



Valley  
of the Sun  
Chapter

# STOPRAIL

Arizona Chapter of  
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

Volume Thirty Five ♦ Issue Ten ♦ October ♦ Two Thousand Ten

## In This Issue

- I Fundraiser
- I October Meeting
- I Nominations
- I Great OSP Subs
  
- 2 Phx College Story
- 2 Membership Info
- 2 Board Members
  
- 3 Graduation
- 3 College work info
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 3 Letters
  
- 4 Board Minutes
- 4 Rialto Theatre
  
- 5 Marketplace
- 5 Birthdays
  
- 6 Organ Stop Flyer  
for 20% benefit

VOTS/ATOS  
PO Box 36151  
Phoenix, Arizona  
85067-6151  
<http://www.vots-atos.org>

## Donna Parker to play for VOTS Fundraising Event at Organ Stop Pizza on Sunday Oct 3rd, 5:00-8:00 pm

1149 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE MESA, AZ 85204

**20% of our pre-tax kitchen food sales comes back to benefit us!**

**You must present the flyer from page 6 of this newsletter when placing order.**

**Print several copies of the flyer for you and friends!**

*If you get your Stoprail by mail, you will be receiving several copies in a separate mailing from Bill Carr to share with your family and friends. Lets get together and do this!*

## Great pizza and music in store for us at Organ Stop

Charlie Balough will be tickling the ivories for our afternoon meeting on Sunday, October 17th. Doors will be open at 1:15. All you can eat pizza Buffet is \$9.00 and includes your salad. Beverages and ice cream are extra.



Charlie is the former owner of Good Time Charley's in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he played for fourteen years. He is one of the best, and loves to play jazzy pieces. He was ATOS organist of the year in 2000.

Organ Stop's organ has more than 6000 pipes in its 78 ranks. There are 17 tuned percussions. It is the largest Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ in the world.

Organ Stop Pizza is just west of the Walgreens on the corner of Stapley and Southern in Mesa on the south side of the street. If you come from US 60 freeway, get off on Stapley and go north. There is an entrance just before you get to Southern which goes behind the Walgreens. It is ok to bring your friends.

**RSVP to Hassell Moores by October 5th.**

**623-215-2953 or e-mail him at [hmoores@cox.net](mailto:hmoores@cox.net)**

## Nominations

Gina Sheak will head up the nominating committee for chapter elections, assisted by John and Delores Sheak. If you would like to run for office, or recommend someone for an office, please contact her. You must be a national ATOS member to run for office or vote in the chapter election.

You can call Gina or John at 602-368-6236, Dolores at 602-995-5414.

## Donna Parker & Ron Rhode to play at Organ Stop Pizza

**Donna Parker** will be playing at Organ Stop on  
October 2-3-4-5  
October 13-14-15  
October 20-21-22  
**Ron Rhode** will be playing at Organ Stop on October 28th.

