



## Executive Board

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*Secretary*

Peter Beardsley, *Treasurer*

Charles Page, *Membership*

Jacqueline Johnson,  
*Publicity*

Fr. William Wallis, *Chaplain*

### Directors

Donald Hooton

Warren Hutchinson

Suzanne Anderson

Michael-Thomas Gilman

James Barnes

Ronald Trunzo

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## Members Recital – Sunday, Feb. 5, 2006

One of the most traditional and popular events in AGO Chapters is the *Members Recital*. We will host one on Sunday, February 5, 2006 at the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield, MA (16 Court Square, on the Common). The concert begins at 3 pm.

Scheduled to perform are Peter Beardsley, Mike Gilman, Rod Gisick, Meg Irwin-Brandon, Amanda Mole, Eugenia Sullivan, and Lucius Weathersby.

The program has repertory including two of Bach's *Chorale Preludes*, and his *Prelude & Fugue* (BWM 548, *Wedge*) and *Fantasia & Fugue* (BWV 542). Messaien's *Dieu parmi Nous*, Dister's Partita on *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, and de Bergamo's *Sinfonia* will also be heard. Lucius and Rod will play four-hand (organ/piano) works including an arrangement they prepared of Debussy's *Claire de Lune*.

This recital is also serving as a benefit for the organ renovation fund. Their 1932 Möller organ (39 ranks across 3 manuals and pedal) has been partially restored, and the campaign continues to complete the work. Consequently, while admission to the concert is free, a ten-dollar offering is suggested.

A reception hosted by the Church will immediately follow the program. □

## Dean's Corner

We had a wonderful Mini Convention at All Saints' Church in South Hadley on Saturday, November 12, 2005. It was a nice crowd of around thirty, including visitors from Berkshire and New Hampshire Chapters, but, I wish that there were more Springfield Chapter members in attendance. The small number of members at our events and concerts is a perpetual mystery. Members are interested enough to pay dues and renew their memberships year after year, yet, there are only approximately 20% of the

membership that actively participate in the program offerings of the Chapter. This is not unique to Springfield; it is a fact experienced by Chapters and discussed by Deans throughout the region and country. If you have any ideas about this dilemma, please write or call me.

Our recent membership survey indicated that the types of workshops presented at the Mini Convention (e.g., service playing, a recital, and an anthem read) are among the

most desired. Consequently, I was surprised that the church was not full for Peter Beardsley's *Anthem Read* and Peter Stoltzfus Berton's *Service Repertory* and *Noon-time Recital*. We also had an incredibly interesting slide show presentation by Greg Bover of the Fisk Organ Company (Gloucester, MA) regarding the installation of their organ in Lausanne, Switzerland, and a discussion on *Children's Chords* by Anne Vittoria, the new director of the South Hadley Chorale Children's Chorus. These were

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## Dean's Corner (continued)

1. To advance the cause of organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment.

2. To improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.

seminars at the quality of a Regional and National Convention, and you *only* had to travel to South Hadley and spend twenty dollars (lunch included!).

Rod Gisick, *Sub Dean*, and I wish to express our appreciation and *thanks* to the presenters: Peter Beardsley, Peter Berton, Greg Bover, and Anne Vittoria, and to board members Ron Trunzo, Past Dean Don Hooton, and Warren Hutchinson for their work on the Convention committee. *Thank you* also to Ian McGee (music director), The Rev. Elizabeth Fowle (Rector), and the people at *All Saints'* for inviting us to their beautiful facilities and church.

While we will begin our planning for the 2006-2007 season in the spring, I have already started a discussion

with the Board regarding hosting, with the Hartford Chapter, a *Pipe Organ Encounter* (POE) in Northampton in July of 2007. These are terrific regional events that bring twenty to thirty young people (age 13 – 18) together for a five-day summer "camp" with intensive private lessons, organ visits, special workshops, and field trips. The Chapter has sponsored students to *POEs* the past two years and they have all returned with glowing reports. While the plans are still preliminary, the Board and I are very excited at the prospect of running this event.

*Pipe Organ Encounter* is a major initiative of AGO National and I have already spoken with James Thomashower (*Executive Director*, AGO), Lois

Toeppner (our Region I *Councillor*), and Eugenia Sullivan (*Dean*, Hartford) about the possibility of us hosting one. I have also received promises last month from Robert McDonald, Paul Jacobs, and Peter Berton to be three of our faculty.

Please let me know if you have any interest in helping with this project as it will take many people doing many tasks to make this a success.

Blessings of Good Health and Prosperity in 2006!

*E Lary Grossman* □



## CHIFF CHAT GOES ELECTRIC!

Many members have asked about receiving the newsletter electronically. This is a common and convenient option with other publications and we will start offering it to our subscribers beginning with the next issue. As the cost of publishing and mailing each individual copy of *Chiff Chat* approaches one dollar, it also makes economic (and environmental) sense.

