

The Trompette

The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

SEPTEMBER, 2009

VOLUME 9, #1

From the Dean's Bench...

Dear Colleagues,

An exciting new season is upon us, and I direct your attention within this issue to the details of the 2009-2010 Programs which the Executive Committee has crafted for you. The presenters include some brand-new perspectives on their respective topics, and some beautiful new venues and organs, as well as some returning presenters and venues that the membership has so much enjoyed in past seasons. I hope you will make note of the dates in your appointment books and join us for as many events as your own schedules permit. No doubt there is something of value for everyone this coming season. Many thanks to those members who agreed to present and/or host one of these programs.

The combined AGO Convention of Regions I and II held in Boston this past July was entertaining, educational and enlightening. Don't miss **Judith Abel's** detailed account of it inside. For those whose schedules prevented participation this year, I strongly suggest that you carve out some time to attend the National Convention next year, to take place in Washington DC, as you will thoroughly enjoy the events and camaraderie. Check your TAO for full details.

Edna Schloton, Past Dean and coordinator of too many activities to recount, has decided to reduce her schedule somewhat, and so, after many years of her involvement in leadership positions, she has stepped down from her responsibilities on the Executive Committee. I salute her and all of her many accomplishments achieved on behalf of the Chapter. We will honor her at our September meeting. Refreshments will be pot luck, and I encourage anyone with even the most rudimentary cooking skills to prepare and bring a recipe from her cookbook "Preludes & Postludes".

Thomas Zachacz is always looking for interesting tidbits about your activities and experiences for the newsletter, so send them along to him, along with your concert dates.

It's Renewal Time!, so don't forget to send in your dues and any changes to your Directory information to Kevin.

Sincerely,

John

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Alice Avouris

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MEMBERSHIP

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PLACEMENT / SUBSTITUTES

Judith Abel

WEBMASTER

Virginia Bender

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST PROGRAM OF THIS SEASON!

Sunday, September 20 at 4:00PM



IMPROVISING WITHIN THE WORSHIP SERVICE

**This event will be hosted and presented by Frank Miller
First Baptist Church
456 North Street
White Plains, NY
914/949.5207**

Directions from the Cross-Westchester Expressway (287):

FROM EAST: Going West on 287, take Exit 9N-S toward the Hutchinson Parkway/Merritt Parkway/Whitestone Bridge. Proceed on Westchester Avenue and take the Hutchinson Parkway Exit 9S toward the Whitestone Bridge. Then take the RT-127 N Exit, (Exit 25) toward White Plains. Turn right onto North Street. The Church will be on your right at the corner of Bryant Avenue.

FROM WEST: Going East on 287, take Exit 9A toward Brewster, but bear right onto Westchester Avenue. Turn right onto Bryant Avenue. Turn left onto North Street. The Church will be on your left.

WESTCHESTER AGO

2009-2010 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 20, 2009, Sunday, 4PM: *Improvising Within the Worship Service.*

Presenter: Frank Miller

Host: Frank Miller, First Baptist Church, White Plains.

October 18, 2009, Sunday, 4PM: *The Chorale Prelude as Cantus Firmus.*

Presenter: Robert Fertitta

Host: Carlton E. Maaia II, Memorial United Methodist Church, White Plains.

November 15, 2009, Sunday, 4PM: *Anthem Rehearsal Techniques.*

Presenter: Dr. Robert Lau

Host: Dr. John King, Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale.

January 10, 2010 *Twelfth Night Gathering* (Location to be determined)

February 7, 2010, Sunday, 4PM: *Historical Organ Methods.*

Presenter: Dr. Robert Chase

Host: Dr. Robert Chase, Church of the Highlands, White Plains.

(SNOW DATE is 2/21/10).

March 6, 2010, SATURDAY, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM, *Preparation for AGO Certification & Advancement Workshop.*

Presenter: Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff

Host: Donald Butt, The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington.

May 23, 2010, Sunday, 4PM: *Member Recital.*

Coordinator: Alice Avouris

Host: Andrew Sheranian, Christ's Church, Rye.

READS & MIXTURES

*More from the Dean.....***Robert Rowland – Local Organ Builder**

While representing our Chapter at the Regional Councilor's Deans Meeting in Boston last month, the District Convener for Western New York introduced herself to me. She is Roberta Rowland-Raybold, CAGO, and she explained that she is one of the earliest members of Westchester Chapter. Although she now resides, and plays, in Cooperstown, NY, she grew up in Ossining and joined the Chapter because her father was an organ builder. The name was immediately familiar to me, as I have played two of his fine instruments at the United Methodist Churches of Ardsley and Valhalla (Joyce Gardner's church). I asked her to send me information on other Westchester organs that her father built. Instead, she took the opportunity while visiting friends in Ossining on Aug. 18th to meet with me (and Edna and Joyce) and gave me a summary of all of the Rowland organs, most of which are located in upstate NY. All in all he built 34 new organs (from his basement and garage!) from 1924 through 1978, as well as the 60 he rebuilt, overhauled or electrified. In addition to the two organs in Ardsley and Valhalla, other Westchester organs of his include those at Highland Avenue United Methodist Churches in Ossining, and the Church of the Tarrytowns. Roberta recounted many touching stories about her father, and she is now preparing all of his records for archiving at the Organ Historical Society in Princeton, NJ.

