. Contributions may be made to the USF Class of 1957 Endowed Scholarship, and can be sent to USF Development Services, 2130 Fulton St., SF, CA 94117-1080.

"San Francisco, welcome me home again, I'm coming home to go roaming no more."

Francis Aebi Jr.

From Tom DeLay: Fran was a past chairman of NorCal...60 years ago. He was in his mid 90's. Fran owned and merged the style D from the Appleton Theatre in Watsonville plus the 5-rank Wurlitzer from the Hotel Fresno. The organ was in his Richmond home and later in Salinas. He donated the organ to First Baptist in Salinas where it played for 20 years. It is now owned by Kevin King.

OTHER VENUES

Grand Lake Theatre – 3/17 Wurlitzer. 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Gordon Pratt (Fridays) and Bob Reichert (Saturdays). Bill Coale Relief Organist. (510) 452-3556. www.renaissancerialto.com

Paramount Theatre – 4/26 Wurlitzer. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Organ again playing but no organ events currently scheduled.

www.paramountheatre.com

Stanford Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer. 221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Closed for heating system repairs. Check website. stanfordtheatre.org

California Theatre, San Jose (Fox Theatre) - 4/21 Wurlitzer & 2/10 Wurlitzer. Schedule unknown.

<http://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theatre>

California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton. 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. Schedule unknown.

<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com>

Oroville State Theatre – 3/16 Wurlitzer (former Towe Auto Museum organ). 1489 Myers Street, Oroville, (530) 538-2470. Schedule unknown.

<https://www.oroVILLEstatetheatre.com>

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays at 4:00 pm.

<https://legionofhonor.famsf.org/events/organ-concert>

ABOUT NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

NorCal Theatre Organ Society is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). ATOS is dedicated to “promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding and appreciation of the instrument and its music, and shall aid in any way possible the preservation of theatre organs through rehabilitation of instruments and fostering the arts of playing, building, voicing, and maintenance.” If you would like to join us, please contact our Membership Chair Neal Wood:

woodshed523@icloud.com

P.O. Box 625
Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Normally NorCal Theatre Organ Society dues are \$20 per year. However, if you join now they will not be due until we return to having member meetings. For an additional \$50 you may also join National ATOS per year for a full voting membership plus six issues per year of *Theatre Organ Magazine*.

HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

We had been publishing whenever NorCal had an event scheduled. During the Corona Virus shutdown we will publish quarterly or as copy accumulates. If you have anything to contribute, please do so. *Stay safe – hope to see you all soon!*

GET YOUR WINDSHEET BY E-MAIL!

Would you like to receive your copy of the Windsheet by email? It will be in full color; it will be wrinkle and tear-free; it will arrive sooner; and you will save NorCal the cost of postage and envelopes! If so, please contact our Membership Chair, Neal Wood at the address shown above.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:

Please see the NorCal website at norcaltos.org for current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format along with an up-to-date Calendar of Events. You may reach NorCal directly at NorcalTOS@outlook.com.

Chairman: Chris Booras
43241 Giovanni Terrace
Fremont, CA 94539
christopher@scooplight.com

Vice Chairman: Judson Owens
1730 Virginia Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
jud.owens@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ted Hubbard
1973 La Corso Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598-2214
(828) 606-7721
effertaph@hotmail.com

Secretary & Windsheet Editor:
Art Woodworth
600 Coventry Road
Kensington, CA 94707
(510) 524-7452
arthurjwoodworth@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Neal Wood

523 Corbett Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94114

(415) 515-4030

woodshed523@icloud.com

Program Chair: Gordon Pratt

PO Box 2785

San Lorenzo Ca 94580

(510) 303-6809 mobile

aznme2@webtv.net

Board Member: Kevin King

musicbarn20@gmail.com

Past Chairman & Ex-officio Board Member

Rudy Frey

2050 Willow Way

San Bruno, CA 94066

(650) 933-2513

RudyFrey@currently.com