



SAN JOSE PIPINGS
 SAN JOSE CHAPTER OF THE AGO
 May 2014 www.agosanjose.org



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Dean's Message

Happy Easter Recovery everyone!

Did you find April to be extremely busy? Well, it began with another successful PPP. I would be quite ungrateful if I didn't mention and thank the following: Valerie Sterk and the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church for their time and use of the facilities, Lothar Bandermann for the organ CD's, Roger Inkpen for the pipes, Diane Keller for registration, Mike Cala and Melanie Cervi for demonstrations. The children were able to play their own pieces and see the pipes while others were playing. It is always wonderful to see the apprehension on their faces when they go up to play a piece but quickly the magic of the organ dispels their fear and they end up playing the piece more than once.

Isn't that how many things in life are for us? We approach something new with apprehension and then, we see how fun it is and we only want to get better by continuing what we started! We are very lucky that our Chapter's Frasier Organ Scholarship encourages the study of organ music. The auditions will be held in May and I look forward to hearing the results from Valerie Sterk as we have applicants that have worked very hard preparing for this. Please join me in wishing them and their teachers all the best!

As April concludes, I look forward to recovering a bit and seeing and planning for future events which leads me to June... We will have our Annual Installation dinner at Los Gatos Methodist beginning with an organ concert from Myrna Emata, a past Frasier winner, followed by a delicious potluck dinner. It is going to be a fabulous celebration! I hope to see all of you there so I can put more faces with names and speak with you on how we can help the San Jose AGO chapter grow and continue to be successful! If you don't want to commit more time to your full calendar, think about other ways you can help our Chapter. One way is talking with the church you play for and seeing if they would be interested in hosting one of our events. It gives the church a chance to open their doors to the community and our chapter to "ooh and ahh" over their organ. Please consider helping in any way you can.

May you go outside and enjoy the beautiful May weather whether it be via a baseball game, visiting nature, or walking while listening to your favorite music. Until June!

Yours in music,

Elisabeth Pintar, Dean

APRIL CHAPTER EVENT PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA

Our annual PPP was held on **5 April** at the **Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church**, 728 W. Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale. This event is sponsored by our chapter members to give more exposure to the instrument that we love. Nine students participated this year. We wish to thank **Valerie Sterk** and **Elisabeth Pinter** for organizing and conducting the event. **Mike Cala** also talked about the difference between church and theater organs and demonstrated how the sound is different.

We wish also to thank **Valerie Sterk** the organist at Sunnyvale Presbyterian and the **Church Officials** for their sponsor ship of the event for at least the last three years.

Demonstrations and explanations of the various different tone qualities were given as well as how the different tones were generated. There were pictures of what the various pipes look like and a small number of of pipes show how they were constructed. There was also an explanation of all the unique features of the organ, i.e. the stops, the couplers, the combination action, etc. **Lothar Bandermann** gave each student a CD of his organ music that he has recorded.

Each student played his/her piano piece the organ. Some of the pieces were even played a number of times with different registrations so that student could see how registration can affect the presentation of the piece. Quite a number of pieces that were played were memorized.

The students who attended were:



Brianna



Emma



Jeffery



Kaela



Lauren



Matthew



Sarah



Sofie



William

Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday **13th May, 2014 at 7:30 PM** at **Valerie Sterk's home, 2164 Talia Ave., Santa Clara**

JUNE CHAPTER EVENT

On **June 8, Sunday**, the San Jose Chapter's Frasier Scholarship recipient, **Myrna Emata**, will present a recital at **3 PM** in the sanctuary of **Los Gatos United Methodist Church**, 111 Church Street. The program will include works by Buxtehude, Vierne, Langlais, Dupre, and others. Following the recital there will be a **potluck dinner** and **installation of officers** for the 2014-15 year. This is a great time to be with other organists and friends to celebrate and renew. See you June 8th.

LOOKING AHEAD

28 September 2014, Sunday

Dean's Concert

31 October, Friday 2014

Halloween Concert, **David Hegarty** at Campbell United Methodist Church at 7:30 PM.

23 January, 24 January, 25 January 2015

Alzheimer's Concerts.

February, 2015

David Hatt.

Interfaith Choral Workshop The Music of Mack Wilberg.

