



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

Newsletter – December 2010

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845-297-7693 – *citarg@us.ibm.com*

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Now that Advent is upon us and Christmas is not far behind, it is time to take a deep breath and think about spending just a little bit of time doing something for ourselves as well. If you enjoy this season as much as I do you might be looking for a concert or two that you can simply attend. (Imagine not having to worry about who didn't show up for rehearsal or who left their music at home.) I'm sure you are all aware of concerts in the area and our web site can assist you in finding ones that our colleagues are involved in. Do make sure you inform Susan LaGrande about events that should be on our calendar. Just at my church (Trinity, Fishkill) we have three choral events taking place within 8 days! Thankfully I am only involved in one of them since two are outside groups using our facility. You get the picture. There is so much going on you can surely find a concert or musical event you would enjoy.

December 2010

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Or if you need a break from music go find something else that will help you enjoy this time of year – maybe cutting your own Christmas tree with your family. Whatever it is, enjoy!

As church musicians we know the necessity of planning ahead. And so I would ask you to take a moment and think whether you have an anthem or two in your library that you think the rest of us might enjoy hearing. If so, you need to contact Laura Russell (LRUSSELL@hvc.rr.com or 845-485-1648) to let her know that you would like to present an anthem or two at our anthem reading session on January 23. We will meet at 3 PM at Christ Church. But you **MUST** let Laura know you are interested in doing this **BEFORE** January 9. At that time she will need to know exactly which pieces you want to do. But why not contact her **NOW** and at least express your interest in presenting an anthem or two. If you are not interested in presenting an anthem then please come (and invite interested choir members) and be part of the “choir” that will sing through these pieces so we can all get some ideas of pieces we might like for our choirs. If you are presenting, you will need to bring copies from your library for us to use that afternoon. All copies that you bring will then go back home with you. An information sheet will be available with ordering information for any you might wish to purchase. So call or email Laura **NOW** while you are thinking of it!

Michael Barone, host of Pipedreams, is asking for our help. I recently received an email from AGO Headquarters from which I quote below:

Though we might imagine that, after 28+ years on the air, American Public Media’s PIPEDREAMS is a known quantity to everyone, in reality it’s not. And even though the internet offers a convenient, time-independent access point for online PIPEDREAMS listening (18,500 discrete users monthly), the largest audience by far is reached through radio broadcast transmissions (over 220,000 weekly).

You can help increase awareness of the country's only nationally distributed organ music radio broadcast...and, in doing so, increase public awareness of and interest in organ music! Simply include some basic promotional information in available cost-free outlets. Think of this action as being as important as listing the date and time of your own performance event in a PR release.

Where/When? In *any and every program* you print for *any* local organ recital you sponsor or perform; also in **church bulletins** or **newsletters**, particularly in a week for which you are planning some special organ music. Make this a regular ‘insertion,’ so that the message has a chance to ‘sink in.’ (As most of you know Pipedreams is on WMHT (88.7 fm) radio on Sunday evenings from 8-10.)

Remember, too, that your local public radio station is likely to continue broadcasts of PIPEDREAMS if the station’s administration knows that you really listen and provide crucial membership support. When you pledge local station support, always mention PIPEDREAMS. Lacking feedback, the station might be excused for thinking no one cares. When you make your pledge to WMHT or some other radio station that carries Pipedreams remember to mention that you enjoy the program. It could make a big difference!

So I wish each of you a very good journey through Advent and a Blessed Christmas. To our Jewish friends, Happy Chanukah! I hope to see you soon at one of the many concerts in the area.

