

Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



NOVEMBER 2011

DEAN'S MESSAGE

AWESOME is a word “so grossly overused that it threatens to singlehandedly impoverish the English language” writes the author, J. R. Moehring. However, this word aptly describes Wilma Jensen’s bio (see <http://www.wilmajensen.com/pages/Bio.htm>). There are many testimonies as well to her superb teaching. This internationally-known performer and teacher will be visiting the Southern Tier on Nov. 20 & 21. Please make every effort to attend her master class/workshop on Monday, Nov. 21, 7-9 pm, at First Presbyterian, Binghamton. If you wish to carpool to her recital in Elmira on Sunday, Nov. 20, contact me at 754-0378.

AWESOME is a word that also describes the world’s largest playable pipe organ, the Wanamaker organ located at Macy’s in Philadelphia. Photos of this stupendous organ have been posted by Richard Hedgebeth on our website, www.binghamtonago.org/. Be sure to have a look. Within the commentary click on the word *here* for a review of the October 1 organ-with- orchestra centennial concert.

Since it is customary to group things in 3’s, my third choice for AWESOME is our own AGO chapter. The energy, enthusiasm, and support of its members continue to inject vitality into a small but active group.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all. I do hope to see many of you before then. Before reading further, draw a red circle around Nov. 21 on your calendar.

Polly Wendling

Thank You -- to all who brought refreshments to the reception following John Novak’s outstanding concert on Oct. 23

A Question to Ponder ??? What is the difference between an organist and a terrorist?
(answer on p 3)

<http://www.wilmajensen.com/pages/Bio.htm>

DEAN	NEWSLETTER	PLACEMENT	WEBSITE
Polly Wendling 754-0378	Polly Wendling pro tem 754-0378	Jean Henssler 748-7285	Richard Hedgebeth www.binghamtonago.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, **Nov. 13** – 5 pm Annual fall organ recital by Roberta Rowland-Raybold at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, NY. The program, “Autumn Reflections”, includes music by Clarke, Sowerby, Karg-Elert, Bach, Vivaldi and the organist’s contemporary setting of “Ein feste Burg.” No admission charge.

Sunday, **Nov. 20** - 4 pm Wilma Jensen organ recital at Grace Episcopal, Elmira

Monday, **Nov. 21** – 7-9 pm Wilma Jensen Master Class/Workshop at First Presbyterian, Binghamton. After hearing a few BU students, Ms. Jensen will discuss "Rhythmic Hymn Performance".

Saturday, **Nov. 26** (7:30 pm) & Sunday, **Nov. 27** (4 pm) – The Madrigal Choir of Binghamton presents their annual *Lessons and Carols for Christmas* at Church of the Holy Trinity, 346 Prospect St, Binghamton

Sunday, **Dec. 4** – Christmas Concert by the Greene Chamber Singers at First Congregational Church, No. Chenango St., Greene. Piano/organ accompanist, Ellie Rugg. Selections include *Magnificat*, Mathias; *Nativity Carol*, John Rutter; *Christmas Cantata* with brass, Daniel Pinkham; *O Nata Lux*, Morten Lauridsen. Concert is free.

Friday, **Dec. 30** – 5 pm Post-holiday dinner at the Spot Restaurant, 1062 Upper Front St., Binghamton

Tis the Season

As we approach the holiday season we’re also entering the maintenance season for the organs in our churches.

The following faq’s may be helpful.

When is the best time of the year to tune the organ?

Usually the best time of the year to tune the organ is a month or two into the heating season. This gives the organ a chance to acclimate to what is generally the average humidity level that it will see through the year. The humidity level sometimes has a significant effect on the tuning of the wood pipes.

What can the church do to help assure a good tuning?

It’s imperative that the organ be tuned at a stable temperature. It’s not possible to do a good job of tuning unless the heat has been up long enough for the temperatures of the pipes to equalize. This may require a period of two or three hours beyond that of the time needed to get the room up to temperature. It’s equally important to realize that the organ may not be well in tune with itself for services unless this equalization time is allowed for the time that the organ is to be used.

