

Chiff Chat

MAY 2015

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

The Chiff Chat is late and it's my fault. Now with that said my message to you is in two parts. Firstly, I wish to comment on our chapter programs. David Pulliam brought together a wonderful band of presenters for the Youth in Song workshops on April 11th. The reviews I've heard have been outstanding. There are two more official events for this year. The Silent Film, Robin Hood, with Peter Kransinski as organist will be a thrill at United Church in Holyoke on May 16th. It is sheer entertainment of best sort and family friendly. Then to close the year please mark your calendars on June 28th for the Chapter Banquet and OHS Gala Concert at the cathedral with Christopher Houlihan, international rising star and our beloved local son.

The next part my message is a brief churchy travelogue of my post Easter travels. So if you are brave of heart venture on!

They are inspirational to behold or as plain as a wooden box; yet both the humble and the mighty have the ability to captivate a listener. On Easter Monday I left NYC for Bruges, Belgium and over the next two weeks I revisited places I had not been in 30years. During the time I tried to make an effort to visit some churches and take a snap shot of the organs.

As a college student-studying organ I can clearly remember looking at photos with other students dreaming the impossible of ever actually being in a building with such an instrument. At the time there were 2 three manual organs on campus, 5 two rank practice organs, and all of them built by Holtkamp. To us those European organs with their wondrous cases were spellbinding and they still are.

In Bruges I caught a glimpse of two very different instruments. The **Cathedral of St. Salvator** has an instrument of sixty stops on three manuals and pedal. Built originally in the early 1700's by Jacobus Van Eynde for the parish church of St. Salvator. St. Salvator became the cathedral of Bruges after the French troops destroyed the original cathedral in the late 18th century. Having never been intended as a cathedral St. Salvator is nestled in an inner city neighborhood with tiny winding cobble stone streets weaving around. In fact it is hard to find the right door to get inside because for daily use the locals use a small door off an alleyway.

If it weren't Belgium you'd worry



(Continued on page 2)



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
Rev. Dr. John Hooker
Mary Jeanne Tash

In This Issue:

Dean's Message	Pages 1-2, 6
Job Postings	Pages 3-4
Calendar of Events	Page 3
ONCARD and Renewing membership	Page 5

(Dean's Message Continued)

about being mugged.

Quite the opposite is the little organ found in the **Begijnhof**. Begijnhofs were and in some instances still are an interesting aspect of Catholic life in the lowlands. They were charitable housing for the widowed, or indigent women without any real means of support. These women are similar to Sisters, but they have no vows or set rules of living outside of the implication that they will lead a prayerful and chaste life while living there. The Begijnhof in Bruges is a large collection of small modest cottages surrounding an open park, which at the time was full of daffodils. Characteristic of Begijnhofs is a chapel or a place of prayer in addition to the cottages. I have no idea who built this little gem of an organ and wish I could have gotten a better picture, but a good portion of the chapel is closed off to visitors in order that the residents may have some peace and quiet in their prayer.

The **Cathedral in Antwerp** is a World Heritage Site despite the fact that it has been destroyed and plundered several times especially during the religious upheavals of the Reformation and the French Revolution. Many of the cathedral's large number of paintings by Rubens were stolen and returned from Paris in the 19th century. More Rubens reappeared



after WW II and were returned from Germany. The organ seems to be of modern design and probably tracker. It is interesting to visually compare the sleek modern look of the organ to that of the ornate cathedral pulpit symbolizing the divine presence in the entire world. Americans take note of the turkey on the left stairs. It's there for you and me ;-)



In **Ghent** I heard the Handel Society of Holland sing the Lux Aeternae of Morten Lauridsen in the **Cathedral of Saint Bavo**. The conductor had a remarkable rehearsal stool and was a man of real precision. He



soon as the first notes were played the people milling about the cathedral suddenly became quiet, sat down, or stood very still and they stayed



captivating to watch during the rehearsal. Before the choir sang the organist played several pieces by Widor and Vierne. As



that way until the end. That impressed me a lot. The console was rather strange and I'm not sure as to why all the little white buttons, part of a combination action? If anyone knows please enlighten me.



