



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

I trust you are having a wonderful summer. Hopefully some time to relax and refresh were part of it.

We begin our program year with some new members of our Executive Committee. I begin my second year as Dean, Tim Getz begins his second year as Secretary and continues as Newsletter Editor, Donald Mulliken, Daniel Gonzalez, and Jin Kyung Lim continue as Members at Large, and Rani Fischer returns, this time as Subdean and Registrar. Brand new members are Ed Jennings as Treasurer, Lynda Alexander, Peter Bassford, Tysen Dauer, and Duane Soubirous as Members at Large. Later in this newsletter you will find short biographies of some of the members of the Executive Committee. I am looking forward to the coming year with this very strong Executive Committee at the helm.



The AGO national convention was held this year in Boston and Cambridge, June 23-27. Please see the article and photos later in this newsletter giving personal impressions of the convention. It was great to see the following chapter members in attendance: Lynda Alexander, Matthew Burt, Adam Detzner, Tim Getz, Margaret Kvamme, Brian Larsen, Chinar and Nora Merjanian, Paul Rosas, David Sheetz, and Sarah Wannamaker.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the program year kickoff barbecue on Sunday, September 7.

David Sheetz

OUR NEXT CHAPTER EVENT

6TH ANNUAL CHAPTER BARBECUE
Sunday, September 7, 12:30 pm
Christ Church, Episcopal
815 Portola Road, Portola Valley

Please stop by after your morning obligations. It is not necessary to bring anything. This is an excellent opportunity to invite colleagues and associates who may not be familiar with the American Guild of Organists.

A Look at Our Upcoming Season by Rani Fischer

I hope you have had a happy summer. I hope to see you at our annual organist barbecue on Sunday, September 7 at Christ Church, Portola Valley, our usual nirvana BBQ spot. Thank you to Matthew Burt and David Sheetz for hosting us, which entails a lot of preparation, as well as sweat and smoke.

This year's events are still in the making, but it should be rich with opportunity for growth and inspiration. Here is what I can tell you, so far, about coming events. In October we will meet to share repertoire, perhaps Advent and Christmas ideas. On Saturday, November 8 at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, conductor Amy Stuart Hunn of Collage Vocal Ensemble and formerly of Stanford Summer Chorus will offer a workshop in conducting. Please let me know (ranifisc@gmail.com) if you have any repertoire or skills which you would like addressed. It will be appropriate to all levels. On January 10 we are planning a composers' workshop with Carson Cooman. Again, please brainstorm and invite composer friends in the area. Let me know as soon as you can about your participation. Along with the San Jose Chapter we are sponsoring an Alzheimer's benefit recital played by Angela Kraft Cross at St. Bede's Church, Friday, January 23. February is dinner and movies every Saturday at 6:00 pm. We will meet at the castle of Angela and Robert Kraft Cross for dinner and movies on the history of the organ, as well, as home-made slide shows, so get those old pictures together.

I will let you know about the spring events later once they are firmed up. Among the goals for the spring are a lecture on the Italian influences on Buxtehude and Bach, a continuo workshop, a masterclass with Robert Huw Morgan, a trip to the new Noack organ in Berkeley, and an introduction the hymnal *Voices Found* comprised of texts and music by women. Feel free to provide feedback on what you would like.

A Window on the 2014 AGO National Convention by David Sheetz

The 2014 AGO National Convention was held in Boston and Cambridge from June 23 to 27. In most cities, even large ones, there are few venues which can accommodate all of the attendees of a convention at the same time. Consequently, it is not unusual for recitals and concerts to be presented more than once to give more attendees an opportunity to attend. This was especially true in Boston, as most of the churches and concert halls are historic and not large. Conventions have usually provided optional transportation packages which included motor coach transportation from the convention hotel to and from various venues. This was not the case with Boston, except for those with special needs. Each attendee received a "Charlie Card", the Boston equivalent of a Clipper Card, which entitled the attendee to a week of free use of Boston's public transportation systems. Granted, many of the venues were within walking distance of the convention hotel, but others required one or more modes of public transportation. Very explicit instructions were given in the convention program books to make this navigation as simple as possible.

Another innovation of the Boston convention was the convention program book. For Boston, it consisted of five books: one giving the specifications of all of the organs featured in the convention and one each covering the activities of days 1, 2, 3 & 4, and 5. I have to admit I was skeptical when I heard about this, but it really worked.

