



Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
**American Guild of
Organists**

Newsletter - December 2003

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Letter from the Dean

Aren't sports wonderful and predictable? The Army football team is still looking for its first win of the season while the USMA Band basketball team has already won ... twice!

It has been a great November for CHVAGO programs – our first was the dinner meeting that included a very informative presentation on investment strategies, and most recently we presented “Pipes, Pedals and Pizza” at three different locations. While the attendance at the PPP was down this year, the level of enthusiasm of the participants was very high. Thanks to Don Filkins, Peter Hall, Beverly Simmons, Gregory Citerella and Margaret Small for doing such a wonderful job with the kids of all ages.

We take a brief hiatus from chapter programs in December since it is such a busy holiday season but look forward to greeting everyone in 2004 at our annual social at the Dubois House of the Reformed Church in Fishkill, this year expanded to “Spuds, Salads, Sundaes & Spouses.” We will again offer the “musical bake sale” table, so bring all your extra sheet music to donate to the

table. Such a culinary and nutritional treat is not to be missed! Events like this would be great ones to invite your organist friends that aren't (yet!) members of the AGO.

This month's quiz question – What do you call the money that you give the cashier or chef at the Japanese restaurant? ... SUSCIPE! (For those of you with Latin skills like mine, it's pronounced *sushi pay*.)

I will sign off with something that was sent to me by one of my professors: "Happy Thanksgiving to all. God is so good. Among the many great blessings I count, He lets us know one another!"



Membership News

Six months have passed since we mailed out membership applications for the 2003-2004 season. Now that we have had plenty of time to process the responses, we thought you would be interested in some of our findings.

As of November 10, 2003, our membership stands at 65, very close to our all-time high. (See the attached membership roster.) Of that number, all but a handful sent in their applications within a few weeks of the initial announcement – a great help to our treasurer, Mary Caskey.

As part of the demographic section of the application, we asked applicants to list any degrees or AGO certificates. It seems clear that several people (who were entitled to do so) did not list this information. Of those who did, it was interesting to learn that four members have obtained Service Playing Certificates, and one has passed the CAGO exam. Several other members have advanced degrees in music. We hope that next time more people will respond to this question.

We also asked three questions on the application:

1. What do you consider to be the most important AGO membership benefit(s)?
2. Do you try to attend chapter events? [] yes [] no If not, why not?
3. What kind of program(s) would you like the Board to consider?

Only about half of the applicants responded to these questions. Of those who did, the great majority listed networking/fellowship as the most important AGO membership benefit.

Workshops/education and *The American Organist* magazine were also mentioned a few times. In response to the second question, most members indicated that they did try to attend chapter events, but cited scheduling conflicts – which, unfortunately, are all too common in our busy lives.

Not very many members responded to the third question; certainly the board knows how tough it can be to come up with ideas for chapter programs! A few people used the space to compliment

the programs that are being offered, and a few did make specific suggestions, which are being taken into consideration.

As you can see, the compilation of these responses is important because it can give us a pretty good idea of the overall interest level in the chapter. Hopefully next May, when it comes time to renew again, more of you will take the few minutes to complete the application form before you send it in with your check.

AGO Independent Membership Program Expanded to Include Special Member Category

The Independent membership category was developed in an effort to make AGO membership available to people in geographic areas where either a local chapter does not exist or is so distant that chapter participation is not practical. More than 170 individuals have joined the Guild as independent members since the membership category was created in 2002. Now this category is being expanded to include a new sub-category of membership – Special Member – that allows individuals age 65 or over, disabled, or under the age of 21 but who are not enrolled as full-time students to take advantage of a reduced membership rate. Like other categories of independent membership, special members are voting members of the AGO and receive all national membership benefits without joining a local chapter. For the 2004 membership year, dues are \$84 for a regular independent membership, \$60 for special members, and \$32 for students.

"We have seen a trend over the last three years of a growing number of special members in the Guild, while the number of regular members has been very gradually declining," notes AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "Many non-renewing members are in the special category each year, so this new category gives those folks another avenue to stay connected with the Guild."

Independent members receive full membership benefits, including eligibility for all health and insurance plans offered through the AGO, national election voting privileges, a subscription to *The American Organist* magazine, and discounts on AGO convention registration fees and education resources from the AGO Bookstore. Although independent members have no chapter affiliation, they are served by their district convener, regional coordinators for education and professional development, and their regional councillor. "It is the AGO's hope that individuals joining the Guild for the first time as independent members will soon discover the many additional benefits and programs available through chapter affiliation, and will choose to join an AGO chapter of their choice at the time of membership renewal, if not earlier," stated AGO Executive Director James Thomashower.

