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# The WINDSHEET



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 Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY      BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE      www.norcaltos.org  
 PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707      Allston Way betw'n Milvia St & MLK, Jr Way      September 2014



Bert Atwood at 'GIGI'



Atwood entrance



photo--Portland Tribune

## PAUL QUARINO plays 'GIGI' for NorCal's PICNIC at the ATWOOD'S Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to about 5 PM, 9350 Konocti Bay Rd, Kelseyville, CA

Once again **Bert and Ann Atwood** will host a NorCal picnic at their lovely home on *Clear Lake*. Anyone who has attended past picnics here will know how special this invitation is. Sierra Chapter members are especially welcome to join us there.

**Paul Quarino** will give a one-hour concert on Bert's delightful GW-IV Allen Organ, 'Gigi'. Since 'Gigi' also will be available for Open Console, expect to hear wonderful music throughout the day.

The house was designed with an organ in mind, and is worth the trip to see what the Atwood's have done.

Please bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy on their deck above *Clear Lake*. Ann and Bert will provide condiments and cold soft drinks, wine and beer, and will have a BBQ set up for those who wish to cook. **Please, no smoking in the house.**

Come any time after 11 AM, and stay until late afternoon - but realize that you need to leave by 5 PM in order to avoid driving after dark. The trip is about 2 ½ hours from San Francisco/Oakland or Sacramento.

Please email or call Bert no later than Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend and include how many will be coming with you. They will then send you a map and directions by US mail.

*For those without email, call the Atwood's well in advance and they will send the information by regular mail.*

Contact information is:  
 atwoody@mchsi.com  
 or 707-277-7208

### PAUL QUARINO

Some NorCal Members may remember **Paul Quarino** as an organist at Portland's Organ Grider Pizza Restaurant from 1974 until it closed in 1996.

Since 1997 he has worked full time for **Rodgers Instruments**, as well as being the Organist at **Rivercrest Community Church in Portland** for the last 30 years. There he plays an organ he built from parts he had been accumulating over the years. "It's an old organ, but a current one" he says.

Between his pizza and Church venues, **Paul** has a very versatile style and is sure to put **'Gigi'** through her paces at the **Atwood Picnic**.



The picnic at Kevin King's (photo right) on August 17<sup>th</sup> was a great success with a room full of people attending. Several people took turns at the Organ, including Bill Langford (photo left), to everyone's delight. Thank you, Kevin!

*[A small power adapter marked 'LG' was left at Kevin's. It looks like the type used with a cell phone or lap-top, etc.]*



NorCal Theatre Organ Society (NorCal TOS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Federal Employer Identification Number 23-7415947 || State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 || State Organization Number D-0726636

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*When emailing, include ATOS or NorCal in the subject line. Otherwise, if you are unknown to the recipient's computer, its SPAM filter may divert your mail.*

**CHAIRMAN'S  
WINDLINE**  
Jud Owens



It is with a heavy heart that I inform the membership of the passing of **Don Ravey**. Don had been a member of NorCal beginning in the mid 1990's, serving as Editor of the Windsheet for four years and two terms on the Board of directors before resigning due to his health. Don made significant improvements to the Web site for NorCal. Don enjoyed playing the theatre organ (see picture below) As I have stated many times, Don's presence was intoxicating in that he brought insight, always presenting a positive contrasting view and his wonderful sense of humor. Though Don's closing chord has been performed, his memory will be fondly remembered by all that had the pleasure of making his acquaintance. Don will be missed.

**Chris Nichols and Neal Wood** inspected the pipe chambers finding no damage. [See *Earth Quake News* to right] The organ was fully evaluated during Saturday work parties. All is OK with our Wurlitzer. Work on our magnificent Wurlitzer proceeds as planned.

**Valerie Pope**, the *Theatre Manager of the Berkeley Community Theater* has begun the process of cleaning the facility. The basement was cleared of old props filling two 40 yard dumpsters. **Chris Nichols** and **Neal Wood** assisted.

Our presence in the theatre is appreciated thanks to our Saturday work parties, and especially to **Chris, Neal and Bill Schlotter**, our crew chief. Please remember this instrument is your instrument.

As a member of NorCal, you are welcome to attend Saturday work parties and any NorCal function. Call our information recording at 510-644-2707.

As always, **Jud**



**FINAL NOTES**  
**Donald Ravey**

**September, 1947 - August 22, 2014**

Don was a long time member of NorCal and a tireless worker for NorCal in general.

He served on the Board several times, and for several years wrote informative, and very readable concert reviews. In addition he was co-administrator of our web site and made several significant improvements.

He was a delight to work with, and had a great sense of humor. **Don** will be greatly missed by all.

**Aura Edwards**

**August 30, 1923 - August 23, 2014**

For many reasons **Aura Edwards** was a well known resident of the East Bay.

The **Contra Costa Times** stated, "To say Aura marched to a different drummer would be a significant understatement".

