



# PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Find us online at <http://www.papenago.org/> and [groups.yahoo.com/group/papenago](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/papenago)

## NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

### FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

What a joy it was to see so many of you at Christ Church on Sunday, September 4 for our barbecue celebrating the beginning of the program year! This event has become one of my favorites—not just because we have the privilege of hosting it at my parish, but also because it has no agenda other than to reconnect with old colleagues and meet new ones. It was a pleasure to see several new faces there, as well as an honor to recognize the contributions of our retiring board members: Rani Fischer, Angela Kraft Cross, and Mary Frances Johnson.

I was also delighted to see Sub-Dean David Sheetz's excellent report on the regional convention published in the October edition of *The American Organist* (p. 76). It reminded me once again of the amazing contributions of so many of our chapter to such a wonderful event. Thank you again to all who contributed time, money, or both!

As I mentioned in the September newsletter, we have a vacancy on the executive committee due to Glen Frank's move to DC. (I spoke with him recently, and you'll be pleased to know that he's enjoying life there, although he misses us.) If you or somebody you know might be interested in serving in this capacity, please let me know. No experience is required; only an interest in seeing our chapter serve its membership and promote organ/choral music in the community.

There is, however, another vacancy that has been filled, much to my delight. The Reverend P. Kempton Segerhammar, pastor of First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, has agreed



to serve as our Chaplain. An experienced minister who appreciates good liturgy and music, Kemp will be a pastoral resource to us in good times and bad, and we look forward to his involvement with our chapter.

As you will see in this newsletter, we have a full and varied program of events planned through next June. David has taken care to plan our meetings far enough in advance that we should have very few conflicts in our diaries, so please mark them now! Like mine, I expect that your schedules get busier and busier from now through the end of the year: I wish you all the best as you practice, prepare, and promote your performances this holiday season!

With my best wishes,  
Matthew

### FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Welcome all to your new AGO program year. It is my honor to be your Chaplain and am ready to serve as needed. I am pastor of First Lutheran, Palo Alto, and have served congregations in Colorado, Washington, California where liturgy, music and the arts have been highly valued. Blessings on your ministries.



### NEXT CHAPTER EVENT

**Workshop: French Improvisation**  
Frédéric Blanc, Organist,  
the Church of Notre-Dame d'Auteuil, Paris  
Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.  
First Congregational Church  
1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto



Dear Chapter,

Thank you so much for the inimitably enjoyable barbecue. It couldn't have been nicer, the scrumptious food, the excellent cake, the pin and t-shirt, which I shall treasure, and especially the jovial camaraderie. David has done a remarkable job planning the next year, and Matthew is a splendid dean, as we all expected. Thank you all for coming and for making it such a special occasion.

Sincerely yours,  
Rani

Dean Matthew Burt, outgoing Subdean Angela Kraft Cross, Subdean David Sheetz, and outgoing Dean Rani Fischer celebrate at the chapter barbecue September 4<sup>th</sup>.



Mary Frances Johnson is honored for her service on the board while modeling the latest in straw hat fashion.



Tower and transept of Winchester Cathedral



View of Winchester Cathedral nave

## **Songful Summer in the South of England by Douglas Franks**

*The Southern Cathedrals Festival, an annual organ and choral extravaganza in southern England, worked its magic this past summer in the historic city of Winchester. Alternating between Salisbury, Chichester, and Winchester, the SCF showcases the choirs of men and boys from the cathedrals in these three cities, as well as the girl choristers from Winchester and Salisbury. The organists of the host cathedral get a real workout as accompanists for the concerts and for the numerous choral worship services that make up much of the festival.*

*Two major choral concerts, a celebrity organ recital, choral liturgies, and a couple of workshops formed the bulk of this year's festival. Pleasantly around the edges were receptions, festival luncheons, afternoon teas, a used-music sale, and several exhibits, including the King James Bible Exhibition and one by the Friends of Cathedral Music, an organization that promotes and sustains music programs in churches and cathedrals throughout the UK.*

*Andrew Lumsden, Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral, is to be heartily congratulated for the superhuman job he did of preparing and conducting an incredible quantity of music, all performed at the very highest level. His colleagues Sarah Baldock and David Halls, music directors at Chichester and Salisbury cathedrals respectively, helped considerably, but he was the real hero of the festival. Also to be commended are the festival's principal organists, Simon Bell and Richard McVeigh, who accompanied the choral performances and served as organists for the many choral services. In addition to their flawless liturgical support, they provided stirring mini-recitals as preludes and postludes.*