Independent membership dues may be paid by using a major credit card either online at www.agohq.org or by calling 212-870-2310, or by sending a check, made payable to the American Guild of Organists, to AGO National Headquarters, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, N.Y. 10115.

Pipe Organ Encounter, Duquesne 2004

The chapter recently received this note via e-mail:

Hi! Some of you may not know me, but I'm still a member of CHV AGO. I used to play at St. Columba and the Hopewell Reformed Church in Hopewell Jct. I am now completing my two degrees at Duquesne and will graduate on December 18! (B.M. - Organ Performance, B.S. - Music Education) I have one week of student teaching remaining. I will be returning to Duquesne next semester to take some graduate credits and do some teaching. More importantly, I will be directing a Pipe Organ Encounter next summer. This is my purpose in writing you all.

The POE is being held from June 27-July 2, 2004 in Pittsburgh at the Duquesne campus. It is the first entirely student-run POE. We have a healthy list of faculty from not only Pittsburgh but from around the country, featuring some of the most prominent organists of today. We are estimating the total cost of the POE to be around \$25,000. We have received a small grant from the AGO covering 1/5 of that cost. The students of our own chapter have pledged to raise at least \$200 individually. While the artists and church facilities will be donating their services and instruments, we need to have the cost for hotels, transportation, printing, publicity, etc. covered.

As my teacher John Walker says, "Our profession is always one generation away from disappearing." Thankfully, the Pipe Organ Encounter program is helping to ensure that statement does not come true. With your help we would like to be able to have the best POE in Pittsburgh that we can offer the students that come to learn about the organ. We will surely appreciate any assistance you can give us. All contributions will be included in our program book, as well as on our website, and are tax deductible. If you would like your gift acknowledged under another name, in memoriam, or anonymously, please include that information with your check. Please make checks payable to DU POE 2004 and mail to the address listed below. If you know anyone else that would be interested in contributing to this event, please send on this information.

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,
Jeffrey M. Alban CAGO
Dean, Duquesne University AGO
Director, Duquesne University POE 2004
4405 Bayard St. (Apt)
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-802-6989

Position Openings

The chapter has recently been informed that a member of another chapter of the American Guild of Organists has reported wrongful termination by St. Paul Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg in Rhinebeck, NY. Investigation into the circumstances of this termination is ongoing and no determination has been made at this time.

Although Guild Members may provide substitute or interim services, no Member may seek or accept regular or permanent employment with St. Paul Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg while these Procedures are pending. Contact AGO Headquarters for the current status of this case.

Editor's Note – Position openings are listed for three months unless an extension is requested.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (Part-Time)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WAPPINGERS FALLS

One Sunday Service at 10:00 AM from September through June and 9:30 AM during July and August. Additional seasonal services. Choir currently rehearses on Sunday following worship; rehearsal time is negotiable. Salary negotiable; extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Wicks pipe organ has a 2-manual Austin console. Contact: Rev. Sharon Williams, 2568 South Avenue, Wappingers Falls, NY, 12590. Tel: 845-297-2800, Fax: 845-297-5172, e-mail:

RevSLW@aol.com or fpcwf@bestweb.net

12/2003

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

FAIR STREET REFORMED CHURCH - KINGSTON

One Sunday service 10:00 a.m. and Thursday evening Chancel Choir rehearsal (except in summer). Adult Chancel Choir. Extra seasonal services for Lent/Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas. Salary negotiable. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals currently \$100. Austin Opus 1300-A pipe organ with 3 manuals, 30+ ranks, judged by Odell Organ Service in Connecticut to be possibly the best organ in Kingston. Send résumé to Fair Street Reformed Church, 209 Fair St., Kingston, NY 12401 fax 845-338-7725 or e-mail

fsrc@juno.com.

12/2003

ORGANIST (Interim Position due to medical leave 1/03/04 – 2/29/04)

ST. PATRICK'S RC CHURCH – HIGHLAND MILLS

One Saturday Mass, (5:30 pm), two-three Sunday Masses (9:00 and 10:30 am each week, plus 12:00 noon on some Sundays), and Thursday evening rehearsal. A familiarity with the Roman Catholic Mass is a plus. The instrument is a two-manual Allen electronic organ and the music is from the OCP *Missalette* and *Breaking Bread* hymn book. Organist is paid per each rehearsal and Mass. Direct questions or résumé/letter of interest to the Music Director, Erich Tusch, (845-928-2517 or e-mail etusch@optonline.net), St. Patrick's Church, Route 32, Central Valley, NY 10917.

