

Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
American Guild of
Organists

Newsletter – May 2008

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www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The Lost Chord

Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan

Words by Adelaide Anne Proctor

*Seated one day at the organ, I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wander'd idly over the noisy keys;
I knew not what I was playing, or what I was dreaming then,
But I struck one chord of music like the sound of a great Amen.
It flooded the crimson twilight like the close of an Angel's Psalm,
And it lay on my fever'd spirit with a touch of infinite calm.
It quieted pain and sorrow like love overcoming strife,
It seem'd the harmonious echo from our discordant life.*

*It link'd all perplexed meanings into one perfect peace
And trembled away into silence as if it were loth to cease;
I have sought, but I seek it vainly, that one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the organ and enter'd into mine.
It may be that Death's bright Angel will speak in that chord again;
It may be that only in Heav'n I shall hear that grand Amen!*

I open this May Dean's Letter with the words from "The Lost Chord" by Sir Arthur Sullivan. As you know from an earlier writing, our chapter again lost one of our long time colleagues, Clara Pankow Miller. When I spoke to Clara's daughter Wilma, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie, just minutes before the funeral liturgy began, Wilma imparted to me that her mom passed our earth's bonds to be at rest and peace while sitting in her favorite rocking chair facing a window. Clara was just shy of her 100th Birthday! Wilma tells me that the family thought of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother as already being 100 and were celebrating her life in earnest. Life is worth living. Each day is a gift in its own special and unique way.

In that way too, when I read the words of "The Lost Chord", I would like to think that those words were with Clara when she left this life to join our colleagues whose loss we mourn, but whom we celebrate as we bathe in the light of the great musical legacies which they leave us.

Collectively, William Robert "Bob" Brittenham, Mary S. Caskey and Clara Pankow-Miller represented 264 years of experience.

On Sunday May 4, 2008 at 3:00 PM we will celebrate their life through musical expressions as many of our colleagues join to perform on the organ at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 327 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie NY during our annual chapter members recital. I encourage many of you to join us and bring family and friends. The music will be wonderful.

May is a beautiful time of the year! It is a time of renewal, rebirth and great anticipation for the months of extra daylight for growing flowers, fruits and vegetables. Enjoy God's musical experience outdoors too. Remember the organ has many sounds that liken to all of the natural world we live in. Don't close the Swell shades. Open them and absorb this wonderful crescendo of creation. Have you ever thought of the pipe organ as an extension of the natural world? I challenge you to think in terms of what stops on the pipe organ could represent wind; flowing water, breezes, thunder, lightening, and birdsong? Here's a good one: What represents snow flakes? Not many instruments are lucky enough to have snow flakes. Drop me a note and see if you can guess.

Psalm 84 (Quam dilecta!)

*How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of Hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;*

*The sparrow has found her house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.*

*Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.*

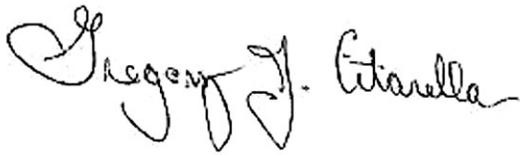
With that, I will sign off for the time being. I ask you to please review the chapter calendar

for upcoming events. They are growing in number. Always a big Thank You to all of you who support me in my Deanship and our collective mission. Thank you to our chapter board members who work so well together and bring wonderful ideas to the table. Thank you to each of you for being their to hold each other up in many ways as teachers, friends, organists, musicians, colleagues and professionals.

To our brothers and sisters who celebrated Passover - a belated Happy Passover! To our brothers and sisters who celebrated Easter in the Eastern tradition - a belated Happy Easter! To our brothers and sisters who celebrate 50 Days, Pentecost - a very Blessed Pentecost!

All things bright and beautiful...

Soli Deo Gloria - Amen!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory J. Citarella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a long, sweeping tail.

Gregory J. Citarella+
(SDG)

In Memoriam – Clara Pankow Miller

Clara Pankow Miller, 99, died at home on April 23, 2008. She had been a professional organist at the First Church of Christ Scientist, United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of Poughkeepsie, Dutch Reformed Church in Fishkill, and Hopewell Dutch Reformed Church.

Born in Ohio, Clara first began performing in public as an organist in the Emmaus Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY, where her father, also a musician, was pastor. For many years, she gave private music lessons. While many of her students went on to professional careers, one in particular stands out in her memories. For 11 years, beginning when he was seven years old, Buffalo Bob Smith of "Howdy Doody" fame took private lessons with Clara. Growing up, he sang in her church choir and sometimes substituted for her at the church organ. He later named his clown, "Clarabelle," after her.

