

# CHIEF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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## CHAPTER CHEFS COOK-UP PROMISING POTLUCK PROGRAM

As you may remember from our October Chiff Chat we have an impending event. I have it on good authority, that since it is a potluck, you just can't be toooooo late! Our Chapter's November event is a **Pot-Luck Supper and Anthem Reading Session** at Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Ave. (right next to Westfield State College), Westfield, Monday, November 17, beginning at 6:00pm. Several presenters are lined-up to show you some of their favorite/newest/bestest anthems. Following dinner around 7:30pm, Larry Bishop, Liz Dawson, Michael-Thomas Gilman, Becky Isaacson, Charles Page, and perhaps **YOU** will present some new music. Please continue reading for details, but all are welcome — that

includes you, our chapter member, and perhaps that friend you've always wanted to invite to a guild event, but weren't sure which one would be most appealing.

Please check your recipes (we need some from each category — casseroles, salads and desserts) and then give our hostess, Karen Lampiasi, a call (413-562-0646) to say what you'll be bringing toward the dinner. The committee will provide the hors d'oeuvres, rolls, butter and beverages. After dinner we'll be moving into the Sanctuary to enjoy our musical treat(s) for the evening.

If you have an anthem you'd like to share, we'd like to know that, too. All you have to do is call Barbara Huber (413-525-6142) or Don Hooton, (413-533-8412) to sign up. Second Congo has both a piano and organ available in the sanctuary for you to use to accompany your musical offering. Please bring as many copies as you are able to share with those in attendance; you'll get them all back. "The More The Merrier," so plan to come and share in the variety of good friends, good food and good music.

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# DEAN'S MESSAGE — November 2003

## THANKS! AND, LET THE HARD WORK CONTINUE . . . .

The Springfield Chapter enjoyed in October a wonderful visit to the new Richards & Fowkes organ in the Brick Church, Deerfield, thanks to the hard work and hospitality of Chapter members Allen Langord and Jean Pitman Turner, with others. Despite Allen's absence for a work urgency in Mexico, the program proceeded like clockwork, owing to his careful preparations. The evening's demonstration was carefully outlined, and the organ documented in detail, in a handsome program brochure also contributed by Allen Langord. Jean Turner spoke on behalf of the Church, and its organ project, sharing many fascinating details of the history of organs there, of the study and selection process for the new instrument, and revealing many pivotal aspects about the acoustics of the room — lessons worthy of consideration by many!

The Richards & Fowkes organ was most aptly demonstrated by Larry Schipull and Grant Moss; and, the new musician at the Brick Church, Chapter member Thomas T. Pousont, extended his hospitality to the gathering, as well. Wayne Turner opened the organ case after the demonstration, for visual inspection of the interior by those present. There was no shyness in those present to try the organ, and the Turners graciously accommodated the extended length of our group's visit!

My sole disappointment with the Deerfield evening was in the attendance; a total of 23 souls were present for this Chapter event, the breakdown being: Springfield AGO = 14; Church members or friends = 6; Berkshire AGO = 3. Personally, I was hoping for and expecting a better turn-out from the Springfield Chapter, based upon impressions before the event, and upon the value of this opportunity. Those who did not make the effort to be in Deerfield missed a great opportunity to have a personal experience, with comfort and ease, with a truly remarkable organ in our valley.

The Richard & Fowkes instrument in Deerfield, though modest of size, deserves to be called a monumental organ, in my opinion. This Church worked very hard, to raise all funds necessary, to support a consummate exercise in craftsmanship, which has resulted in a remarkable musical instrument, housed in a beautiful casework, the whole of which looks and sounds like the crown jewel in the complementary and supportive sanctuary of the Brick Church.

My congratulations to the visionaries in this Congregation, who sought out and upheld the highest standards, who have provided a musical masterpiece that will transcend the generations, and who have provided this Church with another means of community outreach and musical leadership in the valley — a reminder of that message received before: that the instrument that is this organ is bigger than its builders, than its purchasers, than its listeners, that this organ really does exist for the glory of God. Nonetheless, the organ only sounds forth at the hands of a player, and *that is* where the Organists have both opportunity and responsibility. That is why attention to AGO Chapter events is important for each of us, for our own edification and advancement.

