

CHIFF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
September 2005

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CHAPLAIN

Rev. William Wallis

Opening Event

Jerry Lesniak will welcome us to his home and gardens for this season's opening event. There we'll be invited to partake of refreshments, see and hear his home organ, and participate in the annual installation ceremony. The opening event will take place on September 18th at 4 PM. Jerry Lesniak's home is located at 163 So. Monson Rd., Hampden, MA.

Alan Taylor, Karen McCarthy and Marc Winer to present

Alan Taylor, Karen McCarthy and Marc Winer will make a presentation on Jerry Lesniak's home organ at this year's opening event. Their program will include works by Franck, Mendelssohn and Handel.

Program

Prelude, Fugue, and Variation (Franck)

Two Arias from Elijah (Mendelssohn)
Then Shall the Righteous Shine
If With All Your Heart

Concerto in F (Handel)

Allan Taylor, organ
Marc Winer, tenor
Karen McCarthy, flute

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Opening Event

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Biographies

Allan Taylor is the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church, Westfield. He also directs Novi Cantori, the Hampshire Choral Society, and the Greater Westfield Choral Association. He has had a parallel career in organ building since 1977, and his company is presently beginning work on a new instrument, in collaboration with Russell and Associates, for the Federated Church in Granville.

Marc Winer is the tenor soloist and section leader at the First Congregational Church, Westfield, and he works full time for Southfield Organbuilders, Inc., of Springfield. Marc is well known throughout the valley for his appearances in concert with most of the choral groups in this area, and with the Tuesday Morning Music Club.

Karen McCarthy is the organist and choir director at St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Longmeadow, and served the AGO board as a member-at-large and publicity chair for six years. She studied flute while attending the University of Massachusetts and the University of Washington. She sings alto in Novi Cantori, and also sings in the Hampshire Choral Society and the Greater Westfield Choral Association. She lives in Longmeadow with her thirteen year old daughter Abby.

Directions

Directions to Lesniak Residence,
163 So. Monson Rd.,
Hampden

1. 91 Northbound to Sumner Ave.: Exit #2 (Forest Park). Turn right onto Sumner Ave (Rte. 83 So.)

2. 91 Southbound to Sumner Ave.: Exit #4 (Rte. 83 So.) Turn left under Freeway, right onto Longhill, and Left onto Sumner (83 So.)

3. From 91 go 3.3 miles on Sumner, which becomes Allen (one-way). Bear Right at McDonald's/Wendy's and go 4.6 miles into Hampden. Turn Left at St. Mary's Church onto Main St. and go 1.9 miles. Bear right onto Scantic and go .8 miles and turn left onto So. Monson Rd. #165. Park in marked field, not in his driveway.

Hartford Regional AGO Convention

Many members enjoyed the successful Hartford Convention. Paul Jacobs' recital was a highlight.

POE

Local students commented enthusiastically about their POE experiences. The Springfield Chapter AGO sponsored two students at the recent Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) held on the campus of Wesleyan University.

POE Registrar George M. Giblin reported that all those attending had a great time. The 30 students were really happy with the amount of practice time they were allowed on the organs, 2 hours in the morning and 3 hours including lesson in the afternoon. 'Graduates' of the 1997 POE participated as teachers. This gave a younger

perspective of life as an organist to the students. The University and local churches welcomed the students graciously. There were 2 students to each teacher at each pipe organ. There were 2 concerts each day with different focuses as well as workshops including organ building and tuning. Present were two older teens that are employed in organ building. Many of these students bonded and shared, swam and played Frisbee, played 'Donkey Konga' and watched DVDs. And 17 of the students performed in the closing recital.

Milestones

Charles Page retired from the position of Minister of Music at Springfield's Old First Church. His future plans include possible travel, and he will be throwing his hat into the substitute ring. There will be a retirement party on Sunday evening,

September 25 at the Sovereign-Best Western Hotel in West Springfield. Any and all are invited. See article on page 6.

