

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL KICK-OFF
WORKSHOP WITH
ROBERT HOBBY

SEPTEMBER 9



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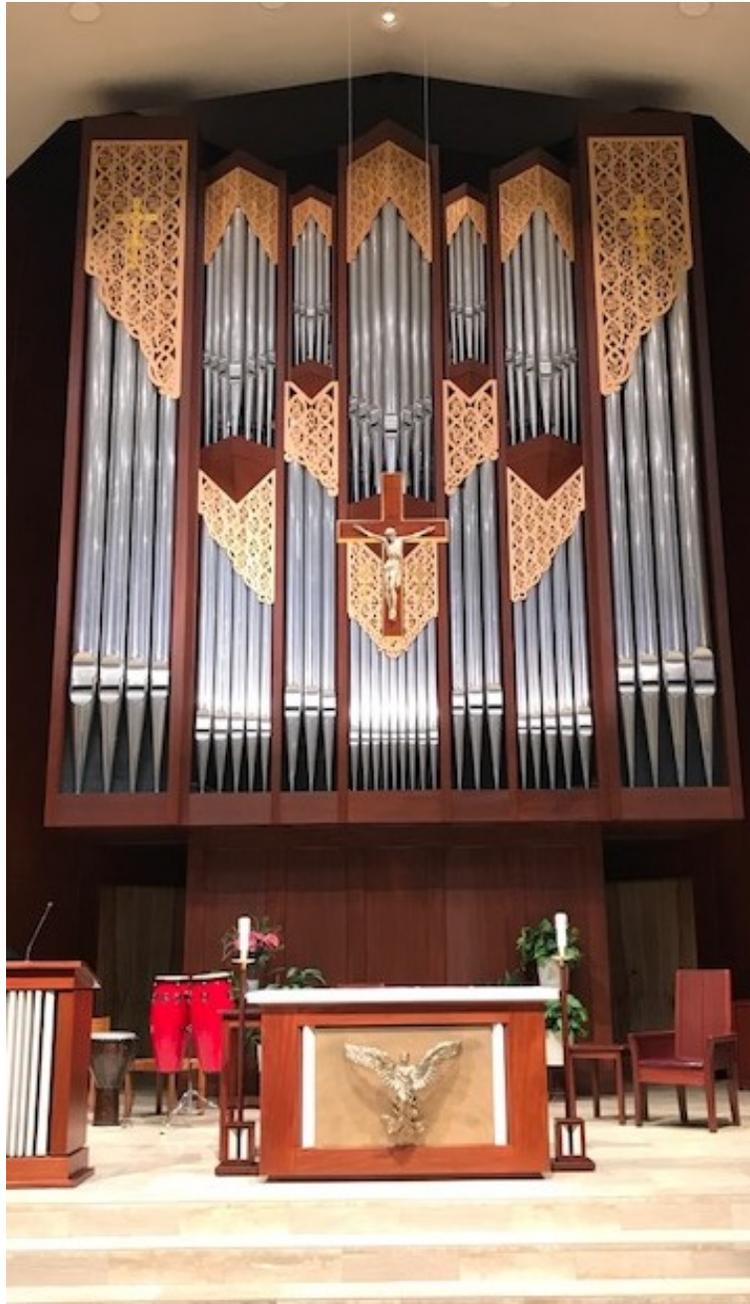
sforzando

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2017



Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



The 67-rank Lively-Fulcher organ at St Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis was built in 2001 and featured during the 2017 Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Conference July 10 - 13. Photo by Gail Gassaway.

Dean's Message

-- by Vernon Williams



Greetings! As we set out on another season of music making and fellowship, I hope all of you were able to find time over the summer to rest, regroup, and otherwise renew your energies for the months ahead. Over the years I have noticed that in June I am eager for a break from the regular routine made busy by choir rehearsals and services, but by late August I am just as eager to get started again and feel a sense of anticipation for the flurry of activity and events that every new season brings.

