As I write, we organists are about to enter a truly unique period in which our churches reopen under difficult circumstances and the music—especially singing—is drastically curtailed, and other events continue to be canceled. While our organ music might become a more important part of services for a while, the overall short-term picture for church music is bleak, to say the least. I’m sure we are all wondering how well our choirs will survive if they can’t rehearse, and how well our congregations will fare in the new environment. It is our hope that through our AGO chapter we can help each other face these new challenges and give each other encouragement. To that end, Vicki Nichols and the Program Committee have been doing outstanding work over the summer to revise our AGO schedule to offer events that will be informative and inspiring. We are indebted to David Reich for his Zoom
Sub-Dean’s Report -- by Vicki Nichols

I hope everyone is well! Due to COVID-19 we are changing the way we hold our chapter events until further notice. We will not meet in person; instead, we will do what we can online and through Zoom. We hope to have some in person events in 2021, but this is subject to change, our schedule will be fluid.

Our next event will be our rescheduled Members’ Recital which will be held on Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 PM and will be held virtually!

The recital will be followed by a live Q & A with our performers. This is going to be a great performance and I hope to “see” all of you there! Links will be sent out for the recital and the Q & A as the time gets closer. Stay tuned for more details! If anyone has questions about our upcoming events you can send me an email at: Sieglinde1776@aol.com or call # 609-364-2042.

Save the date! On Sunday, October 18th at 4:00 PM we will have our annual Guild Service.

Matters of Note

Cares and Concerns:
Hello All, here we are in month #7 of this never ending pandemic. My church reopened the week the governor gave the green light. Results have been disappointing. There are 5 of us who come every week. The most we have had is 17 and the least 7. To attend you have to make a reservation and wear a mask. We continue to use Facebook since that is how most folks are attending services. Four of my choir members are willing to come and provide special music as are five from the handbell choir. At least we have a portion from both groups willing to provide some music and the viewers appreciate it. When people are hesitant to attend church services, these are truly sad times in which we find ourselves. Yes, we have all this technology, but it is nothing like being in the house of God. We continue our card ministry at my church that folks really appreciate. If you know of anyone from the chapter that would appreciate receiving a card due to illness or just having difficulty dealing with this “new abnormal” and bizarre time we find ourselves muddling through, please let me know. Thanks, Cathy O’Neill cmo125@aol.com

Welcome new members!
We are very pleased to have a new dual member, Roger Castellani, email: rogercast@aol.com and a new member, Nick Voermans, email: nvvoermans@yahoo.com. Please add them to your chapter directory.

Organ Shoes - Womens size 8-8 ½: Worn less than a dozen times. Will be happily donated to whom-ever has a need. For more information contact Fay Griscom musicfay@comcast.net.

Chickering Piano available: Grace Episcopal - Merchantville has a Chickering baby grand available for a donation. Built in the 1940’s. Case is in good condition. Contact Judy Craig at mcreag428@aol.com.

Treasurer’s Report for FY2019-2020 can be found on page 7 & 8.

When life itself offers no order and meaning, the musician creates an order and meaning from the sounds of the earth which flow through his instrument... Everybody longs for meaning, everybody needs to love and be loved, everybody needs to clap hands and be happy. Everybody longs for faith. In music, there is a stepping stone towards all of these.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Above: photo of Dr. Ruppert by Joe Routon.


Dr. Istvan Ruppert, organ professor at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, was awarded his country’s prestigious Liszt Award on August 18. He received the honor from the Hungarian Academy of Arts at Vigadó Concert Hall in Budapest, where Liszt often performed concerts in the second half of the 1800s.

Dr. Ruppert, who has played many recitals in the USA, Europe, and Asia, led workshops and performed for the recent AGO Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention and for the 2002 AGO National Convention in Philadelphia and was featured on Pipedreams. Several years ago the SouthWest Jersey AGO Chapter named him “Performer of the Year.”

The Liszt Prize comes with a $7,000 award, along with $400 a month for life.

Dr. Ruppert received his degrees from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, the alma mater of Eugene Ormandy, Zoltán Kodály, Béla Bartók, Georg Solti, András Schiff, Fritz Reiner, János Starker, Balint Karosi, and many other luminaries in the music world. The Academy was founded by Liszt himself, though it was not named for him until 1925.

Over the summer we held our first-ever chapter ZOOM meetings: June 18 - Virtual Choirs and Other Options for Safely Making Music, August 27 - Learning Options for Livestreaming (LOL). Thanks to ALL who participated. We look to seeing your face at the next one!

Kudos to David Reich for organizing two very effective workshops on the technology available to us.
Programs at a Glance

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

Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:00PM:
Virtual Members’ Recital,
followed by Virtual Reception

Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 4:00PM:
Virtual Guild Service,
Feast of St. Luke the Physician

November 2020:
Zoom Workshop with Dr. Chris Daly,
Music from the Tudor Era, date TBA

January 2021:
Zoom Workshop with Vicki Nichols
Gregorian Chant, date TBA

February 2021:
Online Workshop from AGO National
date TBA

March 2021:
Masterclass
Guest artist and date TBA

April 9, 2021:
Retreat at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual
Growth
Wernersville, PA

May 2021:
Girard College Organ Crawl and Tour
date TBA

July 2021:
Annual Picnic and Meeting at the home of
Vicki Nichols, date TBA

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.

