

UPCOMING EVENTS



**ZOOM MEETING
JULY 18 AT 7PM**

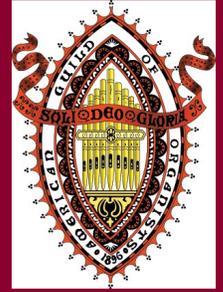
**CHAPTER PICNIC/
ANNUAL MEETING TO BE RE-SCHEDULED**

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Sforzando

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 10



JUNE 2020

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

Dean's Message

-- by Vernon Williams

Last month I wrote that “the way forward for church musicians when things begin to reopen is not clear.” Now that we have done whatever we had to do to get through the past ten weeks, and we head into what would have been our summer schedules, many questions remain. Will we be able to meet with our choirs in the fall? Will our congregations be able to sing this summer? If congregations don't sing, what will the music be like? For many of us, the goal will be to keep things afloat as well as possible until things eventually return to normal. What kind of chapter programming can we plan to help us answer these questions and keep things afloat?

As a start, over the summer we will host some Zoom gatherings to discuss our most immediate practical concerns. On Thursday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m. David Reich, Marilyn Rabbai, Vicki Nichols and I will present “Virtual Choirs and Other Options for Safely Making Music.” We'll

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Joseph Routon

Detail of the main organ at the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière in Lyon, France. It was built in 1841 by Daublaine et Callinet. Photo by Joe Routon.



Sub-Dean's Report -- by Vicki Nichols



"We are going to postpone our Picnic and Annual meetinghopefully it will be possible for us to come together by the end of the summer."



Daryl Robinson, above, and Eric Plutz, below, photographed by Joe Routon.



Hi Everyone, I hope you are all well! We are going to postpone our Picnic and Annual meeting. We're thinking of holding it in late August, hopefully it will be possible for us to come together by the end of the summer. We will send out more information as the time gets closer!

I have found some great concerts, master classes, tutorials, and podcasts that are available online and they're free! So since we can't attend any events physically here are some things you can watch online:

1.) Daryl Robinson has been posting videos of individual organ pieces and full length recitals on his Facebook page : https://www.facebook.com/pg/darylrobinson/posts/?ref=page_internal For those of you who may not know, you do not need to be a Facebook member to view a public page. So anyone can view these videos.

2.) The Office of Religious Life Princeton posts on their YouTube page their "Afternoon Concert Series," which is the organ concert series from Princeton University Chapel : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coY7N5maetQ&list=PLKS2ONbq3AZaLxb65UB_n4hiw73IHmVn7

3.) St. Clement's Church in Philadelphia has been broadcasting weekly organ concerts with Peter Conte on Fridays at 2 PM : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy8WVCmhJLZKPT8FyBLkFHbg/videos> You need to search through all their videos to find them, they do not have a specific playlist for these concerts.

4.) There is a podcast called "Square Notes the Sacred Music Podcast" hosted by Peter Carter, a former classmate of mine from Westminster Choir College, and Dr. Jennifer Donelson. They cover topics concerning Catholic liturgy and music. Recently they did an interview with Olivier Latry, titular organist of Notre Dame in Paris. It's a great interview, they discuss the damage from the fire, the role of the organ at mass, and I think you will all enjoy this : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjL6kSs90R4>

5.) For those of you interested in improvisation, I found some great tutorial videos for beginners by Dr. John Mortensen from the Cedarville University Department of Music. It's called "Improvisation for Classical Pianists." It's not organ improvisation, but the concepts discussed can easily be applied to

the organ. So if you'd like to get a little more comfortable with improvising, these videos offer some basic exercises that you can have some fun with: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Slr_gE7nlL0&list=PLpyMjpi5yGK2XK8jMriuV_Wtj2oKGC-mj

6.) For those of you interested in the interpretation of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, I would encourage you to look up on Youtube master classes by András Schiff. Even though this is geared to pianists, Schiff is a brilliant teacher and is a wonderful interpreter of Bach's music. You will definitely find it beneficial to watch him. I don't have a specific playlist, but if you just search on Youtube for his master classes, you'll find many videos.