Rotterdam, Holland was literally wiped off the map by German bombing at the start of WWII. Of the entire city virtually only one hotel and part of the tower of **St. Laurent's Church** were left standing. St. Laurent's Church is the only thing that was actually rebuilt in Rotterdam. There are three organs in the church. All of the by the Danish organ builder Marcussen. The principle organ has over seven thousand pipes. The smaller bird's nest organ is in the transept while the choir organ is in the apse. All three are beautiful to behold. The rest of Rotterdam is a marvel of late 20th century



architecture. Some of it is quite bizarre, yet astounding. It's like virtually stepping into the future.

The **Basilica of St. Nicholas** in Amsterdam has a large German Romantic



(Continued on page 6)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May Events

16 Sat 7:00pm

Chapter Event

The **Music at United** series and the Springfield Chapter AGO will present the silent movie *Robin Hood* accompanied by organist **Peter Krasinski**. *Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students)*. United Congregational Church, 300 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA.

17 Sun 3:00pm

The Hampshire Choral Society will present a special concert: the first area performance of the first major choral work written by an American composer, John Knowles Paine's *Mass in D*. \$20 (\$15 students and seniors). UMASS Fine Arts Center.

20 Wed 8:00pm

The Methuen Memorial Music Hall begins it's summer series of organ concerts on Wednesday evenings May 20th – Aug. 26th featuring organists from around the country including the Springfield Chapter's own **Monica Czausz** on Aug. 12th. \$12 adults, \$5 children. 192 Broadway, Methuen, MA.
www.mmmh.org

June Events

5 Fri 7:00pm

Organist **Nicholas Capozzoli**, winner of the 2013 Region III AGO/Quimby award will present works by Guilmant, Shearing, and Jongen. *Free admission*. First Unitarian Church, 90 Main St., Worcester, MA. Contact Will Sherwood at will@sherwoodphoto.com for more information.

14 Sun 3:00pm

The **Music at United** series will host a concert featuring organist **Amanda Mole**. *Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students)*. United Congregational Church, 300 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA.

JOB POSTINGS

First Church of Monson MA seeks a Director of Music. This part time position (10-14 hours) will be available in January, 2015. Responsibilities include playing for one Sunday service, direction of adult and youth choirs, and coordination of the music program of the church. Instruments available are a three manual 1891 Johnson pipe organ as well as a Yamaha grand piano. Salary is negotiable. Send resume or inquiries to Music Committee / Mary Newland at office@firstchurchmonson.org

VOLUNTEER ORGANISTS

NEEDED: Volunteer--say what? And on an electronic organ? That's right...but there's more! Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center in quiet Byfield, MA will offer you 3 gourmet meals a day and your own sweet room in exchange for playing 3 simple services a day. Adelynrood, owned by the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (an Episcopal women's organization), hosts retreats and programs open to all. Walk the labyrinth, read in the 5 libraries, deepen your spirituality if you wish. Open dates as of press time: June 8-14, June 22-28, June 29-July 3, September 7-14, September 15-20. Full weeks are preferred, but partial weeks are also welcome. Interested in a working vacation amidst beautiful grounds and a lovely chapel? Know another organist who would enjoy this opportunity? Contact Karen Banta, SCHC (and Springfield AGO member): kdbanta@gmail.com, 413-548-5076. www.adelynrood.org

AGO REGION 1 CONVENTION - NEW HAVEN JUNE 28TH – JULY 1ST 2015

Convention Fees:

Member/Chapter Friend (AGO or ACDA) after Mar. 1	\$360
Regular Senior/Guest/Disabled (after Mar. 1)	\$320
Daily	\$150
Early Non-member	\$410
Regular Non-member	\$450
Student (scholarships available, contact the registrar)	\$50
Optional bus trip to Stonington, Wednesday, July 1	\$30
Banquet, Tuesday, July 30 (free for students)	\$65

May 2015

YOUTH IN SONG CHAPTER EVENT APRIL 11TH, 2015



Chapter members gathered for a presentation on working with young singers in choirs at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield. Our presenters were Mary Huff, Artistic Director of the New York City Children's Chorus, Bert Landman, president of the Royal School of Church Music in America, and Enid Oberholtzer, Fellow of the RSCM and past president.