I wonder if you have experienced the same phenomenon of the healing effect that a change of pace has on your work and overall attitude? The older I get, the more I recognize the importance of renewal and "refilling the well" regularly throughout the season, and not just in the summer. For example, an organist I know takes a daily walk to a nearby church, spends some time in reflection and prayer, and walks back observing

Sub-Dean's Report -- by David Rhody



Welcome back for an exciting year of programs planned for your enlightenment and enjoyment!

We are beginning with a special Start-up workshop on Saturday, September 9 at Trinity United Methodist Church, Merchantville – Helen Carrell hosting. Our guest for two sessions will be noted organ and choral composer ROBERT HOBBY who will

conduct both a choral reading session of his compositions (we will be the choir!) and, after a short break, a demonstration of his numerous and wonderful organ compositions. Hopefully there will be scores for purchase as well.

The workshop will be from 10:00 am to noon, preceded by coffee and pastries and followed by a sandwich lunch – all at no

extra cost. An email to Cathy O'Neill would help her plan for the food (cmo125@aol.com). Don't miss this great opportunity!



"We are beginning
...on Saturday,
September 9...
Our guest for two
sessions will be noted
organ and choral
composer
ROBERT HOBBY."



Matters of Note



Cares and Concerns: It has been a busy summer for this area. A card was sent to Bill Mitchell after learning that he had a heart attack. He is recovering at home.

A card was also sent to Bob Parkhurst who was suffering with a stomach ulcer and has surgery September 1. Due to some issues with his inner ear, Anthony Falatico has not renewed his membership with the chapter, however Dean has, and they hope to at least attend the social events we have during the year. Their new address and home phone number are:

27 Village of Stoney Run, Apt C
Maple Shade NJ 08052-2127
856-372-2506

Please feel free to keep in touch with these folks who gave me permission to publish their new information.

Rob Hobgood arrived safely to his new home in Kansas. His new address is:

1115 W 29th Terrace
Lawrence KS 66046

His cellphone and email address are the same as when he was here.

Charlene Cranmer has officially moved to FL and loves it even when the temperature is 107. She was back here a few weeks ago and Gail and I had lunch with her. She is enjoying being retired.

Charlene sent a quick note to David: "Thank you so much for the AGO pin! Please tell everyone in the Chapter that I said "thanks" for remembering me with the pin! All my best to you and the other officers of the SWJAGO! Please keep in touch and I will do likewise!"

Hospitality:

We are looking forward to our Sept 9th workshop meeting with Robert Hobby at Helen Carrell's church, Trinity United Methodist in Merchantville. We will start at 9:30 with donuts and coffee. After the workshop we will have lunch, the hoagies that everyone enjoys.

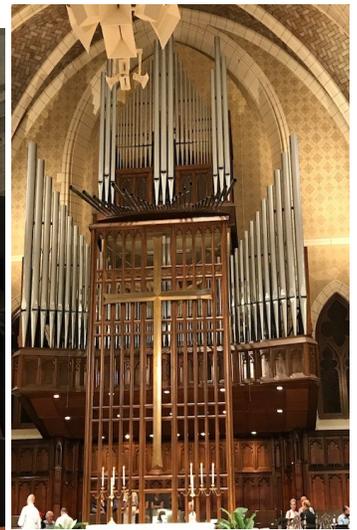
Bring your unwanted music scores - there will be a music exchange table set up for this purpose.

I found out that Robert enjoys M&M's so there will be a few bowls of those at the table. I am asking folks to bring salads, fruit, veggies, drinks, chips, deviled eggs, and desserts. For the bakers M&M's in cookies or brownies should make Robert feel right at home. Please let me know what you are bringing. Please contact me either by email cmo125@aol.com or my cellphone 210-260-8303 (my house phone is not working which I am hoping to correct in the near future).

