

# Chiff Chat

FEBRUARY 2013

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

I want to wish everyone a very healthy and happy New Year. Where does the time go to when you are having a good time? With one busy season over we have just a short time to catch our breath before we are into the Lent and Easter seasons.

On January 8, 2014 our chapter lost a very loyal and faithful member, Warren Hutchinson. We would like to extend our most sincere sympathy to Warren's family. Warren had been a long-time member of our Chapter during which time he served on the board and tried to attend all AGO functions of our chapter as well as those of other chapters. He was a very faithful organist to the Enfield Congregational Church for over seventeen years. He was also an active Mason, serving as organist at his own Lodge and as guest organist for many other lodges in the area over the years. It was back in 1979 when I was a student at Westfield State College and had just started studying organ with Charles Page that I met Warren. He was also studying organ with Charles. He was a loyal and true friend to me and will be missed by all.

Our chapter would also like to extend our deepest sympathy to our Chaplain, The Rev. William H. Wallis, and his family on the passing of his father on January 16, 2014.

The next event that your chapter has planned for you is on Saturday, March 1st 2014 at the South Congregational Church, Amherst, MA. It will take place from 10 am to 12 noon. It is Pedals, Pipes, Pizza; Introducing Young Students to the Organ. Please search your congregation for youngsters interested in music (perhaps members of your youth choir), especially those who are piano students, and invite them to attend this event with you. We need to keep our profession growing!

Our major recital will take place on March 23rd at 3 pm at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield. The recitalist for this event is organist Christa Rakich, a Fulbright scholar. Christa Rakich studied for two years with Anton Heiller at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria. She has also served on the faculties of Westminster Choir College and the University of Connecticut, as artist-in-residence at the University of Pennsylvania, and as assistant university organist at Harvard. You won't want to miss this event!

I look forward to seeing you at our next event. Until then, I wish everyone a Happy Valentines Day!

*Donald Hooton, Dean*



### CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean - Donald Hooton  
Sub-dean - Quentin Faulkner  
Treasurer - Jim Barnes  
Secretary - Charles Marshall

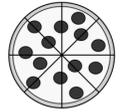
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Bailey  
Lori Bourret  
Elizabeth Dawson  
Joe Geehern  
John Karalekas  
Mary Jeanne Tash

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*Next Chapter Board Meeting: Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - 7:00pm  
United Congregational Church, Holyoke*



# Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

## Introducing Young Students to the Organ

- Photo by Len Levasseur



STUDENTS—ESPECIALLY THOSE STUDYING THE PIANO—AND THEIR PARENTS ARE INVITED TO A HANDS-ON ENCOUNTER WITH A PIPE ORGAN.

- GET A CHANCE TO PLAY THE ORGAN
- EXPLORE HOW IT WORKS
- LISTEN TO DEMONSTRATIONS BY ORGANISTS SHOWING OFF THE MANY SOUNDS
- SEE ALL OF THE VARIOUS KINDS OF PIPES
- DISCOVER HOW PLAYING THE ORGAN IS DIFFERENT FROM PLAYING THE PIANO

THE EVENT WILL CONCLUDE AT NOON WITH PIZZA FOR EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS (BOTH STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS).

THIS EVENT IS **FREE** TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS WHO ATTEND.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2014, 10:00AM-12:00PM**

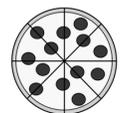
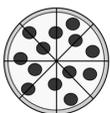
**SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**1066 S. EAST STREET**

**AMHERST, MA 01002**



PRESENTED BY THE SPRINGFIELD  
CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
GUILD OF ORGANISTS.



## PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

On **Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am**, the Springfield Chapter AGO will host a **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza** event at South Congregational Church in Amherst. Many in our chapter have mentioned the need to educate the next generation of organists and this is the perfect opportunity to do so. However, we cannot make this a successful event without your help.

### How can you help?

1. Bring your own students, (piano, organ, or any other instrument). The event is open to any student who would like to learn more about the organ.
2. Invite the children or young adults (and their parents) from your churches and parishes, even if they don't play the piano or organ...or ANY instrument.
3. Contact your local piano teachers and community music schools. Invite them to bring their students to try out the organ.
4. Invite adult members of your congregations. Although the event will be geared towards younger students, any adult who has a love of the organ or who dabbles in music is welcome to attend.
5. Contact the music programs of your local colleges and universities. Consider asking teachers to award extra credit if students attend the event, especially students enrolled in a

basic musicianship or music appreciation class, and hey...free food!

6. Invite your children's choirs. These young musicians could certainly benefit from knowing more about the organ, particularly if they also sing in youth choirs in their churches.
7. Advertise the event by putting up posters (print the one on page 2) and by asking your churches to announce the event in your bulletins, on their calendar of events, or during your Sunday services.

