



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AGO

NEWSLETTER—MAY/JUNE 2009

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter:

Spring is here in full bloom. Along with flowering buds, lush green grass, and longer days, there's hay fever, the preparations for Holy Week, and then trying to undo what you did at Easter dinner. Hot cross buns are not worth "one a penny, two a penny..." but a pound, it seems, and inflation is growing every year.

I hope to hear all about your experiences this spring. We are gathering next for an improvisation workshop on May 9 with John Karl Hirten, the dean of the San Francisco chapter. John has composed and published many pieces. We use his elegant service music at St. Bede's and even sang one of his hymns at the Easter Vigil this year. He is gentle and thoughtful, and beginners will feel very comfortable at this workshop.

Then on June 6, we will be with John again, and other local composers, including Doug Franks, Paul Rosas, Angela Kraft Cross, and Jim Welch for our annual Composers' Forum. Ethan Haman, our youngest member, will be there too, to share his latest work, possibly a trumpet tune. Composers have separate lives full of courage and creativity which we don't usually learn of through our casual or even collegial interaction. This is the perfect chance to hear them, an open studio for organists. Afterwards there will be a garden party to celebrate. A second event in June which is still in the works is the members' recital at Stanford in memory of Jacques Littlefield, a friend to this chapter and a visionary, who introduced some of the finest instruments to our area. And one more thing for June, it's not too late to register if you like to attend the Phoenix Rising Festival, June 22-25, <www.agoiphoenix.com>.

After hearing from several people about how much they liked the lessons of the geese in the last issue, I wish to purloin that metaphor and substitute my cat, Duncan, instead. I can write about the lessons I have learned from Duncan quite easily since he is not too subtle and much easier to observe than flying geese.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF...

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, a traditional 600-member congregation with a history of fine music making seeks a dynamic choral musician to lead an adult choir of 20-25 members in worship (one regular service per Sunday, plus special services for holidays). Also seeking a director to rehearse and lead a children's choir of 10-15 members in participation in Worship Services and 1-2 special pageants during the year. The position could be split between two persons or combined by one creative individual. 22 hours/week for the combined positions. Please submit the following by May 31 to Jeff Thompson at 114 Colorado Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032, or by email at <jeff.thompson@dionex.com>: cover letter of introduction including your brief philosophy of church music; resume or curriculum vitae; list of references including peer musicians, clergy, choir members, and professor/mentor; non-returnable video tape, DVD or web link of the candidate leading rehearsal and optional performance.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Salinas, (ELCA) seeks an organist. Two services per Sunday (liturgical & contemporary). Knowledge of liturgy helpful. For the contemporary service, the musician plays the piano with worship band as well as the organ. A choir director position is also available (chancel and children's choirs). Both will begin September 2009. For more information call the church office at (831) 424-5643.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Danville seeks an organist for a Makin custom digital organ, 3 M&P, 58 ranks, traditional moving stops, specially designed for 1999 installation in the new church edifice. Responsibilities are: Sunday services at 10 a.m. with 9 a.m. rehearsal with soloist; Wednesday service at 7:30 pm preceded by 10 minute organ prelude. Pay is \$165 per Sunday and Thanksgiving Day and \$110 per Wednesday. The position is available beginning in June. Contact Bruce McCauley, Music Committee Chair, at (925) 932-5899 or by email at <bgmccauley@comcast.net>. For additional information about the church, visit <www.danvillespirituality.com>.

FROM THE DEAN CONTINUED ...

I was lying in bed one morning when my lovely French roommate came by as usual to exchange our morning greetings and well-wishes for the day. She seemed astonished that I was still in bed late for a third morning in a row, and her voice had that not-quite admonishing tone. "Must be a Parisian thing," I thought. After all, this was my fourth day with the flu, and I was taking a victory nap after enjoying my first night without coughing. As she left, Duncan dropped down next to me and promptly fell asleep. "Now here's someone who takes relaxation seriously," I said to myself with relief.

It was in this pleasantly hallucinatory state from a slight fever, that I made the following notes. First, cats are very sure to rest when they need it, something which eludes humans at times. Hence our migraines, caffeine addictions, and my chocolate addiction. They live in the present without apology. I soaked in that message and watched the golden light pour in the window and listened to the birds sing. There was so much to enjoy just by lying there. I should remember when I am well, I thought to myself.