Editor’s note: We have a couple of inquiries in progress and, thanks to Vernon Williams, an updated brochure. (see next 2 pages) Please feel free to print out and encourage qualified applicants to submit this form.
The Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship of the Southwest Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists provides a term of 14 introductory organ lessons for qualified persons wishing to begin study of the organ.

Eligibility

All applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Must reside in the Southwest Jersey geographical area.
- Must have received little or no previous formal classical organ training.
- Legs must be long enough to reach the pedalboard.
- Must have access to an organ on which to practice. The organ console must either 1) conform to AGO standards having at least two 61-note manuals and a full pedalboard, or 2) conform to historical mechanical action standards.
- Must commit to completing 14 lessons and the jury within four to six months.

Inquiries

Address questions or inquiries to:

Vernon Williams
email: vwilliams@trinitymoorestown.org
phone: 856-235-0811

Application Procedure

Send completed applications to:

Vernon Williams
Trinity Episcopal Church
207 West Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057

In addition to the application form, applicants are asked to include on a separate sheet a brief statement of their goals and objectives for study and a summary of their musical background and experience.

The Audition

The audition is scheduled once the application has been received. Auditions will be played on the piano. No memorization is required.

Prepared pieces

- Any Bach Two-Part Invention or one selection from the Anna Magdalena Notebook
- One movement from a sonatina by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Clementi, or Kuhnau
- One hymn written in traditional four-part harmony

Sight-reading

- Two short pieces: one in common time, the other in another meter

The Lessons

Lessons are arranged at the mutual convenience of the teacher and student, ideally on the organ where the student practices. In any event, at least one lesson per month will take place on the organ where the student practices.

Students will learn how to practice and will become acquainted with registration, articulation, and pedaling, through the practice and preparation of hymns, teaching pieces, and repertoire.

Students will be required to have appropriate shoes (as recommended by their teacher) before the second lesson.

Students will provide at their expense the necessary hymnal and books required by the teacher. (Generally hymnals may be borrowed from the student’s church.) Photocopied music is illegal, contrary to the Guild’s Code of Ethics, and may not be used.

The Jury

At the conclusion of the 14 weeks of study, the student will be required to play before a jury.

- Two of the following four-part hymns (at least one of the hymns must be played with pedal):
  - Nicaea
  - Lobe den Herren
  - Ein feste Burg
  - Hymn to Joy
  - New Britain (Amazing Grace)
  - Herzlich tut mich verlangen (Passion Chorale)

- The Doxology (Old Hundredth) in any of the standard forms

- One pedal-alone passage of a Bach chorale or from a method book, at least 16 measures long

- A trio exercise or a chorale trio

- A prelude or fugue from Bach’s Eight Little Preludes and Fugues
Application

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
PHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS

Your Place of Practice

NAME OF PRACTICE LOCATION (Church, Temple, etc.)
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE

TYPE AND BUILDER OF ORGAN (if known)

Your Keyboard Background

YEARS OF PIANO STUDY
LIST ANY PREVIOUS CLASSICAL ORGAN STUDY

Your Goals and Musical Background

Please include on a separate sheet a brief statement of your goals and objectives for organ study and an outline of your musical background and experience.

Purpose

The organ scholarship awarded by the AGO is necessary in order:

1. To serve the congregations by increasing the roster of capable organists.
2. To foster an appreciation for sacred classical organ repertoire.
3. To encourage more musicians to meet the standards and ideals of the American Guild of Organists.
4. To ensure the continuation of the church music profession.

History

In the 1980's a decline in the number of qualified organists and in the number of new organ students became a concern for churches and Guild chapters across the country.

Inspired by an innovative “floating organ academy” begun in South Dakota and described in an article in The American Organist, AGO member Helen Taylor founded the Southwest Jersey Organ Scholarship program in 1988 as a way to help solve this problem. The first committee members were Marilyn Rabbi, Barbara Knight, Joyce Ann Routon, and Larry DePasquale.

Since its inception, more than two dozen organists have successfully completed the program. Many of these new organists have gone on to successful careers in area churches.

The Southwest Jersey Chapter is pleased to continue this tradition of service to its churches and to the art of organ playing.

AGO Code of Ethics

Approved by the AGO National Council January 27, 2017

Preamble/Preface

The American Guild of Organists encourages its members to embrace and practice the following values as core ideals that Guild members aspire to cultivate in their ethical and professional conduct.

Values 1. Responsible Conduct toward Those Whom We Serve (including but not limited to clergy, supervisors, congregants, choir members, students, children, etc.). Members shall:

- Treat those whom they serve in a professional manner, with dignity, compassion, civility, and respect.
- Show respect to those whom they serve, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, or medical condition.
- Avoid any sort of abusive behavior, whether verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or other.
- Refrain from disclosing confidential or sensitive information about others obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

Values 2. Respect for Our Professional Colleagues. Members shall:

- Maintain a professional attitude and act with integrity in relationships with colleagues, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, or medical condition.
- Respect the reputation and diversity of colleagues.

