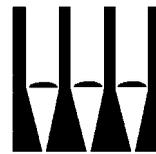


# CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

JUNE 2014

## Deanery by Kari Miller

As I sit down to write my first 'deanery' I can't help but shake my head in amazement at the path that has led me here. For unlike so many of you, I did not swoon in ecstasy when I heard my first *voix céleste*; I did not creep up the choir loft steps week after week to watch in wide-eyed fascination as the organist pushed pistons and rattled off flashy hymn improvisations. No, I burst into tears after my first organ lesson.

I was a talented but undisciplined 11-year-old piano student and my parents thought it might be 'nice' for me to have a few organ lessons. But when I was given an introductory taste of the exercises in John Stainer's classic, *The Organ*, and then informed that I was expected to take a 45-minute dose thereof at every practice session, I balked, and if my mother hadn't whispered to me that I probably didn't really have to do it, my organ career may have ended right then and there.

Well, I decided to give the organ a try, and soon found out that it was a lot of fun. I also found out that my teacher, otherwise not a severe woman, was indeed totally serious about those exercises. I learned that the only possible way to end

the torment of any particular exercise was simply to play it perfectly, to her total satisfaction. Several times in a row. No escape. I would know I was in for an especially grueling session when I heard the words, "Now we'll have to go over that with a fine-toothed comb." Oh boy! It seemed so boring and pointless to me then, downright tortuous, yet how many times, in the years since, have I thanked her for giving me that solid foundation! Because of her perseverance, I always felt at home at the console even though there were long periods in my life when I didn't play the organ at all. Happily, it wasn't all dry bones; I was also introduced to many of the great organ works of Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Franck and more.

Looking back, I find it quite extraordinary that in the small British Columbia village where we lived at the time there was any organ teacher at all, let alone such a fine one. Was it just a lucky quirk of fate? Synchronicity? Divine providence? I don't know. But the seed planted way back then finally emerged about ten years ago, grew and found its place in the sun, with the surprising result that after having spent most of my adult musical

life practicing the piano, I now find myself Dean of an AGO chapter. I guess that's just the way life is, full of things weird and wonderful.

### September Issue Deadline

Chattervox is closed for the summer. Due to vacation schedules, all content for the next issue of Chattervox must reach the editors by **August 10**, no exceptions! Why not submit your articles and events before you go on your own vacation?

Have a happy and restful summer!

### In This Issue

How to Renew Your Membership .....	2
Jolidan Fund Update .....	3
Treasurer's Corner .....	3
Annual Meeting Review & Photos.....	4-5
Schweitzer Competition Update.....	5
Richard Coffey Commendation .....	6
2014-2015 Programs .....	8



## Chapter Board

Dean  
**Kari Miller**  
860-379-5612

Sub-Dean  
**Peter Niedmann**  
860-416-0474

Secretary  
**Amy Vinisko**

Treasurer  
**John Coghill**  
860-285-8208

Registrar  
**Mark Child**  
860-688-7032

Members-at-Large  
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**Ronald Coons** (2016)  
860-561-8806  
**Mary DeLibero** (2017)

Professional Concerns  
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Job Listing Service  
**Kari Miller**  
860-379-5612

Substitutes  
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## Membership Dues are Due June 30th!

It's time to mail that check! This year the procedure is different. Go to <http://www.hartfordago.org/> and follow the directions below.

**1. Verify/Update your membership information:** Click "Members Area" followed by "Edit Member Profile." You will be prompted to enter the member password which has been previously released. You are then prompted to enter your last name and your national ID number which can be found on the mailing label of *The American Organist* magazine. Since we do not have the national ID number for all, especially new, members we will be emailing a generated ID number to some of you. You will then be presented with a screen containing all of your current membership data. Verify that the information is correct or change any info that needs updating. You may, if you wish, enter a brief biography in the "Member Profile Text" box which may be printed in future Chattervox issues. When you are finished updating your profile, click on "Save My Data Now."

**2. Renew your membership:** Click on "Join Us" followed by "Registration Forms" and print out a copy of the form. Fill out the top half only. Return the form with a check to John Coghill at the address on the form. New members should include an email address. If you have trouble updating your membership information online, you may enter *new information only* on the bottom half of the registration form. Otherwise, leave this area blank.

If you have any questions or need help, contact the registrar, Mark Child at [markchildorg@gmail.com](mailto:markchildorg@gmail.com).

