

Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



MAY 2011

DEAN'S MESSAGE

The calendar shrinks as we near the end of the 2010-11 Year, but do not be fooled into thinking that not much is happening. Spring always includes a hectic schedule of end-of-the-year concerts, recitals, scholarship auditions, etc. Some of your colleagues will be preparing for the biggest event of our calendar year -- the Members Recital on Sunday, June 12. This will be our first members recital since Oct. '08 and the first members recital to be held in Greene, NY. It will also be a tribute to Armand Harding (past registrar, etc.) and Caroline Stone (past dean, etc.), who devoted much of their time to the activities of our chapter.

Claudia and Steve Kachmarik will host the annual dinner/meeting at their B&B, the 1810 Juliand House, The catered chicken BBQ dinner will cost \$10 per person. Claudia will take reservations until Friday, June 10. You may register online (<http://www.binghamtonago.org>) or by using the tear-off form on the last page. Payment should be made to Claudia Kachmarik, 2 Juliand Street, Greene, NY 13778.

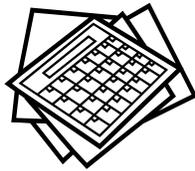
Coming up more immediately is the Open House at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 72 Main Street, Binghamton. This is an opportunity many of you have been waiting for -- to hear and play the 2004 James Louder mechanical-action organ. Jonathan Biggers, consultant for the project, will be present to give us some background information and demonstrate its capabilities. The date is FRIDAY, MAY 6; the time, 7 PM. Please come and bring shoes and music if you wish to try the organ.

Soon after the June event, the board will meet to continue planning for 2011-12. There have been requests for a summer day trip since this has been a popular outing in the past. Look for details in the next newsletter.

Your board members work hard to present an interesting variety of programs. All suggestions are welcome. Even if you are not a board member, please share your ideas with us.

Polly Wendling, Co-dean

CO-DEANS	NEWSLETTER	PLACEMENT	WEBSITE
Lee Roseboom 797-7947	Polly Wendling	Jean Henssler	Richard Hedgebeth
Polly Wendling 754-0378	pro tem 754-0378	748-7285	www.binghamtonago.org



THE CALENDAR

Friday, **May 6 – 7 pm** Open House at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Binghamton, to see and hear the James Louder tracker organ built in 2004. Jonathan Biggers and Mary Helen Chapman, hosts

Sunday, **May 22 – 4 pm** *All's Fair: Songs of Love & War*, the Madrigal Choir of Binghamton, led by James Niblock, a candidate for Artistic Director. First Presbyterian Church, 42 Chenango Street, Binghamton

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>)



Membership Renewal

The plan to convert the membership renewal process to include a self-registration online option and credit card option has been put “on hold” by the AGO National Headquarters!

Accordingly, the membership renewal process remains the same as previous years.

For our members receiving MIXTURES by U.S. mail : the familiar membership renewal notice is enclosed.

For our members receiving MIXTURES by e-mail : please print out the membership renewal notice. It will print in color or black/white.

This year especially, it would be of great benefit to Bob Peterson, our Treasurer, if you could please return the forms to me as soon as possible. That way, Bob can tally them more easily as it fits into his care-giver schedule.

THANK YOU! Richard Sheasley, Registrar – Binghamton Chapter

HISTORIC ORGAN GETS A FOURTH LIFE

Reviewed by David L. Schriber

A full church Sunday (March 27) witnessed the dedication of the Main Street (Binghamton) Baptist Church's Russell organ, a rebuilt, renovated and upgraded instrument embracing parts of three previous generations of pipe organs. Binghamton native Andrew Kotylo, currently Associate Director of Music at Trinity Church on the Green in New Haven, Conn., showed off the expanded organ's capabilities. The concert celebrated the culmination of an eight-year project, inspired by Andrew's father, Joseph Kotylo, who has been Main Street Baptist's organist for 35 years.

In May 2008, Stephen Russell and Co. of Cambridgeport, Vt., moved the existing organ to its shops for repair, renovation and revoicing. Some pipes from the original 1908 Estey (two manuals, pedal and 12 ranks) organ, rebuilt by Schlicker in 1948, and the 1963 Leonard Carlson (19 ranks) organ were retained. Thirteen ranks were added, including pipes from old Skinner and Möller instruments and five new ranks, plus electronic 16- and 32-foot pedal stops. The new console features three manuals from a 1929 Estey; modern solid-state electronics, including a transposer, and 250 levels of memory, all housed in a black walnut case from a private residence. The new complement of 1,925 pipes even includes a Zimbelstern! Andrew Kotylo used the first half of the concert to demonstrate the new instrument's dynamic range and versatility of voicing. He opened with A. Herbert Brewer's "Marche Héroïque," featuring a theater-organ-sounding tuba and full-bodied pedal. Addressing the audience, Kotylo said one mark of a great church organ is not only the ability to "raise the roof" or to accompany delicate moments of prayer, but to transition smoothly between those extremes. He illustrated his point with Frank Bridge's "Adagio in E Major," building gradually from pianissimo to fortissimo and returning again.

Kotylo playfully offered pieces he acknowledged would probably never be played in church: the 1921 ragtime "Kitten on the Keys" by Edward Confrey and the contemporary "Blues Chorale," a jazzy piece by Hans-Martin Keifer. The audience got a chance to sound their pipes as well, singing four verses of the hymn "O Zion, Haste," this to prepare us to discern the melody hidden in William Bolcom's atonal "Free Fantasia" on that hymn tune.

Maryanne Kotylo joined her brother in a piano-organ duet, Leo Sowerby's "Dialog for Organ and Piano, H. 469." Andrew then concluded the first half of the concert with Albert Travis' "Toccata on 'Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart.'" A "hands-free" section of this piece had Kotylo gripping each end of the keyboard firmly as his feet played the theme, then flew in waves over the pedals as his hands resumed playing. Following intermission, Kotylo proved the Russell organ a worthy concert instrument, and himself an impressive classical organist, with pieces by J.S. Bach, Louis Vierne and Alexandre Guilmant.

Pipe organ purists might snub a "hybrid" instrument, but it seems to me this 53d product of the Russell Company is akin to the careful restoration of an historic home, upgrading it with modern conveniences while preserving the tradition of its style. Kotylo proved the Russell organ to be a well-integrated instrument appropriate both for church and concert. The only distraction was an annoying creaking and squeaking, clearly audible in the soft passages, coming, I think, from the door hinges of the windchest of the swell.

Church organist Joseph Kotylo was just a bit choked with emotion as he noted this was the fourth dedicatory concert of this organ and that we should be grateful to the communion of saints, a sentiment echoed by Pastor Timothy Bennett in his prayer of dedication, for the gift of music that previous generations have left for us. Main Street Baptist Church has succeeded in its drive to "Be a Donor – Save an Organ," and we hope Binghamton will be able to enjoy for decades to come the enhancement of this historic organ.

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)

Thank You

-- to those who have agreed to serve on the Executive Committee for 2011-12, and to those who will be retiring from the board as members-at-large: **Mary Jo Granger, Richard Hedgebeth, and Joan Kellam.**

to **David Schriber** for permission to publish his description of the new organ at Main Street Baptist Church and Andrew Kotylo's dedicatory performance on March 27. (See *Historic Organ Gets a Fourth Life* on p. 3)



Reminders:

Members who are playing in the members recital should arrange practice times with Claudia Kachmarik at 607-242-1338 or ckach14 *at* stny *dot* rr *dot* com.

If you wish to receive *Mixtures* electronically, go to <http://www.binghamtonago.org/> and click on the appropriate link.

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.