EDITOR'S NOTE: JOIN OUR CHAPTER'S ZOOM MEETING ON THURSDAY JUNE 18 AT 7PM: VIRTUAL CHOIRS AND OTHER OPTIONS FOR SAFELY MAKING MUSIC

And lastly, I will share Marilyn Rabbai's "Covid Journey":

"Our church live-streamed the March 15 service, then started pre-recording segments on Thursdays after that, in order to better maintain social distancing for our pastor, musicians, and lay readers. The segments are edited on Friday and Saturday, and the service debuts on FaceBook Live at 10am on Sundays. After that, it can be accessed from our website. We record the audio for the hymns sung by the pastor, lay-reader, and 1 or 2 musicians, all standing 10 - 12 feet apart from each other. I experimented until I found organ registrations that supported the singing without overpowering it. This usually means lighter settings and almost-closed shutters on the pipe chambers. Our online prelude is a solo by an instrumentalist or vocalist, preceded by an invitation to worship and call to focus our thoughts. Our worship committee meetings have gone from once a month to once a week while we work to optimize the online experience and plan for the future. Our church offers an online prayer service via Zoom, which meets on week nights at 8pm for about 20 minutes. Each night we read from scripture and share the prayers we hold in our hearts. Right now, our choir is not meeting, but we hope to get virtual choir going in the next few weeks. I miss these folks so much!

Even though I am not playing my usual solo organ repertoire for online worship, I have been practicing daily. I have been working on the same 6 pieces for

SouthWest Jersey Chapter Scholarship Program

-- by Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO

Our chapter's scholarship program has been unintentionally in "intermission" and needs to continue. This program exists to serve area congregations by increasing the number of capable organists and to insure the continuation of the classical church music profession.

As a reminder, the program is structured as 14 one-hour lessons scheduled at the mutual convenience of the instructor and student, ideally on the organ where the student practices, or at least one a month where the student practices. The lessons and public jury *must take place within 4 months*. The practice instrument must have a minimum of two 61-note keyboards and a concave, radiating 32-note pedalboard, with all keys functioning. The student must have legs long enough to reach the pedalboard and have intermediate piano skills (meaning and understanding of meter signatures, chords, key signatures, and the ability to read G and F clefs).

The audition for this program is on piano. Applicants will be asked to prepare and perform a simple Bach keyboard work, also one movement of a sonata by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Clementi, or Kuhnau, and also one hymn written in traditional four-part harmony. The applicant will be asked to sight-read two short pieces; one will be in common meter.

At the conclusion of the 14 one hour lessons, a jury is required with the teacher and at least two additional chapter members present. The jury will consist of the following:

Two of these three chorales: *Ein feste Burg*, *Lobe den Herren*, *Herzlich tut mir verlangen*

A hymn will be sight-read, pedaling not required

The tune *Old Hundredth* in any of its traditional forms, copy provided to the committee

One pedal alone passage of a chorale, minimum 15 measures

A trio chorale

A prelude or fugue from the collection [Eight Little Preludes and Fugues](#)

The instructor is appointed by the local chapter. Accepted applicants are responsible for securing a pair of Organmaster shoes and required music. Instruction may happen any time provided all activities are completed within four months. Candidates of all ages who meet the above criteria are welcome. Please contact Lawrence De Pasquale at ldorg59@yahoo.com with questions and to express interest.



Matters of Note



From the Registrar: Welcome to new member Roger R. Castellani, SPC, MS. rogercast@aol.com Please add his name to your directory. By now, you should have received your renewal notice. If you need a paper invoice, you should contact Gail Gassaway, 241 Night Hawk Circle, West Deptford NJ 08086, cloaked17@verizon.net.