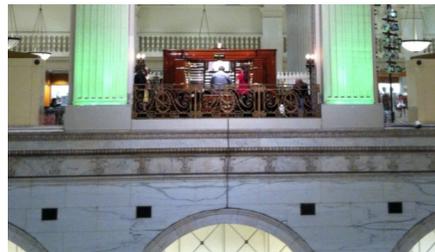
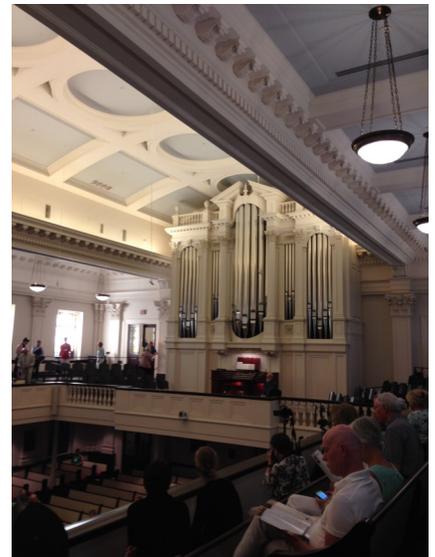
Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Cathy

Gallery: Summer Enrichment



Clockwise, from left: Wanamaker Organ Day crowd on June 3; SWJAGO Annual Meeting and picnic held July 16 at the Rodgers Arms; Susan and David Cherwien with Robert Hobby at ALCM workshop in St. John's Abbey, Minneapolis, MN; the organ at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, the organ at St. James Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA; SEJAGO delegates at the 2017 Mid-Atlantic regional AGO convention in Richmond; the Wanamaker organ console; attendees at POE in Winchester VA (Robert Gardner on the left); Rob Hobgood, Evelyn Larter, Vernon Williams and Dennis Cook at our 2019 Mid-Atlantic Convention booth in Richmond. Photos by Joe Routon, Gail Gassaway and Marilyn Rabbai.

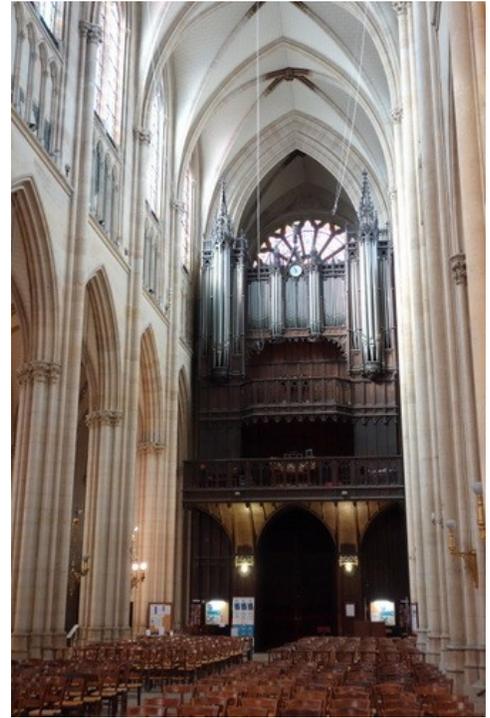


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Gallery.....continued from page 3: More Summer Enrichment



Far left, opening program at River Road Baptist Church, Richmond Regional Convention; left, Renee Anne Louprette's recital at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Richmond; below, Vernon Williams' photo of St. Clothilde, Paris. More photos on page 8.....



Matters of Notecontinued from page 2

Friday, October 27, 2017 at 6 pm: "Tunes from the Crypt: Spooky Organ Music for Halloween" with Joanne K. Owen, Organ. Works by Bach, Boellmann, Mulet, Bedell. St. John's Episcopal Church, 76 Market Street, Salem NJ. Admission is Free. Sponsored by "Music Around the County/Salem County Arts Alliance" prior to Salem City's "Ghost Tour." For further information call Joanne Owen at 856-769-3212.

