

# Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts  
Chapter  
American Guild of Organists



## September 2010

### A message from the Dean...

I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to this wonderful chapter for nominating and electing me (me!) DEAN. It is such an honor. As I look at the list of past deans, usually found on a page in the handbook (I know these names from years ago), I am humbled to join those names that have represented to me the ultimate in organ skill and knowledge. Beginning this new season, I feel a sense of wonder, thankfulness and appreciation to the membership, whose renewal rate has been greater than 90%, and to the members of the Board who have generously volunteered to chair various events, call members, take care of the finances, get out the newsletter and work on the handbook which is a huge project. They also make me laugh whenever we get together.

Believe it or not, researchers in the field of positive psychology have been studying the effect of gratitude on health and well-being for years. Robert Emmons and Michael McCullough are two of the leading American investigators who describe gratitude as the "ability to be keenly aware of the good things that happen to you and never take them for granted." When grateful individuals express their thanks and appreciation to others in a heartfelt way, they feel greater serenity, contentment and satisfaction with life. By the same token, research subjects who had insufficient appreciation of good events and an overemphasis of bad experiences were

more stressed about and less content with nearly everything.

**But, how do you increase your feelings of gratitude when nothing seems to be going right?** The choir room is disorganized, members have called to drop out, you can't find good new anthems or preludes, the secretary wants the music 7 days in advance for the bulletin, salaries are being lowered, and there's big competition with the "praise band". Are we going through difficult times? Yes. That's why it makes so much sense to *practice* gratitude, in good times and bad. It may be human nature to notice all that is wrong or that we lack, but if we give ourselves the chance on a regular basis to notice all of life's gifts and blessings, we can increase our sense of well-being, and create hope and optimism for the future—no matter what is going on. So be sure to begin your year by thanking all those around you who DO show up to sing or play an instrument, thank God for the wonderful privilege of worshiping through music, and celebrate most joyously our being here at all. Hope to see you at the opening event: Thanks to Jerry Lesniak and Joe Finnegan for opening their lovely Hampden home where we'll install officers on their backyard patio and listen to a demonstration of their lovely in-house pipe organ. (Sept. 12 at 4 pm, 163 S. Munson Rd.) Come...we'll all celebrate our gratitude together!

*Martha*

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**Springfield Chapter Leadership**

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Sub Dean	Don Hooton
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Barbara Boudo, Quentin Faulkner, Alan Dickinson, Mark Jacobson, Roger LaCross, Larry Picard
Chaplain	Fr. William Wallis
Education	Martha Sienkiewicz, Don Hooton
Membership	Karen Banta
Chiff Chat Editor	Larry Picard
Web Site	Allan Taylor
Investments	Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes

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***Season Opener – Meet & Greet, Installation of Officers and Concert***

On Sunday, Sept. 12, come and get more acquainted with other members of the chapter at a gathering at the home of Jerry Lesniak and Joe Finnegan, 163 South Monson Road, Hampden. We'll begin with a happy hour/meet & greet at 4 to p.m. with plenty of food and drink provided by the board, but anyone with a particular urge to contribute is welcome to bring an hors d'oeuvres. At 5:30 there will be the installation of officers and announcements about this season's calendar. Then at 6:15, Monica Czaucz and Griffin McMahon will give an organ demonstration on the two-manual, 10-rank, custom built home pipe organ that predominates in the Lesniak-Finnegan home. The event will be outside (if the weather cooperates) and there will be plenty of chairs, but if you prefer a favorite lawn chair, bring it along. Parking is available across the street.

***And more chapter events...***

**September 17** (Friday) 7:30 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, organist **David Briggs** in concert.

**October 30** (Saturday) 7:00 PM at South Congregational Church, **Phantasmagoria: a Halloween Organ Concert**, with Springfield Chapter members in costume playing the Austin Organ. Seasonal refreshments to follow.