Beverly Simmons

Beverly Simmons, SPC
Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

My Visit to Notre Dame de Paris – by Joseph Bertolozzi

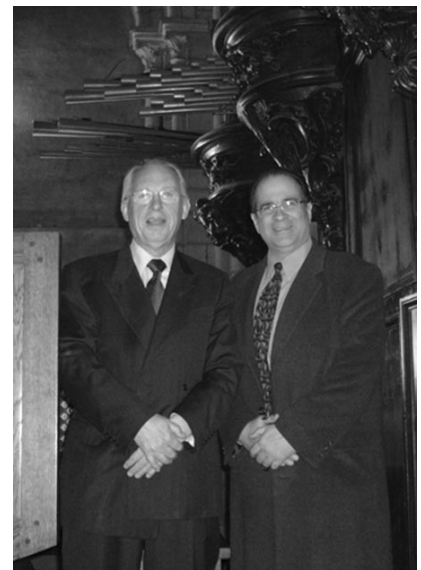
I was going to be in Paris on Sunday, November 7, so I wrote to both Notre Dame Cathedral and titular organist Olivier Latry's management company and asked permission to go up to the loft during Mass. I received word back from management that there are 4 titular organists who rotate duties [one from each of the 4 districts in Paris...different from the 20 *arrondissements*], and that Philip LeFebvre would be on duty that weekend. So I wrote to him directly and he wrote back directly, very graciously providing the info on how to gain access to the loft that morning.

I arrived in the pouring rain at 6:35 AM, went to my rented apartment, shaved, changed outfit and got to the Cathedral as the 9 AM Mass was ending. I was met by Monsieur Lefebvre's wife who took me up the spiral staircase to the loft. Upon exiting the stone staircase you are greeted in the face by a dragon-gargoyle of some ilk snarling at you, and you enter an ante-room that holds the Cavaille-Coll console that we see in pictures of Pierre Cochereau, Louis Vierne, etc.

Then you enter the organ loft proper. It is uncluttered and open, with benches against the case for visitors. When I arrived several other visitors were already there, seemingly well-known to the organist. He greeted me right away in pretty flawless English, then excused himself to go play the Processional Music. (Photo at right shows me with Monsieur Legebvre.)

As you may know, there are two organists during Mass, one up at the altar to accompany the choir, a stunningly professional and beautiful sounding choir I must say, almost unreal...and the organist at the Grand Orgue in the back under the rose window, where I was.

This organist's duties consist of playing an intrada or processional music (Mass begins with a choral introit/motet, after which the Grand Orgue plays the intrada music to accompany the clergy and altar servers from the side of the church, winding their way under the organ loft and back up to the front altar. This can take about 4-6 minutes). Then he plays the Kyrie, Gloria and Psalm in



alternation with the choir and altar organ, sits it out till Communion and then a Postlude. There are no hymns.

He was very gracious and would talk to his guests, including me, when he wasn't playing, showing this or that, answering questions, or relaxing in his private room. Nice gig!

He doesn't play repertoire during Mass, only improvisations, which I suppose partly explains the lack of clutter.



There were a few items of particular note I will relate, and then if you are interested, I'd suggest you go to the wonderfully complete website (available in English) for Note Dame [<http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/-The-Organs->]. They list all the organists, give some bios, and provide terrific pix and specs of all the organs over the centuries. (Photo at left shows the console of the Grand Orgue.)

There are a few items I'll digest for you that were of particular interest to me:

- The organ is computer action: not tracker, electric, pneumatic, etc. but computer. There are sensors under the keys that trigger the pallets. It can be faster than electric action, but one can adjust the speed at which it responds, so if you are used to a little delay, you can program it that way.
- There are huge cherub faces carved under three of the towers, but there are two towers whose faces are noticeably and violently hacked away. I was told that they weren't cherub faces but royal coat-of-arms. During the French Revolution, the mob was going around defiling churches and taking the pipes out of organs to melt them down for bullets. When the organist at the time saw them heading for the cathedral, he ran up to the loft {he and his organ-pumper-boy too I suppose} and began playing *La Marseillaise*. Happy to hear that music, the mob rejoiced and spared the organ, but they chopped away the coat of arms. During all subsequent restorations of the organ, those spots have always been left in their damaged state as a reminder of the Cathedral's history.

More pictures are available for you enjoy on our web site at www.chvago.org.

