



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

Newsletter – January 2025

Officers

John Vanderlee – Dean
914-475-0444

Susan Guse – Sub-Dean
845-242-1478

Nancy Vanderlee – Secretary
914-204-6472

John Corrie – Treasurer
207-576-8995

Susan LaGrande – Newsletter Editor
845-235-7203

Karlyn Maschhoff - At-Large Member
505-340-6178

Laura Russell – At-Large Member
845-232-8601

Chapter Web Site
www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,
Happy 2025!

A new year brings new thoughts, and while considering how to greet the year with my ideas, Susan LaGrande submitted the following for my consideration. To me, it seems the perfect way to start January. Thank you, Susan!

Your Dean,

John Vanderlee

Setting Goals for the New Year

By Susan LaGrande

Wikipedia says that “A New Year's resolution is a tradition ... in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behavior at the beginning of a calendar year.”

I think this is a tradition that many people observe by omission, or at least refer to with self-deprecating humor or even scorn. But I do think it is a good practice to think about what you want to accomplish or at least work on over the next twelve months.

Instead of “resolution”, I prefer the word goal, which connotes progress without emphasizing achievement. Of course we want to achieve our goals, but there may be many detours and obstacles to negotiate before we get there. Think of a hockey game. How often does a puck change direction before it lands safely in the net? In 2007 I began my own list of goals, and I wrote them down. Not just that, I made a mini poster out of them, with a fancy border and an eye-catching font. I posted this for myself where I could read it every morning. And, as my aspirations changed during the year, I also changed my goals poster. (Note that you can only effectively set goals for yourself, not anybody else.)

Doing so follows guidelines often offered to people who want to set goals for themselves. The popular acronym, “SMART” stands for the following attributes:

- **Specific.** Some people might start their goals with “Eat healthier.” That won’t help much on a day-to-day basis. Instead, say something like, “Restrict salt intake.” (That’s one of my current goals.)
- **Measurable.** So, if I restrict my salt intake, how much is okay? How do I track it?
- **Attainable.** It’s impossible to exclude salt entirely, because sodium is present in nearly everything we eat or drink. For most people, less than 2,300 mg per day, or about 1 teaspoon of table salt, is recommended. I am better off taking in about half that much.
- **Realistic.** Can I actually avoid salt? Not if I don’t change my habits. For example, my neighborhood’s water supply is extremely hard, so my family needs a water softener to prevent damage to plumbing fixtures and appliances. But that means the water from my faucet contains more salt than I can tolerate. So, I must invest in, and insist on, and travel with, bottled water. A pain in the neck? Yes. But worth it, if it helps me achieve my goal.
- **Time-bound.** When will you start? When do you expect to see a measurable change? I’m guided the old adage, “Don’t just think it, ink it.” Therefore, I wrote down my goals, for a permanent record to refer to frequently.

Another guideline: Share your goals list with other people. My first goals list was created in the context of martial arts training. Every student was expected to produce a goals poster, which was then displayed on the walls of the karate school for all to see. It was fun and encouraging to see everybody’s lists, some elaborately illustrated, some painstakingly lettered by young students just learning to write. Thus, we made ourselves accountable to others.

I hope everyone will at least consider your own personal goals for 2025, and I wish you all a very happy and productive New Year!

Help Wanted!

Due to ongoing health considerations, Susan LaGrande is seeking someone to assist with and eventually take over the following duties that she performs for the chapter:

- Edit and publish the monthly newsletter (time required: several hours, once a month)
- Maintain the chapter web site, particularly:
 - Calendar
 - Sub List
 - Teachers List
 - Position Openings(Each of these duties can be accomplished in less than an hour, at various times of the month.)
- Maintain membership records using the new AGO database. (Since this is a new system, there will be a learning curve. After a while the time required for this should be minimal.)
- Sending letters of welcome to new members. (Time required: minimal.)
- Maintain the chapter's two Facebook pages, one public, the other private, including creating ads for certain chapter events. (This should get more attention than it currently receives.)