Open to all singers of all faiths. Music of Dr. Mark Wilberg. Dr. Craig Jessop, former Mormon Tabernacle Choir Director, returns to the Bay Area for a fifth Interfaith Choral Workshop. Singers from all faiths, universities, and communities will gather to make music and share lunch (included in the registration fee, \$35 plus \$2.92). This year we will explore the music of Dr. Mack Wilberg, current Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, with a variety of his magnificent hymn arrangements and compositions. Take home new ideas for your own choir! We will select 10-12 pieces and perform at Stanford Memorial Church that evening.

Men: Please wear a dark coat, white shirt and dark tie.

Women: Please wear black, street length dresses.

Held at **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**, 1105 Valparaiso Ave, Menlo Park, CA **Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 9 AM to 4 PM (PDT)**

Register at (**copy address to browser**). Register at

www.interfaithchoralworkshop.eventbrite.com 🎵

OPEN POSITIONS

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church at 5100 Camden Avenue, San Jose has an opening for **Director of Music Ministries**.

The Director of Music Ministries will lead and direct the traditional music groups, which currently include the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and Worship Ensemble (an instrumental ensemble). Strong preference will be given to candidates experienced in directing both vocal and instrumental ensembles. Candidates with only vocal ensemble experience are also invited to apply.

Required Qualifications

- Knowledge of appropriate church music
- Demonstrated proficiency in leading a choir, smaller vocal ensembles, piano playing, leading a Bell Choir and/or Worship Ensemble, organizational and interpersonal skills, developing a Children's Music Program, operating a sound system, and a degree in Music and/or five year's relevant experience.

Email resume to MusicSearch@stlcsj.org or contact Cindy Cribbs at (408) 656-0828 or cindy.cribbs@sbcglobal.net. Someone local is preferred. 🎵

Los Gatos United Methodist Church has an opening for part time exempt **Chancel and Bell Choir Director**. Send resumes to jennifer.murdock@lgumc.org

Responsibilities: Rehearsal and direct Bell and Chancel Choirs; help select music; facilitate a late summer workshop; attend and participate in monthly church staff meetings; conduct and plan special performances; bring broad professional experience and music community involvement to the LGUMC Chancel Choir, and a high level of choral directing skills

Requirements: strong choral directing experience and expertise; bell choir directing experience; excellent communication and people skills; ability to energize, motivate and grow; thorough knowledge of vocal techniques and choral singing

Los Gatos United Methodist Church - 111 Church Street - Los Gatos, CA 95030 - www.LGUMC.org

NEXT YEAR'S DUES PAYMENT

The AGO headquarters has developed new online method (called OnCard) to collect next year's dues. Each of you will be contacted by headquarters. We will let you know of any additional information as soon as get it. 🎵

Frank Ashdown's "Steinbeck Suite for Organ"

A CD of Jim Welch's February 16 recital from Santa Clara University has been received, and Jim and Frank Ashdown have given permission to upload Jim's remarks about the work and performance of Frank's "Steinbeck Suite for Organ" at www.SteinbeckNow.com. To enjoy the 18-minute piece, plus Jim Welch's written and spoken comments about the piece, go to www.SteinbeckNow.com. The first blog at the top of the page will contain a click-to-play audio feature containing Jim's live remarks and performance.

Thanks! William Ray. 🎵

My Journey to John Steinbeck Through the Organ of St. Paul's

By William Ray

Church organs are community property in a way unlike any other instrument, and church organists connect in often intimate ways with the clergy, choirs, and congregations where they play. Two years ago, I was introduced to the life and work of John Steinbeck—an author I had never read, despite having a PhD in English—at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Steinbeck's childhood parish in Salinas. I live in Santa Clara, but St. Paul's needed an interim quickly, and I agreed to make the 130 – mile round trip on Sundays and weekdays through Easter. I ended up staying for two years. One reason was the American Classic Aeolian-Skinner, designed by G. Donald Harrison, immaculately maintained, and miraculously unmodified since its installation in 1955.

The second reason was John Steinbeck, whose image in Easter Sunday procession with the junior choir of old St. Paul's in 1914, hangs in the new suburban church with the fabulous organ.