Bien cordialement,

Joseph Bertolozzi

Review of Amenia Organ Tour by Joanne Reed

The Amenia Historic Organs Tour on October 30th turned out to be a wonderful afternoon for the lucky people who attended. Will Carter was the host, who gave a short lecture at each church before playing the instrument, assisted by Matt Finlay, trumpet, at two locations.

At the first church, St. Thomas Episcopal, we saw and heard a J.H. and C.S. Odell cabinet organ, dated to between 1859-1869. This organ was purchased by St. Thomas in 1888 from

Jardine, and at that time a 20-note small flat pedalboard was added for \$500. The manual on this organ has 58 notes.

Then we went to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, where the 1865 Jardine organ. is considered to be “the most original antique organ in the area.” Here the current choir, directed by Regina Syversen, joined in the presentation for us, singing “Gloria” from *Mass of the Bells* by Alexander Peloquin.

At the United Presbyterian Church we heard an 1871 Jardine organ, and current singers from the church, led by Heidi Johnson, singing Mozart's “Alleluia” from *Exultate, Jubilate*. The souvenir program tells us that shortly after completing this instrument Jardine began work on the Grand Organ for the new St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

The fourth and last church and organ was The Smithfield Church which has an 1893 organ by Johnson & Son which they rescued from a church in Kent, Ct. in 2008.

This was an enchanting afternoon, not just because we heard some wonderful music on engaging instruments, but also because a little bit of yesteryear crept into our experience to make it seem a bit like sitting in the pews of yore.

Another Source for Hearing Organ Music

Organlive.com is an Internet audio station dedicated to the music of the classical organ. Listeners simply need one click at www.organlive.com to hear the broadcast through a wide variety of players. Listeners may browse the entire library searching by work, composer, organist, album, or organ and request tracks to be played. The station has been continually funded by the listeners, and an annual budget covering all operating expenses is raised every spring. Organlive is always accepting submissions for new music from organists, composers, and publishers. To listen to Organlive, or for more information on submitting your music, visit www.organlive.com. For more info, contact Brent Johnson, 314-496-1278 comments@organlive.com.

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated that they will serve as substitute organists. Please contact them directly if you would like more information.

Denise Bassen	845-226-1564	<u>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>
Barbara Bayers	203-260-4295	Maris Kristapsons
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	(no weddings) 845-635-8837
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	Beverly Simmons 845-463-1249
Nickie Collins	845-462-2240	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Alice Cann 845-223-5344
Christopher Fasulo	646-342-4836	Greg Citarella 845-297-7693
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Eric Hepp (no weekday funerals)
Susan LaGrande	845-226-6496	845-489-2625
Susan MacNish	845-635-3814	Charles Surber (no weddings)
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763	845-544-2782
Joanne Reed	845-361-3474	
Anne Ressler	845-446-8035	

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated that they are accepting new organ students. We are in the process of soliciting brief biographies from each of them, which will be posted on our web site as they are received. Please contact the teachers directly if you would like more information.

Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-561-0763
Donald Filkins	845-518-2991	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249
Peter Hall	845-343-4995	Charles Surber	845-544-2782
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

Deadline for Next Newsletter

We are always glad to receive input for the chapter newsletter in the form of calendar items, reviews of recent concerts and events, biographies, letters, photographs, etc. In order to make sure these submissions can be processed in a timely fashion, please make sure they are received by the 23rd of each month. However, material such as calendar items may be submitted at any time; even if the material may not make it into the printed newsletter, it can be quickly posted on our web site at www.chvago.org.

You may submit newsletter or web site material by mail, e-mail, fax or phone. Just contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, using the information given above. Remember, the deadline for the next printed newsletter, to be available the first week in December, is November 23rd.

Editor's Corner

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

Susan LaGrande
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Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Phone: 845-226-6496 (home) - Fax: 845-226-1035
e-mail: SUSANEL2@OPTONLINE.NET

Position Openings

Position openings are listed without charge for three months unless an extension is requested. If you would like to place a listing, please contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, at 845-226-6496.