It was simply not possible to attend everything, even though some were presented a couple of times. I know there were special events and concerts which I did not hear. So here are some of the highlights for me (in no particular order):



The Rising Stars Recital with Chinar Merjanian (left) at Church of the Covenant, Boston. Brava to our chapter member Chinar and to her teacher, chapter member Margaret Kvamme! Chinar was the Region IX winner of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in 2013.

Worship: Morning Service with St. Paul's Choir School and then a concert by Thierry Escaich at the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Mission Church), Boston.

Heinrich Christensen (organ) and string quartet, King's Chapel, Boston.

Christian Lane playing both organs (Skinner and Fisk) at The Memorial Church at Harvard University, Cambridge.

And by far the most monumental of events, one that could only happen at a national convention (and this was a pre-convention event at that!): *Blow Ye The Trumpet: A Festival of Hymns for the Church Year*; Richard Webster, director; Colin Lynch, organ; the Choir and Brass Ensemble of Trinity Church in the City of Boston, St. Cecilia

Parish, Boston. The sound one hears and the exhilaration one feels when singing with hundreds of other musicians in sublime settings of hymns is unmatched.

If you have never been to an AGO convention, I would encourage you to attend, perhaps beginning with the next regional convention being held in San Diego from June 28 to July 2, 2015.

Membership News by Rani Fischer

Thank you for your membership!

This is the first year we have had online registration. It still has some glitches, but I hope most of us have had good experiences. I am grateful to those of you whose loyalty has sustained us over the years. Our chapter programs cost anywhere from \$100-400 per event, and our only income is from membership.

I am pleased to announce our new members. Unfortunately, I am unable to include everyone in this letter, but here's a start. Lynda Alexander is returning to our chapter having served at St. Andrew's, Saratoga, for many years. She has kindly agreed to be a Member at Large on our Executive Committee. Stephen Boniface serves at The Stone Church in Willow Glen. Tysen Dauer is starting his

PhD in Musicology at Stanford University. Patricia Gough Eldred just moved to Mountain View from San Jose and is a dual member. David Hayes is a longtime member of the San Jose chapter and often subs at Hope Lutheran, San Mateo. Bill Jensen is returning to the organ after 40 years and now studies with Angela Kraft Cross. A native of Lithuania, Elena Paradies is a doctoral student in organ performance at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music who currently resides in the Bay Area. The Rev. Joel Smeby used to live in Redwood City and is now a Lutheran pastor in northwest Iowa along with his wife, Cynthia. Welcome to you all!

I also happen to know that some of us have not renewed our AGO membership. I wish to finish the chapter directory in the next month, so please renew if that is your intention so that I can list you in the directory. I know that there have been computer problems in the registration process, and I want to hear about them. Also, I can easily look up your membership number if you can't find it. Remember that you are always welcome to attend all AGO events whether you are a member or not. Most of the events are free, and please remember to invite a friend or colleague, again, regardless of membership status.

Meet Our Executive Committee by Tim Getz

Here are some brief introductions of several of our Executive Committee members. More will be featured in the next issue of our chapter newsletter. We thank them all for their dedication to our craft and instrument!



Lynda Alexander, Director of Music at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Los Altos, received her Bachelor of Music degree in Church Music/Organ Performance from Rhodes College, Memphis, TN. Her Master of Arts degree is in Music Literature (with emphasis on organ performance) from Mills College, Oakland where she studied composition with Darius Milhaud and organ with Kristin Sundquist. Lynda pursued her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stanford University with an emphasis in early music/organ performance under the direction of Herb Nanney. Lynda is also a certified yoga instructor specializing in therapy for keyboardists. She is past Dean of the San Jose Chapter AGO.

Peter Bassford began studying music through the public schools music program. During high school, he studied piano, clarinet and voice which led to degrees in piano performance and music education. Peter pursued his career in music through church work as a choir director and organist, and in community theater, both performing in and directing musicals. Recently retired from teaching music in the Burlingame public schools, he maintains a small instrumental studio, is an assistant director with the Ragazzi Boys' choir, plays clarinet in the College of San Mateo symphonic band, and is the organist at First Presbyterian Church in Burlingame.