JOB POSTINGS

Mittineague 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.

Faith United Church in Springfield is seeking a part-time Organist to play for Sunday morning services (9:00AM meet with choir and 10:00AM is the actual service). The Organist would be needed to accompany choir rehearsals as well on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30PM and for any other special services and or events that might arise throughout the year. They must be able to play hymns from the New Century Hymnal and Pilgrim Hymnal. Salary is \$175.00 per week. Contact Eduardo Ortiz via email eortiz112285@gmail.com or cellphone 786-400-9998.

Our Lady of the Cross in Holyoke is looking for a part-time Music Director/Organist wanted. Must be experienced choir director and organist with Roman Catholic experience. Four weekend Masses, Holy Days, choir rehearsal and build cantor program. Wicks pipe organ. AGO salary range. Available immediately. Please send or email materials to Fr. Albert, 23 Sycamore St, Holyoke MA 01040. 413-532-5661, x-207, fatheraws@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ONCARD

So, those of you who renewed your membership last June using ONCARD, you have already received your renewal notice for this year via email.

For those of you who are new to the chapter, or who need a refresher about ONCARD, here are some tips:

How do I renew my membership?

Go to <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/>. Click the button that says "ONCARD Login/Renew". Follow the instructions on the page to log in. Click on "Renew Dues and Subscriptions." Once you are in, you can update your information and pay online via your credit card. They even have a link with a six minute long video instruction guide to help you with the whole process.

But I don't want to pay with my credit card!

Go to <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/>. Follow the instructions on the page to log in. Click on "Renew Dues and Subscriptions." After you proceed with the process, you will get to a screen which gives you the dues balance, any updated information, and your invoice number in red. If you want to print the invoice, click on the red invoice number and a new screen will appear which will allow you to print your invoice. Print it out, write out your check for the proper amount, and then mail it to national.

My church pays for my dues...

Follow the procedure above and have the church cut the check instead of you.

What about dual membership?

I was able to sign up for my dual membership and it worked fine. Others have not been so lucky. If you have issues with your dual membership you will have to contact the national office (www.agohq.com)

I never go online. What do I do?

Contact your dean, Lad Pfeifer (ljep@diospringfield.org or 860-227-6961). He will provide you with your invoice via national headquarters. If your email address is not registered with National, you will automatically receive a paper renewal form.

I'm a chapter friend, not a regular member. How do I renew?

Send your regular dues amount to Jim Barnes. Chapter friends are not technically part of the national organization so they do not fall under the ONCARD umbrella. The best option is to contact our treasurer Jim Barnes (intwmass@aol.com or 413-568-8477) to see what steps should be taken.

Scott Bailey, editor

CONTRIBUTE TO CHIFF CHAT

Things that you can contribute to the Chiff Chat newsletter:

- Concert reviews
- Member profiles
- Your church's organ specifications or organ history
- Events for the calendar
- Articles about organs, organ music, organ events, etc.
- Photos with captions
- Commentary
- Organ concert flyers



Visit our website!!!
www.springfieldago.org

(Dean's Message Continued)

Sauer Organ and is used quite a lot for concerts outside of mass. Like so many churched that I visited there are second or third organs for the choir. St. Nicholas has a very small chamber organ neatly housed in a box for the choir.

Unfortunately, many of the Protestant churches in Amsterdam and in Holland were closed tight, the main churches in Amsterdam like the South Church in the red light district were Sweelink played is now briefly open on Sundays for service. Even on Sundays it is sometimes hard to get into many of the Protestant churches as the main doors are rarely open and people tend to use innocuous side doors. I spent 15 minutes trying to get into one church in the city of Horn as none of the doors I tried opened. I could hear preaching and music, but finding the open door was a puzzle. The puzzle was finally solved when service ended and I saw people leaving through the garden door of a neighboring house. Local knowledge needed here and visitors rarely expected!

The last organ of interest was one that Sweelink actually played in **Enkhuizen**. There is a big plaque outside the church testifying to this fact. Sweelink is very big in Holland. Before the Euro became the currency,



Sweelink was prominently displayed on one of the Dutch guilder notes like President Jackson on our \$20 dollar bill. This church has a double nave. If you could imagine two long

sailing vessels upside down and next to each other you would have the picture. Unfortunately there is a set of massive columns supporting the two roofs and separating the two naves.

