

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Silent Movie From 1928



SEPTEMBER 2009

Friday,  
Sept 18

CALIFORNIA AUTO  
MUSEUM  
(FORMERLY THE TOWE)

8:00 PM

## ABOUT THE FILM

The great and underrated Marion Davies shows her stuff in this late (1928) silent comedy that also showcases the wonderful William Haines. Davies plays a hick from Georgia who crashes Hollywood with help from Haines. They appear in cheap comedies until Marion is "discovered" and becomes a big dramatic star. A great lampoon on Hollywood and its pretensions. Davies & Haines are a wonderful team (too bad they never made a talkie together) and the guest shots from the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, William S. Hart, John Gilbert, Elinor Glyn, and Marion Davies (you have to see it) are a



hoot. A must for any serious film buff or for anyone interested in the still-maligned Marion Davies!

(Above, courtesy of Edward Lorusso)



GUEST ARTIST

**CHRIS ELLIOTT**

will ACCOMPANY  
THE SILENT FILM.

Christian Elliott is one of today's prominent concert organists. Equally at home performing literature of the church or theatre, he is also sought after as a scorer of silent films.

A native of Santa Ana, Christian graduated with honors from Vanguard University of Southern California (formerly Southern California College), Costa Mesa. While still a student, he held church organ positions in several prominent southern California churches. For nine years he was a guest artist for the summer noon organ recitals at the Crystal Cathedral where he also played weddings and coached with Frederick Swann. Other organ instructors included Charles Shaffer and, after moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1988, celebrated organist and composer Richard Purvis.



# California Auto Museum Special Concert

## Bob Heil

### SUNDAY, SEPT 27TH

### 2200 FRONT ST

### 2:00 PM

**Bob Heil**, young theatre organ protege of Stan Kann, began his musical career as Stan's substitute organist at the St. Louis Fox Theatre in 1955. Bob also played the organ at Ruggeri's restaurant before its Wurlitzer console was sold to Dale Mendenhall and later moved to the Towe Auto Museum.



In making the announcement of the upcoming concert, Bob says that he has always loved the rich, pretty sounds of the Wurlitzer. Now, he is looking forward to sharing the experience with both his amateur radio friends and his theater organ fans in the Sacramento area.

This will be Bob's third appearance at the Museum. His previous concerts in 2005 and 2007 received rave reviews.

Heil is the owner of Heil Sound, Ltd. in Fairview Heights, Illinois, the largest privately held manufacturer of microphones and audio products in the world. Heil has designed sound systems for leading entertainment groups such as The Who, Joe Walsh, Peter Frampton, Z.Z. Top, Jeff Beck, Dolly Parton, and the Billy Graham Crusade.

As an author of five books, Bob is in constant demand to teach audio technologies at various shows and conventions.



Bob lives with his wife, Sarah, in Belleville, Illinois. When he is not playing his Allen LL-324Q organ at home, or talking to his amateur radio friends, he can be found enjoying some of his classic car collection, mainly 50's Thunderbirds.

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—CAROL ZERBO



Hi all,

As we trundle into Fall, I must say August was anything but a quiet transition. Four events in one month has to be a first. Starting with open console at Fair Oaks, then Pete McCluer's picnic, then Ron Bingaman's picnic, then the board meeting at Joyce Clifford's -- who said the organ world is winding down?

For those who missed **Greg De Santis** at McCluer's, webmaster Dave Sauer has put a few songs from Greg's concert on our site. **Thanks very much, Dave.** Hopefully, we will be hearing a lot more from Greg in the future. Quite a few folks were brave enough to follow Greg's performance at the open console portion of the picnic. I admire you all!

None of this would have happened if it weren't for the many hours Dave Moreno spent getting Pete's Wurlitzer concert ready. **David, you are a gem**

we are most fortunate to have in our collection, **as are Pete and Dianne** for continuing to host these picnics.

Ron Bingaman's get together was a hoot! NorCal invited us Sierra members to share in the fun, and fun it was. Kudos to Kevin King and Neal Wood for getting Ron's GW4 into high quality mode. Lot's of people took advantage of the open console invitation and the adventurous among us toured Ron's 10+ acres, slip-sliding down the hill to see Ron's hydro- electric setup (very cool, very eco-minded), feed llamas and hiking back up the hill. Whew - I slept well that night. **Thanks** for your hospitality, **Ron and Gay.**