Values 3. Integrity in Our Professional Work. Members shall:

- Honor and abide by the conditions and requirements of the job descriptions and work agreements to which they have knowingly agreed, so long as those provisions are in accord with all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- Follow, as applicable, the principles of professional conduct that are expressed in the AGO Code of Professional Standards.
- For the benefit of future generations of musicians and to preserve the instruments of our profession, we care to ensure that when playing an instrument, the institution’s expected practices and requirements for the care of the instrument and its venue are met.
INCOME
From National:
- Regular  - (26)  $1,066.00
- Special  - (31)  $1,023.00
- Dual Regular  - (3)  $123.00
- Dual Special  - (9)  $297.00
- Youth  - (3)  $54.00
- Chapter Friend  - (3)  $114.00
- Patrons  $1,225.00
- Contributors  $33.00
- Convention  $90.00
- Emergency Fund  $85.00
Total:  $4,110.00

Sforzando ads  $274.00
Guild dinner  $310.00
Transfer from 2019  $49.98
Closeout Convention Account  $1,148.25
Total:  $1,782.23

TOTAL INCOME 2019-2020:  $5,892.23

EXPENSES
Programming:
- Monastery Visit  $77.00
- Guild Dinner  $750.00
- November Master Class  $500.00
- February- Trumpet & Organ  $1,750.00
  Hotel  $499.78
Total:  $3,576.78

Hospitality:  $111.75

Administration:
- Supplies  $193.30
- Postage  $158.00
Total:  $351.30

Directory:  $381.98

Audit:  $2,048.50

Reimburse convention:  $36.98
Transfer to Regional:  $365.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:  $6,872.29
SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER, AGO
Treasurer's Report -FY2019-2020

BANK ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

Balance- June 30, 2019 $18,580.45
Plus 2019-2020 Income $5,892.23
Less 2019-2020 Expenses $6,872.29
BALANCE- JUNE 30, 2019: $17,600.39

Emergency Fund -6/30/2019 $2,658.00
Income $85.00
Balance - 6/6/2020 $2,743.00

Note:  There have been no expenditures from either the Emergency Fund or the Scholarship Fund in 2019-2020

Gail Gassaway, Treasurer

Steve Jones
President

788 Piney Hollow Road
Hammonton, NJ 08037
joness@comcast.net (609) 970-9131

S FORZANDO
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)

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 Chuck Gibson, marked for “Musicians’ Emergency Fund.” Mail to: 691 Willow Grove Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343-4529.
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AGO CERTIFIED MEMBERS

Rae Ann Anderson, CAGO
Miriam Bisbing, SPC
Helen C. Carrell, CAGO, SPC
Mark A. Cole, SPC
Charlene Cranmer, CAGO, SPC
Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO
Ruth O. Fink, AAGO, ChM
Ethel H. Geist, CAGO
Evelyn Larter, CAGO, SPC
Irina Nenartovich, CAGO, SPC
Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO, SPC
David L. Rhody, SPC
Glenn L. Rodgers, AAGO
Joyce Ann Routon, CAGO, SPC

Patrons & Contributors 2020

Anderson, Rae Ann
Bisbing, Miriam
Carrell, Helen
Cranmer, Charlene
Dow, John
Fink, Ruth
Gardener, Robert
Gassaway, Gail
Geist, Ethel
Gladden, Robert
Hatzold, Renee
Homon, Peter
Kirk, Guy
Larter, Evelyn
Obarski, Stephen
Owen, Joanne
Powell, Robert
Rabbai, Marilyn
Rhody, David
Rodgers, Glenn
Sakowsky, Richard
Scara, Robert
Stokking-Perry, Nancy
White, Kathleen
Williams, Vernon

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

Thank you,
Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers

Our next issue will be October 2020.
Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be Friday, September 25.
Dean’s Message

-- continued from page 1

workshop in June on virtual choirs, and for his late August workshop on the live streaming of church services. (see Gallery, page 3) For our first event of the fall, we are compiling a video of the Members’ Recital which was postponed from the spring and will be broadcast online September 24 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for the recital and for an informal Zoom gathering afterward to chat with the performers and each other. Many thanks to Vicki and her committee for finding innovative ways to keep our chapter active and engaged! In other news, we are exploring the possibility of having our “own” chapter website, separate from the one on the National Guild’s website. We are also taking a look at the chapter’s bylaws to see if they might benefit from an update, especially given how technology has changed the way we do things. I’ll have more on these developments in future columns.

Just as 2019 was memorable because of our convention, 2020 will be memorable for its disruptions and challenges. In the same way we needed each other to produce an amazing convention, we need each other now to weather the current difficulties. Let’s stay in touch and look forward to a return to normalcy in 2021!

Photo by Joe Routon of Istvan Ruppert, at First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown during our 2019 regional convention.