Editor's Note – Due to space considerations, older position openings may include only the type of position and hiring institution. Complete information about positions is available on our web site at www.chvago.org, or contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, at 845-226-6496.

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
THE REFORMED CHURCH OF POUGHKEEPSIE - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 11-1-2010

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - CORNWALL, NY *Filled 10-8-2010*

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)
ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY *8-26-2010*

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA RC CHURCH – LAGRANGEVILLE, NY *Filled 10-28-2010*

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - CHELSEA, NY *8-2-2010*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)
FISHKILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY *Filled 10-7-2010*

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)
ALL SAINTS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS) - LAGRANGEVILLE, NY *8-2-2010*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)
ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - WOODSTOCK, NY *Filled 11-13-2010*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE - WASHINGTONVILLE, NY *6/29/2010*

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
RHINEBECK REFORMED CHURCH - RHINEBECK, NY *6-24-2010*

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - BREWSTER, NY *5/25/2010*

MUSICIAN/ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION - HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY. *4-29-2010*

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - STAATSBURG, NY *3-15-2010*

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.

Events listed in the calendar are not necessarily endorsed by CHVAGO.

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.

Saturday,
December 4,
2010
7:30 PM

Kairos Concert
In honor of the 400th anniversary of its publication, Kairos: A Consort of Singers, under the direction of Edward Lundergan, will present the majestic *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (1610 Vespers), composed by early Baroque Italian master Claudio Monteverdi, with period instruments. Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY. The event will also feature a pre-concert talk (beginning at 7:00 PM) on early Baroque performance practice. Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 seniors and \$7 youth/students with limited \$25 general admission on concert nights. Visit www.kairosconsort.org to order tickets on-line. For info or for group sales of 10 or more, please contact Carol Lundergan at 845-256-9114 or kairosconsort@gmail.com.

Supported in part by a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council, administrator of public funds through NYSCA's Decentralization Program.

Saturday,
December 4,
2010
7:30 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale
The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert "Messe Solennelle", featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols. Church of St. Mary, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
3:00 PM

52nd Annual Handel's Messiah Performance
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact **Craig Williams** at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
3:00 PM

Kairos Concert
In honor of the 400th anniversary of its publication, Kairos: A Consort of Singers, under the direction of Edward Lundergan, will present the majestic *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (1610 Vespers), composed by early Baroque Italian master Claudio Monteverdi, with period instruments. Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY. The event

will also feature a pre-concert talk (beginning at 2:00 PM) on early Baroque performance practice. Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 seniors and \$7 youth/students with limited \$25 general admission on concert nights. Visit www.kairosconsort.org to order tickets on-line. For info or for group sales of 10 or more, please contact Carol Lundergan at 845-256-9114 or kairosconsort@gmail.com.

Supported in part by a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council, administrator of public funds through NYSCA's Decentralization Program.

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
3:30 PM

Camerata Chorale Concert

The Camerata Chorale of Poughkeepsie, under the direction of Lee Harold Pritchard, will present a program to commemorate and celebrate the life of John A Davis, Jr. This program is part of the Tower Music Series held at the Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Free Will Offering; Suggested Donation: \$10.00. Camerata Chorale was founded in 1963 as a not-for-profit, non-sectarian choral ensemble whose members are drawn from more than 20 Hudson Valley communities.

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
7:30 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale

The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert "Messe Solennelle", featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols. Annunciation Church, 470 Westchester Avenue, Crestwood, NY. Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Sunday,
December 5th,
2010
3:00 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale

The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert "Messe Solennelle", featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols.
St. Denis RC Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY.
Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Saturday,
December 11,
2010
7:30 PM

Christmas in New City

The Music Ministries of Saint Augustine Church an Advent-Christmas Concert featuring works of Mozart, Handel, Holst, Biebl and others in the sanctuary of Saint Augustine Church, 140 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956. Performances by Saint Augustine Choir, Guest Soloists, pipe organ and Chamber Orchestra. Program concludes with a wonderful program of traditional and contemporary carols for all to enjoy. Spectacular holiday reception follows in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$10, available at the door or in advance by calling 845-634-3641.