## 2010 Board Members

**President: Bill Carr**

11815 N. 77th Drive  
Peoria AZ 85345  
623-694-1746  
billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

**Vice President/Program**

**Chairman: Hassell Moores**

9923 Camden Avenue  
Sun City AZ 85351-4519  
623-215-2953 Cell 623-696-7538  
hmoores@cox.net

**Secretary: Madeline LiVolsi**

3626 W. Vernon  
Phoenix AZ 85009  
623-330-0166 dznyfn55@yahoo.com

**Treasurer: Adrian Phillips III**

4736 E. Horseshoe Road  
Phoenix AZ 85028-6100  
602-538-6697 adrianphillips@cox.net

**Statutory Agent: Pete Knobloch**

1507 E. Fremont Drive  
Tempe AZ 85282  
480-820-7093  
peteknobloch@yahoo.com

**Member at Large: Donald Reasor**

5023 N 18th Street Apt 8  
Phoenix AZ 85016  
Cell 623-341-1146  
aaretiree@cox.net

**Member at Large: Warren Bechhoefer**

371 W Pierson Street Apt 7  
Phoenix AZ 85013-2536  
602-279-0386

## 2009 Appointees:

**Membership Chairman: Ed Benoit**

30110 W. Latham Street  
Buckeye AZ 85326  
623-327-1437 WurliTzer@q.com

**Crew Chief: Thomas Fizzell**

2201 E. Siesta Drive  
Phoenix AZ 85042  
602-243-9546 tfizzell@cox.net

**Stoprail Editor: Beverly Fizzell**

2201 E. Siesta Drive  
Phoenix AZ 85042  
602-243-9546 beverlyfz2@cox.net

## September chapter meeting at Phoenix College

The September 19 chapter meeting was held in the Bulpitt Auditorium at Phoenix College. Bill Carr began with a short history of the 2/8 Wurlitzer, and then told about the work the chapter has done to restore it. Ellen Brown, piano teacher at the college, began the organ program by playing the two pieces that she played for the college's 90th anniversary program, "Embraceable You" and "I Got Rhythm." Don Story, Dwight Beacham and Mark Crenshaw all played several numbers. With Ellen seated at the grand piano, these three returned to the organ for a few duets, which were really fun.

Bill spoke of the three silent films we will be showing at the Orpheum, and told how tickets will be available through Ticketmaster.

We also learned about a fund raising idea presented by Jack Barz of Organ Stop Pizza. There will be a specified "Valley of the Sun, ATOS" night at Organ Stop. We will have flyers available to hand out to our members and friends. These flyers will be turned in when patrons order their food, and the chapter will receive a percentage of the amount spent.

Gina Sheak will head up the nominating committee for chapter elections, assisted by John and Delores Sheak. If you would like to run for office, or recommend someone for an office, please contact her. You must be a national ATOS member to run for office or vote in the chapter election.

*by Madeline LiVolsi*

## Phoenix College 90th Anniversary event

Throughout the anniversary celebration, each decade from 1920 to 2010 received a musical, visual, and historical portrayal thanks to a large cast of alumni, student, faculty, and staff performers. Readings, reminiscences, and vintage costumes further illustrated each decade. Ellen Brown evoked the 1930's perfectly through a medley played on the college's beautifully restored Wurlitzer.

*About the Phoenix College organ* The WurliTzer, Hope Jones Unit Orchestra, Opus 408 was shipped from the Rudolph WurliTzer factory in North Tonawanda, New York on April 16th, 1921. It was destined to the new Rialto Theatre in Phoenix, Arizona. When the theatre was demolished in mid-50's, Harry Nace, the theatre's owner, realized the value of the WurliTzer in the Rialto and had it removed and stored on the stage of his Downtown Glendale Theatre.

*continued on page 5*

## The Stoprail

Published monthly by The Valley of The Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society PO Box 36151, Phoenix, AZ 85067-6151

President: Bill Carr (623) 694-1746  
Membership: Ed Benoit 623-327-1437  
Editor: Beverly Fizzell 602-243-9546

Visit our website: <http://www.vots-atos.org>

Membership Fees: Local Chapter Dues \$25.00 Name Tag \$9.00  
Send name, address & check to VOTS/ATOS PO Box 36151 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-6151

The Valley of the Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a recognized tax exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code and is a nonprofit corporation organized in the state of Arizona.

## 2010-11 Calendar of Events

*Some events are in the planning stage so the info may be incomplete*

**Sunday October 17 - 1:15 pm** - Organ Stop Pizza buffet

**Saturday October 30 - 6:45 pm** Silent Saturdays Film at Orpheum

**Sunday November 7 - 1:00 pm** - VOTS 35th Anniversary party Phx College

**Sunday December 11 - 1:00** - Xmas Party at Desert Edge - Tim Versluys

**Saturday February 26 -2011**- Silent Film at Orpheum

**Saturday April 9 - 2011** - Silent Film at Orpheum

*More information: Hassell Moores 623-215-2953 hmooores@cox.net*

Two of three silent movies have been selected for the season

The evenings' program begins at 6:45 with our MC, Don Hall, Cinema class instructor from Gateway Community College. A short program will be played by Ron Rhode on the Wurlitzer before the film.