If you are interested in learning more about any of these positions, please contact the Board at chvagoboard@gmail.com.

Check Your Contact Information

You may not be aware that AGOHQ has replaced the old database system for keeping track of member information with a new system, called iMIS. You can still check and edit your personal contact information yourself as follows:

1. Visit the AGOHQ's web site at <https://www.agohq.org/>. Click on the "Sign In" tab from the menu bar at the top of the page.
2. Even if you have previously had a username under the old system, you must now create an account with the new system. To do so, click on the "Create Account" link. Here you will enter your email address (not your old username) and create a new password (not your member number as listed on the mailing label for The American Organist magazine). If necessary, sign in with the new information.
3. The menu bar at the top of the page will now display the message "Hi, [your name]". Click on this option. You will be directed to your personal record, which you can edit as needed.
4. If you have difficulty getting into your personal record, it may be because the email address in AGOHQ's records is obsolete or otherwise incorrect. If you need help updating your email address or any other information in your personal record, please contact [Susan LaGrande](#).

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 February 2025, is January 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: 845-235-7203 - e-mail: CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will serve as substitute organists. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. However, it should not be assumed that these individuals are endorsed by the CHVAGO, and background checks are encouraged. 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	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Owen Borda	914-734-2456	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Jimrae K. Lenser	845-802-4284
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-0411
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389
Susan Guse	845-242-1478		

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will accept new organ students. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. However, it should not be assumed that these individuals are endorsed by the CHVAGO, and background checks are encouraged. More information about each teacher 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	914-261-0028	Jimrae K. Lenser	845-802-4284
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

Position Openings

Editor's Notes

- The AGO, and by extension the Central Hudson Valley chapter, now requires all posted jobs in our Career Center include salary information. This change improves transparency for applicants and complies with applicable New York State laws, where the AGO is headquartered. We believe this change will encourage a more positive experience for our members seeking employment.
- *Hiring institutions are encouraged to check references from applicants' previous employers, and applicants should expect that prospective employers may require background checks. 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 845-235-7203 or email chvagoboard@gmail.com.*

ORGANIST, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)

ST. PETER'S CHURCH (EPISCOPAL) - LITHGOW, NY

One Morning Prayer Sunday service at 9:30 AM (Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month at the 9:30 AM service), along with the other important services throughout the year, including Lessons & Carols which is a music-driven service the week before Christmas; Christmas Eve, which includes a 4:00 PM Children's Pageant and a 10:00 PM service with Holy Communion and choir; Christmas Day at 9:30 AM with Holy Communion but no choir; Holy Week, including two services on Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday; Pentecost; Memorial Day which entails arranging for a brass quartet during the annual service held at St. Peter's Cemetery; All Saint's Day. St. Peter's currently has approximately a six-person amateur choir that sings on the Holy Days during the program year (see above) with rehearsals currently taking place prior to and after the 9:30 AM service on Sunday. Funerals, weddings are other special services, such as installation of a Vicar or Ecumenical Lenten Service, are paid at a per service rate. This includes weddings, rehearsals with requested singers/instrumentalists, attendance at liturgical rehearsal and extraordinary practice time, research, and musical arranging necessitated by requests for difficult or unusual music. The organ is a two-manual Allen digital MDS 26. Compensation: The position is part-time (approximately 18 hours per week on average for the year) and the salary (\$20,000 to \$30,000) is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits include seven weeks for professional development and vacation. The Music Director will secure appropriate substitutes, to be compensated by St. Peter's, for those Sundays she or he is on leave. While our preference is to bring someone on who either has, or is looking to grow, ties to our community, Saturday evening housing in the Millbrook area may be available. The position is under the direct supervision of Rev. Richard McKeon. [Click here](#) for a complete job description. Contact: Rev. Richard McKeon, [St. Peter's Church](#), Lithgow (Mailing address: PO Box 1502, Millbrook, New York 12545 10/24/2024

MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

One Sunday service (10:30 AM) with choir rehearsals Sunday morning (9:00 AM) and possibly a weekday evening (generally 7:00–8:30 PM) in preparation for Christmas or Easter. First right of refusal for funerals & weddings. Instruments: 3-manual 1902 Midmer pipe organ with Austin console

(approximately 50 ranks), a refurbished Steinway baby grand piano, a Roland DP-990F digital piano (88 keys), a multi-octave set of Malmark handbells, as well as a set of handchimes. Additional instruments (guitars, hand drums, string and brass instruments, etc.) belong to congregation members who do special music. Salary: \$13,000-\$16,000 (commensurate with skill level). This position does not provide health care or retirement benefits, but does offer Flexible Spending Account. For a complete job description, please [click here](#). [First Congregational Church of Christ](#), 269 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. To apply, please submit a letter of interest, resume, and at least 3 references to Rev. Heather Moody, 269 Mill Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, or by email to fccoffice@gmail.com. 10/10/2024

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY
Filled

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
 We are looking for a Choral Director who can work with our organist, choir, and rector. We are seeking a professional, skilled conductor who is creative, nurturing, and collaborative. She/he/they will also be organized, have a good sense of humor, and be able to communicate well. One Sunday Service at 10:30 AM plus additional services Holy Week, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and other times in liturgical year. Choir rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7 PM and Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Christ Church has a choir of between 10-16 voices. We are a progressive Christian community with a strong commitment to music. Our salary range is between \$15,000-\$20,000 depending on experience. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to rector@christchurchpok.org by October 26, 2022. *Renewed 4/20/2023*

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.

Tuesdays at 12:15 PM Free Noontime Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church
 Every Tuesday, 12:15-12:45 PM. Organist [Jonathan B. Hall](#) presents a wide variety of music on the church's 1931/2022 Austin organ (in an 1870 case!). [First Presbyterian Church in Goshen](#), 33 Park Place, Goshen NY 10924. Ample parking, and handicap accessible (give a call to let us know you're on the way). Info: 845-294-7991.

Sunday, January 26, 2025 5:00 PM Annual Spuds & Sundaes Social
 Spuds & Sundaes! The menu is baked potatoes and ice cream, with appropriate toppings for each. If you would like to contribute a topping, please contact Susan LaGrande. We will also offer our used music sale. If you have organ- or choral-related sheet music that you no longer want, bring it here and let other members browse. Take what you want and leave a donation to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Venue: [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-452-1550.

Sunday,
February 9,
2025
3:00 PM

Tour the Pipe Organs of Portugal
Composer and organist [Joseph Bertolozzi](#) takes you along in sight and sound on his 1985 concert tour of Portugal. Sponsored by the US State Department, he was granted access to many of the country's flagship pipe organs. Bertolozzi's presentation features images, audio, and lively firsthand accounts of approaching centuries-old instruments while navigating the triumphs and near-disasters of touring. Organs in Lisbon, Porto, Evora, Obidos, and Caldas da Reinha will be featured.

Venue: The Blue Room at [Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Admission is free. Info: 845-452-1550.

Sunday,
February 23,
2025
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by John A. Wolfe
[Dr. John A. Wolfe](#), an alumnus of Vassar College, is a New York City-based organist, choral conductor and music educator. [Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY](#). All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public.
Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

Sunday, March
30, 2025
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Colin Mark Andrews
[Colin Andrews](#) is one of only four organists in the world to have recorded the complete organ works of Messiaen. Since the autumn of 2009, he has been Adjunct Professor of Music at Indiana University. [Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY](#). All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public.
Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

Sunday, May 4,
2025
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Gail Archer
[Gail Archer](#) is a professor of music at Barnard College, and also serves as college organist at Vassar College. [Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY](#). All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public.
Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil



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Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
12 Montrose Lane
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www.chvago.org
CHVAGOboard@gmail.com



Soli Deo Gloria