Sunday,
December 12,
2010
7:30 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale
The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert "Messe Solennelle", featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols. St. James RC Church, 14 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY. Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Sunday,
December 12,
2010
7:30 PM

Advent Lessons & Carols Service
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. This service, which is open to the public, will include traditional Advent Readings, Advent Carols, and Choral Anthems accompanied by the recently restored Gress-Miles Organ, played by James Fitzwilliam. Selections from Bach's Advent Cantata #140 – "*Wachet auf*" will be on the program as well. Immediately following the service portions of "*Amahl and the Night Visitors*" will be presented with singers, instruments, costumes and dance. Freewill offering. Info: 845-452-8220.

Sunday,
December 19,
2010
3:00 PM

Kairos: 2010 Bach Cantata Series
Kairos: A Consort of Singers, under the direction of Edward Lundergan, will present its annual Lessons & Carols service featuring Old and New Testament readings interspersed with seasonal a cappella sacred motets and hymns from the Renaissance to the present. The candlelight service will conclude with a performance of our sixth performance of the 2010 Bach Cantata Series, Bach's beautiful motet *Komm, Jesu, komm*, with organ. A holiday reception will follow the service and all are invited. Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY. Info: 845-256-9114.

The concert is open to the public and all are welcome. All free-will donations will be matched by the Monastery community and sent to the Kingston Freeman Holiday Fund.

Monday.
January 10, 2011

Response Deadline for Changes to AGO Directory Listing
All current AGO members have been contacted via e-mail and postcard to verify their contact information by calling 800-347-7562. [Click here for more info.](#)

Saturday,
January 15, 2011

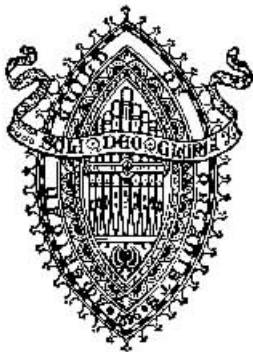
Conference for Part-Time Musicians
AGO, through its Committee on Musicians in Part-Time Employment, is presenting JANUARY JUBILEE, a day-long conference at Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, Md. The non-denominational conference will be a festival of workshops that will focus on organ and choral repertoire, handbells, service planning and playing, the digital organ, public and pastoral relations—all designed to improve the skills of organists working in part-time church positions. The cost to attend the conference is \$15, which includes a box lunch. All who are

working in part-time positions are encouraged to attend: students, new organists, members of the AGO or denominational music organizations—all are welcome. Membership in the AGO is not required in order to attend. A complimentary six-month membership in the Guild will be offered to non-members as an added benefit for their participation. Complete information is online at www.agohq.org.

Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:00 PM	Choral Reading Further details to be announced. Location: Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. Info: 845-485-1648.
Sunday, February 13, 2011 5:00 PM	Annual Spuds & Sundaes Social Get together to enjoy baked potatoes and ice cream sundaes, with all appropriate toppings. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1200 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. Stay tuned for further information.
Sunday, March 6, 2010 3:00 PM	Organ Recital by Meredith Baker Ms. Baker is Director of Music at the Most Holy Trinity (Catholic) Chapel, USMA. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu
Sunday, April 3, 2010 3:00 PM	Organ Recital by Adrienne Pavur Ms. Pavur is the Rutgers University Organist. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu
Sunday, May 8, 2010 3:00 PM	Juilliard Trombone Choir Concert Joseph Alessi, director. Joseph Alessi is the Principal Trombonist of the NY Philharmonic. This concert will feature a new commissioned composition for organ and trombone choir. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu
Sunday, May 22, 2011 3:00 PM	Annual Members' Recital Start planning your performance piece now! Zion Episcopal Church, 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY. Further details to be announced.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
12 Montrose Lane
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
www.chvago.org



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