Congratulations to Irina Nenartovich! She shares the good news that her piano music is published in UK. This is the link to her works: <https://www.elenacobb.com/product-category/irina-nenartovich/>

Congratulations to Joseph Routon! His photos have recently been published in Diapason magazine. Three of his large photos of the Princeton Chapel appeared in the program book for the April 21 AGO Gala honoring Joan Lippincott (on the front and back covers and one within). See more at this link: <https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-Gala-Web.pdf>

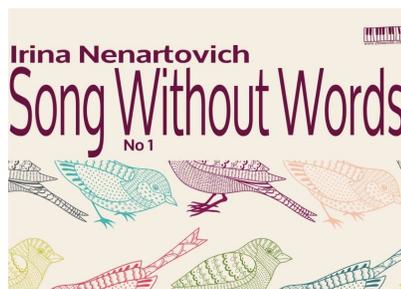


Photo of Haddonfield Methodist by Joe Routon

Winchester POE Report -- by Robert Gardner

Editor's Note: This past July 23 - 27 our chapter helped to sponsor an attendee at the Pipe Organ Encounters in Winchester, VA. Robert Gardner is a rising 9th grade student from Bob Gladden's church (St. Rose of Lima, Haddon Heights) and has studied piano for four years. He recently received high honors at the NJMTA piano recital held at Rowan University.

My experience at Winchester POE was my first encounter with a pipe organ. When I arrived at my dormitory, at the Shenandoah University, the school where we stayed, I had no idea what to expect. The only experience I had was piano lessons, and I had never touched the keys of a real pipe organ before. Upon seeing the pipe organs, I marvelled at their size and sound. It was amazing to sit at the console and control such a huge, powerful instrument. In the mornings, we each had organ lessons, which prepared us for the final concert. Every night, there was a performance, including a jazz concert and a

faculty recital. On Wednesday, we went to Taylor & Boody Pipe organ builders and got to see how the organs are made. We even got to watch the builders lay out liquid metal for the pipes themselves. Now that I've had this experience, I think that I will continue to play the organ for a long time. Right now, I'm currently looking into lessons at churches near me, and hope to attend another POE. That experience shaped me as a musician, and I think it will lead to more organ playing in my future. Thank you for making this possible, it was really great!

Robert Gardner



Convention Corner -- by Evelyn Larter, CAGO

Although our joint Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention with the SouthEast Jersey Chapter is almost two years away, a great deal of planning has already taken place. We have put together an excellent Steering Committee as follows:

Chair	Evelyn Larter
SEJ Representative	Steven Ball
Program Committee SWJ	Joyce Ann Routon
Co-chair	Joe Routon
Program Committee SEJ	Dennis Cook
Finance/Treasurer	Gail Gassaway
Secretary/Hospitality	Cathy O'Neill
Registration/Website	Max Esmus
Hotel	Vernon Williams
Gifts and Grants	Marilyn Rabbai
Transportation	Dan Nelson
Exhibits	Chuck Gibson
Publicity	David Rhody
AGO/Quimby Competition	Larry DePasquale
Regional Councillor	Glenn Rodgers

A couple of positions still need to be filled but the work is progressing well. Our Program Committee chairs have some very creative and exciting ideas for performers and workshops which we must submit with accompanying budget to the National Committee on Conventions by October 1st this year. Then we wait for approval before taking next steps.

The Next Chapter -- by Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO



Our two most recent former deans, Charlene Cranmer and Rob Hobgood, have both moved over the summer. They have exciting opportunities ahead of them. We will miss them and remember their many contributions with gratitude. Here are their stories.

Thank you...

.....from all of us!

