



The Windchest

Newsletter of the Delaware Chapter,
American Guild of Organists

June 2020

Letter from our Dean

I wish I could describe a lovely banquet and an inspiring address to end our 2019-2020 season. However, we all know how our plans had to change. Before the cancellation of our season-ending banquet, we were forced to postpone what would surely have been a wonderful program on "How to Sing for Life" in March. A program committee under the leadership of David Schelat is working to reschedule both programs when it is safe to do so next season.

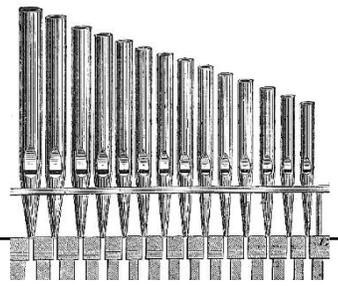
We found a way to continue our informal brunch series by meeting over Zoom. The first virtual brunch was so successful that we held a second one. It was a great joy to reconnect with former members Lee Dettra, Chad Fothergill, and Neil Harmon during these get-togethers. It seems likely that typical travel will be significantly curtailed this summer, so we plan to have another virtual brunch on Saturday, July 11 at 10:30 a.m. I hope you will join us.

Leaders at the national level have faced many challenges, including the wrenching decision to cancel the convention planned for Atlanta in July. The energetic Director of Member Engagement & Chapter Development, Elizabeth George, asked chapter leaders to phone members to check in during the pandemic, and I thank the members of your board for helping with this task. We appreciate the information we gained about local challenges, such as providing some form of virtual worship service and even dealing with replacing key staff when in-person gathering is not possible.

At the beginning of July, Twyla Evitts, treasurer, and Linnea Raffaele, secretary will leave the board. I want to thank them for many years of faithful service to our chapter. They will be replaced by Mike Bareham as treasurer and Don McFarland as secretary, and we welcome them to the board.

For a large number of our members July 1 is membership renewal date. I am pleased that many of you have already renewed your membership and I hope others with that date will renew as soon as possible. We are committed to the ongoing health of our chapter and we need your participation.

Summer of 2020 will be different, but I hope you are able to find enjoyment in the increasingly tiresome phrase "new normal." — *Bill Robinson*



Delaware AGO Chapter Officers

Bill Robinson, dean

David Schelat, subdean

Linnea Raffaele, secretary

Twyla Evitts, treasurer/registrar

Members-at-large

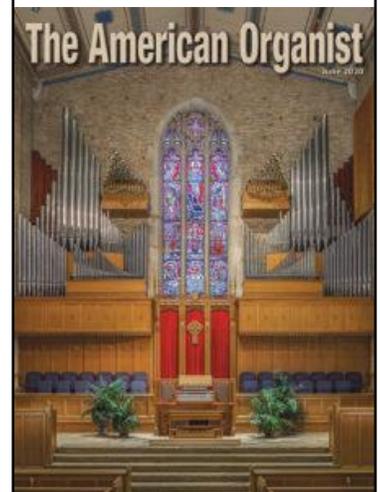
Melissa Heieie

Joanne Hench

Steven Patchel, *newsletter*

Jane van Valkenburg

Remember to
renew your
membership
online at
agohq.org/oncard-login/



From our Sub-dean

A hard-working AGO program committee of Barbara Bayers, Gabriel Benton, Kathy Harris, Steven Patchel, Jane Van Valkenberg, and David Schelat has devised a full and interesting program year for us. Because of the challenges posed by the present pandemic, some of the dates, times, and details have been difficult to pin down, so here is a summary of what is planned for the year:

We will begin our season on September 19 at 6:00 p.m. with our traditional potluck dinner, members mini-recital, and a visit from the dynamic Elizabeth George, the new AGO Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development. She will energize you or exhaust you, but you'll be changed!

On the morning of October 24, we will visit Old Swede's Church for a tour of the Hendrickson House, church, and burial grounds. Terry Gaus-Woollen will show us the Austin organ, which was built as a demonstration instrument for an AGO convention!

November 14 will find us munching together at Buckley's Tavern at an AGO lunch and social time together.

January is a full month with both a festive Twelfth Night Party on the 10th and informative January Jump Start on January 16.

By February 6 we are sure once again to be hungry, so we will meet at Blue Crab Grill in Newark for lunch and more fun with our AGO buddies!

On March 13, fingers crossed, we will host Suzanne DuPlantis talking about "How to Sing for Life." This is an event for AGO members and their choir members to attend, and was rescheduled from March 2020. Talk it up with your singers!

On April 17 or 24 TBD, we will tour the house, grounds, and organ at Stoneleigh, the home of the Organ Historical Society in Villanova, Pennsylvania. The facility and grounds are impressive, as are the activities of OHS, and we will see and play the impeccably-restored Aeolian organ in the house.

On June 6 at 6:00 p.m. we'll hold our closing event, rescheduled from Spring 2020. A catered banquet will be followed with a talk by the Rev. Victoria Sirota, "Too Deep for Words: Working Together in God's Holy House." This is an event for AGO members and the clergy with whom they work. So invite your clergyperson to this event today! — David Schelat

2020-21 DELAWARE AGO Event Dates

SEPTEMBER 19

Potluck dinner

OCTOBER 24

Old Swede's Church

NOVEMBER 14

Brunch at Buckley's

JANUARY 10

Twelfth Night Party

JANUARY 16

January Jumpstart

FEBRUARY 6

Brunch at Blue Crab Grill

MARCH 13

How to Sing for Life

APRIL TBD

OHS/Stoneleigh visit

JUNE 6

Annual Banquet



From our recent Zoom Brunch in May

Check email for a link to the **USED MUSIC SALE** Over 1900 titles!
from the Southern California AGO Chapters
www.organstop.com George L. Butterfield, Manager

Position Available

Music Director (part-time, 20 hours/week)

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, a congregation of 350 members, is accepting applications for its part-time Music Director position. The position includes playing music and directing the choir for Sunday morning services; directing and accompanying evening choir rehearsals, including our “virtual choir” during this pandemic time; playing weddings and memorials; planning worship with clergy; and overseeing the music program.

Organ is a Rieger Orgelbau tracker organ installed in 1976-1977. Responsibilities listed on [Delawareago.org](https://www.delawareago.org)

Compensation: \$26/hour + part-time benefits (including professional development leave; sick leave; vacation; pro-rated medical; employee-paid dental and life insurance; and participation in our retirement savings plan).

Application: Please submit a cover letter, resumé, and video recordings (additional mp3s are optional) demonstrating organ and piano competence and choral conducting skills to MusicDirectorSearchTeam@firstuwillm.org. No phone calls or applications by mail. Applications accepted until the position is filled.

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware is a Welcoming Congregation (<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming>) and an equal opportunity employer. People with disabilities, people of color, Hispanic/Latinx, LGBTQ, and immigrant candidates are encouraged to apply.

A Loss in our AGO Community

We received this news in early June from Rev. Pamela Wat of First Unitarian Church. Scott Ward had a hard fall at home that resulted in a traumatic injury from which he did not survive. Plans for a memorial service are to be determined. First Unitarian Church of Wilmington is deeply saddened by this loss. Scott's warmth, generosity, compassion, and musicianship drew many people into our church during his 27 years of ministry here.

SUBSTITUTE LIST

KEY: (S) Sunday, (C) choir, (HB) Handbells, (SS) Special Services, (W) Weddings, (F) Funerals

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