Clara was a long-time member of the AGO, first in Buffalo, where she and Dorothy Meade Beynon (mother of Polly James) were colleagues, and for the past 33 years here in the Hudson Valley. She served as Dean of the Buffalo Chapter and the Central Hudson Valley Chapter. More than once she retired from playing regularly, but she kept coming back to the instrument she loved.

As a young woman, Clara attended the Eastman School of Music. Then in 2002 Clara received a bachelor's degree in music from SUNY New Paltz. She once said, "Older people shouldn't give up what they are doing. They've still got a mind and a brain working. They should keep up with the rest of the world."

Calling hours, immediately followed by a funeral service, were held at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie on Friday April 25, 2008. Burial took place in Buffalo NY. Memorial donations maybe made to Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation, PO Box 405, Lagrangeville, NY 125

Membership News

- Nancy Brown writes: "... we have recently installed an Allen Quantum Renaissance 325 organ in our church (First Congregational in Kent, CT). If anyone is interested in seeing our installation, I would be happy to show it off." You can contact Nancy at 914-373-8122 or nancybrown577@optonline.net.
- Following a recent stroke, Ray Corey is currently residing at:
Lutheran Care Center at Concord
(A Nursing Home providing long term care for 160 residents)
965 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 486-9494
Please keep Ray in your prayers.
- Jack Davis writes: "I just had a lovely visit by phone with Kay Pearson. She celebrated her 92 birthday this past weekend, AND her grandson, Patrick Pearson and his wife welcomed a baby girl, born at the West Point Hospital, just a bit after Kay's natal day. (The young couple are both graduates of the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Patrick is a pilot, serving in Korea.) He had started from Korea to the U.S., and was actually able to get to West Point by 11 p.m. on the day of his daughter's birth! Both sets of grandparents were there for the birth, and Kay, the proud great-grandmother, was kept advised of things by phone. Great news from a dear colleague, and one of our former deans!"

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.

Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>	
Terry Earles		Judie Brown (also Jewish svcs)	845-888-5318
(Kingston & Staatsburg areas)		Alice Cann	845-223-5344
	845-340-1655	Greg Citarella	845-297-7693
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Lois Hoger	845-229-7404	Eric Hepp (no weekday funerals)	
Susan LaGrande	845-226-6496		845-489-2625
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298 / 973-783-8798
Joanne Reed	845-361-3474	Charles Surber (no weddings)	845-255-8293
<u>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>		Jeffrey Parries	845-297-6870/845-702-4746
Maris Kristapsons (no weddings)	845-635-8837	<u>Student</u>	
Pat Maimone	845-446-2395	Gregory S. Quaglieni	845-786-0011

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. You may submit newsletter material by mail, e-mail, or phone. Just contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, using the information given below. Remember, the deadline for the next newsletter, to be available the first week in June, is May 23rd.

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.

Joyce B. Auchincloss	203-754-2840	Patricia R. Maimone	845-446-2395
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	845-223-4824
Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298		

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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e-mail: SUSANEL2@HOTMAIL.COM

Position Openings - Summary

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, the following list of position openings includes 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 (Part-Time)

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - PORT JERVIS, NY 4/9/2008

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER (Part Time - July, 2008)

ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HAINES FALLS, NY Filled April 2008

ORGANIST/PIANIST (Part-Time)

UNION AME CHURCH - WARWICK, NY 3/26/08

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST (Part-Time)

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH - CATSKILL, NY 3/14/08

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

LYALL MEMORIAL FEDERATED CHURCH - MILLBROOK, NY 12/4/2007

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH - WALDEN, NY Renewed 2/7/2008

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - RED HOOK, NY *Resubmitted 11/10/2007*

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.

Sunday, May 4, 2008 3:00 PM	Members Recital First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 325 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Our host is Eric Hepp who will arrange practice times and put together the program. Contact Eric at erhepp@us.ibm.com or 845-790-3381. All members are encouraged to consider playing. The concert is free and open to the public. For directions to the church, call 845-452-6050.
Sunday, May 4, 2008 3:00 PM	Organ Concert by Carlo Curley First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Free admission. Info: 518-374-4403
Saturday, May 10, 2008 9:30 AM to Noon	"Open console" & Mini Organ Concert the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, using the 1928 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ and the Allan Digital organ. Hosted by the NY Theater Organ Society. Refreshments will be provided Info: www.nytos.org
Sunday, May 11, 2008 3:30 PM	Tower Music Series - Organ Concert Lee Dettra, FAGO - concert organist. Mr. Dettra was the 3rd organist-choirmaster of the Cadet Chapel at West Point, where he succeeded John A. Davis, Jr. Lee was a member of the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the AGO, and also served as organist-choirmaster at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. The Reformed Church, 80 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY. Everyone welcome, with voluntary contributions accepted. Info: 845-452-8110.
Saturday, May 17 - Friday, May 30, 2008	Pipedreams 2008 Tour: Historic Organs of Québec. Info: http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/events/tours/canada_2008/index.shtml

