

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Senate Theater • 6424 Michigan Avenue • Detroit, MI 48210
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What's New? Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting will be held at the theater on Sunday, Jan 5th at 3pm. Following the meeting the usual potluck will take place. The main course will be provided. Please RSVP your dish to pass to kevwer@comcast.net. Or 248-933-6853. Hope to see you all there. ☺



A year in review. (Lance Luce)

2019 has been an active year at the Senate Theater. We have ordered our new electronic message center marquee from Phillips Sign and Lighting, and it's being manufactured as we speak. It won't long before they have it finished and start installing it. That is very exciting because then people driving by on Michigan Avenue will have no doubt that we are "open for business". We get new people at almost every event that comment on not being sure if we were open or not. They will know now! The sign will be double sided in a "V" shape as much as code will allow it to stick out over the sidewalk. It will be in full color, good resolution, and we can change it remotely from a computer and have it display whatever messages and or pictures that we want. The traffic driving past the theater won't be able to miss it! We think this is going to make a big difference in the attendance to our events. Speaking of events, we have had a steady flow of rentals this year which has helped greatly with paying the bills. Our movies have also helped our cash flow with our silent movies seeming to be the most popular. One of our silent movies this year had 300+ people in attendance. Remember that both silent movies and regular movies are now included in your membership to DTOS.

Our business model is evolving to include more movies and rentals as our organ concerts are not profitable on their own. Our membership numbers have stayed about the same, adding new members at about the same rate as some drop off. Sadly, we have again had some long-time members pass away this year. We haven't raised our membership dues in a while, and the dues just about cover the organ

concerts but fall short when looking at the overall operating budget. We had two unexpected large expenses this year as well. The city inspector cited us on some masonry repairs that needed to be done to the upper edges of the bricks on the West side of the building as well as the chimney. The crew that did the repairs noted some of the caps or flashing were bad, some of the gutters were pulling away from the building, and they could see how water was flowing into the walls instead of away from the building. They set up a full tower of scaffolding and used a very tall boom bucket lift to do the brick repairs and tuck pointing. All total the repairs came to about \$12,000.



out oversized for the building. It was 2.5 million BTU's and we only need about 1 million BTU's based on the square footage and the number of radiators we have. We got 3 quotes and decided to go with Webb Mechanical to do the work. They removed the old boiler and are currently installing a twin boiler system. This new system is supposed to be more efficient. One of our board members has had good personal experience with Webb mechanical, and it ended up that their bid was the lowest. They also arranged to rent us a temporary "furnace" to blow warm air into the theater through the North East exit door while the work is being done. The temperatures outside have been below freezing many nights, so the temporary heater was essential. The boilers are \$63,000 and the temporary heater is \$3,900.

The boiler cracked and was not repairable. It was 30 years old and turns





Good news! We did some improvements to our vacant lot in the front on the West side of the building. Sometimes referred to as the Coney Island lot for those of us that remember (fondly) the Senate Coney Island that used to reside there. A group of volunteers picked up all the garbage and rubble and laid down wood chips. Lots of wood chips!! We had a local artist paint a mural on our wall. If you haven't seen it, it's pretty cool. He took some of his designs from the organ console and incorporated them into his mural. Once you look at it you can see the "faces" from the sides of our loved Wurlitzer.

We also took down the chain link fence and put up a black aluminum fence that is much more attractive. Next year we hope to add some other features to the lot, maybe a bench or picnic table, planters, etc. We also bought the last house on Gilbert street and had it knocked down. It is a complicated process to get the water, gas and electric shut off and get the

necessary permits to demolish a house. But we did it! And it's gone!!



We improved our wireless microphone system this year, kept the Wurlitzer in relatively good condition. There's always more work that could be (and should be) done on a 34-rank organ. We do need to re-leather a couple of the ranks of pipes, and the ceiling in the percussion chamber is falling and needs to be fixed. The organ crew works on the organ every month and we thank them.