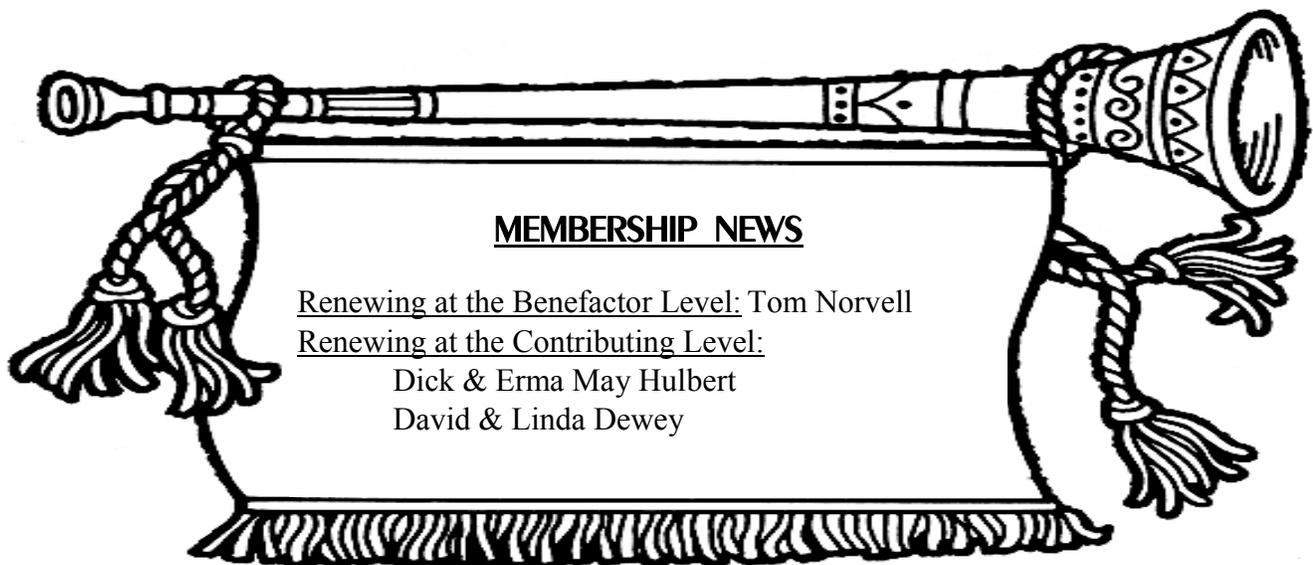
I'm writing this before having our board meeting at Joyce's beautiful home in Granite Bay the next day. One item on the agenda is our music library. Since Jim Leach is recovering from surgery, I offered to update y'all. Three volunteers

are now busy at their respective computers cataloging the music books so Cathy Peterson, Craig's sister-in-law, can input the information in our new library computer. This is a huge undertaking and my little column is not big enough to adequately express my **gratitude to Jim, Cathy, Bob Suffel, Gary French and Jeanne Paquette** for volunteering their time and patience to get this done.

Sierra Chapter is blessed with so many members who are active participants. Yes, I would say the theatre organ world is far from winding down.

Hope to see y'all at the movie,

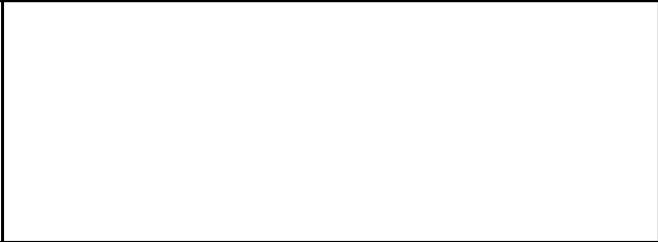
Carol Z





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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS**

**SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT**  
**California Auto Museum**  
2200 Front Street  
  
**Chris Elliott**  
**Silent Movie**  
  
***Show People (1928)***  
**Friday Sept 18th**  
**8:00 PM**  
\$10/General  
\$8/Members  
\$5/Students  
\$20/Family



**CALIFORNIA AUTO MUSEUM**  
**EVENT**  
2200 Front Street  
  
**Bob Heil**  
(Details on Page 2)  
  
**Sunday Sept 27th**  
**2:00 PM**  
  
\$8/Adults  
\$7/Seniors  
\$4/Students

**NOR-CAL TOS EVENT**  
Berkeley Community Theatre  
**Sunday Sept 20—2:30PM**  
John Giacchi  
\$15/General Admission  
  
**Stockton Fox Event**  
Bob Hope Theatre  
242 E. Main  
Stockton, CA  
  
**Friday Sept 11 - 6:30PM**  
*Blazing Saddles*  
Featuring **Tom Thompson** On  
the Mighty Morton



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)