**CHATTERVOX** is published monthly, except during July & August, by the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It is circulated free of charge to all Chapter members as a benefit of AGO membership. The deadline for items to be included in CHATTERVOX is the 10th of the preceding month. All submissions should be in writing, accompanied by the author's name and phone number(s). Send copy to Edward Clark, CHATTERVOX Editor, 196 Terry Road, Hartford, CT 06105. E-mail: [EdwardClark@snet.net](mailto:EdwardClark@snet.net)

## The Jolidon Fund: Where We Are Now

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By Kari Miller

Everyone knows by now of the marvelous bequest that was made to our chapter by Marge Jolidon. The announcement at last year's Annual Meeting stunned the assembled crowd.

There were absolutely no stipulations in the will for how the money was to be used. No strings are attached. Clearly, we want to use it in a way that honors her memory.

Earlier this year, the "The Jolidon Fund Subcommittee" was formed. It is a subcommittee of the GHC-AGO Board of Directors. The terms of reference state that the subcommittee shall "solicit and consider all ideas and proposals that advance the mission of the AGO in the Connecticut area." With that goal in mind, one of the first tasks of the subcommittee will be to "create a written proposal procedure that fairly considers short term, long term and recurring ideas, projects and plans." Without presuming to speak for the subcommittee, we are confident that there will be nothing unusual or difficult about this procedure.

We know that you have been thinking, wishing, dreaming. At least we hope you have, for the time is coming, in the not-too-distant future, when you may advance your ideas to the Jolidon Fund Subcommittee for review and consideration. They will then make recommendations to the GHC-AGO Board. Remember, there will be a place for many types of ideas/proposals: Do you want to see Cameron Carpenter come to Hartford? Would you like to host a POE? Would you like to buy organ shoes for needy students? Or maybe the chapter could subsidize a tour of great European organs! A few free lessons for new chapter members? Perhaps a scholarship bearing Marge Jolidon's name? Or an educational program bringing the organ right into the schools? A weeklong festival of recitals by the world's greatest? A public organbuilding project? A silent movie competition? The list could go on and on. What do **you** think will unite and excite us as a chapter and get our collective juices flowing?

*Jolidon Subcommittee members are Jim Gower (chair), Jason Charneski, Deb Gemma, Sue Hertel, Joan Pritchard, Christa Rakich and Nancy Robbins, with John Coghill as Board liaison.*

## Treasurer's Corner

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By John Coghill

The GHC-AGO continues to be in a very sound place financially. The 5-year CD with TDBank is at \$14,674.93. The checking account balance changes daily; however, the balance is currently at \$6,154.10. Of course, of interest to all is the balance in The Jolidon Fund and it stands at the moment at \$891,478.75 as of May 21, 2014. The Fund has made approximately \$50,000 since we invested it.

The Jolidon Bequest Committee will meet again soon to draw up procedures for members to write proposals with specific information/time lines/project description/ money amount requested, etc. which will be submitted to the Committee for its perusal. Following their perusal, the Committee will then suggest to the GHC-AGO Board proposals they think are worthy of funding. The decision about which project(s) to fund

remains with the Board of the GHC-AGO. Please see Dean Kari Magg's article (above) for further information.

Regarding the renewal of your membership for 2014-2015 due by June 30, 2014, Mark Child, our Registrar, has instructed you how to access the registration form on the Chapter's website, which you should use for your renewal. His instructions are again found on Page 2. The form can be downloaded and then mailed as usual to me with the appropriate check amount. National AGO has gone to an online renewal process which we decided to opt out of for this first year of implementation to give time for that system's snags to be worked out. If you have trouble accessing the registration form, please contact Mark Child or me, but please do so in advance of June 30th.

# GHC-AGO: Many Parts Make for One Dynamic Organization

**A Review of the GHC-AGO Annual Meeting, Monday, May 19, 2014**

by Amy Vinisko

## **Part Old Friends and Colleagues – Part Networking and New Acquaintances**

Just as the GHC-AGO is comprised of many members, with differing interests and areas of expertise, our annual gathering consists of a healthy blend of long time members and new acquaintances. We are united in our mission of promoting great organ music and camaraderie with our fellow devotees. Conversations of the evening centered around possibilities and responsibilities of our various individual contributions to the mission, relaxed banter between old colleagues and new connections between those being introduced for the first time through the network that is the GHC-AGO.