October 30-2010      Silent Saturday film      Hunchback of Notre Dame

February 26-2011      Silent Saturday film      Not yet determined

April 09-2011      Silent Saturday film      Secrets of the Night

## Anniversary party

Potluck BBQ and surprise entertainment is being planned for our Phoenix College meeting. Old timers (is that us?) are encouraged to share stories, photographs etc. from our past at our November 7th event. Dig through your stuff before then and help make this a memorable event.

## Board meeting

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the board meetings. Next one is Oct 2nd at 2:30 at Bill Carr's house. Call Bill for information: 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

## Our Orpheum Wurlitzer used for graduation

The graduation ceremony for Lamson College was accompanied by Ken Winland on our Wurlitzer pipe organ. Tom Fizzell and Pete Knoblock took care of the organ during the event. The instrument worked flawlessly.



While people were getting seated, Ken began his program with *Happy Days Are Here Again*. He played a continuous medley of tunes for about 45 minutes preceding the graduation ceremony. That has to be tough, only second to playing a silent film! We enjoyed *Georgia On My Mind*, *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes*, *Yankee Doodle*, *Give My Regards To Broadway*, *Tomorrow, Mame*, *Put On A Happy Face*, *Varsity Drag*, *Anything Goes*, *Teddy Bears Picnic* and many many others pieces, nonstop. Of course he played the *Star Spangled Banner* and *Pomp And Circumstance*. Ken has an impressive array of tunes. After he played *Pomp & Circumstance* for the graduates, He played an appropriate piece while the other people were filing out - *Step To The Rear*.

Lamson College is the oldest private college in Arizona, having been established in 1889, then called Lamson Business College. Almost all of the students graduating were women and their earned degrees include medical assistant, billing and coding, surgical technology and paralegal. The schools' motto is Changing Futures. Changing Lives. I know this happens, because in front of me were three tiny girls who were there to see their momma graduate. - Beverly Fizzell

## A gorgeous theatre!

Here are some interesting youtube videos at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Dave Calendine gives the tour and also plays the Wurlitzer heater organ in its original 1928 installation. It's his personal tour of the fabulous Fox Theater in Detroit Michigan. It is one of the most beautiful structures in the world. True elegance. Beautiful well dressed people go there. The rest of the world could learn something from Detroit. Copy and paste them so you don't have to type them out.

Part 1 <http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=GhiO62An9UI> Part 2 <http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=anGXhE226K0&feature=related>

Part 3 <http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=F0nxYQ9nztI&feature=related> Part 4 <http://il.youtube.com/watch?v=D0rrR1n9I9I&feature=related>

## Letters to the editor

*Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments.*

*Send letters to [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net) or Beverly Fizzell 2201 East Siesta Drive Phoenix Arizona 85042*



**From Don Story:** Hi Bev - There is no organ there (see Rialto story on page 4) and as best numerous sources have been able to ascertain, there never was. The information the Rialto folks have on their web site is erroneous in which they have the Kilgen the Yuma chapter used to own as having been shifted from the Rialto to the Yuma in the 20's! I have asked them twice to correct the info. A guy by the name of Brian Holman whom I've never heard of has put together a small orchestra and created a score to accompany the film. I plan to go and will let you know how it turns out. The Rialto has been very active with live music groups but they have been rock, heavy metal and the like. They draw good crowds of young people so it will be interesting to see if they turn out for a silent movie. Pity it wasn't being put on at the Fox.

## *Tucson Rialto Theatre - 90th anniversary celebration with silent film Oct 8th*

Downtown Tucson's historic Rialto Theater turned 90 in August, and to celebrate has partnered with the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation to screen the newly discovered and restored silent Western movie, "THE MINE WITH THE IRON DOOR," which was filmed in the Tucson basin and premiered at the Rialto in the fall of 1924. The movie was then released internationally and became one of the biggest hits of that year.