A Message from Joseph Bertolozzi:

My *Bridge Music* album is being released in the UK and Ireland on August 17th. Australia is next on September 1st! Cheers! You can buy it here at www.JosephBertolozzi.com or 845/831.0695



"LOOKING FOR WORKERS!!"

The Executive Committee has positions & tasks to be filled by those of you who would like to have an increased role in the work and activities of the Chapter. Do your colleagues and yourself a service by volunteering to head up one of these important activities:

Chapter Historian

Hospitality Coordinator

(Organize refreshments for the year or for one event. Chef skills not required!)

Publicity Coordinator

Please consider hosting our January, 2010 "Twelfth Night" Gathering!

Bob and Jenny Chase have graciously volunteered again, but it would be good to give them a break this year.

Interested?

Please contact the Dean with any questions.

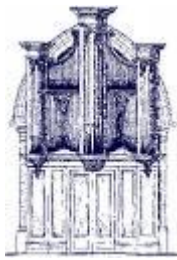
Nunc dimittis: D. DeWitt Wasson

D. DeWitt Wasson, 88, of Cornwall, PA, died June 23, 2009. He earned the Diploma in Sacred Music from Nyack Missionary Training Institute, the Bachelor of Sacred Music from Eastern Baptist Seminary, and the Master and Doctorate in Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary. He held church music positions in Virginia, Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania.

He was the organ music reviewer for *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST*, and edited the two volume *Free Harmonizations of Hymn Tunes* published by Hinshaw Music and the three-volume *Hymntune Index and Related Hymn Materials* published by Rowman and Littlefield. Prior to retiring to Cornwall Manor, he played fifty organ concerts in Europe on alternate years and represented America in numerous International Organ Festivals. He also had the honor of playing two organ recitals at The United States Military Academy Cadet Chapel. Founder and musical director of the Westchester Baroque Chorus and Orchestra for more than thirty years and dean of the Westchester County, New York chapter of the American Guild of Organists from 1961--63 and 1985--87, he established a research collection of organ music at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey.

D. DeWitt married Josephine Diener in June 1947. Until her death in January of this year, they shared a wonderful life together. He and his wife had lived at Cornwall Manor since October 1993. D. DeWitt Wasson was preceded in death by his wife. Surviving him are his sister, Vianna Walter; sister, Faith Buchino; and half sister, Ruthanne Wasson.

Source: *THE DIAPASON* July 14, 2009



NOTES ON THE BOSTON REGION II CONVENTION JUNE 30 TO JULY 3, 2009

A week in review by Judy Abel

Each AGO convention I attend turns out more spectacular than the one before, though that never seems possible in the beginning. This year's offering in Boston followed the pattern; it was spectacular. As always, I fretted about the expense, in money and time, and, again, I worried in vain; the experience I enjoyed was priceless.

The festivities began with a concert on the Harvard campus, in historical Christ Church. Stuart Forster, a young man who studied with Thomas Murray, performed some of his own orchestral transcriptions along with a variety of new and old composers, including Krebs (which I liked the best). The reception which followed was truly festive, as promised.

The next morning, we heard Westchester's own Michael Goodman playing Liszt's *Prelude & Fugue on B-A-C-H* on the Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Church of the Advent (big, impressive, and historical, as all these churches were). We were very proud of Michael, and sad that the other semifinalist won the Quimby Competition. The opening worship service was held in the beautiful Saint Cecilia Church and featured one of the convention commissions, a *Festive Toccata* by James Stephenson, performed by Balint Karosi, and exemplary hymn-playing by Brian Jones. Our own John Cecconi marched in the Dean's procession. Congregational singing, descants, appropriate messages from the clergy, all added to this inspirational event.

That night, we reveled in French music for orchestra and organ performed by James David Christie and the New Philharmonia Orchestra at Symphony Hall, the summer home of the Boston Pops. Hearing this glorious music made me very grateful to Dupré, Poulenc, Langlais, Vierne and Guilmant for having created such gems.

On the third day, we were treated to two programs totally different from one another. One organist was David Briggs, from England, who offered the Vierne *Symphony No. 2* and three of his own compositions (which he said he was still learning to play), preludes and fugues in honor of Dupré. (I liked the last two preludes.) The other performer, Hatsumi Miura, studied in Boston, but now works

NOTES ON THE BOSTON REGION II CONVENTION (continued)

back in Tokyo. Her program was traditional (Mendelssohn, Bach, and Franck), except for a brand new work, *Veni Creator*, by a young Japanese organist, Sakamoto.