## **Part Social Reunion – Part Business Agenda**

Gathering for the social hour, congenial conversation, sung grace and breaking bread all set the stage for the business of the evening.

## **Part Familiar – Part Future and Change**

Our recent turnover in the Deanery was a shock to many (Jason Roberts has taken a position at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City), but Kari Miller Magg has competently executed the transition. She ran the meeting with grace and order and during her initial Dean's Remarks, announced her intent to complete her full term as Dean (to rousing member applause!).

## **Part Service – Part Support**

The GHC-AGO Chapter is running strong. The Slate of Officers for 2014-2015 was unanimously approved by all: Kari Miller Magg, Dean; Peter Niedmann, Sub-Dean; John Coghill, Treasurer; Amy Vinisko, Secretary; Mark Child, Registrar; Members-at Large: Jerry Davidson (2015), Ronald Coons (2016) and Mary DeLibero (2017).

Dean Kari Miller Magg proceeded to thank several members for their various contributions to the organization. Sub-Dean Peter Niedmann announced the

2014-2015 Program Roster which includes a blend of workshops, concerts and events sure to appeal to nearly all. Treasurer John Coghill gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved. He commented on the recently formed Jolidon Committee which, in collaboration with the Board, is responsible for all matters concerning the generous Jolidon Bequest. Chapter member, Anne Harney, has taken on bookkeeping responsibilities to monitor this asset.

Region I Councillor, Cheryl Duerr spoke enthusiastically of our Chapter's position to truly move the mission of the AGO forward, whether it be through Chapter initiated programs or through underwriting events sponsored by our nearby Region I colleagues.

Joan Pritchard contributed a piece of new business. She presented "A Letter of Commendation" for Richard Coffey, retiring Artistic Director of CONCORA. The crowd eagerly approved the glowing letter written by Pritchard that will be sent on the GHC-AGO's behalf in appreciation for his long lasting contributions to Greater Hartford Area.

**Part Beautiful Location, Good Drink and Food** and well, it really was a beautiful setting at The Mill on the River in South Windsor and my food (and drink!), at least, was quite good. Here's to another successful Annual Meeting! A big thank you to all who made it possible and memorable.



Photos by Dale Eberhardt and Peter Niedmann



*Members attentive to the business of the Annual Meeting*



*Regional Councillor,  
Cheryl Duerr*



*Peter Niedmann  
announces chapter  
programs for 2014-15*



*John Coghill thanks Meg Smith whose term on the board has ended*

## Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Looks to a New Future

By David Spicer

Here is a news update on the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival, it hardly seems possible, but this September will mark the 17th Festival.

It seems that it is time to make this a separate entity from First Church of Christ in Wethersfield. Our feeling is that such a shift would enable the Festival to grow as a regional and even national musical outreach, perhaps even becoming an international event.

So many have given encouragement since our beginning in 1996. People like John Rose, the late Gerre Hancock, John Weaver, Paul Jacobs, Diane Belcher, Cherry Rhodes, and many others, have been most gracious in serving as adjudicators and have been very much my encouragers.

While the Festival could stay in Wethersfield as home base, the idea of finding a new site, or sites is gaining momentum. Many have interest in this aspect, and so we will consider that, as well.

Robert Bausmith has agreed to serve as Chairperson. I would remain the Artistic Director, and a Board of Directors would be formed. Bob and I are beginning the steps to form a non-profit corporation.

Your input would be greatly valued, so please feel free to share with us: Robert Bausmith at [bausmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bausmith@sbcglobal.net) or David at [davidspicer@snet.net](mailto:davidspicer@snet.net).

The vision remains the same: to encourage young organists. Soli Deo Gloria!

Shalom

*2013 ASOF winners:*

*Bryan Dunnewald,  
High School division*

*Alcée Chriss III,  
Young Professional  
Division*



## Letter of Commendation to Richard M. Coffey

On Monday, May 19th, 2014, The Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists voted to commend its longtime chapter member, Richard Coffey, for his unique and stellar achievement as founder and, for 40 years, the artistic director of Connecticut Choral Artists, known as CONCORA. CONCORA has developed into a nationally recognized professional choral ensemble under Rick's direction and has regularly garnered much acclaim in the Greater Hartford area and Connecticut for its rendering of sacred and secular choral music. Rick's accomplishment is of significance to the Greater Hartford Chapter in several ways.

