



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

Newsletter – July 2023

Officers

Benjamin T. Vise – Dean
330-327-0895

Nancy Vanderlee – Secretary
914-204-6472

Justan Foster – At-Large Member
518-965-2389

John Vanderlee – At-Large Member
914-475-0444

Laura Russell – Sub-Dean
845-232-8601

Susan Guse – Treasurer
845-242-1478

Susan LaGrande – Newsletter Editor
845-226-6496

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802-309-8407

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

To all members, colleagues and friends in the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of AGO:

It has been my great privilege to serve all of you as your Dean for the past year, but this letter will actually be my final one to you since major developments in my life over these months have brought me to a very different point in my journey one year later!

Little could I have ever anticipated that simultaneous with the actual election of officers being underway in June of last year – at that very moment in time (June 7, 2022 to be exact) I met a new and very significant person in, of all the unlikely places, a small group on Facebook! By way of explanation, a major part of what originally brought me to New York in September of 2015 was my taking a new position at Christ Episcopal Church in Suffern which began my “New York journey” in your midst!

I was at that time still recovering from the death in January 2009 of my beloved 24-year partner Fred Sarnes, from cancer. Fred was also an organist so my years with him were spent enjoying many recitals as we gleefully took apart both the repertoire as well as the performer

in the car going home! All of that abruptly ended and the years since have been ones of searching for my own direction in life which I was hoping would include at some point a NEW companion in my journey. Well, on the date above that person appeared and the past year has been one of growing together and realizing that this new guy Rick – who not only lives in my home town of Little Rock but is also a retired banker, as was my father – is perfectly suited in every way for what I am needing in my life NOW! I just never dreamed it would take 13 years for him to be revealed to me!

I had no way of knowing how long this transition would take, and as one who takes my commitments very seriously I was prepared if necessary to complete my full 2-year term as Dean. But life has a way of making those choices for you instead, with or without your input, and this new man Rick Landers is now my fiance! What more need I say, my body is still currently residing in New York but my HEART is instead in my home state of Arkansas! All of my actual furniture and possessions have already made the move back to my new home there, and on Tuesday, July 18th I will have my final appointment with my Endocrinologist in West Nyack and from there I will be on the road west!

It is therefore necessary for me to submit to you my resignation as Dean of the CHVAGO chapter, to become effective on June 30, 2023.

On July 1st my membership will be renewed instead with the Central Arkansas Chapter of AGO so I will no longer be eligible to serve in the same capacity here. I leave you in the VERY capable hands of one of the finest Boards of directors you could ever want, however, many of whom have a MUCH longer tenure with this chapter than I ever could! They are already working out all the logistics to see that all of your needs are met just as you have come to expect.

Sounds like a really FABULOUS member picnic is already planned in September “down by the riverside!” Gee....can I come back? By that point I actually hope to be a VERY active substitute organist around Little Rock metropolitan area as I see where this next chapter (dare I say “movement?”) of my own “Symphony” will take me! I just consider myself fortunate to still have my mental faculties intact enough that I am able to yet be productive with my chosen instrument!

So THANK YOU once again to each and every one of the marvelous folks who it has been my privilege to serve over these combined years as both board member and ultimately Dean. I wish for you “all the right notes” and continued blessings in your own individual journeys as life moves on... with or without us!

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BTV', written in a cursive style.

Benjamin T. Vise, MM, Dean
Central Hudson Valley Chapter of AGO

Member News

- Heartfelt congratulations and farewell to our immediate Past Dean, Benjamin T. Vise! He has led our chapter most ably during the last year, and we will miss his quiet humor and collegial style of leadership. In his absence, the board will carry on with plans for future programs and continue pursuing ongoing issues. The next board meeting, on July 16, will be chaired by Justan Foster. Leadership will be rotated among board members until the next election.
- Don't forget the Westchester AGO Convention coming up next week! We are proud to have two of our members, Craig Williams and Renée Anne Louprette, as featured performers . It's not too late to register for the convention! Visit the web site at <https://westchester2023.org/>.

School Organ in Storage, Will Sing Again

By Susan LaGrande

As an Alumna of Emma Willard School in Troy, NY, I recently attended my 60th reunion. The campus remains spacious and beautiful, but there are lots of new buildings, with new construction and extensive renovations underway. When I was a student, I spent a lot of time in the Chapel, which was not only a worship space, but also home to several classrooms and the swimming pool. I rehearsed there often and sang every Sunday in the excellent choir. In those days I was not much interested in organs so I don't remember much about the organ which was there at the time.

Several years after I graduated a new organ was installed, built by the Noack Organ Company. ([Click here](#) for a stop list.) I heard the new organ played when I returned for my 25th reunion in 1988, and I have been interested in the instrument ever since. Gail Archer has played there regularly in the past, as has Alfred V. Fedak and probably others I don't know about.

Since the Chapel is currently closed for renovation both inside and out, I wondered what had become of the organ, so I contacted the alumnae department. They told me that the organ is currently in storage, but will be re-installed when the renovation of the building as part of a performance space is complete. Worship services will be provided for in a new multi-cultural building still in the planning stages.

I hope I will be able to return once again to the Emma Willard campus once the Noack organ re-installation is complete. It's nice to hear about good things happening to pipe organs!