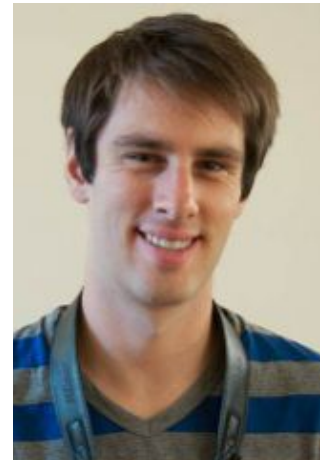
Tysen Dauer is a Ph.D. student at in musicology at Stanford University. He studied piano performance and organ at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and University of Minnesota, and German Studies and Humanities at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Tysen has worked as an assistant and substitute organist in Lincoln, Nebraska and the Bay Area. He enjoys performing new music and reading philosophy.



Rani Fischer has been the organist at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park since 2007 and is a past dean of our AGO chapter. She has studied with Larry Schipull, Grant Moss, Margaret Irwin-Brandon and Peter Sykes. Since graduating from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA, she has attended the McGill Summer Organ Academy and been on the board of the Boston Clavichord Society. Outside of music she teaches mathematics and statistics at local community colleges, as well as beginner piano.

Ed Jennings serves as a management consultant, primarily in the life sciences industry where he spent a good portion of his career as a biotechnology executive. He studied organ and choral conducting at a private music institute while a high school student and worked briefly as a church music director. Although his organ playing days have long passed, he enjoys attending organ and choral music performances.

I'm **Duane Soubirous**, and I first joined this chapter about ten years ago, right around the time I began organ lessons. I studied organ performance at Oberlin but withdrew over a year ago to pursue something different. Still figuring that out. Activities outside of playing the "king of instruments" include cycling, photography, and debating burrito preferences.



Schoenstein Open House

Please join Schoenstein & Co. on Sunday, September 7, 2014, from 2:00-5:00 pm for an Open House at our Benicia plant. On display will be the 3-manual, 46-rank Aeolian-Skinner organ from Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. This organ, built in 1950, has been totally renovated and reconfigured, ready for installation in its expanded organ chamber in September. You can tour the entire facility and see other exciting work in process. Schoenstein & Co. is located at 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA 94510. Telephone (707) 747-5858. Plenty of parking is available.

The PAPenAGO Substitute Organist List is maintained by Donald Mulliken. To have your name added to the list (Sunday morning availability only) or to get help in finding a Sunday morning substitute, contact Don at damulliken@aol.com.

Concert/Event Listings

Friday, September 12, 7:00 pm

[Ugo Sforza](#), organ

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

Saturday, September 13, 4:00 pm

Angela Kraft Cross, organ

Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Sunday, September 14, 2:00 pm

Stephen Boniface, organ and

Kathryn Campbell, soloist

Alzheimer's Benefit Concert

Stone Church of Willow Glen, San Jose

Sunday, September 14, 4:00 pm

Rani Fischer, organ

St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park

Sunday, September 14, 4:00 pm

Angela Kraft Cross, organ

Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Saturday, September 20, 7:30 pm

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT

"Our Souls Inspire . . ."

- Worship for SFAGO members & friends
- Music for organ, brass & choir
- Address by Dean Alan Jones
- Installation of SFAGO officers
- Reception to follow

Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

Sunday, September 21, 3:30 pm

Hymn Festival with [David Cherwien](#), organ

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

(see advertisement)

Friday, September 26, 7:30 pm

Robert Huw Morgan, organ

Stanford Memorial Church

Sunday, September 28, 3:00 pm

SAN JOSE CHAPTER EVENT

Deans' Concert featuring past deans Mike

Cala, David Hatt, Joyce Rhodes, Patricia

Milstead, and Diane Keller, organ

Saratoga Federated Church

Saturday, October 18, 9:30 am

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT

Masterclass with [Jean-Baptiste Robin](#):