Cares and Concerns: A birthday card was sent to Helen Carrell who will be celebrating on May 27th. Best wishes to Helen. Speaking of birthdays, I also had one this month. Since I live alone, my church sent out word via Facebook that I don't have. Several members were kind enough to send me cards and many of the children drew pictures. I did go to my favorite restaurant and get my favorite dinner. I was also able to enjoy dessert from Liscio's Bakery thanks to a friend who gave me a gift card.

Again I will encourage folks to keep in touch with others, especially those that live alone. As I have been told by several friends, this isolation is not a normal way to live and gets harder the longer it goes on. Personally I am looking forward to the day when my calendar starts to fill up again and some semblance of normalcy returns. Have a blest summer and looking forward to meeting again. - Cathy O'Neill

Practicing SAFE SINGING: Our worship plans going forward are being shaped by the serious challenge of making corporate worship safe, particularly choral and congregational singing. **Join us on Thursday, June 18 at 7PM for our first chapter workshop via ZOOM: "Virtual Choirs and Other Options for Safely Making Music."** AGO HQ has also been posting resources. Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, has shared the link to their May 15 webinar "Successful Online Streaming to Avoid Online Screaming." It is located under the [Leadership Talks](#) toolkit. <https://www.agohq.org/chapter-leadership-toolkits/> You will also find two handouts and a link to a video submitted by Stewart Holmes. Stay tuned for more information!

Sub-Dean's Report

-- continued from page 2

over 2 months now, and have found many benefits from a prolonged polishing period, especially the two movements from separate Bach trio sonatas. I know I will need to work in some new repertoire, but my ritual will stay the same. I am playing through each hymn in the hymnal, familiarizing myself with the ones we have rarely or never sung. There are hymns that may not have lent themselves to traditional organ accompaniment, but might come in handy in a different setting or a new reality.

To keep myself sane, I try to exercise daily, even if it's just a walk or a bike ride to church. Classical radio stations WRTI and WQXR have been a real blessing, especially since I miss all the live concerts I used to attend. Little jobs I had been putting off for a long time (like filing and updating the music database at church) are finally getting done, bit by bit. My neighbor down the street is a nurse at Inspira Hospital in Mullica Hill. She has asked for volunteers to sew masks. My mom helps me by cutting out the fabric pieces, and I sew them. Our goal is to make 100, and we have made 76 so far."

If anyone else would like to share their experiences I will include them in our next newsletter. You can send that to my email: Sieglinde1776@aol.com or call #609-364-2042. I look forward to seeing you all again!

Share your
experiences!

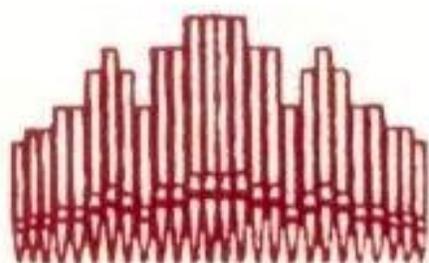
Programs at a Glance

[See Sub-Dean's Report on page 2 for details]

**Zoom Gathering:
Virtual Choirs and Other Options for
Safely Making Music
Thursday, June 18 at 7pm**

To Be Rescheduled:

**Picnic and Annual Meeting,
Hopefully late August.....**



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Catching Up with Gail Gassaway



Editor's note: Gail was elected SWJAGO Treasurer/Registrar in 2005 and she will be stepping down from that position this July. Not even counting her official responsibilities, Gail has been quite an active member of our chapter, and many of us have enjoyed her hospitality. She has hosted meetings in her church, parties in her home and many guest artists in area restaurants. In 2016, she added Treasurer and Steering Committee member of the 2019 Regional Convention to her resume. Included in her curriculum vitae: a Masters in Public Administration and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Her dedication and leadership have been a blessing to our chapter.

When Gail graciously agreed to be interviewed for the newsletter, all I ended up having to do was to come up with some questions for our virtual interview. Here are her answers just as she wrote them:

"While my parents worked, I stayed with my grandmother who had a big old upright piano. It was on that piano that I taught myself the notes and began to play.