Christopher Houlihan, 18, gave a fine performance in the finals of the Region I AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists on June 25 at Center Church in Hartford, Connecticut.

Donald Hooton, 70, appeared in a June 16 news article in the Springfield Republican. Hooton volunteers on a daily basis at Gerena Public School in Springfield. He's been a volunteer since his retirement three years ago.



In Memory

Harriet (Strong) Rozwenc Taylor, 89, of 10 Fairfield Ave., died July 21 at home.

Born March 2, 1916, in Northampton, she attended Northampton schools and graduated from Northampton High School in 1933, and from Smith College in 1937.

She directed choirs and played the organ at South Amherst Congregational Church, Edwards Church, of Northampton, and the Hatfield Congregational Church.

Her sister is Esther Holway, a long-term member of the Chapter now retired and living at Providence Place in Holyoke.

Plans for an early Fall memorial service are pending and will be announced when finalized.

Job postings

Old First Church in Springfield, MA

Interim Organist/Choir Director

10 hours per week

Three-manual Aeolian Skinner Organ, Opus 1326, which was installed in 1958 consisting of 56 Ranks and 3,241 pipes. In 1998 Foley-Baker, Inc., completely re-leathered the organ, provided a new solid-state combination action, and designed a new case.

1 adult choir (20 singers including several professionals).

Organist and choir director can be two positions, if that's what works best.

The salary is negotiable and based on education, experience, and qualifications.

Contact: Barbara Huber

barbarahuber@yahoo.com

or call 413-737-1411.

To list a position in Chiff Chat, please contact our professional concerns and placement coordinator, Becky Isaacson either by phone at (413) 734-1623 or e-mail her: beckyisaacson@aol.com

First Parish of Bolton, MA; PO Box 250; Bolton, MA 01740
Organist/Choir Director
8-10 hours per week
Estey Pipe Organ (rebuild/replacement under consideration)
1 Adult choir
Salary: \$13,000
Contact: Rev. Richard F. Jones
email: admin@firstparishofbolton.org

Please contribute to Chiff Chat

Chiff Chat is published September through June. Closing dates are the 15th of the preceding month for Articles, Calendar and News items. Please send News for "Milestones", Articles and suggestions. Please send material electronically, if possible, to chiffchat@aol.com. Or call 413-584-5007, or send to E. Dawson; 60 East St. #2; Hadley, MA 01035 The chapter's website is: www.springfieldago.org.

Dean's Message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2005/2006 Season! As you notice on the masthead, there are many changes in the leadership of our Chapter. Term limits and the spring election have resulted in changes on the Board and in other offices. We say good-bye and heartfelt appreciation to Dean Bill Czelusniak, Barbara Huber and Mike Dulac, and welcome Ron Trunzo, Jim Barnes, Warren Hutchinson, and Susanne Anderson to the Board of Directors. Liz Dawson is the new editor of the newsletter, *Chiff Chat*, and Allan Taylor is the new webmaster for our site, www.springfieldago.org. Returning members are Martha Sienkiewicz (secretary), Peter Beardsley (treasurer), Charles Page (membership), Jackie Johnson (publicity), Don Hooten, and Mike Gilman. Fr. Bill Wallis continues as our chaplain, and Rod Gisick, Sub Dean, and I complete the new team. I am grateful to have these people involved in the running of the Chapter and for the energy and new viewpoints that they will bring to the Board.

Our Chapter has a reputation for the richness of its programs and this season continues that expectation. The calendar in every *Chiff Chat* highlights chapter events by putting a box around the text. Please read the cover story in this issue on the opening event Sunday, 18 September 2005, hosted by our friend, Jerry Lesniak. I hope to see many of you there for the social time and *musicale*.

The joy of my affiliation with the Guild has always been the wonderful recitals and programs combined with the mingling among the membership. I have met many of you over the years, and hope to see *all* members over my next couple of years as Dean. If you have not been to a program recently, resolve to change that in this New Year! If you have been to one or two events in the past year, try to attend three or four this year!