Curious about the connection, I read *East of Eden*, Steinbeck's autobiographical novel set in the Salinas of his boyhood. There I found the church, virtually a character in the book, but a flawed one. What happened at St. Paul's during Steinbeck's childhood that attracted and disturbed the author of *East of Eden* and *The Grapes of Wrath* and stayed on his mind years after he left Salinas? Eventually I read everything that he published and all of the biographies. But first I talked with parishioners whose parents knew the Steinbecks, scoured the 1973 parish history written by the professor at a local college who sang, as Steinbeck had done, in the choir, then branched out to interview other townfolk and listen to taped interviews with old timers, long gone, who knew Steinbeck and his sisters growing up in the junior choir at St. Paul's. As a result of what I discovered from these sources, I engaged in pursuits off the organ bench I imagine few organists undertake on the job:

1. I wrote a series of articles for the journal *Steinbeck Review* tracing John Steinbeck's submerged religious

roots and their jagged outcrops in his writing, notably his last novel, *The Winter of Our Discontent*.

2. I led a 2013 Lenten discussion series about spiritual passages in Steinbeck's books on six successive Sunday evenings in the parish hall, attended by readers from all over town.
3. I commissioned *Steinbeck Suite for Organ*, a five-movement work by **Franklin D. Ashdown** based on Steinbeck's humanity and describing specific passages in *Tortilla Flat*, Steinbeck's first successful book, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. The timing was fortuitous but sad. My younger brother died in 2013; the work is his memorial. This year is the 75th anniversary of *The Grapes of Wrath*, which is attracting national attention. **James Welch** premiered Frank's stunning work—which will be published by Zimbel Press—at Mission Santa Clara in February.
4. I created a website called **SteinbeckNow.com** to provide the international community of non-academic Steinbeck lovers with a forum for new ideas, reviews of recent books, and original creative work including short stories about Steinbeck, poetry and art inspired by his fiction, and music such as Frank's based on Steinbeck's life and work.
5. I left Salinas at the end of December with deeper regret than I can easily express. I had stayed in a temporary job two years longer than planned, playing an instrument any organist would love, but the physical distance made it impractical as a permanent post. Yet St. Paul's remains in my heart through lasting connection I developed with John Steinbeck.

Without St. Paul's, I never would have read him. I'd call that a job benefit of being an organist.



William Ray is a returning member of the San Jose Chapter who substitutes at churches closer to home than Salinas. To learn more about Steinbeck and the organ, visit SteinbeckNow.com. 🎵

St. Paul's web page indicates that they have free organ concert every Friday from 12 noon to 1 pm at 1071 Pajaro St. Salinas, CA 93901.

Handbell Music

The church's five handbell groups will perform a full hour of handbell music on **May 18, 2014, at 3:30 PM** at **Campbell United Methodist Church**. The five groups are Carillon Bell Choir, New A'Peal Ringers, Covenant Ringers, Diamond Ringers and the latest addition, Discovery Ringers. Music from the classics to pop will be featured and other rhythmic instruments will be included. Can you believe there will be a "Rhumba" piece? Also Katy Perry's "Firework", all played with bells?! It will be loads of fun for your listening ears. Bring a friend or two or more. **FREE** admission. 🎵

Purvis, Organist of Grace.

Last year I published my first book, *Richard Purvis, Organist of Grace*, a biography of California's legendary organist and composer. It was an exciting four-year project for me, and it was especially gratifying to write about one of our own Bay Area organists. I know some members of the San Jose Chapter still remember him well. I had no idea what level of interest there would be in this book, but I was overwhelmed with orders, inquiries, and additional information from all over the country and even internationally.

It was also a great experience for me to see how the book-publishing industry works these days. It used to be that if you wanted to publish a book, you had to find a publisher, and then you had to order a large number of books (1000 or more) to get a good price per copy. You never knew how many you'd actually sell, so there was always a risk factor. Many people ended up with boxes of unsold books in their garage. Furthermore, once you had the copies, you were stuck with any errors in the book (and no matter how hard you proof a book, you can't catch them all!). With the print-on-demand companies, however, there is no upfront cost to the printer. You only order books as you need them (and they are mailed directly to the customer, so you never have to package them and go to the post office). If you find an error, you simply change it in your file, upload a new version to the company and all subsequent books are printed with the corrections. Depending on the size of the book, number of pages, type of paper and colors, you can print even a large book for a very modest cost. If you've ever thought about writing a book, now is the time. I'd be happy to share information about this process with anyone.

