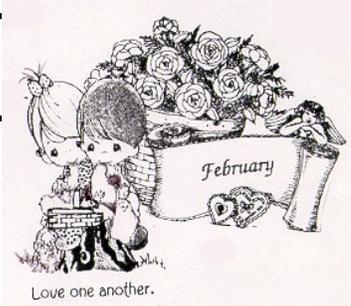


# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERT



FEBRUARY 2008

FAIR OAKS CLUB HOUSE

SUNDAY, FEB. 10<sup>th</sup>

7997 CALIFORNIA AVE

2:00 PM



organs, becoming something of a Bay Area fixture. Between 1985 and 1996 Dean performed at venues such as Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, Serramonte and Santa Clara; the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland; the Avenue Theater in San Francisco; and St. James Episcopal Church, Oakland. He has also performed at the Bella Roma Pizza in Martinez.

In 1996, Dean relocated to Chicago where he became the featured organist at the famous Music Box Theater and also appeared at Beggar's Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. Dean relocated back to San Jose in 2001 where he played at Angelinos and Ye Olde Pizza Joynt. Dean has played for Sierra Chapter in the past. He has also played for NorCalTOS at the Berkeley Community Theater. He is currently subbing at the Castro Theatre, and plays occasional concerts at Trinity Baptist in San Jose on a Robert Morton Theatre Organ.

Dean Cook, a Bay Area native, heard his first Theatre Organ at the age of three at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo. At age 14 he acquired his first organ, a Conn spinet. At age 15 he began studies privately with jazz organist Chet Smith. After studying music theory in school, Dean began playing at most of the restaurants and theaters that featured

We have 20 different maps which include Fair Oaks, ranging from 1880 to present. Some are beautiful, some are informative, and all are historically interesting.

**Greenback Road** was built after the Civil War and the landowners were paid in Greenbacks, the Federal currency at the time.

## Once More

**The Fair Oaks Historical Society** will be open 30 minutes before & after our February Concert, & stay open during the Intermission.

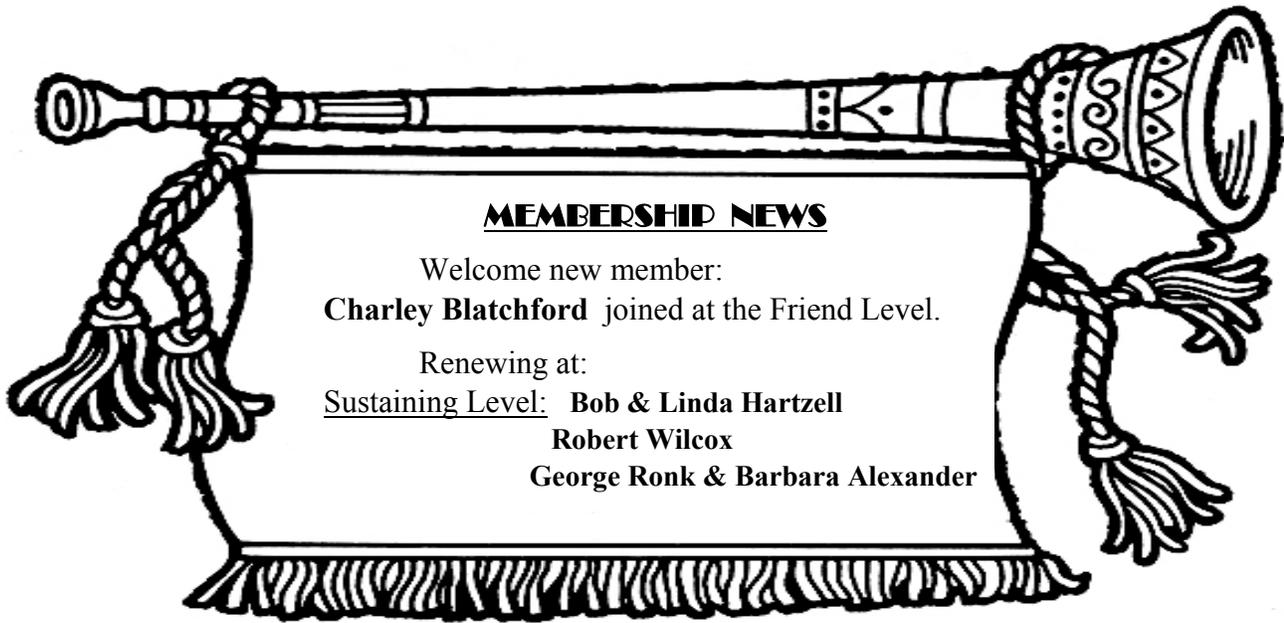
Fair Oaks Historical Society  
& History Center  
Founded in 1977

Preserving the history  
and heritage of Fair Oaks,  
California

Open during Jan. Concert

**AN ALLEN ORGAN FOR THE PIANO MAN**

Billy Joel's early-career performances in the Lehigh Valley and his hit song "Allentown" aren't his only ties to the area in which Allen Organs are built. He has purchased an instrument from Allen Organ Company of Macungie, PA, the world's largest builder of classical organs. As the photos attest, the *Piano Man* was not interested in a typical "home organ". The 4-manual console, built to Joel's preferences and specifications, includes gloss-black exterior, maple interior, rosewood center rail rockers, reverse color solo manual keys and theatre-style bench. Installed in his Oyster Bay, Long Island home, the organ boasts a 16 channel, 1,620 watt audio system installed behind an impressive pipe façade.



**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Welcome new member:  
**Charley Blatchford** joined at the Friend Level.

