

# Chiff Chat

OCTOBER 2014

## Dean's Message

Heraclitus, the ancient philosopher, is probably best remembered in modern minds with the phrase "Things change, yet remain the same". Things are changing in the Springfield AGO. The Spirit was High at a recent leadership workshop organized by Scott Bailey. The room was filled with your current AGO board and past officers who have a passion for the guild. This leadership retreat, facilitated by Cheryl Duerr, laid the ground plan for our future and it promises to be an exciting time. Things are changing, there are lots of ideas being discussed and here is a sample of the list.

At the top of our goals is community educational outreach to nurture what is for some their profession and for many a beloved avocation. We are aiming for a cycle of Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza for young piano students that will hit each of the three counties of our chapter in rotation. We are going to build on the successful PP&P held last year in Amherst. In early 2015 there is one scheduled in Bernardston (just north of Greenfield) being hosted by Liz Dawson. The following year will be in Hampden County. We aim to keep this rotation going, as there is always a new crop of kids. There is also discussion of Pedals, Pipes and Hors d'oeuvres for adults. Lastly, in the Pedal and Pipes department is a commitment for our chapter to again host a week long Pipe Organ Encounter for teens in the near future. We hosted one in 2007

and I felt at that time that our chapter's cup was overflowing with enthusiasm. If you don't sow you don't reap.

Second are services to members. This covers the total person. We have a good track record in celebrating our social nature. I have relished every meal this chapter has shared. Pastor-Organist dinners, luncheons at workshops, end of the year banquets have all been memorable events. With that in mind we also want to recharge our educational enrichment for members. This may include new opportunities and collaborations with other musical organizations. This spring we are having a day of workshops on engaging the young in song. It is for our members, but we are certainly inviting non-AGO teachers, choral directors, and anyone who may benefit. Anything that helps the musical world at large helps us.

Thirdly, when I went off to University I was given a state of the art Italian typewriter. It was completely mechanical, highly polished with elegant chrome trim. That typewriter was the envy of my fraternity house. I could show it to a younger member of our chapter today and they would look at me in disbelief. Things have really changed, but we still communicate

**(Continued on page 2)**



## Chapter Officers

### Chapter Officers

Dean – Lad Pfeifer  
 Sub-dean – H. David Pulliam  
 Treasurer – Jim Barnes  
 Secretary – Martha Sienkiewicz

### Board of Directors

Scott Bailey  
 Michael Carney  
 Joe Geehern  
 Sheila Heady  
 John Karalekas  
 Mary Jeanne Tash

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 By Mateusz Marcinowski  
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**(Dean's message continued)**

and a lot of that has to do with image, our 'branding'. It covers everything from an eye-catching logo, the technology we use or should be using (face book, twitter, etc.), and the resulting image of which people say we are. Wouldn't it be nice if people who have had some contact with us would say: "Oh, they are the group that does a lot of educational work musically in the community with keyboards, singing, and more." Think of it not as pie in the sky, but as

something to set as a goal for all of us to aim at together.

In summation, these three areas imply some change, but they also embody the unchanging historical thrust of the guild through education, mutual support, and promotion of the organ & choral music. Our chapter has a great past record of accomplishments. Knowing that and knowing who we are, it is now time for us to commit ourselves to set the stage in which we can pass on the torch,

our musical light, to another generation. Let's grapple with change so that the love of choral and organ music may remain unchanged.

Faithfully yours,

*Ladislav Pfeifer, dean*

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## CONTRIBUTE TO CHIFF CHAT

This month we will feature an article written by one of our chapter members, Mateusz Marcinowski, who took part in the chapter's Organ Academy program. In the article, he shares his experiences of playing for a mass for the first time.

Mat is just one example of a way that you can contribute to our chapter newsletter. Some other ways include:

\*sharing some of your research about a particular topic

\*writing a short article of interest to organists, choir directors, or general musicians

\*writing a concert review of our local performing arts groups, organists, choirs, or other music events of note

\*providing your music program's calendar of events for the season

\*profiling new members so we can get to know them better

\*sharing pictures from our events and concerts

Anyone in the chapter can contribute material to the newsletter. Please send any information to [sbailey@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:sbailey@westfield.ma.edu) on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you have a story to tell, a picture to share, a special interest piece, or any other newsworthy item, do not hesitate to pass it along to all of your colleagues in the Springfield Chapter AGO.