*An organ recital by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey in London, led off the festival. His demanding program included works of Mendelssohn, Bach, Alain (whose 100th birthday we celebrate this year), Messiaen, Franck, and Liszt (whose 200th birthday we celebrate this year). "Miroir," a delightful, sparkling piece by Dutch composer Ad Wammes, stood in whimsical counterpoint to the major literature Mr. O'Donnell played. His recital was followed by a sublimely beautiful Compline service, a blissful blend of plainsong and polyphony. The next concert featured the girl choristers of Salisbury and Winchester singing with the lay clerks of the three cathedral choirs. Their*

*program was an elegant collection of pieces by Tallis, Palestrina, Sheppard, Bach, Elgar, Peter Hurford, Sebastian Forbes, and John Rutter, punctuated by several organ solos. The repertoire stuck close to the overarching theme of Pentecost. The closing piece, "Come Down, O Love Divine" by John Rutter, was indeed divine and had to spark a whole new respect for Rutter's compositional talents. The final notes of the piece--hence of the whole concert--were a sustained major second sung by two girl choristers with a barely audible underpinning by the chorus. Haunting in an unexpected yet satisfying way.*

*The closing concert on the final evening of the festival was presented by the boys and lay clerks of the three "southern" cathedrals joined by the Fine Arts Brass, a full complement of approximately ten brass players. Simon Bell played organ. The three festival directors took turns conducting. The brass players were a powerful lot, and Andrew Lumsden in particular tried valiantly to keep them in balance with chorus and organ. Anthony Holborne's "Suite for Brass" showed them at their best, that is, all on their own.*

*The same concert featured a world premiere of a festival commission composed by Philip Moore (formerly of Gloucester Cathedral), "At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners." Mr. Moore cleverly combined choirs, brass, and organ in this dramatic triptych. The immense dynamic range of the piece, its surging rhythmic energy, and how the different forces played off each other kept us listeners raptly attentive. The composer was present and enjoyed the audience's enthusiastic acknowledgment at the conclusion of the performance.*

*Came Sunday morning, the choirs had dispersed to their respective cathedrals, and the 2011 Southern Cathedrals Festival was over. One could only look back in reflective awe at the quantity of choral and organ music the choirs, directors, and organists rehearsed and performed with such poise and perfection. Standing out above all others for his monumental labors was Andrew Lumsden. My congratulations go out to him from afar. With directors like him at the helm, it's no wonder the Southern Cathedrals Festival continues to flourish and rank as one of Europe's major summer music festivals.*

## OFFICERS

**Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter AGO  
July 2011-June 2012**

Matthew Burt, *Dean*  
David Sheetz, *Subdean*  
Douglas Franks, *Secretary*  
Jill Mueller, *Treasurer and Registrar*  
The Rev. P. Kempton Segerhammar, *Chaplain*

*Members-at-Large:*

Donald Mulliken & Sarah Wannamaker  
(Class of 2012)  
Jay Martin, Webmaster & Keith Wannamaker  
(Class of 2013)  
Tim Getz, Newsletter Editor  
(Class of 2014)

## **One Last Convention Thank-You**

With memories of the AGO Region IX Convention still fresh in our minds, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone who gave a gift of financial support to the convention during the two years leading up to it when I was active as Gifts and Grants Coordinator. The most rewarding part of the experience for me was witnessing firsthand, time and time again, the great generosity of SFAGO and Palo Alto/Peninsula members. So many of you came through—some more than once—graciously, cheerfully, and abundantly in response to various fundraising appeals. You collectively proved how committed we are to supporting our professional organization and the profession itself when it really matters. Your willingness to sacrifice personal treasure for the sake of helping our organization mount a tremendously successful convention demonstrates most emphatically that our organization and profession are healthy, strong, and thriving. In addition to the glorious music, superb workshops, and exquisite liturgies, your generosity was one of the finest aspects of the convention. Dear colleagues, I cannot thank you enough. —Douglas Franks

The P APenAGO newsletter is published bimonthly in September, November, January, March, May, and July. Submissions (concert listings, job announcements, articles, etc.) are welcome and are due the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. They may be sent to editor Tim Getz at [tim@gracepa.org](mailto:tim@gracepa.org).