Renewing at:  
Sustaining Level: **Bob & Linda Hartzell**  
**Robert Wilcox**  
**George Ronk & Barbara Alexander**

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE — CAROL ZERBO

We have started 2008 with a bang! **Eric Fricke's** concert at Fair Oaks was a real treat. This remarkable young man entertained us with both classical and popular music showing poise and



composure far beyond his years. The organ, temperamental creature that it is, developed a case of intermittent piston dementia, forcing Eric to hand set some of his registrations. We expect this ability of touring artists but, a 15 year old? {Goodness -- when I was 15, I was thrilled to be able to control a basketball so I could make the girls' varsity team!}

There is no doubt Eric Fricke is a rising star in the organ world. Craig Peterson gets points for booking Eric early in his career. I hope this was just the first of many appearances he will make in Sacramento.

It was encouraging to see the presence of young people in the audience. This is of the utmost importance if theatre organ is to survive. Remember Eddie -- the young man from Grant High School who was so fascinated by the organ and Clark Wilson's concert that he bought his own organ? Well, he came with Frank and Sondra Fuson. Yes Eddie, there are young people who play. We, at Sierra Chapter,

are delighted at your interest. And kudos to Gary French for answering the "kid call" by bringing all his family!

I noticed several people took Dave Moreno up on his invitation to see the organ chambers after the concert. Theatre pipe organs typify the phrase "guts and glory". We see the glory in the magnificent consoles our artists play but the guts that produce the sounds are largely hidden from view. It is only when the chamber doors are open that we get some idea of what it takes to make the organ speak. This is the domain of the organ technicians. They are the unsung heroes of the organ world. Without them, artists are "voiceless".

So, while I'm pontificating, I'll just say that **Dave Moreno** could use some help! The Fair Oaks and Towe organs are the tip of the proverbial iceberg in the Sacramento valley. Theatre Pipe organs live in private homes, wineries, and theatres. And Dave, bless him, takes care of quite a few of them. Get where I'm going here? If the sound of the organ thrills you and you are fascinated with motors, wiring, computers and pipes you might consider a career behind the keyboard. Dave will be happy to talk to you.

Our publicity chairman, Craig Peterson, is lining up some great talent for the rest of the year. Dean Cook is playing at Fair Oaks on February 10th. Please note, that is the 2nd Sunday in the month. We didn't want Dean to compete with the Super Bowl.

And while I'm dwelling on Fair Oaks,

there is one person I have come to believe rates a huge *Thank You*. **Irene Wilper** has



served as Chapter liaison to the Fair Oaks Park and Rec for years. She makes sure the organ is available for use, oversees

practice times and protects the chapter's baby. I have now experienced what it takes to accomplish this. Folks, it ain't easy so, next time you listen to someone play the Seaver organ, go to the back of the hall and give a thumbs-up to the height-challenged red-haired lady. I'd really appreciate it!

I'm told the Fair Oaks Historical Society will also be open. They invite us to visit their room before the concert or during Dean's intermission to learn a bit about the quirky but cute little town.

See you on the 10th at Fair Oaks!

CZ



## ALL MUSEUMS WILL BE FREE

Twenty-five (25) greater Sacramento area museums will be offering free admission during the Tenth Annual **Sacramento Museum Day** presented by the Sacramento Association of Museums. Sacramento Museum Day takes place Saturday, February 2, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (all participating museums close at 5 p.m.). Free shuttle buses will serve many of the participating museums (all routes begin/end/transfer at the California Museum for History, Women & the Arts, which can be accessed via Regional Transit Light Rail – Archives Plaza station).

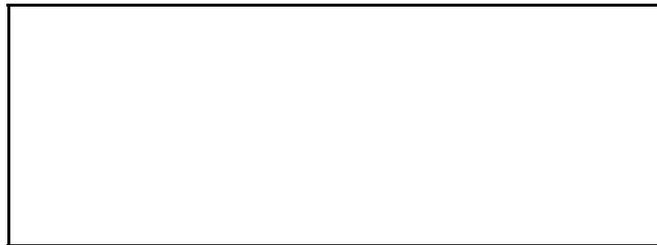
**The Towe Auto Museum is participating and Dave Sauer will be playing the Wurlitzer part of every hour from 10 to 4. Sierra Chapter will have a table set up so come support us if you can.**



SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 2017  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

First Class  
Postage  
Stamp

We are on the Web:  
[sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### **SIERRA CHAPTER EVENTS**

Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave

**Sunday February 10th**

**2:00 PM**

**Dean Cook**

\$10/General  
\$8/Members  
\$5/Students  
\$20/Family

### **SIERRA CHAPTER EVENTS**

Towe Auto Museum  
2200 Front Street

**Friday March 14th**

**8:00 PM**

**Bob Salisbury**

Silent Movie



### **NOR-CAL TOS EVENTS**

Berkeley Community Theater

**Sunday Mar 9 - 2:30 PM**

Chris Elliott

\$15/General Admission

### **STOCKTON FOX EVENTS**

**Friday Feb 8 - 7:00 PM**

North By Northwest  
General Admission \$6.00

### **OROVILLE STATE THEATRE**

**Saturday Apr 5 - 7:30 PM**

Dave Moreno Matias Bombal  
The State's 80th Birthday

*Sierra Chapter ATOS*

The Chapter was organized in 1968 as a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the State of California and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. It was organized for the purpose of preservation and promotion of the Theatre Pipe Organ and its music. Membership in the local Chapter also encourages membership in the National Organization, American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS.) [www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org)