The event is **free** to all who show up and is fully sponsored by our chapter. No pre-registration is needed.

This is an event that follows the points listed in our national mission statement:

*"To enrich lives through organ and choral music", to "nurture future generations of organists", and to "engage wider audiences with organ and choral music."*

We hope that you can help make this event a success!



**Visit our website!!!**  
**[www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)**

## JOB POSTINGS

**First Congregational Church of East Longmeadow** is accepting resumes for organist, pianist, choir director and bell choir director. Salary commensurate with experience. Send information to:

Music Search Committee,  
First Congregational Church,  
7 Somers Rd.  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## February Events

**9 Sun. at 3:00pm**

**"The Brick Church" Music Series** will present pianist **Estela Olevsky** at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door with a reception following in the Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy. Information: 413-774-2657.

**15 Sat. at 9:00am**

Western New England University will host **Nick Page**, internationally known songwriter, conductor and composer, who will present a workshop on building community through singing. Throughout the day, Nick will work with singers from the university, the Children's Chorus of Springfield, and the Young Singers of Westfield and will present a one-hour program open to the public at 3:00 pm. Come for the workshop and stay for the day! \$10 includes lunch. Contact Vera Baker at 413-218-7391 for more information.

**16 Sun. at 4:00pm**

**Thomas Pousont**, organist and Director of Music Ministries at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA, will play a benefit concert for the church and give a presentation on Bach organs in Thuringia and Saxony. His recent four-month trip to Germany is part of his research as a doctoral candidate at McGill University in Montreal.

## March Events

**1 Sat. at 10:00am**

### Chapter Event

#### **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza:**

Introducing Young Students to the Organ, South Congregational Church, 1066 S. East Street, Amherst, MA. (see pages 2-3 of this issue for information)

**1 Sat. at 1:00pm**

The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA, is sponsoring a masterclass with **Hans-Ola Ericsson**, internationally known organist and presently Chair of Organ Performance at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. This event is open to the public to observe.

**2 Sun. at 3:00pm**

"The Brick Church" Music Series of The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA, will present **Hans-Ola Ericsson**, organist, in concert. Swedish-born Ericsson, a pedagogue, organist, composer, and presently Chair and Professor of Organ Performance at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, will play music by J.S. Bach, W.F. and C.P.E. Bach, Cage and Satie. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door with a reception following the concert in the Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy. Information: 413-774-2657.

**9 Sun. at 3:00pm**

Organist **David Neiweem**, University Organist at the University of Vermont, will perform a recital at South Congregational Church, 1066 S. East Street, Amherst, MA.

**23 Sun. at 3:00pm**

### Chapter Event

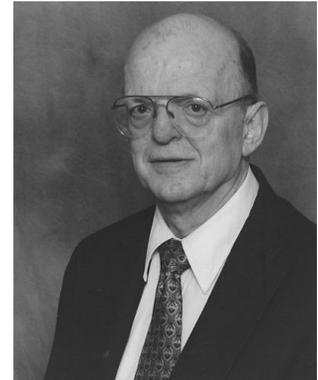
**Christa Rakich** will present a recital at Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut St. Springfield, MA. **Free** but donations will be accepted.

**30 Sun. at 4:00pm,**

**Greater Westfield Choral Association** spring concert, First Congregational Church of Westfield, MA.

\*Please send your 2014 calendar announcements to Scott Bailey (sbailey@westfield.ma.edu).

## IN MEMORIAM



**Warren B. Hutchinson**  
March 14, 1941 - January 8, 2014

"He was a gentle quiet guy who was devoted to the Chapter---he was our oldest regular utilizer of the Organ Academy for many years and held the SPC." - Lary

"Warren Hutchinson was a kind man who was totally devoted to the work of the church and the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He will be sorely missed by all of us in the Chapter. May his soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." - Joe

*The Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents:*

# Christa Rakich, organist



**SUNDAY MARCH, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2014**

**3:00 PM**

*Christ Church Cathedral,  
35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA*

*(This event is free but donations will be accepted to help  
offset the cost of using the sanctuary.)*



*This concert is sponsored by the Springfield Chapter of the American  
Guild of Organists. For more information, go to [www.agospringfield.org](http://www.agospringfield.org).*

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL: AGO PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS WITH THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP

NEW YORK CITY – The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is proud to announce five PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS (POEs) and one POE (Advanced) for students aged 13-18; one POE (Technical) for students aged 16-23; and two POE+ programs for adult students in 2014. Generous funding from the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA) and the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO) will support the summer programs, which will be held from coast to coast. Complete contact information for each Pipe Organ Encounter can be found in *The American Organist Magazine* and online at [Agohq.org](http://Agohq.org). The summer schedule follows:

POE for ages 13-18  
June 8-13, Fort Collins, Colo.  
June 9-14, Indianapolis, Ind.  
June 29-July 4, Wilmington, Del.  
July 7-11, Manhattan, Kans.  
July 13-18, Easton, Mass.