The issue will be posted on our web site ([www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)) the day it is published. Concurrent with that posting, subscribers who elect to receive the newsletter electronically will receive an email informing them that the latest issue is available on our web site and providing a direct link to the issue. You can then read and print it. The newsletter, as with all the archived issues, will be posted in PDF format which insures uniform appearance (in full color) regardless of the computer platform (e.g., PC or MAC) that you are using.

To start receiving the newsletter electronically, please write to [newsletter@springfieldago.org](mailto:newsletter@springfieldago.org) giving your name and email address in the body of the message. □

## Positions Available

### Somerville Congregational Church

22 Maple Street  
Somerville, CT 06072  
Organist/choir Director  
1 Adult choir. Must have  
experience in directing  
choirs. 6 – 8 hours weekly.  
\$9000/year. Contact: Victor  
Netten 860-749-4332. ☐

### Pioneer Valley Organists

As detailed in the Nov 2005  
issue of *Chiff Chat* (available  
on our website) John  
Anderson has created a  
valuable resource for area  
organists. After a simple  
registration process,

organists may post their  
availability for substitute  
coverage, weddings, and  
funerals. Also, for churches  
and organists looking for  
coverage, a calendar makes  
it easy to see who is  
available to help. To get to  
the web site, either point  
your browser to our web site  
([www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org))  
and click on "Sunday  
Substitutes" or go directly to  
<http://pioneervalleyorganists.com> ☐

### Amanda Mole in Recital Trinity Church, Boston

One of our youngest and  
most talented members,  
Amanda Mole, is playing a  
recital at Trinity Church,  
Copley Square, Boston at  
12:15 pm on Friday 27  
January 2006. This is part of  
the *Fridays at Trinity* series.

Music will include Bach's  
*Fantasia & Fugue* in g-minor  
(BWV 542) and works by  
Persichetti and Mulet.

Amanda, a sophomore at  
UMASS/Amherst, is a  
student of Larry Schipull.

[www.trinityboston.org](http://www.trinityboston.org) for  
more information. Free. ☐

3. To evaluate, by  
examination, attainments in  
organ playing, choral  
techniques, conducting,  
and the theory and general  
knowledge of music, and to  
grant certificates to those  
who pass such  
examinations at specified  
levels of attainment.

4. To provide members  
with opportunities to meet  
for discussion of  
professional topics, and to  
pursue such other activities  
as contribute to the  
fulfillment of the purposes  
of the Guild.

### The Purpose of the AGO

## Help Wanted! – *Chiff Chat* Editor

The Chapter has an immediate opening for  
Editor of our award-winning newsletter, *Chiff  
Chat*.

Approximately eight issues of *Chiff Chat* are  
published each year. These are generally  
monthly with several combined issues around  
Christmas, Easter, and summer.

Serving as Editor provides a great service to  
the Chapter and its membership. The  
newsletter is a vital part of our  
communications and outreach to the public  
and other Chapters throughout the Guild.

The newsletter has traditionally been  
published using regular desktop software

(e.g., MS/Word or MS/Publisher) so please do  
not feel that tremendous technical knowledge  
is required. It would also be fine if two or  
more people want to work on the project  
together---sharing their expertise.

Let your inner soul blossom and become the  
Editor and Publisher that you have always  
wanted to be!

Our deepest appreciation goes to Liz Dawson  
who produced the four fall issues. *Thank you!*

Please contact Lary Grossman if you are  
interested or have questions. ☐



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## Upcoming Events

**American Guild of Organists – Springfield Massachusetts Chapter**

*Founded November 6, 1946  
Celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Year!*

Serving the Counties of Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin in Western Massachusetts

**For Membership information see our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)**

**or contact our Membership Coordinator, Charles Page**

**28 January 06, Saturday**

Mozart's Birthday! Arcadia Players at Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College, 7 pm pre-concert talk, 8 pm concert. For more info: [www.arcadiaplayers.org](http://www.arcadiaplayers.org) □

**5 Feb 06, Sunday, 3 pm**

Members Recital at 2nd Cong.

Church, Greenfield. See story in this issue. Free-will offering to benefit organ renovation fund. □

**19 Feb 06, Sunday 3 pm**

John Scott (Organist & Dir. of Music at St. Thomas, Fifth Ave, NYC) in recital. Music of Bach, Messiaen and Dupré. St.

Paul's Church, Concord, NH. 603-529-1142. Free. □

**26 Feb 06, Sunday, 2 pm**

Meg Irwin-Brandon, Harpsichord. Music of the Bach Family. \$10 (under 18 free) Unitarian Universalist Society, 245 Porter Lake Dr., Springfield, MA □

## About the American Guild of Organists

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild serves approximately 20,000 members in 348 chapters throughout the United States, and in Europe, Korea and Argentina.

Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. □

**E LARY GROSSMAN, DEAN  
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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)

*Write us at:*

[newsletter@springfieldago.org](mailto:newsletter@springfieldago.org)

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