Charlene Cranmer's first piano teacher was Warren Norden, who encouraged her to take some lessons on the organ because it was a way to earn money while attending school. Warren was also her first organ teacher, and she began lessons with him as a junior in high school in Feasterville, PA. Charlene began to study organ seriously in her sophomore year in college. She was attending Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, where she was privileged to hear Robert Elmore play every Sunday! This inspired her to switch her major from piano to organ, studying with Joel Krott at Philadelphia College of the Bible (now Cairn University) from 1971-72. She was a member of the Philadelphia chapter of the AGO as a college student. At University of the Arts (which was then Philadelphia Musical Academy) she studied organ with Robert Plimpton, and his recitals were among her favorite experiences there. She received a Bachelor of Music in Organ in 1975. In 1984 she earned a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Temple University, where she had the thrill of singing the Beethoven 9th Symphony under the baton of Maestro Carlo Maria Giulini. In 1996, Charlene began a 21-year career teaching music in Bridgeton Public Schools, from which she retired this past June. Many years before she lived in New Jersey, she attended the International Congress of Organists, which was held in Philadelphia in 1977. Charlene

remembers it as an incredibly inspiring experience. Peter Hurford was one of the presenters and she had a very long conversation with him, which she describes in this way: "It was very memorable as he had a fantastic British sense of humor!" She first became involved in our chapter in the 1990's, when Norm and Ethel Geist were co-deans. Her favorite chapter activities included two organ crawls; one to Delaware and one to the Germantown area in Philadelphia. She participated actively in our chapter, serving as secretary, sub-dean (twice) and dean until 2014. She represented our chapter at two regional conventions. One was in the Norfolk, Virginia area and the other was in Washington, D.C.

Her favorite composer for organ is J. S. Bach, followed by Buxtehude. For church services, she likes to play repertoire that is appropriate for the liturgical year. Charlene believes this is why she really loves playing in liturgical church services. She has served several churches in our area over the years: St. Peter's Episcopal in Clarksboro, NJ; St. Stephen's Episcopal in Beverly, NJ; the Main Post Chapel at Ft. Dix, NJ; Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill, NJ; Lansdale Presbyterian Church in Lansdale, PA; and Great Swamp United Church of Christ in Quakertown, PA.

Now that Charlene and her husband, Stephen, have moved to sunny Florida, her future plans include transferring her AGO membership to the Central Florida Chapter and actively supporting chapter events. She has this to say to the members of our chapter: "I'd like to thank all the mem-

bers of the SWJAGO for their friendship and support over the past 15 years (or thereabouts!) My cell phone is the same: 609-458-2993. My email is the same: ccranmer@comcast.net. My FB page is the same: Charlene T. Cranmer. I have really loved being a part of the SWJAGO chapter and I am hoping to attend the Regional Convention in 2019."

Blessings, Charlene!



The first time Rob Hobgood heard an organ playing, he was attending pre-school in a Presbyterian church which periodically held chapel services. He remembers hearing "Ode to Joy" being played, and being inspired by the unique sound of the organ, knowing he wanted to play it himself some day. Although the church he attended growing up did not have an organ, he never forgot that first impression. As a 5-year-old, he took group piano lessons from a teacher who excelled in theory. Rob took a few organ lessons in 9th grade, but throughout high school focused his energies on gaining his highest level of proficiency on the piano, as he had often been advised to do. Rob was not a member of a formal sports team in high school, but enjoyed being on the swim team in the summer, and playing disc golf through high school and college. Overhearing his mother

.....continued on next page

The Next Chaptercontinued from page 7

recently tell someone "...I told Rob - either pick a sport or an instrument," he was surprised to learn that there had been an option!

Rob's serious study of the organ began as a freshman at Covenant College in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His organ professor was also a church musician. As his only student, Rob was able to observe, from close range, someone who was doing what he wanted to do, shaping a sacred music program, working with volunteers and employing lots of creative ideas. Rob first joined his local chapter of AGO as an undergrad, encouraged by his teacher. He also began playing for a church in Chattanooga while still a student. One of his most important college experiences was playing the organ for graduation ceremonies only 3 years after beginning his studies on the instrument. He knew from Covenant that he wanted to pursue an advanced degree in sacred music, because it combined a higher calling and working with people. In this program, he realized you could affect people with more than grades; with a reason beyond the academic. Rob sang in choirs throughout college and, during this time, developed his love for working with them. He went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Sacred

Music from Westminster Choir College. When asked to name his mountaintop experiences at Westminster, he cites "...singing Mahler 2nd with the San Francisco Symphony in the Kimmel Center, and anything and everything at Princeton Chapel!"

