



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

Newsletter – June 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

Eileen Kerkes – At-Large Member
802-309-8407

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Members and friends of Central Hudson chapter of AGO:

I bring you June greetings, and the beginning of the summer season which is always SUCH a welcome time for all church musicians when our choirs usually go into “summer break” and WE can do the same! I hope all of you have had a very meaningful and productive liturgical year in whatever setting you may serve....or not serve (hey, we need the “listeners” out there, too, as we all well know)!

There will be some wonderful programs coming up in the valley including two back-to-back concerts of BachFest with both events held in Skinner Hall on the campus of Vassar College. The first one is a Keyboard festival (Saturday, June 17), co-sponsored by our chapter; the second one (Sunday, June 18) will feature the the BachFest Choir in a fabulous Bach motet!

July will bring a very exciting event with our sister Westchester Chapter hosting a combined double regional convention (Northeast and Mid-Atlantic). I urge you to check out the web site (<https://westchester2023.org/>) for all the fabulous programs scheduled. Hopefully you

have already registered to take advantage of all of this but there is still time to do so. Several chapter members have already indicated their intentions to attend at least one or two days of the convention.

Last but not least, I urge ALL of you to take advantage of the multiple opportunities for continuing education to give you both “breathing room” as well as the marvelous networking with colleagues from all over the country. In years past I have always found that opportunity to be the one time when I was able to recharge my batteries for the planning of a new choir season in the fall!

Our beautiful valley offers SO many opportunities for recreation and renewal in the magnificence of our surroundings. Go and enjoy (and DO take family photos to share with us all at the next meeting)!



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

Member News

- Welcome to new member Francis Huang, who joins us as a Young Organist! We look forward to meeting him in person soon.
- Stu Ballinger has a new phone number, effective immediately: 845-309-5398 (8:00 AM - 7:00 PM daily).
- We are saddened to announce the death of long-time member Janet Nelson Nickerson, who died on May 6, 2023, at the age of 84.



Janet always had a strong influence on our chapter through her teaching and performance. Among her many students are member Carl Geiselhart, who was one of the first recipients of the AGO Achievement Awards in 2020, having completed all five levels.

)Janet’s own organ studies included lessons with Dr. John A. Davis, Cadet Chapel, West Point. Janet studied theater organ styles and improvisation with Rosa Rio in New York City. In 1970 she entered the Guilman Organ School, NYC, where she studied sacred organ music/choir directing and private organ study with Dr. George A. Markey.

She served as organist at several local churches, starting in 1955 at Mountainville

Methodist Church. Her most recent post was at King of Kings Lutheran Church in New Windsor, from which she was buried on May 11, 2023.

Janet was very proud to have been inducted into CHVAGO's League of Distinguished Service in 2019. We were proud to be counted among her friends and colleagues, and we will miss her.

(To view her complete obituary, [click here.](#))

Concert Report: Felix Hell

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, organist Felix Hell returned to the Hudson Valley to present a concert at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. An enthusiastic audience, including several chapter members, were delighted by Mr. Hell's magical ability to make the excellent, though modest, Casavant organ sound much bigger than it is. His program was conservative and traditional, including nothing more recent than Widor. But hearing the familiar done so well, with such care and attention paid to dynamics and tone, is a real treat. Felix Hell may have started his career as a technical wunderkind, but he has matured into a mature, thoughtful artist.

Concert Report: Joint Members' Recital

Despite rainy weather and competition from other events, members of the Westchester and Central Hudson Valley AGO chapters met at St. Philip's Church in Garrison, NY, for a joint members' recital on Saturday, May 20. Four members from the Westchester Chapter and one member from CHVAGO played a pleasing variety of works chosen to demonstrate the range of the new (2019) Schoenstein pipe organ at the church. As John Vanderlee remarked, "I was impressed by its dynamics and range of tonal color; quite surprising for a not so large instrument." Having just heard Felix Hell perform the *Fanfare in D* by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens the week before, I was fascinated to hear another excellent performance by Malik Jardine, on a different organ of comparable size and conformation. For me the highlight of the concert was Anthony Rispo's performance of *Soliloquy* by contemporary composer David Conte, although Jeffrey Hoffman's performance of Nadia Boulanger's *Trois Improvisations: I. Prelude* came in a close second. Susan Guse said, "I especially enjoyed the 2 hymn settings when [our host] Chris [Fasulo] had us singing (DUKE STREET and THAXTED) - in my opinion, the best way to show off an organ in a church setting."

Thanks to Christopher Fasulo for arranging for this welcome collaboration. May it lead to further shared events between Westchester and CHVAGO!

Organ Parts Free for the Taking!

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Taven, NY, wants to dispose of part of its existing pipe organ, including five ranks of pipes plus some components such as regulators, motors, and magnets. A complete list of the parts available can be viewed [here](#). Parts must be removed before September 30, 2023. For more information, please contact Elaine Simpson at dmaehs1@aol.com or 845-562-1591.

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	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389

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	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
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 July 2023, is June 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

12 Montrose Lane

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Phone: 845-226-6496 (home) - e-mail: CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

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

4/28/2023

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.

Saturday, June 17, 2023 3:00 PM	2023 BachFest Keyboard Festival - "Bach the Virtuoso" The Hudson Valley's Bachfest returns with works by J.S. Bach for organ and piano, featuring pianists Ruthanne Schempf and Sylvia Buccelli (featuring the <i>Partita in D major BWV 828</i>) and organists Craig Williams and Patrick Walker (Class of '16). This year's festival is dedicated to violinist Emily Faxon, co-founder of BachFest, who passed away in January 2023. Skinner Hall, Vassar College , 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Suggested donation: \$20. Info: 845-437-7319
Sunday, June 18, 2023 3:00 PM	2023 BachFest Choral and Orchestral Concert <i>Concerto for Two Violins in D minor BWV 1043</i> - Carole Cowan and Marka Young, violin soloists <i>Harpsichord Concerto in E major BWV 1053</i> - James M. Fitzwilliam, harpsichord soloist <i>Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in D minor BWV 1049</i> - Rachel Crozier, violin soloist; Marcia Gates & Amy Hersch, flute soloists <i>Motet No. 3: Jesu, meine Freude BWV 227</i> - Laura Ramsey Russell conducting the BachFest Choir. Skinner Hall, Vassar College , 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Donations accepted. Info: 845-437-7319
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
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,
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
Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
12 Montrose Lane
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
www.chvago.org
CHVAGOboard@gmail.com



Soli Deo Gloria