The Rialto Theatre rolls out the red carpet for a fundraiser on Friday, October 8. The evening will include a "Prohibition Parking Lot Cocktail Party, "live jazz music", vintage "Rancho Tucsonia" Fashion Show featuring 1920s to 1940s vintage Western wear followed by the screening of the silent film *The Mine with the Iron Door*, based on the novel by renowned Tucson author Harold Bell Wright.

Tickets for the celebration Friday are \$20 for general admission floor seating and \$50 for VIP cocktail party & fashion show and general admission balcony seating and \$10 for our Sunday matinees. Tickets are available for purchase at [www.rialtotheatre.com](http://www.rialtotheatre.com) or via our box office M-F, 12-6, 520-740-1000.

---

## *VOTS/ATOS Board Meeting Minutes*

The VOTS/ATOS board meeting was held Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the Phoenix College Bulpitt Auditorium. Attending were Bill Carr, Hassell Moores, Madeline LiVolsi, Pete Knobloch, Warren Bechhoefer, Beverly Fizzell, Tom Fizzell and Tim Versluys. Absent were Adrian Phillips, Don Reasor & Ed Benoit. Meeting was called to order at 2:50 pm.

The secretary read the minutes from the August 7, 2010 meeting. Pete moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Warren. The motion passed.

In Adrian's absence, Bill reported that the chapter account balances were the same as the previous month, plus a small amount of interest. He hopes to have a list of all chapter funds by our next meeting. Bill stated that he needs the 1099 form for the federal government within the next sixty days or we might lose our non-profit status. The corporation commission filing needs to be sent in as soon as possible. Bill reported that we sold some desert Winds items at the Seattle convention, and now owe Bill Keller about \$237.

Pete said that we don't get an itemized, detailed listing of treasury amounts every month except for the totals as listed in the minutes. Perhaps we should have that. He also asked if he should have copies of insurance papers and contracts for his records.

Tom moved to accept the treasurer's report, second by Warren. The motion passed.

### *Program*

Hassell said that the September 19 meeting would be at Phoenix College with open console. October 17 is at Organ Stop Pizza, with nominations for the board. November is the general membership meeting at Phoenix College, with election results. December 11 is the Christmas party with a 1 pm start time.

### *Old Business*

Silent Saturdays -- Bill reported that we lost the November 20 film date before the new contract was signed. We still have October, February and April dates. Ron Rhode still needs to get back to Bill with film titles.

Bill reported that we are getting 50% off of the non-profit rental rate at the Orpheum. We will be using Ticketmaster for ticket sales. Season tickets will still be available. We are paying half of the \$35 stage manager fee. Pete will be house manager and take care of the front of the house report.

Beverly said that there was a new cinema club forming in the Valley. She will pursue this further.

### *Newsletter*

Beverly feels that we're putting information about events in the newsletter too far in advance because sometimes details change. Hassell needs to tell her if things are tentative, or "details to follow."

### *New Business*

Bill stated that Ken Winland is playing for the September 24 Lamson College graduation at the Orpheum. Johnny Sharp, Bobby Freeman and Tim Versluys are others to call for similar events.

Jack Barz of Organ Stop Pizza contacted Bill with a promotion idea. We could pick a night for our group, and pass out fliers to members and friends. When they turn in the fliers when ordering, we would get 20% of the total spent. Warren moved that we proceed with this, second by Tom. The motion passed.

Tim had a few provocative ideas for stimulating member interest and participation in chapter activities.

Pete moved to adjourn, second by Warren. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Madeline LiVolsi

# Marketplace

## Rates

Have something to sell or buy? To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail information to beverlyfz2@cox.net. She can also help you write your ad. Send by the 20th for next month's Stoprail.