*Scott Bailey, CAGO  
Editor*



**Visit our website!!!**

[www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)

# Calendar of Events

## October Events

### 5 Sun. at 3:00pm

**The Brick Church Music Series** will host a recital featuring **Peter Dzialo**, cello, and **Tamila Azadaliyeva**, piano. A native of Uzbekistan, Tamila will perform four Chopin impromptus. Peter and she will perform together Romantic Era virtuoso works, character pieces and operatic fantasies by composers Servais, Popper, Schubert, and others. The concert will be held at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. There is a *suggested donation* of \$10.00.

### 7 Tue. At 10:30am

**The Tuesday Morning Music Club** will host a concert of chamber music featuring Sarah Briggs, violin, Carol Hutter, viola, Mark Fraser, cello, Ellen Redman, flute, and Tamila Azadaliyeva, piano. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

### 11 Sat. at 4:00pm

The **Music at Atonement** series will present a concert featuring soprano Shelley Roberts, soprano Valerie Osborn, and tenor Brandon Milardo with Scott Bailey on piano and organ. Admission is free but offering will be taken to support the series. Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., Westfield, MA.

### 19 Sun. at 3:00pm

**South Congregational Church in Amherst** will host a concert featuring organist Christopher Marks, Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Freewill offering will be taken.

### 21 Tue. at 10:30am

**The Tuesday Morning Music Club** will host a concert featuring Sudie Marcuse, soprano, Grant Moss, organ, and Mark Winder, tenor. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

### 26 Sun. at 4:00pm

**Faith United Church in Springfield** will host an organ concert featuring organist **Scott Bailey**. Music selections by Bach, Franck, Wammes, and McConnell. Proceeds from the concert to benefit Church World Service CROP Hunger Relief.

## November Events

### 2 Sun. at 3:00pm

**The Brick Church Music Series** will host a recital by **Rhonda Sider Edgington**, organ. A church musician, organ teacher, harpsichordist, and a carillonneur, she continues to perform regularly in the U.S. and abroad. Repertoire will include pieces by J.S. Bach, Lubeck, Buxtehude, Boehm, Muethel, and music by several women composers. The concert will be held at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. There is a *suggested donation* of \$10.00.

### 4 Tue. 10:30am

**The Tuesday Morning Music Club** will host a concert of oboe quartets featuring Tamara Field, Kirsten Hadden Lipkens, Aaron Lakota, and John Thomas. Organist Larry Picard will also appear on the program. The concert will be held at Providence Place, 5 Gamelin Street, Holyoke, MA.

### 16 Sun. at 4:00pm

**The Episcopal Church of the Atonement** will host an evensong service with collaborating choirs from Atonement, St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Easthampton, and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in West Springfield. Freewill offering will be taken.

### 18 Tue. at 10:30am

**The Tuesday Morning Music Club** will host a concert featuring Mary Brown-Bonacci, mezzo soprano, and David Garrido Cid, piano. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

### 23 Sun. at 3:00pm

**The Hampshire Choral Society** will present its fall program at Abbey Chapel at Mt. Holyoke College. Music will include Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*, K. 321 and Handel's *Chandos Anthem No. 11 "Let God Arise"*. For more information visit [www.hampshirechoral.org](http://www.hampshirechoral.org).

## JOHN BISHOP

### DIRECTOR OF THE ORGAN CLEARING HOUSE

When you Google 'John Bishop', the quest speaker of our Pastor Organist Dinner, you can pick between a bodybuilder, a comedian, or a man known for his work with the Organ Clearing House.

John Bishop, the son of an Episcopal clergyman, graduated from Oberlin with a degree in Organ performance. Started his own organ company and has been crisscrossing the country for years as the executive director of the Organ Clearing House, an organization founded in 1959 dedicated to finding new homes for organs of merit. His work with the Organ Clearing House has been featured in major media outlets like the Wall Street Journal and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). The OCH has not only found new homes for instruments across the USA, but also to many foreign countries like Peru.

As a Clergyman's son with strong roots in the world of 'the church', Mr. Bishop has had first hand experience of the many movements affecting churches and their style of worship. He will certainly have many insights into not only the current world of churches in America, but also a keen sense of the direction that the organ will be taking in the 21st century church.