What else can I do help the maintenance person keep our organ in good condition?

If you’ve had any problems occur keep a log of them, describing as best you can the circumstances under which the problem occurred. If there are features which aren’t functional, do let your maintenance person know of them, even if you don’t consider the problems important. It’s easy to let mechanical problems slide, resulting in visitors to the organ finding it to be in poor condition, although you’re long accustomed to and not bothered by the problems.

The Stuart Organ Company welcomes tuning and maintenance opportunities and would be pleased to schedule a visit to your church. We wish you the very best for this holiday season and the coming year.

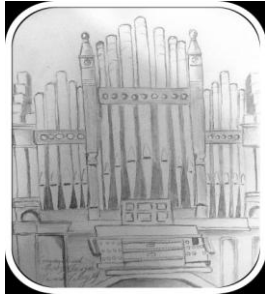
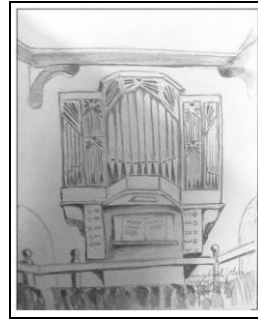


Stuart Organ Company
44 Saint John Avenue
Binghamton, New York 13905
Richard@stuartorgan.com
<http://stuartorgan.com>

OCTOBER CHAPTER EVENT

Members who attended the organ crawl on October 3 visited four organs:
Redeemer Lutheran, Binghamton
Main Street Baptist, Binghamton
Newark Valley Congregational Church
United Methodist Church, Newark Valley

Can you correctly identify each of the sketches below without referring to page 4?

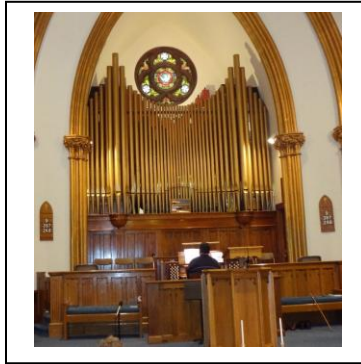


Meet the artist, Dan Sniezek. His sketch pad is his constant companion. Wife Peggy is the organist in the family.

Photo by Paul Stapel taken August 13, Cooperstown Fun Day, aboard the Glimmerglass Tour Boat.

Answer to Question ?? (You can negotiate with a terrorist.)

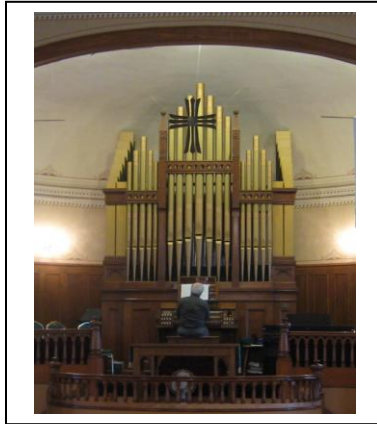
Organs of the October 3 Organ Crawl



←
Main St Baptist,
Binghamton



→
Redeemer Lutheran,
Binghamton



←
Newark Valley
Congregational Church



→
United Methodist
Church, Newark Valley

Memories . . . Richard Kerr was fondly remembered on Saturday, Oct. 3, when the Chemung and Binghamton Chapters visited the Newark Valley Congregational Church. Dick had served there as choir director/organist for more than 40 years. Together with members of the congregation who came expecting to hear an organ concert, we sang *The Church Is All of Us Together*, accompanied by Jean Hensler. Both the music and words of this lovely hymn were written by Dick Kerr.

At the memorial service for Richard Kerr on July 3, 1999 Claude Cornwall played Bach's *Tocatta & Fugue in D minor* and Kerr's *Improvisation on ROYAL OAK*. Dean Will Dodge eulogized Dick's conscientious commitment, fine work and dependability. Dick had served the Binghamton Chapter in the capacity of registrar for 7 years.

**Wilma Jensen Master Class
and Workshop on
*Rhythmic Hymn Playing***

Monday, Nov. 21, 7-9 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Binghamton