

Mixtures

This is an experiment for me. I am using a new publishing program and I haven't got all the ideas assimilated into my brain. It will take a while to do that, but I am working at it. C. Blake, editor.

DEAN'S COLUMN OCTOBER 2009

Of the two recently elected Co-deans, most of us probably are more acquainted with Polly, since she has been associated with the Chapter for many years. Allow me to tell you a little bit about my exposure to organ and AGO. Exactly fifty years ago, I finished a three-year stint of beginning organ lessons with the organist at the Cobleskill Methodist Church, practicing before school on both their attractive pipe organ and on the Hammond at the High School. Under her tutelage, I fell in love with Bach organ music ... although I was ignorant of the meaning of the sturdy texts behind the strange looking titles! The music and texts were foreign to my evangelical background and upbringing! While taking lessons, I was also organist for a couple of local churches, including the Cobleskill Episcopal Church with its one manual tracker organ. Since 1959, I have served as organists for various churches without benefit of lessons!

When I entered Houghton College in the fall of 1959, the head of the Music Department was Dr. Charles Finney, F.A.G.O. He was instrumental in both the architectural design of the Chapel being built at that time, as well as obtaining the three manual Holtkamp Baroque organ, which it would eventually house. (My double major was Music Ed.-viola and theory).

Now I segue to the early 1980's, when I became acquainted with Doris Savage, organist at Grace Lutheran in Vestal. She encouraged me to get involved with the Binghamton AGO chapter as we worked together, along with Wayne Fisher, on the 300th Bach Birthday celebration in 1985. She was preparing for her Service Playing exam. My other activities at the time prevented me from following her advice. Then three years ago came the opportunity to host the three manual Royal Wicks Classic III at Holy Trinity Lutheran, courtesy of Wicks' upstate NY sales director, Paul Stapel. I was organist there and I was terrified of all those drawbars and toe studs, and I decided I better think "lessons"! I've had a ball ever since, learning so much in studying with Roberta Rowland-Raybold, who happened to be Dean of our chapter. Soon I was asked to be on the Chapter Board ... and I guess the rest is history!

Leland Roseboom

Binghamton: *The Snowman in My Window*
with Richard Van Auken

Sunday, December 6 4:00 pm Dr. Jonathan Bigger continues his organ
recitals : *The Bach Celebration Series* at
Binghamton University Fine Arts Room 21

Sunday, December 27 TBA time and place - AGO Post -Holiday Gathering

REFER TO PROGRAM BOOKLET FOR FURTHER EVENTS

A MONDAY ADVENTURE

How special are AGO members when we travel? SO special that GPS systems in the Albany area were made lame on Monday Sept 21. Read on!

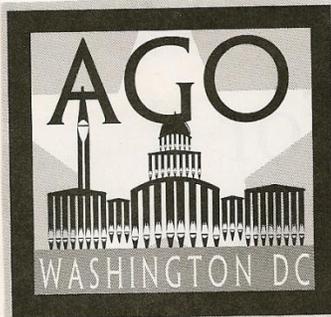
Paul Stapel treated Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Lee Roseboom and Jean Henssler to a mini organ crawl at two Albany-area Catholic churches where Wicks organs are installed. In the late morning, we played a 3-manual (54 stop) Wicks Royal Classic III Digital organ at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar, NY. (a previous version of this organ had been in Holy Trinity-Lee's church) In this church with fine acoustics, the organ showed its true capabilities, filling the large space with truly heavenly sounds.

After a delicious meal, we found our way (with the help of old-fashioned maps- the GPS lady was out to lunch!) to St. Pius X RC church in Loudonville. This wood, glass, and marble structure of modern architectural design houses a stunningly beautiful Wicks pipe/Walker Digital hybrid organ.

After a wonderful day of organ playing, we traveled into the beautiful sunset westward toward Binghamton.

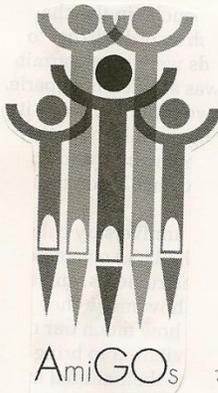
Oh, did I forget to mention that President Obama was in neighboring Troy on that day? Maybe the GPS lady was out lunching with him!!!

Submitted by Jean Henssler



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WASHINGTON DC • JULY 4-8, 2010



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ADS

Next deadline is Oct 20

● **PHOBIA OF THE MONTH:** If thoughts of jack-o'-lanterns or your co-worker in a skintight Elvis jumpsuit give you chills, you may suffer from **samhainophobia**, or fear of Halloween.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S HEART

Chaplain Werly, 607.221.8141



Greetings from your new chaplain to each member of the AGO. I give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name. What a pleasure to be among talented people who make music to the ears. My heart leaps for joy at this opportunity to serve you. Why? Because as chaplain for you it is my privilege, when called upon, to help caregivers such as yourselves. You will bless my heart also as we share in this joyful ministry.

Yes, you are caregivers, and this can sometimes be a taxing labor of love. As Chaplain I may need to minister as much to a caregiver, that is you, as to those for whom you care and to remind you of your own need for God's Word and prayer. You help people in this confused day and age to sing and to play music - a task in itself. Helping you in your day of trouble or if you see a storm on your horizon is my task. I am here to encourage you to find refreshment in the company of others and in God's Word. Just call me "Chaplain." Call me anytime and I will answer ASAP.

I close with the words of the hymn "Go, My Children, With My Blessing".

Go, My Children, With My Blessing, never alone.
I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother;
Go My Children; I will keep you and give you peace.

