



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

JUNE 2011

VOLUME 10, #10

From the Dean's Bench...

Recently I was in Boston near the Common, and stepped into King's Chapel, founded in 1686, and the first Anglican Church in New England. Built on the site of a Puritan graveyard, there are a lot of firsts with this congregation! After the revolution it became the first Unitarian Church in America. In the gallery at the back of the church is a Fisk organ, the first mechanical action organ made in America in this century. A local merchant in 1713 bequeathed their first organ, making King's Chapel the first church in (North) America to use this amazing instrument for worship, and inspire the most stodgy of New Englanders to open their mouths and hearts and sing!

There are quite a few historic churches and several old and historic organs in our area. Chapter member **Susan Sayre** tells me that during August the congregation of Asbury Methodist Church in Croton-on-Hudson moves uphill to the Chapel, which was donated with land for a cemetery by New York State's first Lieutenant Governor, Pierre Van Cortlandt (1721 - 1814). There she plays an ancient reed pump organ. Back in the 18th century, John Wesley was a guest at the Van Cortlandt's, and native American's used to peep in the windows during the service.

Welcome to the Westchester AGO Board! Eileen Laurence and Frank Miller are our new Directors serving from July 2011 to June 2014. Our outgoing Directors, **Timothy Keenan-Devlin** and **Joe Nigro**, have our warmest thanks for their outstanding service to WAGO. I would like to thank **Virginia Bender** for preparing and receiving the ballots, and board member **Karen Longwell**, and **Catherine Nesbit** for helping to count the ballots. I am very happy to announce that Past Dean **John Cecconi** will be our new Chaplain. Thank you, John.

Thanks also to **Kathryn Jones** and Huguenot Memorial Church for the delicious reception May 1st, where following the *Three Organists Spectacular* concert a huge turnout of members of WAGO honored **Thomas Zachacz**. Many of us will miss him dreadfully, but we know that Kansas City will be all the better for his moving there! Query: What will happen to *Three Organists Spectacular*? Will they become Two Organists Spectacular, or try to fill Tom's spot? We hope that this group continues to give concerts, anyway, in whatever future form they take.

Alice Avouris

Dean

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Westchester AGO
2010-2011 Chapter Events

Saturday, June 25

Wanamaker Organ Day, Macy's Department Store, Philadelphia
Host: Kevin Walsh

Comfortable vans from Westchester to Philadelphia and back leave from the Valhalla United Methodist Church **at 7:00 a.m.** Transportation is provided by Glen Road, Inc. and we will be traveling in a 14-seater van with seat-belts.

Breakfast and lunch are **not** provided, so please bring your own!

We have one full van, but if you are interested in joining the crazy Wanamaker Day road trip, please let me know, and perhaps we can get enough people to fill another van. **Joyce Gardner** and **Tim Keenan-Devlin** will take attendance, recommend pit stops as needed and keep order on the van!

Cost is \$30 for Chapter members and \$60 for guests.

If you have not already done so, please mail your check payable to WAGO to:
Alice Avouris

The fineness which a hymn or psalm affords
If when the soul unto the lines accords.

George Herbert (1593-1632) "A True Hymn"

Our next Chapter event will be:

"Wanamaker Organ Day"

Saturday, June 25th

Kevin Walsh

Host

Macy's Department Store

Philadelphia, PA

Van pick-up at 7:00 am at
Valhalla United Methodist Church
200 Columbus Ave., Valhalla, NY

You may bring a bag lunch
Arrive at Macy's at 10 am
Van pick-up at Macy 's at 7:00 pm
Arrive back in Valhalla around 10 pm

HERE ARE THE WANAMAKER ORGAN DAY DETAILS:

The Friends is planning its usual, celebration, spotlighting **Michael Stairs** at 10am (held in memory of Robert Curley).



major, daylong and mainly free



That's followed by a live broadcast/performance at expanded, live **WRTI Jill "Crossover" episode** featuring **Conte, Colin Howland and Peter** 11:30am on an **Pasternak Peter Richard Krasinski** (held in memory of Neil Carlson); a \$10 admission (pay at the door) silent movie: **D.W. Griffith's Way**

Conte, Colin Howland and Peter

Down East, with Lillian Gish, at 2pm in Greek Hall with Peter Krasinski at our Mighty Wurlitzer; and the Grand Concert at 5, featuring Peter Richard Conte,



Rudy Lucente, Philadelphia Brass and the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ Festival Chorus. The 5pm concert will be held in memory of Audrey Haworth. [Bill Bragg](#), host of Internet Radio's [Yesterday USA Old Time Radio Station](#), will introduce the 5pm event. Tours of the organ chambers will be conducted following the 11:30am concert and at 4pm.