Our volunteer base is small but mighty and we sure couldn't do it without them. From making the popcorn to running the movies, sound, lighting, social media, etc. Sending out this newsletter, applying for grants, organizing rentals, running the vacuum cleaner, it's a big job to keep it all going. Thank you to all the volunteers and to those of you that have made monetary donations. We appreciate your support and are looking forward to a great 2020!

2019, A pictorial

(Kevin Werner)

It's been a very busy year here at the Senate Theater, home of the Detroit Theater Organ Society. We had our annual meeting which was a success and members gathered for a nice buffet dinner followed by some nice music on the



fabulas Wurlitzer.

The year started out with one of our most successful events ever. The David Bowie tribute/fundraiser. We had over 600 patrons enjoy a wonderful evening. We raised over \$10,000 to start the year off with a bang.



Early in the year member Joan Brown invited her friend and radio personality Mitch Album and his Helping Hands volunteers come to down and completely clean the theater from top to bottom. The entire stage was swept and mopped. Every single chair in the auditorium was wiped down, the entire floor in the auditorium, outer lobby, inner lobby and concessions lobby was mopped. The restrooms were completely cleaned, sterilized and the inner lobby was vacuumed. Helping Hands has been very gracious and done this several times over the years for us. Thanks. Joan, and Mitch and all the wonderful volunteers for all your hard work on our behalf. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

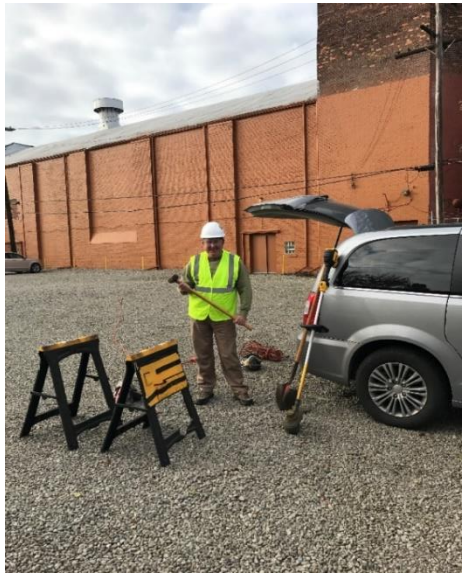


(Left) Members, Vice President-Michael Fisher, Board member-Paul Ovares, President-Lance Luce, Nancy Luce and Dawn Ovares look at the finished product and are pleased and delighted with the transformation. (Below) Tables and chairs that now adorn the concessions lobby courtesy of member Joe Delgiudice.



Some random photos throughout the year







Dec 21 st .	8pm.	“The Miracle on 34th street”.	\$5.00
Coming in 2020			
Jan 11	7pm.	Stardust at the Senate. David Bowie tribute party. Doors + Art Show 7 p.m. Rock n’ Roll panel 8:30 p.m.	
		Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars 9 p.m.	\$10.00
Jan 18	8pm.	Fatty Arbuckle and Friends (aka Slapstick at the Senate) (Silent) Andrew Rogers Organist	\$10.00
Jan 25	8pm.	Ann Arbor Film Festival	\$5.00
Feb 8	8pm.	The Man Who Laughs (Silent) Lance Luce Organist.	\$10.00
Feb 15	8pm.	Grease-with vintage clothing pop up (1978)	\$5.00
Feb 28	8pm.	Beat the Devil (Friday show) (1954)	\$5.00
Feb 29	8pm.	The Maltese Falcon (1941)	\$5.00
Mar 7	8pm.	King Kong (1933)	\$5.00
Mar 21	8pm.	They Live (1988)	\$5.00
Mar 28	8pm.	Metropolis (Silent) Scott Smith Organist.	\$10.00
April 19	3pm.	Mark Herman in concert.	\$15.00
May 17	3pm.	Lance Luce in concert	\$15.00

We’d love to hear from you. Questions, Suggestions... We even take requests!!
Our Board of Directors are here to serve you. Email them at:

Lance Luce – President lanceluce@wowway.com
 Michael Fisher - Vice President / Co-Treasurer fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
 Kevin Werner - Secretary / Co-Treasurer kevwer@comcast.net
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Kevin Werner. Temporary editor.