Among other gifts, Aura was one of the few female professional theatre pipe organists in the United States and worked for 11 years at the Bella Roma Pizza Parlors in Concord and Martinez. Long time NorCal members will recall the many Sunday picnics she hosted for us, and the lovely organ in her home.

**Earth Quake News**

An Email from Chris Nichols

Today [August 28] **Neal Wood** and I went over to Berkeley to check on the NorCal organ. We started in the basement and worked our way up. We have some things stored in the basement including some manual chests which are for sale. Everything seemed fine and nothing looked out of place. We checked the blower room. Nothing looked out of place. There was a pile of moving blankets and they had not fallen over. We didn't start the blowers because we wanted to check the chambers first.

We then went up to the balcony. Everything there seemed fine. In the back corner we have a set of 16' Viola Diapason pipes. They were fine and it didn't look like they had moved. Things on the balcony looked undisturbed. We turned on the separate blower for the 32' Diaphone and manually activated some of the pipes and some of the trap doors at the tops of the pipes. Everything worked as expected. Neal checked the piano shelf and all seemed in order there.

We then went up to the chambers. We checked in each of the chambers for any

pipes which might be askew but found none. Everything looked OK. Neal climbed up the small ladders used to climb into the organ. From up there he had a good view of the pipes and everything appeared normal.

We checked the work room and the upper relay room and they both seemed fine. We did not find anything out of place.

We turned on the blower and wind came up as usual. We played several notes manually and all seemed OK. Neal went out into the fan to check the unenclosed percussions and traps and said all looked OK.

We came back down to stage level and I played a few ranks from the computer. We did a few computer playbacks of songs and the organ behaved and sounded fine. At the next work party we will hook up the console and check out all the ranks. I suspect that if we find something it will not have been caused by the earthquake.

**OPEN  
CONSOLE**  
Hosted by  
**Chris Nichols**



This is an opportunity for NorCal members to try their hand at playing the chapter's Wurlitzer at the Berkeley Community Theatre. When the theatre is available, these sessions run from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The next scheduled dates are:

**SUNDAYS**

September 14th

October 12<sup>th</sup>,

November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, **Chris Nichols**, ensures that every NorCal member feels comfortable. Chris lends help and support to anyone who needs it. Depending on how many members are present, each has one or more 15-minute sessions at the console, in rotation.

**Important:** Call the NorCal voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on *that* Sunday morning to confirm that the theatre is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.





Woodworth photo

**EDITOR'S**  
  
 Jan La Fetra



## ATOS 2014 Indianapolis Convention

The first concert was on the evening of July 4 by **Richard Hills** at the **Hilbert Circle Theatre** (Wurlitzer). A former movie palace, it is now the home of the Indianapolis Symphony and was walking distance from the hotel.

The Circle Theatre faces on a large traffic circle with a Civil War monument in its middle. The concert let out in time for us to join the huge crowd standing in the circle for the fireworks which were set off from the roof of a nearby high-rise building. A spectacular start for the convention, both the concert and the aerial display!

Several events were at the **Warren Performing Arts Center** (Barton) which is the auditorium of a high school.

**Simon Gledhill** played on the **Page** at the **Paramount Theatre** in nearby Anderson.

The Anderson Paramount (see photo above) is atmospheric.

We spent a day in **Fort Wayne** where we heard concerts on several organs including the **Page** at the **Embassy Theatre**. The convention banquet was in the Indiana Ballroom which is the top floor of the **Indiana Theatre**, right across the street from the hotel. The ballroom is a spanish village atmospheric.

The last day was an optional afterglow to **Cincinnati, Ohio**. Two nice Wurlitzers (**Jelani Eddington** and **Mark Herman**) and a dinner cruise on the **Ohio River**. The weather was warm but not hot, and we didn't get rained on! We had a great time.

-- Art Woodworth

## A GOOD READ or a GREAT GIFT

**Bert Atwood** will have his book *My Father Was A Crop Duster* on sale during the picnic at the Atwoods' home September 27<sup>th</sup>. Normally \$39.95 Bert will sell them on the 27<sup>th</sup> for \$25. He will also autograph and personalize them if you wish.

## DONATIONS

NorCal thanks, for their generous donations to NorCal

**John and Cynthia Carleton**

**Louis Nagel**  
 to honor his son, Mark Nagel

There is much to look forward to this Fall - the picnic at **Bert and Ann Atwood's** on September 27<sup>th</sup> ; the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual **George Wright** Memorial Concert in Sacramento on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM with everyone's favorite artist, **Richard Hills** at the console. Hopefully there will be more concerts at the BCT during the late Fall and Winter.

If you haven't been to the Atwood's home before, you are in for a very special treat. The house itself is worth the trip, as is the setting on the *Konocti Bay at Clear Lake*, but best of all is the wonderful hospitality offered by Bert and Ann.