Business Card	one year \$90.00	one month \$10.00
Member Card	one year \$70.00	one month \$6.00
Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00	or free to members
Add a photo to your ad - \$5.00		

**Grand Piano For Sale** Yamaha G3 6' Grand Piano - polished ebony - excellent condition - looks new - maintained by Greg Holman - includes grand piano transporter for easy movement without stressing case. \$8000. You move. Randy Charles 623-876-8344

**Allen GW4 for sale** Bob Grommes' Allen GW4 is in pristine shape in the standard cherry finish with 16 matching tone cabinets and a extra unfinished B20 subwoofer. All the HR series cabinets have the optional diffusers and speaker grilles and Allen wall mount hardware. The organ also has a Allen Smart Recorder and a Updyke digital toy counter. The home is also available for sale. Serious interested buyers should call Bob direct at 480-540-6317 or email him at bob.grommes@gmail.com for price and additional details. Bob can make arrangements with a local friend to show the organ to serious buyers.

## CLEVELAND ROLLERCADE

*the end of an era* by Johnny Sharp

My YouTube site is prompting folks to check their family archives for rink photos, film, and other momentos. I received a VHS tape from Ohio, chock full of impressive footage from the 1960s. Rink management, Irene & Charles, can clearly be seen...as well as Bill Zopfi playing the WURLITZER THEATER PIPE ORGAN throughout. Rollercafe friends will want to see this production! Please pass it on and enjoy ten minutes of the "Good Ol' Daze"! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgroduLhmX8>  
CLEVELAND ROLLERCADE-the end of an era.

### Here are some comments on the video:

AWESOME Video John! Thanks and thanks to the ones who sent the footage. I never got to skate at Rollercafe but feel I Know how it was to skate there from times my dad talked about when he did. You have to love the sound of that old Wurlitzer. Thanks! Doug  
Brings back memories, I got hooked skating Saturday & Sunday sessions as a kid at the Rollercafe. I didn't take figure lessons until I was in my mid-thirties & forties for dance. Thanks so much for sharing!!! Lex Appel  
This music is like magic for my soul. Thanks! Jim Puracchio

## We wish you a Happy Birthday!



Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our October birthday cake eaters - Thomas Custer, Tom Fizzell, Sharon Diaz, Charlie Balogh, Chuck Mallory, Ken Winland, Darwin Borden, Archie Archibald and Norma Mackie. Blow out those candles and have a good time! If we missed your birthday, let us know.

We want to wish you a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** when your special day comes. Let us know the month and day, and we will be happy to put it in the Stoprail. Let Ed Benoit know 623-327-1437 e-mail WurliTzer@q.com

## Phoenix College organ from page 2

Over the years the organ suffered from some water damage after several fires in the Glendale Theatre. Al Davis, composer and teacher at the Phoenix College Music Department, heard of the existence of the Wurlitzer. Al had always loved the theatre organ, so he went to work to see if it was possible to have the organ donated to Phoenix College. He knew the potential of the Wurlitzer and set out to make it happen. After hours and hours of meetings he was finally able to get the donation from the Nace Organization and approval to install the organ in the school Auditorium. Although the installation of the organ in the auditorium was begun in the 1960s, it wasn't until 1975 that the Valley Of The Sun chapter became involved in the organs' restoration, replacing wind lines, wiring, and re-leathering. When Al Davis, then the chairman of the Music Department, retired, the Music Department lost interest in the project and it was put on hold due to the inability to raise adequate funding to complete the restoration. In 2004 Phoenix College faculty member Ellen Brown contacted the Valley Of The Sun Chapter with the hopes of returning the organ to playing condition. An agreement was negotiated with the Maricopa Community College District to restore and use the Wurlitzer. After nearly 30 years the quest to make additions and restore the organ to concert condition has been realized.

# Valley of the Sun chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

## Fundraising Event

### ORGAN STOP PIZZA

1149 E. SOUTHERN AVENUE  
MESA, AZ 85204  
(southwest corner Stapley & Southern)  
480-813-5700  
[www.OrganStopPizza.com](http://www.OrganStopPizza.com)

**Sun 10/3/10**  
**5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**20%** of our pre-tax kitchen food  
sales comes back to benefit us!

- \* You must present this flyer  
when placing order!
- \* Cash and/or checks accepted.  
No debit or credit cards!



Great family entertainment & fun for all generations.  
Get your *family, friends & neighbors* to  
*help VOTS*  
and have a great night out at the same time!