Currently the church is used for worship and concerts in one nave and kitchen/café on the other half for intermissions. I found it very strange. Like many of the Dutch Protestant Churches the walls are all white plaster. The Church in Enkhuizen recently had repair work on a back wall on the café side that revealed very large-scale medieval paintings depicting salvation history. Some photographs are on displayed in the 'café' and a small two-foot section was left exposed in a corner. The rest of it was promptly plastered over and painted white. The only painting on the walls is the secular faux drapes encircling the organ case in the other nave.

While visiting this church I heard the Mass of St. Cecilia by Charles Gounod and the Magnificat of John Rutter performed by the Oratorio Chorus and Symphonia of Amsterdam. It was thrilling. Sound seemed to stay alive forever in that building yet the music was clean and crisp. The experience also reminded me of my personal thoughts that there is no one way to pronounce 'Church Latin'. The pronunciation of Latin really does change from place to place in sometimes shocking, yet remarkable ways.

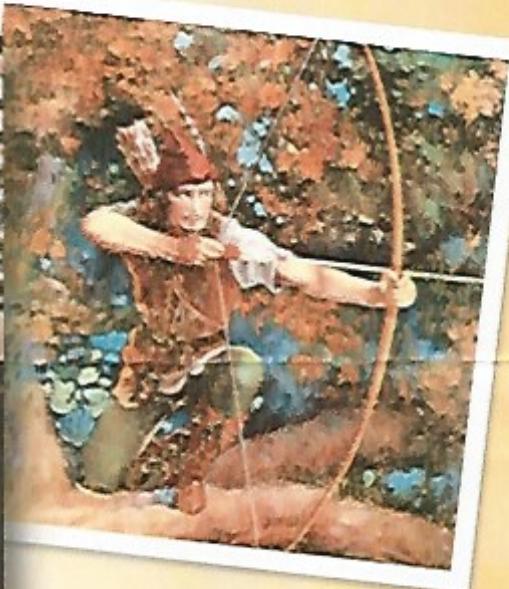
Finally, may I offer a few observations on the spiritual life in the low lands and our lands? Even

more than America churches in Europe are in trouble and the musical culture connected with them is likewise endangered. It is heartening to enter churches with inspiring organs and churches with several organs for different purposes, but out side of these grand places the smaller congregations face the same dilemmas as we. We sometimes live with the false conclusion that all Europeans have much more refined senses. Many of them do, but when faced with declining membership, the cost of instruments and skilled musicians there are congregations in venerable buildings that have opted out of classical or well crafted music for worship. I have heard it. I entered a few of the great Protestant churches in Holland and was completely dismayed. There may be an historic instrument with a great façade, but the church music may be of less substance than a poor coffee house. I say this to remind all of us that we live in unsettled times. In some ways it asks us to be the most creative people ever.

The surrounding landscape can seem like the worst of times, but it is also the best of times to sow seeds and captivate people anew. For that reason, you and I are here and thankfully the guild brings us together for support, guidance, and encouragement. God may have the whole world in his hands, but the local one is in ours. Remember that at choir rehearsal or whenever you turn on the organ. The future is in your hands.

Lad Pfeifer, dean

Experience Music at United



Silent Film: ***ROBIN HOOD***

Starring Douglas Fairbanks

Peter Krasinski, Organist

7pm Sat, May 16

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Corner of Appleton (Rte. 141) and Maple Streets, Holyoke, MA

Please Use Maple Street Entrance

Suggested Donation: \$10 (\$5—Seniors and Students)

**Co-sponsored with the Springfield Chapter,
American Guild of Organists**

(413) 532-1483 www.uccholyoke.org

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. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org

Next chapter event:

Silent Movie: Robin Hood

With organist Peter Krasinski

Saturday May 16th, 7:00pm

United Congregational Church

300 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040

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.

Westfield, MA 01085

50 Woodbridge Ln.

Scott Bailey, newsletter editor

Springfield, MA Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Chiff Chat