

American Guild of Organists Newsletter

Utah Valley Chapter #928
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Dean's Message

Can you believe that it is November already? How quickly time flies. As I get older, and hopefully wiser, time doesn't simply march on, it speeds by at the pace of a fleeing rabbit, and with impeccable agility, it maneuvers around me bounding across the times of my life without the slightest realization of its pace until my days have gone. It halts for no one. Down the burrows of life, never to be retrieved.

Here comes Thanksgiving. I think of Katie's story, written at the age of six, about Farmer John, and the family turkey, Bob, who had been invited for dinner. Farmer John, pursuing poor Bob with the baseball bat left in the corner from the last year. The end of the story shows a stick figure of Farmer John, his family, and poor Bob, lying comfortably golden brown on a platter in the middle of the family table. The baseball bat again propped in the corner of the kitchen, waiting for next year. Hummmm. Interesting story for a six year old. I guess to Katie, farmer's didn't use guns, axes, or whatever else you use to kill a poor turkey for dinner. Then again, she was born in Orange County where a baseball bat may be the weapon of choice...

Life is comprised of stories of family and friends. So many of our stories are happy ones. Filled with laughter, some with tears, we treasure them. They are truly the treasures we can take with us throughout the eternities. This Thanksgiving, let's all take the time to fill our hearts with gratitude and thankfulness for the people in our life that we love and hold close to our hearts, our friends, family, and friendly acquaintances, that fill our life and our hearts with joy. Sometimes, in our busy lives, they are the ones that we focus on last. We take for granted that they will always be there for us.

There is a song by Paul Williams that I have loved from the first time I heard it, it is called "A Thankful Heart."

*With a thankful heart, with an endless joy, with a growing family.
Every girl and boy will be nephew and niece to me, will bring love and peace to me.
Every night will end, and every day will start with a grateful prayer and a thankful heart.*

*With an open smile and with open doors I will bid you welcome.
What is mine is yours. With a glass raised to toast your health and a promise to share the wealth.
I will sail a friendly course, file a friendly chart on a sea of love and a thankful heart.*

*With a thankful heart that is wide awake I do make this promise:
Every breath I take will be used to sing your praise and to beg you to share my days.
With a loving guarantee that even if we part, I will hold you close in a thankful heart.*

*Life is like a journey. Who knows when it will end? If you need to know the measure of a man.
You simply count his friends. Stop and look around you. The glory that you see,
Is born again each day; don't let it slip away! How precious life can be!
I will hold you close in a thankful heart.*

This Thanksgiving, let the people you love know that you love them. Let them know of your appreciation for them, celebrate Thanksgiving with gratitude and thankfulness for the love you share. It is a gift more precious than gold, more lasting than diamonds.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! I love and appreciate each and every one of you!

Nancy Christensen
Dean

Chapter Events

November 15, 7:30: Marriot center organ demonstration.

December 16th, 7 PM : AGO Christmas recital for Utah State Hospital Patients. Please contact Claire Rogers by Dec. 1st with what you wish to play so the program and readings can be planned. Please choose pieces from the classic organ repertoire or sacred settings of the traditional carols to keep the focus of the program on the REAL meaning of Christmas. If you wish to give Claire a choice between pieces so there will be a good variety, that would be helpful. Carols are always included for the audience to participate in.

January 27, 7:30: Hymn Sing with David Chamberlain in the American Fork Tabernacle.

February: French Toccata and more. This will be an evening of French music.

March (in the process of re-planning)

April: Super Saturday

May: Closing Social

Quote of the Month

" Every one who has studied Bach's scores carefully knows that there are many movements in them that can never be fully effective except with the freshness and the *timbre* of the boy's voice. That beautiful boys' voices are the ideal for the Bach choruses will not be disputed by anyone who has heard a good boys' choir in one of the cantatas."
- Albert Schweitzer "J.S. Bach"

Albert Schweitzer - His Passion for the Organ

Submitted by Meg Griffith

Albert Schweitzer was raised in a family with the interest of organs and organ building. His paternal grandfather had a organist post as well as 3 of his grandfather's brothers. Albert inherited his passion for the organ from his grandfather Schillinger. The grandfather had a reputation of getting to know the organs in any town he visited and made the journey to Lucerne to watch an organ builder at work.