Our next Chapter event will provide opportunity for professional exchange, for personal advancement, and for collegial socializing... the Potluck Supper and Anthem-sharing program next Monday, November 17th, at the Second Congregational Church, Western Avenue, Westfield. I urge our membership to come out in force for this event which,

once again, will be the product of all the attentive planning efforts and cooperation of Barbara Huber, Don Hooton, and Karen Lampiasi from the Board, and with Scott Caron and Jack Lampiasi for the Church, with others. Let us support enthusiastically our Board, the Committee, and our colleagues by participating in this event. The success of this next event depends specifically upon our presence; please show us all what this Chapter can do to help each other in our musical quests.

Finally, hold the afternoon of Saturday, December 13th, for our Messiah Sing at the Center Church, South Hadley. There remain opportunities for solo parts at that event; let me know of any such interests, or join us anyway to sing the choruses in anticipation of the Christmas holiday. See you sooner in Westfield, anyway.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Bill Czelusniak, Dean

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## GO WEST! L.A. NATIONAL IN 2004

A few weeks ago I represented our New England region of AGO at the fall National Council meeting in Los Angeles. Included with our meetings was a "show and tell" of various Los Angeles 2004 national convention organs and sites. Among the spectacular venues to be used, we had an opportunity to have a complete tour of the new Disney Hall just three days before its Inaugural Gala event. The Disney performance hall is indeed colorful and spectacular! I quote from Robert Campbell, Boston Globe correspondent, who recently stated "with 6125 pipes, many covered in wood, it looks like an explosion in a lumberyard and becomes a metaphor for the zest and energy of the entire building." (Oct.25, 2003, C1 article) I think all of us were totally blown away by Disney Hall, as well as the new LA Cathedral and its organ. Though I could go on and on about everything I saw and experienced, I would only say to each of you....

**ATTEND THE LA CONVENTION.**

Early this fall, I held a retreat for our Region I Deans. We discussed conventions and how important they are in providing us an opportunity for education, inspiration, and socialization within our profession. Obviously, cost is always a factor; one way to cost-cut is by sharing a room. As you read *The American Organist*, you will see registration forms and information on housing. Register early and get the best registration fee! If you'd like to share a room, but do not know who else is going, I invite you to send your name, address, phone number, email info to me: [toepner4@charter.net](mailto:toepner4@charter.net). I will collect this information and disseminate it to all who are seeking a roommate. You can then contact others and hopefully make arrangements. The other thing that I would suggest is to keep checking [Travelocity.com](http://Travelocity.com) or [Expedia.com](http://Expedia.com) for low airfares.

Lois Toepner, *Region I Councillor*

## INFO FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHIFF CHAT

When submitting material for publication in the Chiff-Chat, I prefer e-mail submissions. My address is: m.dulac@verizon.net, and please include the text Chiff Chat in the header/title/subject area. I prefer attachments, rather than e-mail text, from Microsoft Word or other word processing program. Don't worry about fancy formatting, I will take care of that when laying things out. Calendar items should have date, time, location, and a brief description.

Your help and cooperation is necessary for me to get this newsletter out in a timely fashion. The closing date of the middle of the preceding month is essential to ensure on time delivery. Thanks for your assistance.

## HUMOUR ALERT— A CALL FOR ARTICLES/STORIES

Wedding or Funeral? You make the call. Have you ever thought that fourteen bridesmaids might be too many to walk down the aisle to "Trumpet Tune"? Have you ever thought that "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" just might not be an appropriate funeral piece? Have you ever wondered why soloists always need "Ave Maria" transposed up or down a minor third? If so, you may not be alone out there. I would like to hear all your "funny" (funny now but perhaps not at the time) wedding and funeral happenings, music submissions, mishaps, miscues, etc., to include in an article. Send as many as you'd like. Please email them to me at karenruth@rcn.com, or mail them to me at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 335 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA, 01106. Thanks, and see you in church.

Karen McCarthy, organist  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

## Need a rest?

The coming holidays can be busy times. When you get strung-out and need some time, use this free rest to give yourself a break from everything and revive your spirit.