Look forward to Bert's story of building the house around *Gigi*, complete with drawings and a tour where Ann's decorating touch is shown as well as the organ chambers. Everyone has a good time, and with the ongoing Open Console after **Paul Quarino's** concert there will be lots of wonderful music. Do plan to be there.

But August brought some sad notes as you will see in *Final Chords*. **Don Ravey** will be missed by NorCal members, and **Aura Edwards** was considered responsible for **Jim Riggs'** lifelong success on the Wurlitzer. She was just short of 91 years old.

JAN

## NEW MEMBERS NorCal Welcomes:

**Eric and Vernelle Parker**  
 Sacramento, CA

**Mike Zampiceni**  
 Sunnyvale, CA

**Ken and Marina Chainey**  
 Richmond, CA

**Ed and Lisa Chainey**  
 Richmond, CA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NorCal Open Console

Sundays

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

(See Page Two)

**Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 PM**

#### IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA

Swing, Stride & Ragtime  
Piano & Percussion

at the **Ranch in Nevada City**

Contact **Bill Trabucco** for details

(530) 273-4252

billtrabucco@saber.net

**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2 PM**

**Sierra Chapter** presents

a Free Event of

Concert + Finger Foods/Desert

with **Peter Eveland**

at the home of **Wendell Jacob**

48 College Park, Davis, CA

sierrachapteratos.org

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual George Wright Memorial Concert

**Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 2:00**

**p.m.** with **Richard Hills** at the Mighty  
Wurlitzer.

Grant Union High & Sierra ChapterTOS

1400 Grand Ave., Sacramento, CA

Advance \$10, Gen. \$12, Students FREE

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 3PM**

**Davies Symphony Hall**

featurers the acclaimed Canadian organist

**Ken Cowan**, playing the Ruffati organ

## OTHER VENUES

**Castro Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer**, 429 Castro St. SF, CA. Intermission music played daily by **David Hegarty**, **Warren Lubich**, **Mark Putterbaugh** or **Harry Garland**.

(425) 621-6120.

CastroTheatre.com

**Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer**, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA. Intermission music: **Warren Lubich** or **Gordon Pratt** (Fridays) & **Bob Reichert** (Saturdays).

(510) 452-3556.

renaissancerialto.com

**Orange County** - [www.octos.org](http://www.octos.org)

**Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer**,

221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA.

#### Silent Film Schedule

**Dennis James** at the Wurlitzer

Silent Film Wednesdays with **Dennis**

**James** at the Wurlitzer

The organ is played before and between other films. (650) 324-3700.

[StanfordTheatre.org](http://StanfordTheatre.org)

**Theatre Organ Society of San Diego**

**Saturday Silent Film Nights**

Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

**Chris Elliott**

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM

**Russ Peck** - *Habeus Corpus* and *Do Detectives Think?* **Laurel & Hardy**

Greg Breed - *The Monster* **Lon Chaney**

**Concert**, Sunday Nov. 9th, 2 PM

**Donna Parker**

All at **Trinity Facilities**

3902 Kenmor Dr. Spring Valley, CA 91977

[www.tossd1.webs.com](http://www.tossd1.webs.com)

**Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer**, 2025

Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on

first and third Saturdays of the month at 10

AM. (510) 465-6400), and the last of the

Classic Film Series, *The Breakfast Club* on

Friday, September 28 at 8 PM. Tickets are \$5.

[paramounttheatre.com](http://paramounttheatre.com)

**Palace of the Legion of Honor, 4/63 E.M. Skinner**, Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM. Free after museum admission. **David Hegarty** plays an *Organ Pops Concert* on the first full weekend of each month; other artists play classical concerts other weekends.

(415) 750-3600.

[LegionOfHonor.org](http://LegionOfHonor.org)

**Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer**,

300 W Main St., Visalia, CA.

(559) 625-1FOX (1369)

[foxvisalia.org](http://foxvisalia.org)

## NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current and recent past Windsheets on our web site—and in color! They are in .pdf format, which requires that your computer has a copy of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We also have a Calendar of Events online, and under the Recordings page is a listing of those made with our Berkeley Organ.

Be sure to visit our website!

[norcaltos.org](http://norcaltos.org)

## MEMBERS LOBBY ONLINE

For NorCal members only, there is now a link on our website home page, near the bottom, to the new Members Lobby. A password is required in order to view any of the Members Lobby.

Members who need the password should contact **Neal Wood**. His email and phone number is at the bottom of Page One and in the box below.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, Inc.

*A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society*

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 call or write:

**Mr. Neal R. Wood** at (415)861-7082 <[nealwood@pacbell.net](mailto:nealwood@pacbell.net)> , **PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625.**

Dues are \$20 for NorCal TOS only and an additional \$50 for National ATOS (\$70 total) per year for full voting membership and subscription to *Theatre Organ* the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. Spouse and children living at home may be included in your membership. We hope you will join us to help preserve and enjoy these great instruments.