In 1905 Albert Schweitzer wrote an essay on organ building. He compared old instruments with newer ones. He found that older ones had the best materials and sounded better. He said that when a respected organist in Germany played a Bach fugue for him, it sounded like chaos without being able to hear the separate voices. He said, "When I heard the harsh tone, my foreboding that the modern organ meant a step not forward but backward. In his pamphlet, he "undertook to preach the gospel of the ideal organ." He advocated only the best materials; the best wood and the best tin for good resonance. Schweitzer advocated the use of the *Schleiflade* (an old-fashioned sounding board) or wind chest because it produces good, full tone.

Concerning the location of the organ in a church, "an organ standing on the ground never produces the same effect as one which delivers its sound from a height, especially if the church is full. He took journeys to study about restoring or rebuilding an organ. He wrote hundreds of letters to church leaders, organ builders, organists, mayors, etc. to convince them to restore their fine old organs instead of replacing them by new ones from a factory, and to consider the quality, not the number of stops and "specifications that looked good on paper!" He said, "The first old organ that I rescued - and what a task it was! - was Silbermann's fine instrument at St. Thomas', Strasbourg." His friends said that he tried to save black people in Africa and old organs in Europe. He said, "When on Sundays I think of this or that church in which a noble organ is sounding because I saved it from an ignoble one I feel myself richly rewarded for all the time and trouble which in the course of over 30 years I have sacrificed in the interests of organ building." - "Out of My Life and Thought" by Albert Schweitzer

PIPES IN THE DESERT –

FEATURED PERFORMERS AND VENUES

The AGO Region IX Mid-Winter Conclave (Pipes in the Desert) will be held in sunny Tucson, Arizona, January 20–24, 2008. Among the featured organ recitalists are Paul Jacobs, chairman of the Organ Department at the Juilliard School in New York; Pamela Decker, composer, organist, and Professor of Organ and Theory at the University of Arizona; and Richard Elliott, Tabernacle Organist, Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Choral concerts will be given by the world-renowned Phoenix Bach Choir, known as one of the finest professional choral ensembles in America; and by the University of Arizona's select Arizona Choir, the premier choral ensemble at the University's School of Music.

In addition, there will be an innovative and inspiring opening hymn festival led by Michael Burkhardt and an intimate recital by the chamber ensemble Millennia Too!

The venues will feature organs by David McDowell/Pipe Organ Artisans of Arizona;

Schönstein; Quimby; Aeolian Skinner/Pipe Organ Artisans of Arizona; Schlicker; and Schantz. The Phoenix Bach Choir will be heard at the historic St. Augustine Cathedral in downtown Tucson. Originally built in 1868, when Tucson had a population of 600 people, the cathedral was restored in 1968. The Arizona Choir will be heard at Santa Cruz Catholic Church, a national historic landmark since 1994.

Did you know that the Phoenix Bach Choir is the first North American Choir to have an album on Chandos, the world's largest independent classical record label?

Please visit the conclave web site at www.agoixaz.com and read all about it, then print the registration form and send it in! Special registration rates are available until November 15, discounted hotel rates until December 20.

**PIPES IN
THE DESERT**

**AGO
REGION IX**

**TUCSON
JANUARY 20 - 24, 2008**

**THE NEXT
MID-WINTER CONCLAVE**

EXPERIENCE ORGAN AND
CHORAL MUSIC IN THE
BEAUTIFUL SONORAN DESERT

EXPLORE WAYS TO
RE-ENERGIZE CHURCH MUSIC

ENJOY MUSIC AND HOSPITALITY
WITH A SOUTHWESTERN FLAIR

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO
VISIT: WWW.AGOIXAZ.COM

**TUCSON, ARIZONA
JANUARY 20-24 2008**

LET THE GUILD PAY YOUR EXPENSES AT THE 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN THE TWIN CITIES OF MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL A \$1,400 DOLLAR VALUE

The National Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support invites you to take the 2007-2008

Member Challenge! This flyer will provide everything you need to know to take part in the Challenge - an

integral part of the 2007-2008 AGO National Membership Campaign: Each One—Reach One!