-- Rick is a graduate of the School of Sacred Music, Union Theological Seminary and brought with him skills in playing the organ and conducting from the console. Unlike many choral conductors, he did not come out of a secular, academic setting with degrees in choral conducting but instead he entered the choral world through the perspective of sitting on an organ bench directing a church music program. During his entire tenure at CONCORA, Rick has maintained his position as organist and minister of music at South Church, New Britain and continues to do so even as he continues to direct the Hartford Chorale.

-- Rick established an annual performance of the music of J.S. Bach as part of CONCORA's performing

season and, for many years, included a solo organ piece as part of the program. The music of J.S. Bach is foundational to organists and his promotion of the music of Bach to a wider audience has helped to keep Bach and the organ a viable and valued part of the arts culture of Greater Hartford.

-- Rick's accomplishments have taken him to many places that he might not have gone if he had remained behind the console, including appearances as guest conductor of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra on their Masterworks series. Yet, his resume always touts his church music connections and his service to the American Guild of Organists. He represents us in his appearances and serves as a model of the sacred music profession to a wider audience. Rick's blend of sacred and secular music has found a comfortable home in a wider secular environment.

-- Rick has been very generous in sharing his knowledge, skills, contacts and time with AGO members and as part of AGO conventions and programs during his career here in the Hartford area.

For all of these reasons, the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists wishes to express its deep gratitude to Richard Coffey, to commend him on his many accomplishments and to wish him well following his retirement from CONCORA.

## A Response from Rick

*Dear Friends and Colleagues,*

*Thank you for the Letter of Commendation presented to me at the 2014 Annual Meeting in honor of my forty years of service to CONCORA, founded in 1974 as The South Church Choral Society in the South Church of New Britain. During these four decades, no partnership nor institution has stood as steadfastly by my hopes, goals, and vision as has the American Guild of Organists, including and especially the Hartford Chapter, of which I have been a member since 1972. At both the local, regional, and national levels the A.G.O. has presented CONCORA in concert and has offered me the opportunity to lead seminars, workshops, and master classes. The Letter of Commendation rightly notes that my strong affection and respect for sacred music in the setting of worship has been, and remains, of quintessential importance. My work for South Church and with the Hartford Chorale goes on, and I look forward to many opportunities to be in collaboration with the guild as exciting possibilities continue to present themselves to us. Best wishes, with deep gratitude,*



*Richard Coffey*

*May 24, 2014*

## June Calendar

### 1 Sun at 4:00 pm

**Spring Pops** with choirs, soloists and band. *Mamma Mia, Oklahoma*, Neidmann's *Five New England Songs*, patriotic medley and more. Peter Niedmann, music director. Free-will offering. Reception follows. Church of Christ, Congregational (UCC), 1075 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. 860-666-4689. Newingtonucc.org

### 8 Sun at 8:30 & 10:30 am

**A Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott** will be presented at the morning worship services for Pentecost. The choirs of Emanuel will be directed by Brett Judson with pianist Miki Sawada, drummer Ben Bilello and string bassist Alex Smith. All are invited. Emanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church St., Manchester. 860-643-1193

### 8 Sun at 7:00 pm

**Celebrate Life! A Pulpit Musical/Drama** featuring the Pilgrim Youth Choir, Alumni and the Carol Choir in an energetic musical drama by Courtney Ragan and Beryl Red that presents a brief tour of the life of Jesus. David Spicer, musical director and Newton R. Gilchrist, staging director and production manager. Free-will offering. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. 860-529-1575 x209. www.firstchurch.org

### 13 Fri at 7:30 pm

**Anonymous 4** presents "1865," a program of songs of the Civil War era. Anonymous 4 is America's foremost *a cappella* quartet. They will be joined by Bruce Molsky (voice, fiddle, banjo, guitar). \$12 gen., \$10 st/sr. Music @ First, First Church of Christ, 689 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070. Call church office at 860-651-3593 for tickets or purchase at the door.

### 14 Sat at 4:00 pm

**Organ Concert by Bill Degan and Chris Davenport** on the historic rebuilt 1827 Appleton pipe organ at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam. Bill Degan is the music director at Bristol Baptist Church. Chris Davenport is a senior at Farmington High School and is a student of Ezequiel Menendez. The Middle Haddam Public Library, which is sponsoring the concert, will host a reception afterwards. The church is located in East Hampton on R. 151, a third of a mile south of Rt. 66.