My parents soon conceded that I needed to have lessons. Luckily, my first teacher, Mrs. Albertson, lived only a block and a half away from grandma's and I began to walk to lessons every week. I studied with Mrs. Albertson for six years, before split sessions brought that to an end. To please my mother, I agreed to take some organ lessons on the Wicks organ with our church organist. After becoming acquainted with the organ, I began to play occasionally at our church.

At church, we had a retired minister who did a lot of supply preaching. He asked me to accompany him on his rounds and play the organ. I did this for several summers. I think I've played at least half the organs of Lutheran churches in North Jersey.

I attended Douglass College, the women's college of Rutgers University. I majored in health education and minored in Latin. I attempted to continue piano lessons at Douglass but did not like my teacher or the music she wanted me to

play. However, I was soon asked to be the organist/director of a small church in Perth Amboy. I spent the next five years there. The choir happily agreed to Friday evening rehearsals because they fit into my schedule best – can you imagine a choir doing that today?

After moving to South Jersey, I realized that I wanted to further my organ playing skills. I studied with Larry DePasquale through the Glassboro State community program for 4 years. I then learned about the program in sacred music that Westminster Conservatory offered for people who had not been music majors. This two year program which concentrated on theory, directing and organ skills changed my life. I learned so much and developed friendships with people with whom I continue to keep in contact.

It was Larry who introduced me to AGO. I have enjoyed the numerous programs we have sponsored that broaden our knowledge and enhance our skills. One cannot forget how supportive our members are to each other.

My favorite memories are of the time I have spent with various composers that the chapter has brought in for workshops – especially Bob Hobby and Dave Cherwien. They are down-to-earth, fun-loving and wonderful composers. I hope that we can continue to sponsor such programs as well as other events that are open to the public. This year's organ and trumpet program was a fine example of bringing the joy of the organ and instruments to all.

I have been lucky enough to attend a convention nearly every year since 1990 (often with Larry, Ethel and Norm Geist and Boots White). We have been exposed to many extraordinary events - recitals, workshops, as well as fun times when we were treated to music by a bottle band or the story of Mrs. Bach. The AGO regional convention in Wichita is the highlight of my AGO travels. Who knew that Wichita State had the largest Marcussen organ in the United States or that WSU had had two Rhodes scholars in organ IN THE SAME YEAR! The convention was capped by Jan Krabeil recreating the dedicatory recital on the Marcussen. She was outstanding. For me, there is no more satisfying experience than leading worship and hearing the congregation sing enthusiastically".

To Gail from all of us,



Positions Available/Substitute List -- by Peter Homon

Editor's Note: We are updating and hoping to expand our Substitute List. If you are available to substitute, please contact Peter Homon, our Referral/Position Coordinator. Please forward or refer any items concerning positions available or substitute needs to Peter at lapajar@yahoo.com or call 856-665-0149.

Positions Available:

Beverly Presbyterian, Edgewater Park - Organist only, 2 manual Allen, one Wednesday evening adult choir rehearsal, 10:00 svc. Contact Gwen Reed at 609-280-8329 or gwen88keys@aol.com (3/20)

Morrisville Presbyterian Church, Morrisville, PA - O/accompanist for adult and children's choirs, 4 manual 79 stop Allen Quantum, Thursday evening rehearsals, 10:30 service. Contact timcarpenter@mpusa.net for additional info and complete job description. (2/20)

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Blackwood - O/D, no choir but would like to begin one, 9:00 service, 3m Allen Renaissance 340, contact Randall Kelley, randalkelley@comcast.net 856-278-9570. (2/20)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Willingboro - Organist/pianist, 2 man. Allen, diverse congregation with diverse musical styles, Rehearsals wed. at 7:15, Sunday service at 10:30, resumes to Nina D. Bonner at stpumc@verizon.net or 201 Levitt Pkwy., Willingboro, NJ 08046 (1/20)

