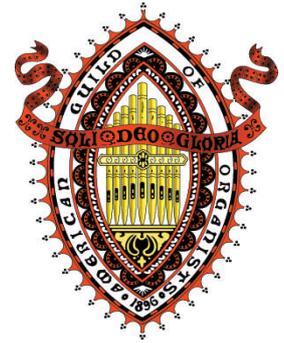


Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



JUNE 2011

DEAN'S MESSAGE

In the newsletter of the Broome County Council of Churches, Joseph Sellepak, Executive Director, takes issue with the statement, "Our volunteers are very important to us." As he wisely points out, this rhetoric implies that the organization could continue to function without its volunteers, whereas in reality the organization's very survival depends on its volunteers. So it is with our AGO chapter. A big thank you to all of you who are contributing valuable time, energy, and ideas to the functioning of our chapter.

The Binghamton AGO Chapter not only survives, but thrives because of its volunteers. There is an aliveness which goes beyond simple dedication and willingness to perform a task. Members enjoy what they are doing and have fun getting together, even without the benefit of coffee, donuts, and Friendly's ice cream!

One of our dedicated volunteers is busy planning another pleasurable outing for this summer. Get out your calendar and circle Saturday, August 13. Read further details in next month's newsletter for a trip to Cooperstown which may even include a boat ride on Otsego Lake.

In the meantime I look forward to seeing many of you at the Members Recital on Sunday, June 12. Reservations for the catered dinner afterwards must be made by Friday, June 10. You may call Claudia at 607-242-1338 or go to <http://www.binghamtonago.org> and click on the appropriate box. Please make out your check for \$10 per person to Claudia Kachmarik and mail it to her at 2 Juliand Street, Greene, NY 13778.

Bruce and I will be attending two regional AGO conventions in June & July. At the Region III Convention in Harrisburg, Pa., I will see Doris Savage, a former Binghamton Chapter member, now serving as Membership Chair and coordinator of the Lunch Bunch for the Harrisburg Chapter. Then we will be attending the Region I-II Convention in Morristown, NJ, along with Lee Roseboom, Richard Sheasley, Jean Henssler, and Roberta Rowland-Raybold. We hope to bring back lots of information, stories, and photos to share with you in September. I will also be eager to hear about your summer adventures. Have a good one!

Polly Wendling, Co-dean

CO-DEANS

Lee Roseboom 797-7947
Polly Wendling 754-0378

NEWSLETTER

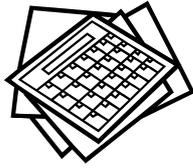
Polly Wendling
pro tem 754-0378

PLACEMENT

Jean Henssler
748-7285

WEBSITE

Richard Hedgebeth
www.binghamtonago.org



THE CALENDAR

Sunday, **June 5 – 4 pm** Organ recital by Roberta Rowland-Raybold at the Old Palatine Church; works by Langlais, Bach, Reger, Dupre

Sunday, **June 12 – 4 pm** Members Recital at First Congregational in Greene, NY

“ “ **6 pm** Annual dinner & meeting at the 1810 Juliand House

Saturday, **June 19 – 9:30 am** Board Meeting at Dunkin' Donuts

July 3-6 - Region I and II AGO Convention in Morristown, NJ (<http://www.AGO2011NJ.com>)

Saturday, **August 13** – A fun day in Cooperstown, NY (details to come in July newsletter)



CONGRATULATIONS!

--to **Lee Roseboom** for achieving his Service Playing Certification. When Lee wrote *Journey to an Exam* (p 3), he had not heard whether he passed.

THANKS

--to **Jonathan Biggers** for his interesting presentation on the 2006 James Louder organ on May 5, and to **Mary Helen Chapman** and the **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer** for hosting the event.

--to **Claudia Kachmarik** for coordinating the Members Recital and to **Steve and Claudia** for hosting the annual dinner-meeting at their B&B.

--to **Ellie Rugg** for assisting Claudia Kachmarik with plans for the Members Recital and for coordinating a summer outing to Cooperstown.

GODSPEED

--to **Leon Couch** who leaves our area this month for a position at Carroll University in Milwaukee. We wish him the very best in his new endeavor.

JOURNEY TO AN EXAM

Fall 1956 - Cobleskill Methodist Church.

I started organ lessons. The tune of Wer Nur Den Leiben Gott was familiar because the new hymnals in my Wesleyan Methodist church included this chorale, and it became one of my lifelong favorites. The old Barnes organ method being used included a manuals-only Bach version of that chorale as well as another chorale prelude which became a favorite of mine: Christ Lag in Todesbanden. I had no idea what the strange words of the title meant, but I loved the Bach organ music!

Fall 1959 - Houghton College.

I entered the freshman class, though in pre-med, not music! That switch occurred in sophomore year, but to Music-Ed./Viola/Theory, not organ! However the music department chairman, who sported an Eastman Ph.D., also had these strange initials F.A.G.O. after his name (whatever that meant). He had been very active in the past few years in the acquisition of the new 3-manual Holtkamp Baroque organ, I had watched being installed that year in the new Chapel Auditorium, which itself was actually constructed with the requirements of that new organ in mind!

Segue to 1985 - I moved from Los Angeles area to Binghamton in 1973, was Johnson City Elementary/Middle School Orchestra teacher, played viola in the Symphony, and joined Grace Lutheran Church in Vestal, where I sometimes subbed for the organist Doris Savage. She kept telling me about this AGO group and encouraged me to consider becoming part of it.