Sunday, May 18, 2008
3:00 PM
Organ Recital by Phillip Brisson of the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, KY. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Saturday, June 7, 2008
10:00 AM - All Day
Wanamaker Organ Day
Macy's, 13th and Market Streets, Philadelphia, PA. Celebrating the 104th birthday of the 461-rank Wanamaker organ. Opening concert by Colin Howard at 10 AM, continuing all day with Peter Richard Conte at 11:30 AM and Nick Bowden at 2:30 PM, and concluding at 5:00 PM with an extravaganza featuring the Wanamaker organ plus three Allen state-of-the-art digital instruments. Free admission. Info: call 215-241-9000.

Saturday, June 7, 2008
6:00 PM
Benefit Concert by **Craig S. Williams**
Observing the 50th anniversary of the Hudson-Catskill chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Christ Church, 431 Union Street, Hudson, NY. Suggested admission: \$20 and \$15 for seniors and students. At the door prices will be \$25 and \$20. For more information call Jon Greene, 518-943-2914.

Saturday, June 14, 2008 9:00 AM	Trip to "The Cloisters" Join us for a fun trip to New York City to visit this wonderful medieval museum. If you've never been there you won't want to miss it. And if you have, you'll want to go again. We will car pool (meeting at a place to be determined), so you need to call Gregory Citarella at 845-297-7693 and let him know you want to go.
Sunday, July 13, 2008 4:00 PM	Annual CHVAGO Picnic To be held at the home of Eric Hepp, 24 Lor-Mar Court, Wappingers Falls, NY. More details to be announced.

Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18, 2008
53rd Annual Convention of the Organ Historical Society
Seattle, Washington. Info: <http://www.organsociety.org/2008/>

Saturday, September 20, 2008 2 - 4 PM	Workshop with Dr. Victoria Sirota Dr. Sirota is both a concert organist and Episcopal Priest and was formerly National Chaplain of the AGO. Her topic is "Preaching to the Choir; Claiming the role of Sacred Musician". Her book of the same title is superb. You won't want to miss hearing what she has to say. It would be a good opportunity to invite your clergy to join you. This event will take place at Trinity Episcopal Church, Main Street, Fishkill, NY. For directions to the church, call 845-896-9884.
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Sunday, October 19, 2008
Organ Spectacular
to mark the high point in the International Year of the Organ. Details to be announced.

<p>Saturday, November ?, 2008 Time and date to be announced</p>	<p>Pipes, Pedals, & Pizza A wonderful event designed to introduce young piano students to the King of Instruments. Location: Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road, Newburgh, NY. More details to follow.</p>
<p>Sunday, November 16, 2008 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Organ, Trumpet, and Violin Concert Gregory Citarella (Organ), Jim Paradies (Trumpet) and Julie Berman (Violin). St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson, 37 Point Street, New Hamburg, NY. Free Will offering. A reception will follow the recital. Info: Call the church at: 845-297-2010 or call Gregory Citarella for more information at: 845-297-7693</p>
<p>Sunday, November 9, 2008 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Inaugural Concert by Diane Bish to celebrate the installation of the new 3-manual, 80-stop Allen Organ in the new 1000-seat sanctuary at Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church in Lagrangeville, NY. Diane Bish is the most visible and influential classical organist performing today. Her television program <i>The Joy of Music</i> is broadcast to over 300 million people around the world each week. Co-sponsors: CHVAGO, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church, and Allen Organ Company. Admission is free, by advance reservation; reserve your seat by calling the church at 845-227-1710 or visiting the web site at www.blessedkateriparish.com. (Note: Parking is limited; carpooling is highly recommended.)</p>



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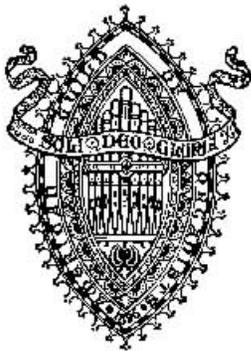
an
international
organ
celebration

Organ
Spectacular

19 October 2008



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
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www.chvago.org



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