In the Lord's hands, Chaplain Werly

P.O. Box 525
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745-0525
Phone: 607.221.8141
That's 24 / 7.

KICK-OFF POT LUCK SUPPER AT HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FACT: "Go to a Lutheran Church if you want to have the best pot-luck suppers! " We were not all Lutherans, but the EATS were certainly worthy of the best Lutheran cooks!

At the opening event of the Binghamton Chapter of AGO, on Friday, Sept. 18, 20 members met to share stories of summer adventures and enjoy each others' fellowship. Co-deans, Polly and Lee, introduced and welcomed our new chaplain, Pastor David Werly. He brings an impressive list of experiences and areas of interest with him and has made himself available as a spiritual counselor for all in the Guild.

Polly and Bruce Wendling showed pictures of the 2009 Region I and II AGO Convention held in Boston in Early July. Six members from our chapter attended the spectacular five- day event and provided lively narration for the visuals. We saw a picture of Polly, Roberta, Jean and Bruce at a Wendy's decorated with pictures of flutes, lutes and other "toots". Illogical? Not for a fast -food joint across from The Berklee School of Music.

And there was music, too. The Wendlings showed a DVD of the historic Walcker organ in the Methuen Music Hall. The instrument, originally built for the old Boston Symphony Hall, was moved in the early 1990's to Methuen, MA where a concert hall was built around it. Wood carvings of musical greats, including Bach and Mendelssohn, peer down from their lofty heights on the organ case. And what about the thinly-clad wooden ladies holding up the pedal towers!!

With birthday hats donned and noisemakers in hand, we cut the birthday cake and celebrated our chapter's 80th Anniversary year. Look for the picture in a future issue of TAO. Cheers!

Submitted by Jean Henssler

BINGHAMTON AND ONEONTA AGO CHAPTERS' ORGAN CRAWL
Saturday, October 10, 2009 Norwich, New York
(Bring your music and "dancing" shoes)

- 9:45 a.m.** Emmanuel Episcopal
Corner of West Main and Elm Street (37 West Main Street)
1925 Skinner, 3 manuals, 14 ranks
- 10:45 a.m.** United Church of Christ, First Congregational Church
11 West Main Street
(brick church across from the Court House)
Johnson 1884; Estey 1952; Kerner and Merchant 1985;
Wicks 1995 3 manuals
- 11:45 a.m.** Lunch at Coffee Connection (separate checks)
South Broad Street – literally across the church parking lot
- 1:00 p.m.** St. Bartholomew's Roman Catholic Church
11 East Main Street
1958 Casavant, 2 manuals, 17 ranks
- 2:00 p.m.** St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church
30 Pleasant Street
1962 Verschueren, 2 manuals, 17 ranks

At 9:30 we'll meet in the Municipal Parking Lot located on Hayes Street behind the shops and restaurants of South Broad Street. Coming from Rt. 12/Binghamton, turn left on Hayes Street just after passing the main branch of NBT bank. After ½ block, take a right into the parking lot. From Rt 12 North, drive through the middle of town past shops on Broad Street. Just after passing Service Pharmacy on your right, turn right onto Hayes Street at the Victorian House on the corner. Take a right into the parking lot ½ block down the street. Both the Episcopal and UCC Churches are within walking distance.

PLEASE RSVP Susan Ticknor 607-336-6650 ticknor5@roadrunner.com

The Back Page

Miscellany for the good of the group...

OCTOBER CHAPTER EVENT: Norwich Organ Crawl- SATURDAY, OCT 10, 2009

8:30 AM: Meet at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kattelville Rd. Chenango Bridge

After more than 19 years we are returning to Norwich! You may remember former members, Virginia Helton and Gail Cooney, who held a workshop on organ repertoire at the UCC in April 1990. Now Susan Ticknor (Gail's daughter) has put together an exciting itinerary of 4 outstanding pipe organs in Norwich, including the UCC's Johnson/Estey/Kerner & Merchant/Wicks. All of the churches and the restaurant where we will have lunch are within walking distance. Adding to our pleasure will be autumn foliage, hopefully at peak! See itinerary for specifics. Please RSVP to Susan ASAP... ticknor5@roadrunner.com/ so there will be enough seats for lunch!!!

Are you aware of the **Binghamton Theater Organ Society**? Check out their website: www.theatreorgans.com/btos/. We have several members who play our local gem, the Morton Organ at the Forum.

Also, if you are interested in antiques-especially organs, note the **Organ Historical Society**. Conventions are held annually throughout the US. The website is:

www.organsociety.org/

News from **Sean Rudd** (former sub-dean and active member of Binghamton AGO) "We miss you, Sean, but we do wish you all the best in your new endeavors."

I am working in Rome, NY at the Air Force Research Lab. My family has purchased a house in the Canastota area, about 20 minutes east of Syracuse. We are gradually settling in. The kids seem to be adjusting better than I would have expected. While moving and settling in have taken up much of my time, I will take time to play some music once in a while. Eventually I may be in a position to pick this back up more fully. I'll be joining the Syracuse AGO Chapter soon. To contact me, my e-mail hasn't changed sean.rudd@verizon.net

THANK YOU'S from our kick-off dinner event

..... to Roberta Rowland- Raybold for adding a festive spirit to our 80th anniversary celebration with party hats, noise makers and a beautifully decorated birthday cake.

..... to Jean Harding for assisting in the kitchen.

..... to Donna Frye for her hospitality at the 5-rank Buhl organ

..... to Bruce Wendling for setting up and operating the A-V equipment

..... to all who came to the Kickoff, eager to share favorite dishes, camaraderie, and experiences