POE (Advanced) for ages 13-18  
June 29-July 4, Ann Arbor, Mich.

POE (Technical) for ages 16-23  
June 8-13, Stowe, Pa.

POE+ for Adults  
June 8-13, Rockford, Ill.  
July 13-17, Seattle, Wash.

"The AGO and APOBA have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship since 1975," declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "Likewise, the AIO has been active in supporting the

Guild's educational programs, beginning with their partnership in *Pulling Out All the Stops*, a video produced jointly by the AGO, AIO, APOBA, the Organ Historical Society, and the American Theater Organ Society in 1996. Collectively, APOBA and the AIO have contributed more than \$446,000 in support of the AGO's educational programs during our long association. For their ongoing, committed generosity in supporting the Guild's mission – to enrich lives through organ and choral music – we are extremely grateful."

The PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER (POE) is an introduction to the pipe organ through instruction in organ playing, repertoire, history, design, and construction. These regional summer organ music institutes for teenage students provide private and group instruction in service playing and solo repertoire, opportunities to learn about the musical heritage of various religious denominations, and a chance for young musicians to meet others with similar interests. Basic keyboard proficiency is required, although previous organ study is not necessary. The POE (Advanced) provides intermediate to advanced classes in areas such as organ literature, history, pipe organ construction and design, music

theory, improvisation, conducting, and service playing for students who have achieved a high level of success in organ study. The POE (Technical) is a program designed for students who are interested in learning the art and craft of organ building.

Scholarship assistance is available. The POE+ is a summer program filled with practical information and instruction for adult keyboard musicians interested in improving their service-playing skills. Participants will be introduced to basic organ skills through private instruction and classes. The weeklong experience will lead to greater confidence and competence at the organ. ■

POE site locations are selected by the AGO Committee on the New Organist and approved by the AGO National Council after application by AGO host chapters. The deadline for applications to host 2015 POE and POE+ programs is March 15, 2014. Applications are available from AGO National Headquarters. Partial program funding is provided to AGO host chapters.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The nominating committee is preparing for the 2014 - 2015 chapter year. This means that you may be contacted about volunteering to serve either on the board of directors or in another capacity which would be beneficial to the chapter.

Two board members have expiring terms this year: Elizabeth Dawson and Lori Bourret. These are three-year terms. The officers and board of directors meet together once a month to discuss chapter events, check in on our financial status, make decisions about the course of action for the chapter, and make sure things are running smoothly with the chapter and our members.

We also have two chapter officers whose terms end this year: Don Hooton, dean and Quentin Faulkner, sub-dean. These positions require more time and work but are well worth it.

**DEAN:** The dean is the chief executive officer of the chapter. The dean presides at all chapter meetings, nominates directors for standing committees, submit reports at general meetings, carry into effect all directions and resolutions of the chapter officers and board of directors, sign and countersign all contracts on behalf of the chapter, and serve as primary chapter liaison with the District Convener, Regional Councillor, and other regional officers.

**SUB-DEAN:** The sub-dean serves in the absence of the dean. The sub-dean is also oftentimes the head of the Program Committee.

Other ways you can serve:

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE or MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:** The members who serve in this capacity work to develop the membership of our chapter by recruiting new members, analyzing the demographics of the current membership and recommend and implement steps to maximize retention of those members, help ensure that current members participate in the chapter's social, musical, and professional development programs, set the standards for Chapter hospitality and teach them to others, and send applications to prospective members.

**PUBLICITY:** Members who serve in this capacity manage all of the publicity for the chapter including advertising, newspaper press releases for events, and other duties that promote the chapter publicly.

\*\*\*Consider volunteering to serve. We would love to have you as an officer,  
as a board member, or as a standing committee member.\*\*\*

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## *Chiff Chat Newsletter*

### **Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Celebrating 64 years as a chapter.**

*To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email Scott Bailey at [sbailey@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:sbailey@westfield.ma.edu). Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)*

***Next chapter event: Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza,  
Saturday March 1st, 2014, 10:00am - 12:00pm,  
South Congregational Church,  
1066 S East Street, Amherst MA***

***The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this we:***

*Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;  
Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;  
Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;  
Nurture future generations of organists;  
Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and  
Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.*

**Chiff Chat  
American Guild of Organists  
Springfield, MA Chapter  
Scott Bailey, newsletter editor  
50 Woodbridge Ln.  
Westfield, MA 01085**