## JOB LISTINGS

### Organist/Choir Director

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Main and South Street  
Ashfield, MA 01330

Description: choir sings only on major festivals; William Johnson Organ - mechanical action

Salary: \$8,500

Contact: Peter Elenois 413-625-2338

### Children/Youth Choir Director (pre-k-12th grade)

First Church of Christ Congregational  
81 High Street  
Suffield, CT 06078

Description: 8-10 hours/week

September - June

Contact: Deb Banks McIntosh  
860-668-7223

### Interim Organist/Choir Director

Wesley United Methodist Church  
114 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608

Description: 12-15 hours per week  
1 Adult Choir, 1 Handbell choir

E.M. Skinner Organ

B.M. or B.A. required

Salary: \$13,000-18,000

Contact: Brent Drajesk 508-799-6993

### Organist/Choir Director

Sts. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic  
Church, Three Rivers, MA (Palmer)

Description: 2 choirs - 1 Polish (older) 1 English (younger). Does not require an understanding of the Polish language

Organ: 2 manual Casavant

Salary: negotiable (low to mid \$20's)

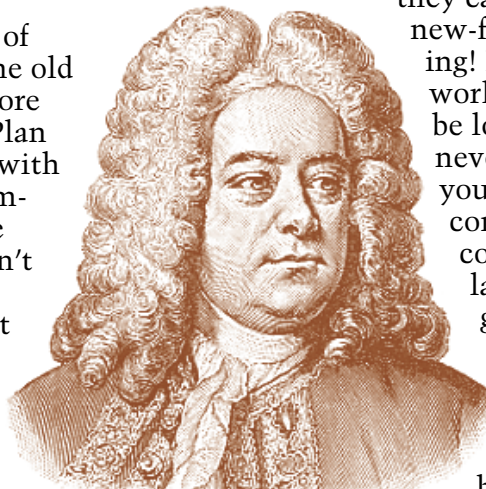
Contact: Fr. Stefan Niemczyk  
413-283-6030

To list a position if the *Chiff Chat*, please contact Becky Isaacson either by phone at (413) 734-1623 or e-mail her: beckyisaacson@aol.com

## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR DECEMBER...

A quick glance on p.5 of this newsletter will let you know that a busy December will soon be upon us. Due to the overwhelming response last year, the Springfield Chapter is planning a Messiah Sing-Along for Saturday afternoon, December 13, at 2:30pm.

These type of events prove the old adage "The More the Merrier." Plan now to attend with your choir members, and while you're at it, don't just limit it to them! The next page has a poster that you can reproduce on the church copy machine (with your pastor/secretary/whoever's permission, of course) and put up in the narthex or church hall. Who knows what interested and enterprising church-goer will see this, come to the event, have a good time, and then plead with you to let them join the church choir so they can continue their new-found love of singing! Don't think it will work? Well what's to be lost by trying. You never know where your next singer will come from, and the cost of this particular recruitment program is practically nil.



See you on Saturday, oh yes, don't forget to bring your score as copies at the church are limited.



# MESSIAH

## Sing-Along

**Saturday, December 13, 2003**  
**2:30pm**

**Center Congregational Church**  
Rte. 116, South Hadley, Mass

**SPONSORED BY**  
**The Springfield Chapter AGO**  
with

**Terry Larsen, conductor**  
**Lois Toepfner, organist**

soloists from Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus and  
Springfield Chapter AGO

**NOTE: Please bring scores if you have them;  
only a limited number will be available at the church.**

# CALENDAR

**NOTE:** The following represents a complete calendar so far as I have received it. To have your event included, please send it (preferably by e-mail) to: m.dulac@verizon.net

## November 16

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents Young Artist Showcase with Leonid Makarov, piano.

## November 17

**6:00PM**

Second Congregational Church, Westfield, MA  
Anthem Reading and Potluck Supper

## November 23

**3:00PM**

Abbey Chapel, Mt. Holyoke College  
Rutter Requiem and more, Hampshire Choral Society, directed by Allan Taylor, accompanied by Larry Schipull, organ, and chamber orchestra. Also featured are Young Singers of Greater Westfield, directed by Janet St. Jean

**4:00PM**

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst  
The Chamber Choir of the University of Massachusetts, Wayne Abercrombie, Conductor, will present the first concert in the new *Music on Main Concert Series*. A broad spectrum of the finest in choral music will be offered. Proceeds benefit the church's music program. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 children for 12 and under.

## December 6

**4:00PM**

First Church of Christ, Westfield  
Family Carol Festival with Novi Cantori, directed by Allan Taylor, and featuring Christmas arrangements by the New England Brass Quartet, organ solo, a selection of seasonal music and audience participation on carols. Reception follows.