### 14 Sat at 7:30 pm

**Cappella Cantorum Men's Chorus**, directed by Barry Asch, will present a concert of spirituals, gospel, sea chanteys, classical and Broadway selections at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 41 Park St., Manchester, CT. Part of the Richard J. McElraevy Memorial Concert Series. Free. Visit [www.stmarysct.org](http://www.stmarysct.org) or phone 860-649-4583 for more info.

## Job Listing Service

For up-to-date information on available jobs or to list a job opening, contact Kari Miller Magg at 860-379-5612 or [kari.magg@snet.net](mailto:kari.magg@snet.net). Do NOT send job listings directly to Chattervox as they will not be posted.

### Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford

Director of Music

26-28 hours per week. 1 Sunday service.

1 adult, 1 children's choir, oversee bell choir.

2-manual Schlicker (1972), Foley-Baker modifications (1989). Salary range: \$25,000-\$29,000.

Contact: [musicdirectorsearch@westpresby.org](mailto:musicdirectorsearch@westpresby.org)

June 22 deadline.

### Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford

#### Two positions:

#### Associate Organist

12 hours per week. 1 Sunday service. 1 adult choir.

3-manual Austin organ.

Salary range: \$12,000-\$16,000 and free housing in the Cathedral apartment.

Contact: Joshua Slater, Interim Music Director, 860-527-7231, [jmailto:joshua.slater@cccathedral.org](mailto:jmailto:joshua.slater@cccathedral.org)

#### Long-term Substitute

for position listed above: starting Sunday March 9 until permanent organist is found. \$200 per week.

### United Congregational Church of Tolland

#### Minister of Music - Organist/Choir Director

(position could be split)

15 hours per week. 2 Sunday services, 1 in summer.

1 adult choir. 3-manual Austin organ.

Salary range: \$20,000-\$25,000.

Contact: Music Committee Chairperson, [k\\_nivison@aol.com](mailto:k_nivison@aol.com)

### Holy Trinity Episcopal, Southbridge, MA

#### Organist/Music Director

10 hours per week. 1 Sunday service.

Christmas and Easter choir.

2-manual William Laws pipe organ.

Salary range: \$8,000-\$10,000.

Contact: 508-765-9559, [holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitysouthbridge@gmail.com), attention Dorothy Frisch

*Any additional job openings that come to our attention during the summer will be posted on the chapter's website.*

# Greater Hartford Chapter AGO 2014-2015 Programs

**Mark these dates on your calendar now!**

**Saturday, September 27, 2014, 9:30 am - 1 pm**

Anthem Reading Session  
First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury  
2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

**Friday, October 24, 2014, 7 pm**

PIPESCREAMS!  
Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington  
1075 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

**Friday, December 5, 2014, 7 pm**

Organ Recital: Simon Thomas Jacobs, winner of 2013  
St. Alban's Competition  
Co-sponsored by Center Church, Hartford  
675 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

**Monday, January 19, 2015 (tentative date)**

Trip to NY city  
Details TBA

**Monday, February 16, 2015, 9:30 am - 2 pm**

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: a program for young people  
First Church of Christ, Wethersfield  
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

**Saturday, March 21, 2015, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

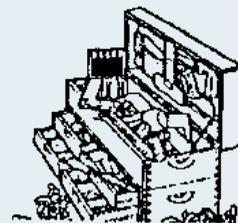
"Bach in Somers" with Christa Rakich  
Somers Congregational Church  
599 Main Street, Somers, CT 06071

**Monday, May 18, 2015, 6:30 pm**

Annual Meeting and Dinner  
Location TBA

## The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



### FEELIN' GOOD

Organs (pianos too) feel good in the summer. All that humidity brings the wood fibers to life and the overall swelling seals all the leaks and brings much of the instrument back to its original size. That's right---original size. The equipment actually swells up. Cracks close in wood pipes, making them sound better, benches stop squeaking, tremolos are stronger and, perhaps best of all, the chamber temperatures come together and we get to hear all the divisions at the same pitch. Often the tuning even tightens up. Sadly, this is the very time when we put the least demands upon the instrument. All that starts in the fall...just as the humidity starts to go south again. Hmmm, me thinks we all need to play organs in Florida?

Have a great summer. 'Back in the Fall.



*Reception after the May 11 recital by Justin Murphy-Mancini (third from the left), winner of the 2013 Hartford Chapter AGO/Quimby regional competition for Young Organists.*