The transition from Covenant (very conservative) to Westminster (not conservative) was interesting. From Matthew Lewis, his organ teacher at Westminster Choir College, who was also on the faculty of the pre-college division at Juilliard, he learned that you could shape your career the way you wanted. Rob did an internship at 10th Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia while attending Westminster. This experience helped shape his vision for a great church music program with choral offerings for adults, graded programs for children, mens and womens ensembles, and performances of large choral works with orchestra.

While researching Masters programs in sacred music, Rob had also applied at Kansas University and remembered being impressed with the excellent faculty and facilities (their main recital hall was built around the organ.) He leaves our area with a Masters from Westminster, experience as an organist, choir director, conductor, teacher and AGO dean to pursue his doctorate in Sacred Music at Kansas

University in Lawrence. One of the main reasons he is going back to school is to resume practicing organ repertoire and to learn how to balance that study with organizational and administrative tasks. He will be studying with Dr. Michael Bauer, professor of organ and church music.

Rob loves early music and the improvisatory, ornamental style of French Baroque repertoire. For worship services, he likes to play hymn arrangements on piano and organ because they speak to so many of the people in his congregation, and he also adds classical pieces into the mix.

Five years from now, Rob sees himself teaching on the university level. He loves church music, and working with volunteers. In the meantime, a committee of 6 people will take over Rob's duties and make Sunday happen at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill.

Even though Rob is moving over a thousand miles from here, he will be following the news from our region closely, particularly because we are hosting the 2019 regional conference, and because he believes that Westminster Choir College needs to stay in their current space. He says that working with the SouthWest Jersey chapter has been rewarding because of the opportunities, the welcoming, collegial atmosphere and our teamwork spirit.

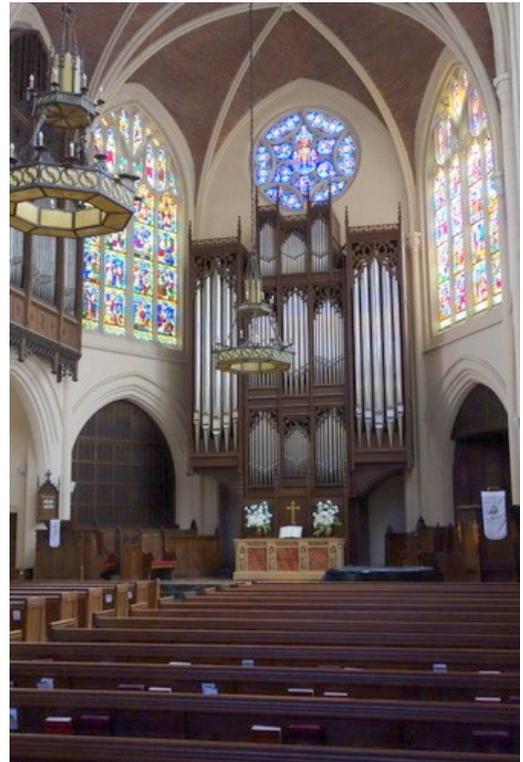
Best Wishes, Rob!



Rob sent these pictures of the 1996 Hellmuth Wolff 3 manual tracker in the recital hall at Kansas University in Lawrence. It is the main recital instrument on campus.

An American in Paris

Clockwise from below: the rose window and organist plaques at St. Clothilde; the organ and the console at the American Church in Paris. Photos by Vernon Williams



From the Registrar -- by Gail Gassaway

Summer is over and so is the time to complete an on time renewal. If your rollover date was July 1, August 31 was the last day to have your renewal considered on time. Renewals after that date will result in a new renewal month. Be sure to check your TAO address label for your current month of renewal. (If you renewed late in the

past, you have been assigned a different renewal month.) The new directory will be in the works shortly. Those whose dues are current will have their names included. Late renewals will be announced in the SFZ. Special thanks to all who have made a donation to support our programs.