## December 7

**3:30PM**

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Memorial Square, Springfield  
American Cancer Society Benefit, Holiday Chorus, Kevin McDonald, conducting, WSC Wind Symphony, Karen LaVoie, conductor. Admission \$5.00

**4:00PM**

St. Joseph Church, Springfield  
Christmas with Novi Cantori, Novi's fine arts program, directed by Allan Taylor

## December 7, cont'd

**7:00PM**

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst  
The Amherst Brass Band (freewill offering to benefit the Amherst Survival Center and Not Bread Alone, a program of First Congregational Church.

**7:30PM**

Marsh Chapel, Springfield College,  
Springfield  
Christmas Concert by Schola Nova, Michael Dulac, director. Featuring "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten.

## December 13

**2:30PM**

Center Congregational Church, South Hadley  
Second annual Messiah sing with Terry Larsen, conductor, and Lois Toepfner, organ.

**3:00PM**

St. Andrew's Church, Longmeadow  
Family Christmas Carol Festival with New England Brass Quartet, organ music for Advent and Christmas, Novi Cantori, directed by Allan Taylor. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow.

**7:30PM**

St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield  
Candlelight Lessons&Carols with the Cathedral Choir of Boys and Adults, string ensemble and saxophone, directed by Lad Pfeifer.

## December 14

**1:00PM**

Old Meeting House, Granville  
Christmas with Novi Cantori, Novi's fine arts program, directed by Allan Taylor

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents Christmas Candlelight Concert with Old First Church Choir and Soloists, Charles Page, organist and choir director, and The Westfield State College Wind Symphony, Karen LaVoie, conductor.

**4:00PM**

United Congregational Church, Skinner Chapel, Holyoke  
Christmas Candlelight Vespers, with Chorus, Handbells, Brass & Organ works of: Berlioz, Clarence Dickenson, and traditional Lessons & Carols  
Secured Parking is available

## December 31

**evening**

Edwards Church, Northampton, Mass.  
First Night recital by Boston-based organist, Peter Krasinski

## January 4, 2004

**7:30PM**

St. Cecilia's Church, Main St., Wilbraham  
Epiphany Concert by Schola Nova, Michael Dulac, director. Featuring "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten.

## February 1

**4:00PM**

St. Paul's Church, Dwight Rd., Springfield  
A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Casavant organ. Recital by chapter members Jackie Johnson (current organist), Edith Gilbertson, and Michael Dulac

## February 8, 2004

**4:00PM**

St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield  
Members' Recital on the Theodore Gilbert organ.

## February 29

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents New England Winds (wind quintet) of the United States Air Force.

## March 7

**3:00PM**

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst  
Danny Holt, Pianist, part of the new *Music on Main Concert Series*. Admission.

## March 15

**6:00PM**

Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield  
Annual Pastor/Organist Dinner with keynote speaker.

## March 21

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents The University of Connecticut Concert Choir, Peter Bagley, conductor.

## April 4

**4:00PM**

St. Paul's Church, Dwight Rd., Springfield  
Part of the church's Ecumenical Vespers Series, featuring Schola Nova, Michael Dulac, director, and organist, Edith Gilbertson.

**American Guild of Organists**  
***Springfield, Mass. Chapter***

Michael Dulac — Newsletter Editor  
41 Riverview St.  
Springfield, MA 01108-1634

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Calendar, cont'd**

**April 25**

**3:00PM**

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst  
Honest Harmony A Cappella Vocal Quartet.  
part of the new *Music on Main Concert Series*.  
Admission.

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents The Long Piano Duo  
with Christina and Beatrice Long.

**April 30**

**7:30PM**

St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield  
75th Anniversary of the Cathedral Organ,  
featuring well-known recitalist and National  
President of the AGO, Fred Swann.

**May 16**

**3:00PM**

Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral,  
Springfield  
Featuring several area choirs under the  
direction of Bruce McInnes.

**June 7**

**6:00PM**

Faculty Club, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst

In addition to dinner, there will be a tour of  
the "new" Bezanson Recital Hall, and a visit to  
the Oberlinger pipe organ in room 36 of the  
UMass Fine Arts Center.