Despite his vast accomplishments, John Bishop is probably best known to many for his engaging, personable & somewhat chatty, feature article published monthly in The Diapason. He has an uncanny way of observing various aspects of human life from cooking meals, designing tall buildings, sailing on the Charles River, and miraculously ties it all together to our lives with the organ and our ministries in the church.

The Pastor/Organist Dinner is a great way to treat your clergy person, or anyone who is supportive of your musical endeavors. Invite someone into your world and build a personal bridge with him or her by sharing your life. We hope you can join us on *November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the First United Methodist Church, 16 Court Street in Westfield, MA.*

## JOB POSTINGS

**First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, VT, U.C.C.** seeks PT Organist/Choir Director. Job includes directing adult & women's choirs, and playing organ & piano @ 2 services [beautifully refurbished 1928 Estey organ / Young Chang baby grand]. Salary range 17-23k. Cover letter & resume to Pat Seaver c/o 1st Congregational Church, 1 Church St. Essex Junction VT 05452, or email to [musicdirectorfccejsearch@fccej.org](mailto:musicdirectorfccejsearch@fccej.org)

**Mittneaugue United Methodist Church** in West Springfield seeks a part time Organist/Director of Music to play for Sunday morning services (9:00 A.M.), as well as for other services and events throughout the year. Must be proficient in playing hymns from the Methodist Hymnal, as well as from The Faith We Sing. Salary is \$100.00 per service. Contact Reverend Bruce Arbour(788-0304), or [AFDChaplain@juno.com](mailto:AFDChaplain@juno.com).

**Grace Union Church, Wilbraham** Seeks an Organist/Pianist/Choir Director. Reliable person for Sunday AM service and various functions, choir directing and choir practices. For more detailed information, please contact Douglas Baker at 413-596-5596 or email to [graceunionchurch@verizon.net](mailto:graceunionchurch@verizon.net) or mail resume to Grace Union Church 10 Chapel Street Wilbraham, MA 01095 Attn: Douglas Baker

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PASTOR-ORGANIST DINNER  
NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 – 6:00PM

Cost is \$15 per person. Come with or without your clergy Person

Featured speaker is John Bishop,  
director of the Organ Clearing House.



Menu will include:  
Potpourri of Hors Dourves  
Baked Ham with Pineapple Glaze  
Salad  
Roasted Medley/White and Sweet Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Rolls and Butter  
Apple Crisp  
Coffee, Iced Tea, Cider, Water  
Vegetarian/Quiche

Please be sure to include on the form any dietary needs: vegan? vegetarian? gluten free? If people tell us ahead of time, we can offer each of these options.

Email your reservation to [intwmass@aol.com](mailto:intwmass@aol.com), or phone Jim Barnes at 413-568-8477  
or mail the form below, with check payable to AGO Springfield  
to Jim Barnes, 27 Carriage Lane, Westfield, MA, 01085

**Deadline is Monday November 10th, 2014!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

## MY JOURNEY AS AN ORGANIST

BY MATEUSZ MARCINOWSKI

I have only been a student of the Organ for about 1 1/2 years and 2 years of Piano. I progressed through my lessons in both Piano and Organ fairly fast because of my deep desire to be a church organist. I had originally planned to start working on this goal after several years of elementary Organ studies utilizing my teacher Jan Duffee and the Organ Method book from Gleason. My lessons and daily practice were as follows: Scale/Chord practice, technical exercises, working on 1 or 2 new pieces of music, perfecting music already known, and also increasing knowledge through music theory books, etc. My experience with public performance has only been singing as a tenor in a church choir and several recitals for friends and family.

I went out with some of my friends for lunch. I returned at about 3:30 P.M on a Saturday. I received a phone call from an unknown number, which appeared to be coming from Northampton. I answered the phone and it was Fr. Adam Czarnecki (Pastor of St. Valentine's Church in Northampton, MA). He wanted to know if I could play tomorrow 9:30 A.M. I told Father that this was putting me on the spot and that I am not ready. I slightly went into a panic and without much thought of the consequences, I said YES. I was scared, anxious and happy at the same time. I was scared and anxious because I did not know what to expect and I realized that I

just threw myself in the "Lion's Den"; I was happy because I realized that perhaps my dream would come true sooner than I thought. Maybe I really was ready for this.