It is now beyond the deadline for 2005/2006 membership renewals, so please make sure that you have sent the renewal form and check to Peter Beardsley. Email or call him if you need another form. For those who have already renewed or recently joined, *Thank You Very Much!*

We are a small group of around one-hundred-fifty enthusiasts, musicians, clergy and others who cannot imagine life without the organ and its use in worship. By virtue of our work, shared interests and commitment, I feel a close bond with each of you. Thank you for your confidence in entrusting me with the leadership of the Chapter as we begin its 59th year. I pledge to continue doing the best I can on your behalf for the welfare and success of the Chapter.

Sincerely,
Lary Grossman
Dean

Retirement Celebration for Charles Page

By Dianne Little

After 45 years of devoted service to Old First Church as Minister of Music, Charles Page will retire from that position effective August 31, 2005.

A celebration honoring Charles for his many years of dedication to the church will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2005 at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel on Riverdale Street in West Springfield. The celebration will begin at 6pm.

Invitations to this gala have been mailed. However, if you did not receive an invitation but would like to attend, please call the church office at 737-1411 and an invitation will be mailed to you. Deadline for reservations is September 15, 2005.

A Remembrance Book will be compiled including all the cards, letters and notes people wish to send to Charles on this occasion. Messages to be included in the book may be sent to Mrs. Allen K. Little, 103 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

It is hoped that many of Charles' friends and colleagues will be able to attend the celebration to honor Charles and wish him well in his retirement.



Letter from the AGO National Executive Director

Dear Colleague,

As we approach the end of the AGO's fiscal year, I would like to bring you up to date on several significant Guild achievements over the last few weeks and mention some important initiatives we will be undertaking in the year ahead.

In June and July, the AGO celebrated the King of Instruments by sponsoring seven regional conventions, seven Pipe Organ Encounters for teens, and three POE+ events for adults. By all accounts, these 17 chapter-sponsored events were stunningly successful! I hope you were able to take part in one or more of them.

Preparations are now being finalized for two major Guild conferences this fall. The 13th National AGO Pedagogy Conference, focusing on Buxtehude and North German organ music, will take place Sept. 11-14 at the University of Notre Dame. "Music in Worship: A Prophetic Voice Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Perkins School of Theology. You can register online for these events at www.agohq.org.

"Each One-Reach One" is the theme of the AGO's 2005-2006 campaign for membership growth. Every member, chapter, and national committee of the Guild is being encouraged to support efforts to recruit new members during the coming year. Headquarters will be providing tools, resources, and incentives to stimulate the program.

Later this year, the AGO will release a master video on the career and teaching methods of Gerre Hancock. Early in 2006, we will publish a new national membership directory.

The AGO's current fiscal year will end on August 31, 2005. Before our year comes to a close, I invite you to take an active role in financially supporting the world's largest and most dynamic organization dedicated to the organ. Your contribution to the AGO will help us grow and keep us strong so that we can most effectively serve our members and accomplish our mission. Please consider making a contribution online today at www.agohq.org/contributions or mailing a check to the AGO Annual Fund. If you've never made a contribution to the Guild before, now is the best possible time to do so.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

James

James E. Thomashower
Executive Director
American Guild of Organists
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260
New York, NY 10115

Survey results

Thanks to the 67 members who returned surveys. Ken Cowan's recital was the most highly received event. One member commented that the recital was "superb". Members expressed interest in organ performance and service-playing. The type of event is the most important factor in attendance. However, many chapter members have very busy lives. Finding time to attend events was difficult. A total of 47 members indicated that they did not attend events because of time conflicts. Overall weekend evenings are the best times; Thursday nights and Sunday mornings are the worst. Preferred event location is Springfield, followed by Northampton. Some members indicated physical limitations in their ability to attend.

Many diverse programming ideas were suggested, such as local and national organists and choirs, and educational and choral events. Specific suggested programming ideas included: a choral festival for children; an adult hymn festival; a local POE; advocacy for more organ music on radio stations; educational seminars like service music or choir anthems; a professional interest group; and a convention.