11/2003

ORGANIST – Part-Time

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – MOHEGAN LAKE

One Sunday service at 11 AM, a traditional Rite II Episcopal sung liturgy with a volunteer adult choir of about 15 members and a bell choir which performs for special occasions. Midweek rehearsal for choir. Planning meetings with Rector and Worship Committee quarterly. Organ:

December, 2003

Page 5

Rodgers electronic Glasgow Model 740B, two manuals and pedal. Organist will need to work collaboratively with leader of an instrumental group which plays for a Family Service at 9:30 AM. Salary and start date negotiable. Contact: The Rev. Claire Woodley-Aitchison, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1836 East Main Street, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547 Tel. 914-528-3972 Fax: 914-528-6977 e-mail: cwoodley@usa.net *Revised and renewed 11/2003*

MINISTER OF MUSIC (Part Time)

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HYDE PARK

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM, Thursday evening choir rehearsal (except in summer). Additional seasonal services. Familiarity with Episcopal liturgy a plus. Adult choir and potential for youth choir. Several instrumentalists in parish to call on. 3-manual, 22 rank Bozeman tracker pipe organ (built 1990). Salary is negotiable. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Contact Fr. Chuck Kramer at 4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York 12538. Tel: 845-229-2820, Fax: 845-229-5293, e-mail: stjames@bestweb.net. *Renewed 10/2003*

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST (Part-Time)

MEADOW HILL REFORMED CHURCH – NEWBURGH

One Sunday service, 10:30 AM and one mid-week evening choir rehearsal (except in summer). Adult sanctuary choir and potential for junior choir and handbell choir. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Two-manual Allen electronic organ and Korg electronic piano. Salary negotiable. Apply to Administrative Committee, Meadow Hill Reformed Church, 211 Fletcher Drive North, Newburgh, NY 12550 or fax: 845-561-2226 *Renewed 6/2003*

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – STAATSBURG

filled

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE

One Sunday service 10:30 AM, Thursday evening choir rehearsal. Adult sanctuary choir and handbell choir (for special services). Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Special seasonal services during the year. 3-manual Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ (restoration under consideration), grand piano. Salary: negotiable. Contact: Mark DeNies, 102 Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 - 845-452-5758 e-mail: mhdeniespt@aol.com *Renewed 5/2003*

List of Organ Substitutes

Jeffrey Alban	845-226-6482	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only</u>	
Elena Belyayeva	845-452-2069	Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Judie Brown	845-888-5318
Lois Hoger	845-229-7404	Alice Cann	845-223-5344
Maris Kristapsons (no weddings)	845-635-8837	Greg Citarella	845-297-7693
Pat Maimone	845-446-2395	Jennifer Geibel	845-876-3933/973-769-1462
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Jeff Parries	845-297-6870	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298/973-783-8798
Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249	Erna Loerch	845-226-8094

(No Sunday morning services)

Editor's Corner

This newsletter is published by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The editor is:

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Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. We have been very pleased to offer a member profile in previous issues. If you would like to be profiled, you may write your own biography (up to 500 words) or contact the editor to arrange an interview.

Calendar of Events

Please note: Due to space considerations, this Calendar of Events may exclude the following:

- Events taking place outside the area served by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter
- Events which conflict directly with chapter sponsored events

Such events may be listed on the Local Events page of our chapter web site at www.chvago.org.

Please contact the editor if you have an event to be publicized.

Boxed items are Central Hudson Valley AGO Chapter events.

Names listed in bold face are chapter members.

Friday, December 5
6:30 PM

Celebration of Lights Parade – Market Street, Poughkeepsie
Followed by fireworks at Waryas Park, Main Street
To complete the evening, take the whole family to the Bardavon for a screening of *The Princess Bride* (Admission \$5). Pre-show music on the Bardavon Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ begins at 7:30 PM, and is provided by The New York Theatre Organ Society (NYTOS). Bardavon info: 845-473-2072

Friday, December 5
7:30 PM
Saturday, December 6
7:30 PM
Sunday, December 7
7:00 PM

14th Advent-Christmas Concert, featuring *The TreasureHouse Chorale* and Chamber Orchestra, New York Metropolitan Opera Dramatic Soprano *Janet Hopkins*, Organist Lana Kollath, & Professional Soloists under the direction of Mr. Joseph J. Nigro. Performing Camille Saint-Saen's *Christmas Oratorio*. Also a *Festival of Carols*.