I noticed Duncan's slow breathing, his fur like waves on the ocean. "They breathe deeply, from their bellies," the voice of my old voice teacher resounded. She said that singers should breathe the way a cat does while lying asleep on the floor. Duncan yawned which, too, is supposed to be very healthy to release tension. It always seems to help to take some deep slow breaths.

Cats are not afraid of eye-contact. Eye-contact for us is very powerful and even scary. I'm not sure if it communicates anything other than being fully attentive to someone else, but that is not trivial. In fact, it may be the most important thing in the world. Duncan can gaze in my eyes, and I in his, for almost a minute. Sometimes I think I am looking in God's eyes. It's mysterious and intimate at the same time. I don't think humans are used to much eye-contact, except perhaps little doses of it. When it happens it's very grounding, even if momentarily, especially in such harried times as Holy Week. Though eye-contact is not for everyone, it's nice to be reminded of how to be completely present for someone else and, in turn, for one's self.

Duncan is not always in the present, however. He does think ahead to dinner time and constantly anticipates its arrival, vocally. When he receives his food, he enjoys it immensely. His unrestrained joy is the lesson here. He is always willing to receive, whether it's food, being combed for fleas, having his teeth brushed, or being cuddled to oblivion. Receiving is something which can

make us feel awkward, especially about how to repay the favor. Duncan never worries about whether he's deserving or how he will reciprocate. He simply savors the blessings of life, from sardines to sunshine, and he does say thank you in his own way. I hope that we may receive and appreciate life as fully as our cats do, since we give so much to others in our roles. Hmm, maybe it's time for another of those yummy hot cross buns.

Yours,

RANI FISCHER

NEW SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS AVAILABLE

Richard Ditewig is available as organist for weddings and funerals. Please call (415) 752-3385 or email him at <diapason63@yahoo.com>.

David Wills is a freshman at Reed College and a member of the Portland, Oregon, AGO chapter (but previously associated with the San Jose chapter). He won the Frasier Scholarship last year, and used it to fund his organ lessons with Lee Garrett at Lewis and Clark. He is available for the Summer to work as a substitute organist, cataloging sheet music, working with instruments, helping out as a page turner, etc. He will be in the South Bay area from June 3—August 25. Please contact him at <dwills@reed.edu> or (408) 483-4501.

SCHOENSTEIN TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

All are invited to join the Schoenstein organ company on Sunday May 17 from 2 to 5 p.m. for an open house at their Benicia plant. At their last open house, some may have seen the 4 manual, 76 rank symphonic-style organ for St. James' Episcopal Church in New York City as the final assembly process started. This time you it can be heard just before it makes its way to the Big Apple. Several other projects will be on view, including the Juilliard School organ destined for Paul Jacobs' studio. Refreshments will be offered, and parking is freely available. 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510, tel. (707) 747-5858.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please look for the renewal form that accompanies this newsletter (if you're receiving it electronically, it's on page 5 of the pdf!) and return it before May 31 to avoid a late fee.

international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



Your membership in the American Guild of Organists helps further the cause of the organ and its music throughout the United States and beyond!

Thank you for your prompt response!

Please contact Jill Mueller at <sjillmueller@earthlink.net> with any questions.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY MAY 3

3:30 p.m. Lois Holdridge. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

4:00 p.m. St. Bede's Choir, Rani Fischer (organ). St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

SUNDAY MAY 10

3:30 p.m. David Brock. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SATURDAY MAY 16

8:00 p.m. Silicon Valley Symphony, Joe Guthrie (piano). Presbyterian Church, 16575 Shannon Road, Los Gatos.

SUNDAY MAY 17

3:00 p.m. San Francisco State University Choirs. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

SUNDAY MAY 24

3:30 p.m. Christoph Tietze. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY MAY 31

4:00 p.m. Congregational Oratorio Society. Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

7:00 p.m. Choral Evensong. Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

SUNDAY JUNE 7

3:00 p.m. Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Ave., San Francisco.

3:30 p.m. Christoph Tietze. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY JUNE 14

3:30 p.m. Alan Domenicci. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY JUNE 21

3:30 p.m. Duane Subirous. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SUNDAY JUNE 28

3:30 p.m. Christoph Tietze. Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco.

SATURDAY MAY 9

1:00 p.m. CHAPTER IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP. First Congregational, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo.

SATURDAY JUNE 6

2:00 p.m. CHAPTER COMPOSERS' FORUM. St. Mark's Episcopal, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.