PAUL JACOBS

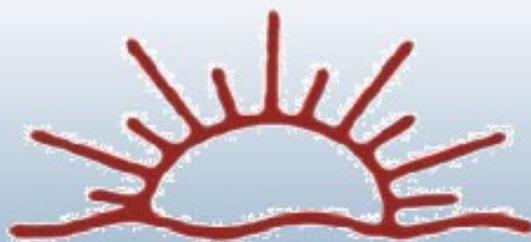
Sunday, 5 November 2017

7 PM

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield NJ

A freewill offering will be taken at the concert.



Mid-Atlantic Region AGO
South Jersey
July 2019



Come explore a part of New Jersey you never knew existed!

Moorestown

Haddonfield

Atlantic City

Photo: Joseph Routon

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.

Position available: Grace Episcopal Church, Merchantville - O/D, 2 man. Rogers w pipes from earlier instrument, small adult choir, small children's choir, flexible rehearsal times, 10:00 service. Contact Fr. Jeff Kirk at JM125Kirk@gmail.com (9/17)

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

Patricia Brady-Danzig 973-761-0041 (South Orange) pbradydan@erols.com - organ/piano, cantor, choir director

John Dow 856-327-1739 (Millville) jedowfam@aol.com

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

Nancy McLoud 856-667-6127 (Maple Shade) nairmc@verizon.net

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

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

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

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

Patricia M. Fronczek, 856-397-2773 (Blackwood) theloveofsong@comcast.net

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

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



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Ruth O. Fink, AAGO, ChM

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Rae Ann Anderson

John Breslin

Helen Carrell

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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

Thank you, Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers

Our next issue will be October, 2017.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be
Monday, September 25.

S F O R Z A N D O



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EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Marilyn Rabbai, mwrabbai@verizon.net

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER: Joe Routon

REFERRAL & POSITIONS AVAILABLE COORDINATOR: Peter Homon, lapajar@yahoo.com, 856-665-0149

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COORDINATOR: David Rhody, drhody1@comcast.net; (856)795-6735

CHAPTER OFFICERS

DEAN: Rob Hobgood, rbhobgood@gmail.com

SUB-DEAN: David Rhody, drhody1@comcast.net; (856)795-6735

TREASURER/REGISTRAR: Gail Gassaway, cloaked17@verizon.net

SECRETARY: Cathy O'Neill, cmo125@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.agohq.org/chapters/southwestjersey

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the sights of the neighborhood. One of my resolutions for this season is to figure out ways to add such moments into my daily, or perhaps weekly life. I'll let you know how it goes!

For in fact, what we do as organists is to provide others with just such moments of renewal and inspiration. Whether it is at a church service or a concert, our listeners and singers are there for their own change of pace from hectic lives full of various joys and pains. What a privilege it is to be in a position to bring beauty and inspiration into people's lives! That is what makes our work a ministry and what can motivate us every fall to do our best and to continue to grow and improve.

To that end, our amazing chapter Program Committee has come up with another season of events that will teach and inspire all of us. Our first event is on Saturday, September 9, with a workshop on organ and choral literature by well-known composer Robert Hobby to be held at Trinity Methodist in Merchantville. Please see David Rhody's column for details. Also toward the end of teaching and inspiring, our convention Program Committee, led by Joyce Ann and Joe Routon and Convention Chair Evelyn Larter, is doing outstanding work in putting together the 2019 Regional Convention to be held right here in South Jersey. This convention has for years been the vision of our Regional Councillor and former Dean, Glenn Rodgers. Please see Evelyn's report for more information. We are about to begin an extraordinary season in the life of our chapter. I hope you will take advantage of our monthly events, and please do volunteer to help with the convention. I look forward to seeing you on September 9 in Merchantville!