THE CHALLENGE FOR 2007-2008

2007-2008 is the third and final year of the Each One-Reach One campaign with the Member Challenge being

the primary focus. This challenge promises fun, larger membership numbers, national recognition, and the

opportunity to win a valuable prize - national headquarters will pay your major expenses while you enjoy the

2008 National convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Expenses include convention registration, the bus transportation package, and five nights in the convention hotel.

Start recruiting new and former members* today. When you have new recruits to report do the following:

REGISTER THEM ONLINE AT:

<http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/forms/recruit.html>

OR

PRINT THE FOLLOWING FORM AT:

<http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/forms/RecruiterForm.pdf>

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CHALLENGE INFORMATION:

<http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/index.html>

MEMBER CHALLENGE FLYER:

<http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/forms/MemberChallengeFlyer.pdf>

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE GUIDELINES

1. Recruiters must obtain at least five new or former members* to be eligible for an award.

**Former members are those who were previously members of the Guild. Renewing members*

from the 2006-07 membership year do not count as former members. There is one exception to

this rule: Chapter friends from the 2006-07 membership year who choose to change their

membership to a voting membership can be counted as recruits.

2. New members recruited must be full voting members (regular, special, student, or partner), and may become members of any chapter, or independent members. Chapter friends are not voting members of the Guild.

3. Dual members and POE students, who receive free membership, may not be counted as recruited members.

4. Registrars and Treasurers are not eligible to participate in the member challenge. Membership Coordinators are eligible unless they are also serving as Registrars or Treasurers.

5. Names and contact information must be submitted to AGO National Headquarters on an Official Entry Form (see below), and entries must be received by April 15th, 2008.

SUGGESTION: We are always looking for new members in the Guild. We are also looking to retain our past members as well. Talk with your Chapter Registrar / Membership Coordinator / Treasurer about past AGO members who have not renewed.

Up to five winners will be selected and notified in May of 2008 and will be recognized at the National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul June 22-26, 2008. Winners will be determined by the National Membership Committee based on the information received at AGO National Headquarters. All names reported on Official Entry Forms will be verified by the AGO National Membership Department records. Recruits will be counted only if names are reported by AGO Chapters on an official 2007-08 Dues Report or submitted to National Headquarters as Independent Members.

AGO Elections Coming Up

This AGO year (2007 - 2008) marks the last year that the current officers will hold their positions. Although all newly nominated/elected officers will not take their respective positions until June, 2008, as a Guild we need to consider new people for all positions. Nominations will take place in December and January for voting at the end of January. The National offices of the American Guild of Organists must be notified of the changes at that time, even though their service will not begin until after our closing social in May.

If you would be willing to serve in any of the available positions, please contact Nancy Christensen, Dean.

We are a small Chapter and all of your willing service is deeply appreciated. The positions we are looking for are Dean; Sub-Dean; Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Treasurer/Registrar; Website Editor/Historian; Photographer; Publicity and Public Relations; Education Coordinator; and Member at Large.

Traditionally, because we are a small Chapter, each individual serves for a period of two years. However, the new directive from the National Office is that members may serve for a period of only one year, if they so choose.

Please help us to maintain our Chapter through unselfish and faithful service. All of us have busy lives, our callings in Church, burdens of school, work, family, and all else we have to deal with. However, in consideration of all of that and the large chunks of time we are investing in everything, would each and

every one take a moment to consider sharing a small corner of your time with your local AGO Chapter? It will be a rewarding and satisfying experience, and will keep our little chapter moving on.

Eccle's Organ Festival :

4 Nov – Olivier Vernet (St. Nicholas Cathedral, Monaco)
8 PM in the Cathedral of the Madeleine

Nov. 11 7:00 PM, Larry Green will present a classical guitar recital at the Utah State Hospital Chapel.

To all participants in the Buxtehude Evening, a big Thank You. The music was delightful and the information was fascinating.