I had such a great time writing the Purvis book that I am now in the midst of writing my second book, a biography about Dale Wood, another important California organist-composer.

If you missed information about the Purvis book the first time around, here's some for you:

A pupil of Alexander McCurdy and a classmate of Leonard Bernstein at The Curtis Institute in the 1930s, Purvis began composing widely programmed music before enlisting in the Army and fighting on the European Front, where he was captured by the Nazis during the vicious Battle of the Bulge. A survivor in every sense, he wrote some of his most enduring music in foxholes and in prison camp. After the war, he returned to his native San Francisco, where he achieved a national reputation as Organist and Master of the Choristers at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, concert artist, teacher, and composer of more than 100 colorful works for the organ.

This 508-page biography provides facts, photos, and anecdotes published for the first time anywhere. *Richard Purvis, Organist of Grace* is available for \$19.95 (including all sales taxes) at www.welchorganist.com; shipping \$3.59 for any size order sent to the same U.S. address. 🎵

James Welch

AGO Member Passed Away

Carl Moore of Paso Robles recently passed away.
Hacienda Circle, Paso Robles, CA 9307-2015
805-975-2070

Carl's 50 stop Renaissance Three-Manual Console is now for sale. It is now 15yrs old/new and in perfect condition. The Pipes and cabinet (5 speakers) are also included in sale. Let me know if anyone is interested in purchasing this. Next week will probably post on ebay. Thanks: Leah Moore 805-975-2707



Music Calendar

Locations

CSMA: Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, 1111 Gough St., San Francisco

CUMC: Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd. Campbell

GC: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. San Francisco

* Chapter Member

Every Saturday & Sunday

Organ, 4 PM, Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave & Clement St., San Francisco.

D. Hegarty: May 3/4 - Jun 1/2

R. Gurney: May 10/11 - Jun 8/9

Ben Bachmann: May 17/18

Thomas Joyce - Jun 15/16

K Thompson: May 24/25 - Jun 22/23

Brian Swager: June 29/30

May 2014

4 Sunday

Willem Hormann, (Netherlands)
Organist, CSMA, 3:30 PM

7 Wednesday

Rodney Gehrke, Organist,
Stanford Memorial Church,
7:30 PM

Bill Callaway, Organist, **GC, 4 PM**

11 Sunday

Donald Pearson, CSMA, 4 PM

Jung-A Lee, organ, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church,** 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, **6:05 PM**

18 Sunday

Jaebo Hwang (Los Angeles),
Organist, **CSMA, 3:30 PM**

***James Welch,** Organ, **LDS Church,** 1601 22nd Ave., San Francisco, 75th Anniversary of the Austin Organ, **7 PM**

25 Sunday

John Cannon, CSMA, 3:30 PM

June 2014

1 Sunday

***Chinar Merjanian** is playing at St. Bede's. She is the 2013 winner of the AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists for Region IX, and is a resident of San Jose! **St. Bede's,** 2650 Sand Hill Rd., Menlo Park, **4 PM**

5 & 6 Thursday & Saturday

***James Welch,** "Pipe Organ Fantaisie" on the organ of the historic Presidio Chapel. **Nicholas Welch** & youth performers from the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Presidio Chapel,** 130 Fisher Loop, Presidio of San Francisco. Adults \$15, Seniors \$10, Children \$5. Reservations Hotline: [415 447-6274](tel:4154476274).

8 Sunday

Christoph Tietze, CSMA, 4 PM
Ruden Valenzuela, organ, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church,** 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, **6:05 PM**

13 Friday

Robert Huw Morgan, Organist,
Annual Commencement Recital,
Stanford Memorial Church, 7:30 PM

15 Sunday

TBD, CSMA, 4 PM

22 Sunday

Mauro Correa, Guitar, CSMA, 4 PM

AGO 5 POEs - See Agohq.org

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.

American Guild of Organists

San Jose Chapter

582 Dublin Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3323



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