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will serve as substitute organists. Please contact them directly if you would like more information. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. More information about each substitute is provided on our web site at www.chvago.org. If you would like your name listed, or if you need to update your information, please contact the editor using the information above.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Meredith Baker | 845-565-3321 | Eric Hepp | 845-489-2625 |
| Joe Bertolozzi | 845-337-1216 | Wesley Joseph | 845-849-0104 |
| Luca Cantone | 703-554-5906 | Maris Kristapsons | 845-635-0411 |
| Greg Citarella | 845-559-4013 | Timothy M. Lewis | 914-374-2608 |
| Richard C. Ehlenberg | 845-687-6013 | Michael Oosterhout | 301-910-5307 |
| James Fitzwilliam | 845-849-3606 | Edward Palange | 914-213-3460 |
| Justan Foster | 518-965-2389 | Joanne Reed | 845-361-3474 |
| Carl J. Geiselhart | 845-457-4830 | Nancy Vanderlee | 845-266-3858 |
| Susan Guse | 845-242-1478 | Christopher Wynkoop | 845-926-7389 |
| Larry Hazard | 845-452-0119 | | |

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they are accepting new organ students. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list. More information about each teacher is provided on our web site at www.chvago.org. If you would like your name listed, please contact the editor using the information above.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Meredith Baker | 914-261-0028 | Larry Hazard | 845-452-0119 |
| Gregory Citarella | 845-559-4013 | Timothy M. Lewis | 914-374-2608 |
| Justan Foster | 518-965-2389 | Michael Oosterhout | 301-910-5307 |

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 August 2023, is July 23.

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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Position Openings

Editor's Note - Hiring institutions are encouraged to check references from applicants' previous employers. It should not be assumed that applicants who learn of position openings via these listings are endorsed by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. 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 or email chvagoboard@gmail.com.

Editor's Note – Because there are so many new position openings this month, we are choosing not to list all of them in their entirety. If you have questions about a position, please contact the prospective employer directly using the information provided in the complete listing online at http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Positions.php. If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496.

ORGANIST/PIANIST - (Part-Time)

SCOTCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - MIDDLETOWN, NY

Filled 6/28/23

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

4/21/2023

PARISH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)

**THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST.JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL -
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**

Revised 4/19/2023

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Regular Part-Time)

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH - GOSHEN, NY

3/24/2023

MUSIC LEADER - (Part-Time)

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WOODSTOCK, NY

11/28/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY

11/28/2022

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
Renewed 4/20/2023

ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-time)
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY
5/27/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MIDDLETOWN, NY
3/28/2022

Calendar of Events

If you are interested in having an event posted on this calendar, please contact the web site administrator, [Susan LaGrande](#). Events are selected for inclusion based on their relevance and interest to the members of the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The chapter reserves the right to decline or withdraw listings at any time.

- Monday, July 3 -
Thursday, July 5, 2023
- Westchester 2023 - AGO Regional Convention
Westchester2023 is the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention of the AGO. Please join us in July in Westchester County, NY, home to world-class instruments, stunning edifices, and exquisite dining and shopping - all within the beauty of the lower Hudson River Valley. Opening Worship is at Rye Presbyterian Church with the New Choral Society, John T. King, conductor; Janet Yieh and Dina Foster-Osbourne, organists. Closing Concert will also be at Rye Presbyterian Church with the Modus Operandi Orchestra, Justin Bischof, conductor and David Enlow, organist. Solo Recitalists: Peter Richard Conte, Nathan Avakian, Anne Laver, Janet Yieh, Craig Williams, Renee Anne Louprette, Jennifer Pascual, Amanda Mole, and Caroline Robinson. Conference Headquarters: [Sonesta White Plains](#), 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. Early registration deadline: April 15, 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Wednesday, July 5, 2023
11:00 AM
- Recital by Craig Williams
The United States Military Academy at West Point will host a recital by Chapel Organist and Choirmaster **Craig Williams**. The Cadet Chapel Organ by M.P. Möller, Inc. Op. 1200 is the third largest organ in the world. The event's sponsor is the AGO NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONVENTION, WESTCHESTER, NY (July 3-6). Check registration requirements at [Westchester 2023](#). Convention attendees not pre-registered and on the bus must provide a government-issued identification (driver's license, passport, etc.) at the Visitor Control Center to be eligible for admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA). Attendees failing a criminal background check will be denied admission to USMA.
[Directions](#).
[Visitors Center](#).

Wednesday, July 5, 2023
2:30 PM

Recital by Renée Anne Louprette
Chapter member Renée Anne Louprette will present a recital on the marvelous [1898 Jardine organ of St. Peter's Church in Haverstraw](#), as part of the [Westchester AGO Regional Convention](#). [Click here](#) for Renée's Biography.

Saturday, July 29, 2023
7:00 PM

"Rhythmic Revolution" - Theatre Organ Concert
Prepare to be captivated as renowned organist [Nathan Avakian](#) takes center stage, defying convention and turning a 100-year-old tradition on its head! The [instrument](#) is NYTOS's Allen Theatre Organ (Quantum T321Q | 3/42). This program will feature music by Bruno Mars, Britney Spears, Alan Menkin, Henry Mancini, and more, as well as Award-winning 3-minute silent films from the International Youth Silent Film Festival, and a special tribute to the Pine Plains Bicentennial with the music of Aaron Copland. The performance will last 90 minutes with one brief intermission. Tickets available [online](#) and at the door. The Stissing Center, 2950 Church Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567. Info: 518-771-3339.

Sunday, September 10,
2023
2:30 PM

Annual Chapter Picnic
This year the picnic will be held at Quiet Cove Park, a beautiful riverfront oasis in Poughkeepsie. Check out the information and photos [here](#). There is plenty of parking, with lots of amenities including rest rooms.
The chapter will be providing meats for grilling and paper goods. We would like members to bring side dishes, beverages, and desserts. As we get closer to the date we will be sending out a signup sheet for people to indicate what they would like to bring.
Mark your calendars, and start thinking about who you can invite as a guest. A social occasion like this is a perfect opportunity to attract new members. Watch this space for updates!

Saturday, November 11,
2023
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Renée Anne Louprette
[St. Thomas Church](#), 1 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019. More details to be announced.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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Soli Deo Gloria