The big celebration in 1985 was the 300th anniversary of Bach's 1685 birth. Working in this celebration I became acquainted with people like Holy Nativity organist Polly Wendling (for whom I also had subbed on occasion) and Prince of Peace organist Wayne Fisher. Other new acquaintances included Laura Kennedy, who had played piano for some Binghamton Symphony concerts, as well as this fellow Paul Stapel, whom John Covelli had brought to Binghamton area as Executive Director for the Binghamton Symphony. In addition to the Bach Celebration, Doris, however was also very busy practicing for an AGO Colleague Exam--whatever that was.

Spring 2006 - I am now serving as organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran, Chenango Bridge. Through the courtesy of Wicks Organ Company's new Representative, Paul Stapel, Holy Trinity became the host of a new 3-manual Wicks Royal Classic III organ. I was terrified of all of the additional knobs, drawbars and toe studs, and decided that lessons were mandated. I began under the tutelage of Roberta Rowland-Raybold, who was not only organist at West Presbyterian Church, but just happened to be Dean of the Binghamton AGO chapter! As lessons progressed, the possibilities of taking the Service Playing Certification Exam were explored, service music was chosen, and the request submitted.

Monday, April 11, 2011 - Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown

"This is the Service Playing Test for Candidate SZ133," Proctor Roberta Rowland-Raybold intoned in a clear voice as the recording session began under the watchful eye of John Jurgeson. She continued with a brief description of the organ, concluding with the words, "The prelude is Wer Nur Den Leiben Gott....." and the organ pealed forth.

Despite "obstacles" such as April commitments with Symphony, NYSSMA, a burned-out blower motor, and a miserable cold, the Service Playing Exam exam took place. Now I await the results!

Lee Roseboom, Co-dean

The Binghamton AGO Chapter
MEMBERS RECITAL

Sunday, **June 12**, 4 pm
at
First Congregational Church
30 N Chenango St
Greene, NY

Directions: Traveling north on Rt. 12, turn right at the light where Rt. 206 comes in from the west. Proceed down into Greene until you reach its only traffic light at Chenango St. Turn left and go up No. Chenango St. until you see the First Cong. Church at 28 No. Chenango on your right. Take the second entrance driveway to parking in the back. Use the north side entrance into the church.

To Juliand House, exit the church by way of the exit driveway, turn left and proceed down Chenango street to the traffic signal. Turn left at this light on what is Rt. 206 East, cross the bridge and the railroad tracks and Juliand St. is a short distance after you cross the tracks on your left. Juliand House is a big, long white house at the corner of Juliand St. and Rt. 206 East. Do not turn into Juliand St., but continue on Rt. 206 past the house to the entrance through the picket fence on your left.

Reservations for the Annual Dinner on June 12 at the 1810 Juliand House

Name _____

No. guests _____

Payment enclosed (\$10 per person) _____

Mail to Claudia Kachmarik, 2 Juliand Street, Greene, NY 13778.

Summer Fun Trip to Cooperstown

Saturday, August 13th.

The day will begin at Christ Episcopal Church with Roberta Rowland-Raybold giving a demonstration of the organ--to be followed by other members playing. This will be a joint venture with the Oneonta Chapter.

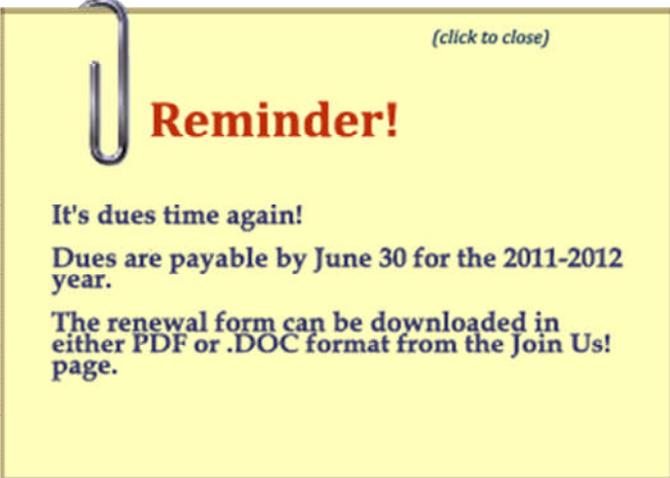
More details coming soon!

Mark your calendar and plan to join in!

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS for 2011-12

Dean: Polly Wendling
Sub-dean: Jean Henssler
Secretary: Lee Roseboom
Treasurer: Robert Peterson
Members-at-large: (2-yr. term)
Judy Peterson (2nd yr)
Ellie Rugg (2nd yr)
Janet Hammond (1st yr)
John Holt (1st yr)
Joe Kotylo (1st yr)

THE PROPOSED SLATE WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE JUNE 12th ANNUAL MEETING. NOMINATIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR.



(click to close)

Reminder!

It's dues time again!
Dues are payable by June 30 for the 2011-2012 year.
The renewal form can be downloaded in either PDF or .DOC format from the Join Us! page.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

Thanks to the 25 members who have already renewed. And we have one new member – so far!

Remember, the sooner your renewal is received, the sooner Bob, our Treasurer, can complete the “bookkeeping”.

Richard