

Northern New Jersey Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter American Guild of Organists

June 2020

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Dear Chapter Members:

*As I write this **last note to you as your Dean**, I want to introduce and welcome our new and returning officers for the 2020-2021 season. It has been an honor to represent our Northern New Jersey Chapter these past 2 seasons and to serve our inspired and diverse membership. We have a hard-working, devoted Executive Board and a dynamic Program Committee. I've seen time after time how they have shared their knowledge and passion for the organ and energetically worked to bring great programming for our professional development. Not the least of which was the amazing Virtual Members Concert on May 18th.*

The month of June begins to unfold as we are facing a new 90 day countdown. Give yourself a new challenge this summer. Stay safe, inspired and RECHARGED for whatever challenges we will meet in September. Together we have grown stronger in facing these challenges in community.

Thank you to each one of you.

Cathie Ruppí, Dean



Looking for a wonderful Continuing Education idea this summer? Consider virtually attending The Hymn Society's annual conference. Here are some details.

The Hymn Society's all-digital Annual Conference will bring us together for community, learning, sharing, and of course – **song!** If you haven't yet registered, you may [register online](#) or [by mail](#). Be sure to sign up **before June 15** to save \$25 off the cost of regular registration.

Facilitators include Tom Trenney, Kim Harris, Saya Ojiri, and Diana Sanchez-Bushong.

Options for registration include both **full and basic conference packages**. The Hymn Society gladly welcomes non-members to join in this exciting event. For more information, visit <http://www.thehymnsociety.org/event>.

Reverberations Editor and Webmaster: Stewart Holmes - Northernnjago@yahoo.com

NNJ CHAPTER MEETINGS

Our JUNE Meeting

Monday, June 22, 2020 • 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**A PICNIC?? YOU BETCHA
OLD PARAMUS REFORMED CHURCH
660 E GLEN, RIDGEWOOD**

Our chapter will have its final event - a Picnic in the Pines. Because the Governor has given permission for "Socially-Separated" events for crowds up to 25, we are going to go ahead and gather "appropriately."

The event will be held on the outside lawn of Old Paramus Reformed Church. Check out the photos of the space available to us. The many picnic tables will be used so we can spread out the seats. Prior to and after dinner we can sit out on the spacious lawn to share and celebrate.

Here's what you need to do in order to participate: All participants should be prepared to:

Bring your own food, drink, and snacks; **NO SHARING OF FOOD!**



Wear masks, gloves are not necessary. Dress for the weather!



Bring wipes, disinfectant, etc. The church will provide spray disinfectant and/or wipes for those who don't bring them.



Bring your own picnic chair. If you don't have one, the church will provide a disinfected folding chair



Bathrooms will be available with appropriate spray disinfectant. There will be a microphone for whomever wishes to use it.



Rain Date, the next evening, June 23. A notice will be sent to our email list if we decide to postpone. Those on snail mail can call Stewart 914-714-8919.

Contact Stewart for further info.

We are looking forward to sharing the evening with our colleagues, but we plan to strictly adhere to all social distancing rules and encourage everyone to comply so we can have a safe and happy social event to finish off our year. We look forward to spending a relaxing evening with all of you.

Our survey was a huge success! 45 out of 88 responded! We have tabulated the results and they will be sent out to the general membership when the Executive Committee has been debriefed. Wow! Hold onto your hats. There is a lot of data compressed into those 5 pages.

Survey News

Our **SEPTEMBER**
Meeting

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 • 6:00 PM

WELCOME BACK DINNER

SPECIAL GUEST: ELIZABETH GEORGE

TRINITY LUTHERN CHURCH

167 PALISADE AVE., BOGOTA

We are planning our Officer's Installation, dinner, and guest speaker Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development at AGO headquarters. Should the pandemic be continuing, we will cancel the dinner and continue with the speaker and installation of officers. This will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bogota. The dinner is currently scheduled for 6:30 pm. More about this event will be forthcoming this summer. We will, of course, adapt plans to the requirements of our "Covid-19" restrictions which will no doubt change as we approach fall.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 25th At 3pm: Recital by Mathew Caraher, the Rodland Scholarship recipient at St. Olaf College. Being able to sponsor those who inspire to be Church musicians is so important. Plan to attend!

THE 2020-2021 Slate of officers has been ratified.

The results from Survey Monkey show that 49 members voted online, 5 called in their votes. Congratulations to all these folks who have extended themselves to serve as leaders in our chapter. Thank you to David Macfarlane for setting up and publishing the results.

Dean.....June Marano-Murray
Sub-deanClaudia Smith
TreasurerDavid Macfarlane
SecretaryBrian Tricoli
MembershipRick Tegtmeyer
 Bob Wheeler
NewsletterStewart Holmes
HistorianBob Wheeler
HospitalityGloria Norton
Class of 2022Grace Eunkyung Woo
 Stacy Yao
Class of 2024Ed Hedlund
 Shannon Murphy

COPING WITH COVID-19 !