A Couperin Organ Mass

St. Mary's College chapel, Moraga

Sunday, October 19, 4:30 pm

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER EVENT

Jean-Baptiste Robin, organ

St. Mary's College chapel, Moraga

Friday, October 24, 7:30 pm

T. Paul Rosas, organ, with Laura Lang-Ree and

Casie Walker, soloists, and Stephanie

Janowski, harp

Alzheimer's Benefit Concert

Los Altos United Methodist Church

Wednesday, October 29, 7:30 pm

[John Scott](#), organ

Stanford Memorial Church

Friday, October 31, 7:00 pm

SAN JOSE CHAPTER EVENT

Halloween Concert with David Hegarty, organ

Campbell United Methodist Church

Friday, October 31, 8:00 pm

James Welch, organ

Annual Halloween concert

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto

Our concert calendar features performances by our chapter members, events occurring in our immediate area, and chapter-sponsored events of the Palo Alto/Peninsula, San Jose, and San Francisco chapters. For additional calendar listings please see the San Francisco Chapter's Bay Area concert calendar at <http://tinyurl.com/yzcqfdf>, as well as the Stanford University concert calendar at <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>.



Organ for Sale

Lothar Bandermann, organist at St. Joseph of Cupertino church (Tel: (408) 996-9352; Email: lbandermann@att.net), is making his little tracker organ available. (Private party: make offer; church or other non-profit organization: Free. Taker has to take part in moving it to and installing in new location). It has an 8' and a 2' rank, and the 2' rank can be played together with the 8' either in the descant or bass (so there are two stops). The pedal is full-size pull-down. Key dimension are: 1) Organ with pedal and bench in place during play: 5' wide x 4' deep. Fits under an 8' ceiling, of course. 2) Blower (separately placed next to the organ; see picture): 22" x 24" (deep) x 22"; uses ordinary electrical outlet.

2011 Region IX Convention Program Books Available -- FREE!

A limited number of extra program books from the 2011 Region IX AGO Convention have been found in the process of moving the SFAGO archives to their new location. The convention highlighted over twenty major organs and venues throughout the Bay Area, featured recitals and workshops by over fifty musicians (many internationally-known), and brought together lovers of organ music from the far corners of the earth (Australia, Taiwan, etc.) and 33 states. The program book is 122 spiral-bound pages, packed with information and gorgeous photographs, all beautifully designed and assembled by Matthew Burt and his committee.

Have you lost your copy? Know of anyone who would love to have a copy? An organ aficionado, family member or friend who was unable to attend?

These extra copies will be available on a **first-come, first-served basis, FREE of charge**. Please email Pat During, ps7drng@aol.com, to get your name on the list. Since there will be no charge for the books, they may be obtained in one of three ways: 1) See Pat at the SFAGO event on Saturday, September 20, 7:30 pm, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, during the reception which follows the service; 2) make other arrangements to pick up the book at a mutually convenient time and location; 3) pay for postage to have your book delivered by the USPS. **Please include your preferred method to pick up / receive your copy when emailing Pat to add your name to the list.**

OFFICERS

***Palo Alto/Peninsula Chapter AGO
July 2014-June 2015***

*David Sheetz, Dean
Rani Fischer, Subdean and Registrar
Tim Getz, Secretary and Newsletter Editor
Ed Jennings, Treasurer*

*Members at Large:
Donald Mulliken
(Class of 2015)
Daniel Gonzalez, Jin Kyung Lim, Duane Soubirous
(Class of 2016)
Lynda Alexander, Peter Bassford, Tysen Dauer
(Class of 2017)*

Jay Martin, Webmaster

The PAPenAGO 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 10th of the month preceding publication. They may be sent to editor Tim Getz at tim@gracepa.org.

**Great Organs of the Boston Convention
photos by David Sheetz**



Arlington Street Church
Aeolian-Skinner
Op. 1307, 1958



Christ Church, Cambridge
Schoenstein & Co.
Op. 149, 2006



Memorial Church,
Harvard University
C.B. Fisk
Op. 139, 2012



Basilica of Our Lady
of Perpetual Help
(Mission Church)
George S. Hutchings
Op. 140, 1897



First Church of Christ, Scientist,
"The Mother Church"
Aelian Skinner
Op. 1203, 1952



Old South Church
Skinner Organ Co.
Op. 308, 1921



Trinity Church in the City of Boston
Skinner Organ Co.
Op. 573, 1926
Aeolian-Skinner
Op. 573-C, 1961



Not attending the convention, Rani Fischer demonstrates her new favorite way to practice the piano at home. (See this and more wonderful inventions [here](#).)