I drove down to the Church and met with Father. Father showed me a list of all hymns that I was expected to play. I reviewed the hymns and realized that some of them were in keys that I wasn't familiar with. I drove home and called up my friend Daniel from Michigan to help me out. Daniel helped me harmonize all of the hymns based on the key signature and melody tones. How did we do this? You wouldn't believe it! Through Skype! That day, I had to cancel all of my plans for Saturday with my wife. I spent 6 + hours downstairs in my "music room" practicing and preparing for Sunday. I applied the practicing techniques that my teacher had taught me. I will admit: I did not sleep well that night! Nevertheless, I received a lot of support and encouragement from my wife, family and my teacher.

Sunday morning came and I was getting very nervous and anxious. I prepared my daily routine of meditation. I was able to squeeze in a "quick" practice before leaving for church. My practice consisted of a couple of Hanon exercises that I know and brief scale runs. I drove to Church, went up into the choir loft, and turned on the Organ.

Little did I know that my goal and dream was slowly unfolding before my eyes. The choir could tell that I was nervous. I could tell that I was nervous! My heart was racing a mile a minute! My hands were shaking! 9:30 A.M came and the Mass started. The first two hymns (entrance & Holy Spirit song) were nerve wracking for me, but I noticed that my anxiety and nerves were slowly decreasing. The more exposure I had sitting on the bench and playing in front of the choir and congregation, the more comfortable I felt. My first Mass was a success and I was asked to return for Palm Sunday and have been playing every Sunday since.

I have learned a lot throughout my journey as a Church Organist so far. First, I have a LONG way to go and I am always striving to improve my playing ability. Second, my appreciation and respect for those that have been doing it for a long time increased. Third, I realized that I can work well under pressure, especially when I am thrown into the "Lion's Den". Fourth, I learned to appreciate my current playing ability and what I can offer to both the congregation and choir. I look forward to being on this journey of becoming/being a Church Organist. None of this would have been possible without the support of my friends and family, Springfield AGO, Martha Sienkiewicz with the AGO Organ Academy, and most especially, I owe it all to my teacher, Jan Duffe. **(Continued on page 7)**

(Continued from page 6)

A BRIEF CODA (by Jan Duffe)

The musical journey of Mateusz Marcinowski, which began at one of the merged Easthampton churches less than ten years ago, is an inspiring one. Mat approached me at this church, where I was serving as Director of Music Ministries, and told me he felt he had a "call" from God to become a Church Organist, but had very little background. I had never before accepted an organ student who required piano basics, but Mat agreed to begin

piano. His heart, however, continually pulled him toward the organ and the liturgical music of the Mass. I insisted he find a pipe organ with AGO pedalboard to practice on. Mat applied for sponsorship of the Organ Academy and traveled to Maine to acquire a used instrument for his home with "silent" pedals. He practiced on these pedals without sound until Martha Sienkewicz kindly offered her organ at Grace Church, W. Springfield. When I became temporarily "derailed" by illness, Fr. Adam offered the use

of St. Valentine's organ in Northampton and Mat has been covering my position there for the term of my medical leave, ending this June. True to his call, Mat's first Academy recital was centered on hymns and the liturgy of the Mass. I remain in awe of the perseverance and accomplishments of this dedicated young man and I am proud of our Greater Springfield Chapter of the AGO for offering his invaluable support.

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## Opening Event

*The Springfield AGO held their opening event on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic Church in South Hadley. The event featured organ and piano duets performed by Grant Moss and Larry Schipull, a music swap, the installation of new officers and board members, and a reception.*

*(Right: The current board is installed by Father William Wallis, chaplain of the Springfield Chapter. Below: Grant Moss and Larry Schipull perform together at the Casavant Frères organ.)*



*(Right: Incoming dean Lad Pfeifer presents the deans' pin to outgoing dean Donald Hooton.)*



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## Chiff Chat Newsletter

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
Celebrating 65 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:  
Pastor-Organist Dinner  
Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm  
First United Methodist Church  
16 Court Street  
Westfield, MA 01085**

***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**