**November 15** (Monday) 6:00 PM at Wilbraham United Church, **Pastor-Organist dinner**.

**February 19** (Saturday) 10:00 AM at Church of the Atonement, Westfield, **Anthem Reading**.

**March 20** (Sunday) 3:00 PM, **Members' Recital** at All Saint's Episcopal Church, South Hadley.

**April 9** (Saturday) 7:00 PM, **Peter Krazinski accompanies the silent movie "The General"** at United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

**June 5** (Sunday) 2:00 PM, **End-of-year cookout** at the home of Charles Page, Enfield, Connecticut.

## Upcoming Events

### September 2010

**Sunday, September 12, 2010 at 4 p.m.**  
**(Chapter Event)** Season Kick-off event - See page 2 for details.

**Friday, September 17, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**(Chapter Event)** David Briggs at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. 413-736-2742 or [www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org](http://www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org)

**Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**  
John Weaver leads a "Family Sing" around the piano at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst. All are invited for dessert and singing. 413-367-2846 or email [bweaver@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:bweaver@mtholyoke.edu).

**Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.** Hilarie O'Toole, Carol Wroblewski, Alan Schneider, Tom O'Toole and Steve Curylo perform arias and ensembles from great operas, Larry Picard, accompanist. South Congregational Church UCC, 45 Maple Street, Springfield. Free-will offering. 413-732-0117, [www.socoeh.org](http://www.socoeh.org)

**Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.**  
"John Weaver and Friends," at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst. Dr. Weaver will be joined by flutists Marianne Weaver and Andrea Leblanc, trumpeter Fred Sienkiewicz, and the Immanuel Church Choir directed by Anne Weaver. Free-will offering to benefit the church's capital campaign. 413-367-2846 or email [bweaver@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:bweaver@mtholyoke.edu).

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 12:35 p.m.**  
Kevin Jones plays Widor *Allegro* (Symphony VI) and Vierne *Étoile du Soir and Toccata in b-flat minor* at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. [www.cccathedral.org](http://www.cccathedral.org)

**Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 12:35 p.m.**  
George Chittenden plays Kenneth Leighton's Six Hymn Fantasies at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. [www.cccathedral.org](http://www.cccathedral.org)

**Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 12:35 p.m.**  
George Chittenden plays British Organ Music at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. [www.cccathedral.org](http://www.cccathedral.org)

### October 2010

**Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.**  
Ed Boadway presents a slide tour of extant old Vermont organs entitled "Before Estey -- Vermont's 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Pipe Organs" at the Estey Organ Museum in Brattleboro. Refreshments EOM annual membership business meeting. 108 Birge Street, Brattleboro, in the Estey Factory Complex. 802-254-8398 or [carnahan@sover.net](mailto:carnahan@sover.net).

**Sunday, October 3, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.**  
Heinrich Christensen, organist at King's Chapel, Boston, with Jodi Hagen, violinist. Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* will be played by the duo, and Christensen will play *Prelude and Fugue in G Major* and *Piece d'Orgue* by J. S. Bach. Suggested donation \$10. 413-774-2657 or [www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org](http://www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org).

**Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.** "Jazzical, a Marriage of Classical and Jazz" at United Congregational Church, 395 High Street, Holyoke. 413-532-1438 or [www.ucholyoke.org](http://www.ucholyoke.org)

**Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**(Chapter Event)** Phantasmagoria: a Halloween Organ Concert. See page 2 for details.



Bob Sparkman and Jerry Noble entertain Springfield AGO members at the year-end banquet at St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield.

## **CHIFF CHAT**

**American Guild of Organists**

**Springfield, MA Chapter**

Larry Picard, Newsletter Editor

173 Thompson Street

Springfield, MA 01109-4036

## *Chiff Chat Newsletter*

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

**Celebrating 62 Years as a chapter!**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email [newsletter@springfieldago.org](mailto:newsletter@springfieldago.org). Submissions are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also, visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)!

*September Chapter Events: Meet & Greet, Installation of Officers and Organ Demonstration at the home of Jerry Lesniak and Joe Finnegan, Sept. 12. Also, recital by David Briggs at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, Sept. 17.*