MUSIC FROM OUR HOME - A PROGRESSIVE RECITAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Our Virtual Members Recital has reached 831 people on Facebook (700 from the \$10 we spent to boost the post.) Total number of views on YouTube is currently 543, making this our most visible event in decades!

Thanks go out to Donna Dangler, Janet Montroy, David Macfarlane, Kevin Harris, June Marano-Murray, Melissa Murray, Brian Tricoli, Susan LaFever, Shannon Murphy, Candy Steen, Debbi Holden-Holloway, and Linda Sweetman-Waters for their tasteful and inspiring performances. We thank Claudia Smith for all her help with the flier among other things, and special thanks to David Macfarlane for putting all the videos together to make a flowing, memorable concert. The performance was a great success and we have received many positive comments.

Here are some reactions by those who viewed our virtual recital !

Hello everyone: I just wanted to say that I, too, really enjoyed the Music From Home virtual recital. As a new member of NNJAGO, it was a great honor and privilege to be a participant in this event. The talented performances of my fellow chapter members were inspirational, rousing, encouraging, refreshing... I look forward to meeting everyone at a future NNJAGO meeting.

Respectfully, Kevin Harris

Please convey my thanks to the members who played Monday night. They did a fine job. And the varied music and instruments made it a delightful program. Again, thank you all very much!

Ah yes, I forwarded it to a friend in SC. She will get it to the officers of her chapter to give them an idea for a program they can do. Hope you don't mind.

From Joyce Farrow



I just got a call from member Richard Palmer. He loved the recital, and especially liked talking about Linda Sweetman-Waters and how she so humbly talked about missing a few notes for the page turn, and then proceeded to nail Widor's Toccata flawlessly. (Richard didn't know I was in the process of writing this newsletter when he called. I didn't ask permission to transcribe his comments for the membership. LOL!)

From Stewart Holmes, Editor

And from others...

"We really enjoyed it! We streamed it on the big TV. It was a cool endeavor." "Wonderful." "What a beautiful concert! Thank you so much for inviting us! It really lifted our spirits - just what the world needs right now."

"Thank you for sharing your music with us!" "Congratulations on such beautiful music. I really enjoyed it...a good idea, all these different instruments and pieces...you all should do one a month." "Enjoyed so much the performers, the pieces, the variety and sheer love of music."

A Note from Jim Little, METRO Chapter Hi all! I really enjoy receiving your newsletter! Just one thing in the latest one: unless I have been fired, as far as I know I'm the organist at St. Paul's Chatham and Mark is still doing a great job at Englewood! Best wishes in your election. I'm also looking forward to the virtual recital. What a great idea! Jim Little. Stay well!

Want some choral music for a great price? See this note from our member Janet Montroy: I would like to make these titles available to our membership - perhaps someone else can make use of this music! I was thinking of asking for \$5 for titles of less than 25 copies - that is to say, all the copies of that particular title - and \$10 for titles of more than 25 copies. Since some of the titles actually have more than 75 copies, you can see that your music budget could potentially go a long way. I'd rather not get into breaking up a particular title, although I can see that some of the larger numbers could possibly be shared between two people if the demand warrants it. **The link to the music available is posted on our website: Click CHAPTER LINKS.**

Membership Renewal

A Note from Elizabeth George at AGO Headquarters

Please remember to renew your membership. This word is of encouragement from Elizabeth George at our AGO national office:

"By the order of our governor, the AGO office in Manhattan has been closed since mid-March. AGO staff are now working from home and as I write this newsletter, we are uncertain when we will be able to return to our office. Mail is being held; therefore, if a check for membership renewal is sent to our office, we will not be able to process it in a timely manner.

We have extended a member's expiration date with a three-month grace period; however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO. During this time, we urge you to encourage your members to renew their membership by credit card, utilizing ONCARD.

If anyone is not comfortable using ONCARD through the website, call 212-870-2311. Follow the voicemail prompts. We are most happy to help you process your membership renewal using a credit card."

Elizabeth has asked us to remind you that there is a special page located on the headquarters website that deals with COVID-19 issues. Check out <https://www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19/> and the COVID-19 Q&A page: [COVID-19 and Organists: Q & A](#) that addresses Q&A regarding unemployment benefits, the stimulus bill, information regarding safety in playing the organ, number of musicians playing together and singing in a choir.

In Memoriam: David W. Christensen



We received word that another one of our members has succumbed to the Corona virus. David was Director of Music at Christ Church, Pompton.

His niece, Kathy Stanley, writes on Facebook: "My goodness life is too short. My family has wonderful memories. My uncle was just the sweetest man who loved his family so much. He always messaged me on my birthday and had such fond memories of when I was a little girl. Just so sad he's gone so soon. May you Rest In Peace"

We will forward further details when we receive them..

Program Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 8th at 1pm: Virtual or live? We will see!