## CONCERT LISTINGS

**Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.**

Pianist Jeffrey Jones  
with violinist Danny Coward, violist  
Doug Tomm and cellist Ellis Verosub  
Congregational Church of Belmont, \$15/10

**Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

*Fauré Requiem*, sung by the choirs of  
Christ Church and St. Bede's,  
Christ Church Episcopal, Portola Valley  
free-will offering

**Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m.**

Jonathan Dimmock, San Francisco,  
in recital on the Fisk-Nanney organ  
Stanford Memorial Church, free admission

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**

Advent Lessons & Carols  
Procession, Giles Swayne *Magnificat*,  
Festive carols of the season  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.**

Robert Huw Morgan with  
the Stanford Chamber Chorale,  
Stephen Sano, director;  
members of Bay Brass  
Stanford Memorial Church, free admission

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 5:00 p.m.**

Susan Jane Matthews and friends  
Organ rededication concert celebrating the  
restoration of St. Paul's 1929 Skinner organ  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

Choir School Concert  
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame

**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

David Rothe  
St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, \$10/8

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

Angela Kraft Cross  
St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, \$10/8

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

Katya Kolesnikova  
St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, \$10/8

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**

Rodney Gehrke  
St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, \$10/8

FOR ADDITIONAL CALENDAR LISTINGS please see the San Francisco Chapter's Bay Area Concert Calendar at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/vzqcqfdf>

**FROM OUR  
REGIONAL COUNCILLOR  
Leslie Wolf Robb**



Another AGO season has begun! Mom was right when she said that time goes faster as we get older. I'm excited about having a music season in full swing! Of course fall always means a return to board meetings, AGO meetings, and concerts. After a long day at work it's easy to think that putting my feet up and enjoying a good book is a great way to spend the evening instead of heading off to a meeting, workshop, or concert. But when I make the effort to go, I'm ALWAYS glad I did! Spending time with colleagues talking about what we are doing in our respective church jobs, brainstorming ideas to deal with problems, getting motivated to practice more by a phenomenal performer, hearing a new organ, hearing new ideas (or old ideas that I'd forgotten about or hadn't used in awhile) at a workshop, gaining inspiration from a terrific presenter—all of these energize me and help me do what I do better and with more passion. Join me this fall—go to that AGO meeting, workshop, or concert. Introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before. Ask someone if they have a creative way of solving a problem you are dealing with in your work. Share an idea or new piece that you're excited about. Get fired up about the King of Instruments and share that with everyone you meet!

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

Organist, First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. Thursday evening rehearsal with chancel choir and Sunday morning service at 10:30. First Presbyterian has a long history of excellent, classical music in worship. Contact Director of Music John Koza, 831-320-5085. [johnkoza@comcast.net](mailto:johnkoza@comcast.net)

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT SUMMER?**

Pipe Organ Encounter 2012

July 22-28, 2012

San Diego, California

[www.ago.org/organ\\_encounter.htm](http://www.ago.org/organ_encounter.htm)

Pipe Organ Encounter is a week-long program for pianists and organists ages 13-18 to explore the wonders of the pipe organ, meet new friends who share their musical interests and enjoy a week of summer fun on a beautiful college campus. A fun-filled week of private lessons, practice, workshops, organ tours, recreation and a closing student recital is planned. Anyone between the ages of 13 and 18 with some keyboard background is eligible to apply. Previous organ study is not necessary, but some piano proficiency (intermediate level) is required.

The 2012 National Convention

July 1-6, 2012

Nashville, Tennessee

[www.ago2012.org](http://www.ago2012.org)

The Nashville Chapter of the AGO invites you to Tennessee for a world-class convention, July 1-6, 2012. We have planned the schedule with your convenience in mind:

- Convention hotels in the heart of downtown
- Luxury motor coaches, with no need for early-morning departure times
- Ample time between events for meals
- All venues air-conditioned
- 65 workshops, all in the morning and just steps from your hotel room
- Recitals and worship services in the afternoon

Famous for our Southern hospitality, Nashville offers you a week you will long remember:  
Great City.  
Great Music.  
Great Organs.  
A Great Convention.



**Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
2011 - 2012 Program**

**Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**  
All Saints Episcopal Church, Palo Alto  
Adam Detzner, Winner of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists  
Organ Recital  
reception following

**Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.**  
First Congregational Church, Palo Alto  
Frédéric Blanc, Organist, the Church of Notre-Dame d'Auteuil, Paris  
Workshop: French Improvisation

**Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, time TBD**  
Stanford Memorial Church  
Robert Huw Morgan, University Organist  
Master Class  
(Contact David Sheetz if you wish to play: [dasheetz@comcast.net](mailto:dasheetz@comcast.net))

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**  
Woodside Village Church, Woodside  
Repertory Sharing, organ & choral  
no-host dinner option following

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**  
Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo  
Christian Lane, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster, Harvard University  
Winner, 2011 Canadian International Organ Competition  
Master Class for Young Organists

**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 p.m.**  
Los Altos United Methodist Church  
Composer's Forum—Paul Rosas, coordinator  
no-host dinner option following

**Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**  
Transfiguration Episcopal Church, San Mateo  
(joint event with San Francisco AGO)  
Samuel Soria, Organist, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles  
Master Class, demonstration in hymn improvisation and accompaniment  
potluck dinner to begin

**Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 p.m.**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame  
Members' Recital  
no-host dinner option following