Performance Venues: Friday, Holy Cross Church, 600 Soundview Avenue, Bronx, NY; Saturday, St. Bernard Church, 51 Prospect Street, White Plains, NY; Sunday, Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, 24 Fair Street, Cold Spring, New York. Freewill offering. Tickets required for Saturday evening. For ticket info call 914-949-2111. Other info: 914-318-3268, or visit www.treasurehousemusic.com.

Saturday, December 6
8:00 PM Lessons and Carols Service: Marist Singers
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Poughkeepsie
Free: Info: 845-575-3242

Sunday, December 7
3:00 PM Handel's *Messiah*
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point
Organist: **Jimrae K. Lenser**
Soloists include Lois Reese, soprano and **Al Reese**, tenor
Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Sunday, December 7
3:00 PM Sullivan County Community Chorus, under the direction of Dr.
Charles Matz, presents Mozart's *Coronation Mass* (**Patricia R. Maimone**, Organ) and Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* (Lucile Horton, Piano), with selections from *The Messiah*.
St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 St. John Street, Monticello, NY
Tickets \$8.00 at the door. Reception to follow.

Sunday, December 7
3:00 PM Advent Hymn Sing
St. Nicholas On-the-Hudson Episcopal Church
37 Front Street, New Hamburg NY
All are welcome! Info: 845-297-7693

Friday, December 12
7:30 PM "Advent Reflection" - Taizé Prayer Service
A special evening of candlelight, meditation, and song on the
feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Combined Choirs of St. Denis, St. Columba, and Blessed Kateri
RC Churches.
St. Denis Church, Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction
Info: 845-223-3439 or e-mail JACKIEHOURANI@aol.com

Sunday, December 14
3:30 PM Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church Chancel Choir
under the direction of **Polly B. James**
presents Vivaldi's *Gloria in D Major*
with **John Sullivan** at the organ.
Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, 112 New Hackensack
Road, Poughkeepsie
Free. Reception to follow. Info: 845-452-2933

Sunday, December 21
3:00 PM Traditional Service of 9 Christmas Lessons & Carols
St. Nicholas On-the-Hudson Episcopal Church
37 Front Street, New Hamburg NY
All are Welcome! Info: 845-297-7693

Saturday, January 17 4 PM to 6 PM	"Spuds, Salads, Sundaes & Spouses" Annual social and "musical bake sale" Bring your extra/unwanted sheet music to share. Proceeds to benefit the chapter. Dubois House at the Reformed Church, Main Street, Fishkill
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Sunday, February 1
3:00 PM “City Called Heaven” - A Choral Festival with Gospel Music,
Spirituals and Narrative
Reformed Church of Cortlandtown, Montrose, New York
Rehearsals: Saturday, January 31st, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM (lunch
will be provided) and Sunday, February 1st, 1:00 PM
To register and receive music, contact Alice Avouris, 1673
Morningview Dr., Yorktown Heights, N.Y. 10598, 914-962-2015
Pavouris@aol.com Registration: \$10 to cover music and lunch.

Sunday, February 15
3:00 PM Mayer Organ Recital – Janelle O’Malley
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point Free. Info: 845-938-7352

March	Organ Crawl
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Sunday, March 14
3:00 PM A Festival of Hymns with David Cherwien, Organist
First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, NY
Free. Info: 518-374-4403

April	Recital by a recent competition winner
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Sunday, April 18
3:00 PM Class of 1936 Distinguished Organists’ Recital
Marek Kudlicki (Vienna)
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point – Free. Info: 845-938-7352

May	“Workshop on Liturgy for the Non-Liturgical Organist”
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Sunday, May 9
3:00 PM Mother’s Day Organ Recital - (artist to be determined)
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point
Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Sunday, May 16
3:00 PM Syracuse Children’s Chorus, Dr. Barbara M. Tagg, Conductor
First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, NY
Free. Info: 518-374-4403

June	Members’ Recital
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July	Annual Picnic
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July 4 – July 9
2004 2004 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists
Los Angeles, CA
For early registration, contact: AGO 2004, P.O. Box 1806,
Glendale, CA 91209-1806 -818-244-4001 - Fax: 818-244-4140

June 22 – 25
2005 Region II & III AGO Convention
Hosted by our own Central Hudson Valley chapter
Call a board member today to see how you can get involved!