CHRIST CHURCH

815 PORTOLA ROAD

PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94028

Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter, American Guild of Organists: 2009-2010 Membership Registration

Name (including appropriate AGO Certificates)	Position/Church
Home Address	Church Address
City	City
ZIP	ZIP
()	()
Home Telephone	Work Telephone
Email address: _____	Newsletter by: Mail _____ Email _____ Both _____
I want to host an AGO Event at my: Church _____ Home _____	

Membership Categories (check one)	Indicate Amount Enclosed
_____ Regular voting member (national \$55 + local \$37)	\$92.00 \$ _____
_____ Special Rate voting member (over 65, under 21, or disabled) (national \$37.50 + local \$29.50) ...	\$67.00 \$ _____
_____ Student voting member (with valid ID) (national \$24 + local \$13)	\$37.00 \$ _____
_____ Partner member (two voting members at the same address who wish only once copy of <i>The American Organist</i>). First member (Regular voting member as above)	\$92.00 \$ _____
Partner Member (national \$30 + local \$37)	\$67.00 \$ _____
Partner's Name _____	
The first Member and Partner Member should each fill out a renewal form.	
_____ Dual member (voting member who wishes to be a member of more than one AGO Chapter simultaneously). Pay regular \$92 member dues directly to primary chapter. Pay \$36 to Peninsula Chapter for dual membership	\$36.00 \$ _____
→ Dual: Name of primary chapter _____	
_____ Student Dual member (student member who wishes to be a member of more than one AGO Chapter simultaneously). Pay regular \$37 member dues directly to primary chapter. Pay \$15 to Peninsula Chapter for dual membership	\$15.00 \$ _____
→ Student Dual: Name of primary chapter _____	
_____ Chapter Friend (National Bylaws state: "Subscribing Members shall consist of those individuals who (1) support the purposes of the Guild, (2) are not organists or choral conductors, and (3) have paid the dues and fees set by the Chapter. The privileges of this class of membership shall be (1) participation in Chapter activities and (2) receipt of Chapter publications." Does not include voting privileges, membership benefits, or subscription to <i>The American Organist</i> .)	\$25.00 \$ _____
Donation to assist in mailing of newsletter, etc. (Tax deductible. \$3.00 or more suggested)	\$ _____
Donation for Chapter Events (Concerts/Recitals)	\$ _____
Late Fee (late renewals (after May 31) only, not required for new members)	\$10.00 \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____
→ Please make check payable to: <u>Palo Alto Chapter, American Guild of Organists.</u>	

Member's Signature	Date
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← **Please sign & date form**

By signing this renewal form, members agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the American Guild of Organists, which accompanies this form. NOTE: Professional dues may be tax-deductible.

Please return this form by May 31, 2009 to: Jill Mueller, 777-40 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

CODE OF ETHICS

Revised by the National Council on April 23, 2001.

Preamble: The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members. Voting members are entitled to enjoy the privileges and are expected to accept the responsibilities of membership in the Guild. They shall be considered equally for Guild offices and participation in Guild activities. These are the rules that shall be considered binding upon all voting members in good standing.

RULE 1. Members shall promote good working relationships within the American Guild of Organists and shall respect the employment of colleagues. Members shall address differences between themselves and other members by following the procedures outlined in the *Discipline*.

RULE 2. Members shall not seek or appear to be seeking employment for themselves, a student, or a colleague, in a position held by someone else. Members shall apply for employment only for a position which the employer, with the knowledge of the incumbent musician, has officially and publicly declared vacant by announcement of the vacancy.

RULE 3. In cases pending under the *Procedures* or in cases where the National Council has determined that a position has been made vacant by wrongful termination of a member of the American Guild of Organists, members shall not seek or accept regular or permanent employment for themselves, a student, or colleague at that Institution until the National Council is satisfied that differences between the Guild and the Institution have been resolved.

RULE 4. Before accepting an engagement for a wedding, funeral, or other service, members shall obtain the approval of the incumbent musician. In cases where this engagement has been requested by a third party, it is appropriate for the third party to offer the incumbent his/her customary fee. It is the responsibility of members to inform the third party of this rule.

RULE 5. Members shall conduct professional activities with truthfulness, honesty and integrity, and shall maintain sensitivity in matters of a personal or confidential nature.

RULE 6. Members shall not discriminate against others on the basis of race, national origin, age, religious affiliation, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or medical condition (including, but not limited to, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