The highlight for me occurred Thursday night. Diane Meredith Belcher (whom I met in the hotel elevator on Tuesday afternoon) gave a positively glowing and memorable performance on the grand, gigantic Aeolian-Skinner organ of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Every piece she played was outstanding. The effects of the thundering crescendos and the shimmering pianissimos in that awesomely constructed marble room were indescribable. Even on that huge instrument, in that huge place, she achieved immaculate clarity. Her program included three preludes and fugues by Mendelssohn, the surprisingly descriptive *Rock Valley Narrative* by Lee Hoiby, *Introduction & Passacaglia* by Rheinberger, and *Suite, Op 5* by Duruflé. Walking back to the hotel, by an immense reflecting pool, with an almost full moon overhead, was frosting on the cake.

On our last day, we heard music of Gigout, Debussy, and Karg-Elert, plus another convention commission, *Suite Breve* by Craig Phillips, charmingly played by Peter Sykes on the Welt-Tripp organ (recently restored by Austin) in the very interesting Church of the Covenant. We also heard Bach, Tunder, Buxtehude, Bohm, and Mendelssohn played on the suitably Baroque Richards & Fowkes organ in First Lutheran Church. The very capable and charming organist there was Christa Rakich.

Workshops happened, too. I chose one called “A Songful Community” with Jim and Maggie Dalton. They expounded on Shape Notes, quick dances, bowing songs, music of the Shakers and Sacred Harp. We got to sing a few examples with them. I wished they could have gone on for the whole afternoon; the hour allotted was not nearly long enough. From there, I went to an introduction to the Alexander Technique given by Mara Sokolsky. She gave us some quick and easy exercises we could do to help ourselves. There were also the anthem reading sessions from GIA, Paraclete, Richard Webster, Morningstar, and E.C.Schirmer. I came home with the predictable pile of new publications, and found some truly beautiful, usable pieces for my choir.

In a nutshell, attending this convention proved immeasurably worthwhile. I heartily recommend that all our chapter members attend the next one.

SUBSTITUTE LIST AS OF August 16, 2009
WESTCHESTER CHAPTER AGO

Note: To contact these people, refer to your Member Directory for phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Judith Abel (Weddings, Funerals)

Dorothy Beach

Carolyn Karlsrud (Winter months only)

Virginia Bender

Michael Goodman (Christian & Jewish)

Owen Borda --

Ralph Burkhardt (Synagogue services and Sundays after 11 AM)

Edna Schloton

Marilyn Ballantine

Henry Brooks (Saturdays, Christian)

Eileen Laurence (Synagogue services)

Richard Piluso (Catholic services)

Margaret Kim

Simona Frenkl (Synagogue services, Weddings)

NOTE:

***If you would like your name added or subtracted from this list,
please contact Judy Abel***

EMPTY BENCHES

Sorry, no.

FROM YOUR NEWSPAPER EDITORS...

Thank you all for your cooperation in getting your material **TO US** by the **20th of each preceding month**. We want to be able to deliver the Newsletter to you on or about the 1st of each month, and it takes a week or more to finalize the copy and layout, get it to and from the printer, and address, stamp and mail all of the copies.

The Trompette is sent out by email, and by regular mail to those Members without an email address. The electronic versions are sent out immediately after finalization, but processing the printed copies can take a week or more, plus the delivery of the regular postal mail can additionally take a week or more. If you have an email address, but are presently receiving your copy by postal mail, consider receiving it electronically instead, saving the Chapter postage expense. Send your email address to: lvsimmonds@hotmail.com

Kindly do not send in items more than once. For the Concert Calendar, include event, date, time, location, cost (if any) and an information phone number. (Incomplete or unclear submissions cannot be printed.) Due to space constraints, articles and notices are edited.

If you have provided a notice for the “Empty Benches” section, please be advised that postings will be carried for 3 calendar months unless we are advised that the position has either been filled or is still active. Newest listings appear first. Listings carried more than one month will be arranged alphabetically by organization and will indicate the month they were first run. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping *The Trompette* accurate and up-to-date.

Send your concert notices, articles, and other materials to:

E-mail: (preferable): PLEYGUY@aol.com (Compose in MS Word, if possible)

Postal Mail: T. Zachacz, *The Trompette*,

The Dean and the Executive Board encourage our Members to send informative articles and any other items of interest for publication in the Newsletter.

Thank you!

Lois Simmonds & Thomas Zachacz

Editors,

The Trompette

*Here is the LATEST issue of the
Westchester Chapter AGO Newsletter.....*

Inside:

**Schedule of Events for the 2009 -- 2010 Season; the newest
Substitutes List; review of the Boston Convention; obituary for
D.DeWitt Wasson; alas, no *Concert Calendar* and no *Empty
Benches*.**

*Please mark your calendar now
so you won't miss an important date!*

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Trompette

Lois Simmonds &

Thomas Zachacz, Editors