Item	Average Rank *	Number of members indicating given rank.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Level of interest in activities								
Organ performance	6	2	1	2	4	4	14	32
Service-playing	6	1	3	1	11	8	9	28
Choral conducting	5	5	0	4	8	11	12	15
Handbell choir	3	16	8	6	6	7	8	3
Composition	3	9	7	8	12	7	3	3
Level of interest in chapter activities								
Educational Workshop	6	1	3	3	7	7	11	27
Recitals	6	3	2	0	8	6	13	30
Social (Food and Fellowship)	5	1	5	2	20	12	8	13
Factors determining attendance								
Location	5	6	5	8	12	10	11	12
Time	5	2	5	2	9	9	16	21
Type of event	6	2	0	0	5	8	16	33
Value of 2003/2004 Events								
Annual Banquet at UMass Peter Krasinski & "Hunchback"	6	1	0	0	1	3	3	6
Mini-Convention	6	1	0	0	3	6	4	11
Anthem Reading Session	6	1	0	0	2	0	2	5
Ken Cowan in Recital	7	0	0	0	0	1	5	23
Ken Cowan Masterclass	5	2	0	0	2	2	2	6

* Note regarding rank number: 1 = least and 7 = most.

CALENDAR

(Continued from back)

November 12

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Mini Convention

Featuring

Repertoire & Recital: Peter
Stolzfus Berton

Fisk Lausanne Show: Greg
Bover

All Saints, South Hadley

March 11, 2006

7:00 PM

Silent Film "Metropolis",
Organist Peter Krasinski
United Congregational,
Holyoke

May 6, 2006

1:00 PM

Organ Academy
Recital
First Congregational,
Hadley

December 11

3:30 PM

Music at First

Christmas Candlelight
Concert

The Old First Church Choir and
Soloists

Westfield State College Wind
Symphony

Old First Church,
Springfield

March 19, 2006

3:30 PM

Music at First

The Chatham Chorale
Chamber Singers

American music from folk song
to new classical works and
popular music

Margaret Bossi, director

Old First Church,
Springfield

June 6, 2006

6:30 PM

Visit Odell Organ
First Congregational,
Sunderland

February 5, 2006

3:00 PM

Members Recital

Second

Congregational
Church, Greenfield

April 30, 2006

3:30 PM

Music at First

Lanfranco Marcelletti
and Company

UMass Chamber Orchestra,
piano solo, four hands, piano
trio

Lanfranco Marcelletti, piano

Estela Olevsky, piano

William Hite, tenor

Salvatore Macchia, double
bass

Old First Church,
Springfield

June 6, 2006

7:00 PM

Annual Banquet
Goten of Japan,
Sunderland

February 19, 2006

3:30 PM

Music at First

Young Artists' Showcase

Fourteen year-old
Longmeadow prodigy

Vincent Yu, piano

Old First Church,
Springfield

**American Guild of
Organists
Springfield, MA Chapter**

E. Dawson – Newsletter Editor
60 East St. #2
Hadley, MA 01035

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

CALENDAR

September 11

4:00 PM

Faculty Organ Recital
by Grant Moss
J.M. Greene Hall, Smith
College, Northampton

September 16

8:00 PM

Faculty Organ Recital
by Larry D. Schipull
Abbey Chapel, Mt.
Holyoke College, South
Hadley

September 18

4:00 PM

Installation Social &
Musical
Home of Jerry Lesniak,
163 South Monson
Road, Hampden

October 15

10:00 AM

Paul Jacobs
Masterclass
Location to be
announced

October 16

3:30 PM

Music at First
Paul Jacobs Recital
Old First Church,
Springfield

November 6

3:30 PM

Music at First
Manhattan Music
Ensemble
violin, cello, piano
Old First Church,
Springfield

7:30 PM

Pipe Organ Dedication
Concert,
Organist Edward E. Clark
Second
Congregational,
Westfield



Springfield
AGO Chapter events are
enclosed within a box.