These musicians are available on Sundays and also for weddings and funerals other days:

Charlene Cranmer 609-458-2993 (Southampton, NJ - July and August only) ctcranmer@comcast.net

Peter Homon, Jr. c-856-952-5132 (Merchantville) lapajar@yahoo.com

Mary Johnson 856-332-8869 (Pine Hill) mebayj47@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Lawrence 646-765-2387 (Hamilton) lizz5law@yahoo.com

George Mitchell 856-795-0970 (Cherry Hill) babayaga430@verizon.com

Irina Nenartovich, CAGO, SPC 856-321-3465 (Cherry Hill) knenartovich@hotmail.com

These substitutes are available for weddings and funerals or Saturday work only:

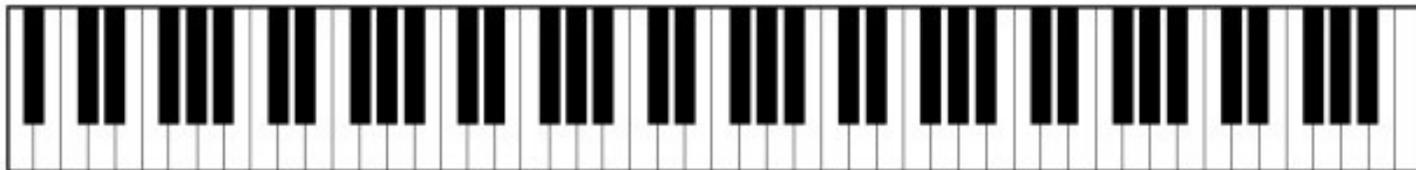
Evelyn Larter, CAGO 856-358-1112 (Elmer) ERLarter@juno.com

Lee F. Milhous, 215-348-8872 (Doylestown PA) leefmilhous@verizon.net

Cathy O'Neill, 856-0192 (Sewell, NJ) cmo125@aol.com

Joanne Owen 856-769-3212 (Woodstown) lbjkowen1982@comcast.net

Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO 856-589-3901 (Pitman) mwrabbai@verizon.net



CHAPTER EMERGENCY FUND Our Chapter has begun the sponsorship of a fund to provide short-term emergency aid to Chapter members who find themselves temporarily in need of assistance. No dues money will be used for this aid, but tax-deductible contributions will be welcome at any time. A committee of three, consisting of the Dean, the Chair of Professional Concerns, and another member of that committee, will award aid as the need arises. Any Chapter member may recommend a member in good standing who, for reasons such as illness or unemployment, deserves our help, by contacting the Dean or the Chair of Professional Concerns. All cases of course will be confidential. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please send your tax-deductible donation (made out to SWJersey Chapter AGO) to our Treasurer Gail Gassaway, marked for "Musicians' Emergency Fund." Mail to: 241 Night Hawk Circle, West Deptford NJ 08086.

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For more information on Professional Certification requirements, procedures, materials and deadlines, visit the website of AGO National Headquarters: www.agohq.org

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Our next issue will be September 2020.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be Tuesday, August 25.



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Dean's Message --

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talk about what we've done at our churches the past few weeks, and how we did it. We will include some time for chatting and sharing experiences as well. Most unfortunately, we won't be able to provide refreshments! But it will be a start. We will email you the technical details about the meeting closer to the date.

Other topics for this summer might include how to live stream services, the prospects for our choirs this fall, and perhaps a meeting just to share experiences and information with each other. If there are topics you would like us to cover, please let Vicki or me know. Meanwhile, we are working on developing a reasonable plan for our next season of AGO events.

Stay safe and healthy, and I look forward to seeing you online on the 18th!



Mark your calendars and join us on Thursday, June 18 at 7PM for the first of our chapter's ZOOM gatherings: "Virtual Choirs and Other Options for Safely Making Music." As the meeting date nears, watch your email for the link and instructions to take part. We hope to see your face!