What can you expect if you are taking our van to Philly on June 25 for Wanamaker Organ Day?

When you enter the store, head straight ahead to the center court. Depending on which door you enter, you may have to walk through the men's department, but when you're in the grand court, you'll know it. At 10:00, when the store opens, Michael Stairs presents the first recital of the day on the Wanamaker organ. While most people gather on the main floor (where Macy's does provide some chairs), the sound is quite good on the second and third floors, which surround the court; you can take the elevators or escalator upstairs if you prefer. The first recital of the day tends to be organ classics.

The 11:30 concert features Peter Richard Conte, Colin Howland and Peter Krasinski on the Wanamaker organ. This one is broadcast live on a local radio station. This concert often includes transcriptions—one year, Conte played the complete Enigma Variations by Elgar, which was simply spectacular.

At 2:00, there's a silent movie: D.W. Griffith's Way Down East, with Lillian Gish. This is in Greek Hall (3rd floor), with Peter Krasinski on Macy's Mighty Wurlitzer. Admission is \$10 (pay at the door). There are plenty of seats in Greek Hall, and you may be ready for one!

Back downstairs for the closing concert at 5:00, with Peter Richard Conte, Rudy Lucente, the Philadelphia Brass and the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ Festival Chorus. They'll pull out all the stops, usually ending with the Star Spangled Banner ("you can sing as loud as you want, because we're going to play as loud as we want"—and they do, and we do).

Tours of the organ chambers will be conducted following the 11:30 concert and again at 4:00.

The Friends of the Wanamaker Organ will have a table where you can buy CD's and books and DVD's. And, of course, Macy's is a department store—they are open for business, and there are usually some good sales.

For anyone who is driving down, this year Macy's is having an after-hours concert at 8:30 PM.

We can't stay that late, but details are at www.wanamakerorgan.com; There are also some special concerts on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, since this year marks the centennial of the Wanamaker Organ. Again, details are at www.wanamakerorgan.com, where you will also find any updates for Wanamaker Organ Day.

Concert Calendar

Scarsdale Community Baptist Church

Popham Road, Scarsdale, NY

Sunday June 5th at 3:00 PM

ORGAN REDEDICATION RECITAL

Margaret Kim will be playing Bach, Alain, Dubois, Boellmann, Vierne and more.

First Baptist Church

456 North Street, White Plains, NY

Saturday June 11th at 8:00 PM

ANNIVERSARY ORGAN CONCERT

Frank Miller will perform organ classics, show tunes and marches on the 3-manual Allen consisting of a theater organ, orchestral organ and American Classic Liturgical organ – the largest instrument of its kind in Westchester County

~~ Admission is Free ~~

First Presbyterian Church

34 South Highland Avenue, Ossining, NY

Saturday June 11th at 8:00 PM

COLLEGIUM WESTCHESTER CONCERT

Members of Collegium Westchester's chorus and orchestra will present a concert consisting of Sibelius's Humoresques Op.89 for Violin and Orchestra, Poulenc's *Gloria* for Chorus and Orchestra, Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*, and Mozarts' Symphony 32. Soloists are Uli Speth, violin, and Awet Andemicael, soprano. The conductor is **Eric Kramer**.

Admission is free. For more information, call 914-282-8611 or visit

www.collegiumwestchester.org.

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To view the schedule of music events at Grace Church, White Plains, go to:

www.dtmusic.org/

To view the schedule of musical events at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale, go to:

www.hitchcockpresby.org/secondary/4_0.html

Reads & Mixtures

At **St. Paul's Church National Historic Site** in Mount Vernon, N.Y. is an organ built in 1830 by New Yorker Henry Erben (1800-1884). WAGO treasurer **Kathryn Jones** played a recital there recently. Her comments: "It was a lot of fun to play. It has one manual, and a very lovely sound – everything on it is original from 1830."

If you have an interesting 'first' associated with your house of worship, organ, or worship community, please share it! Let's collect our stories and help preserve history for the enrichment of all of us.

(The Dean provided the following bar quip. I think she's been working too hard.)

SEVEN MINORS TO A BAR

So a C, an E-flat and a G walk into a bar. The bartender says, "sorry, but we don't serve minors." So E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and G is out flat. F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough.

A D comes in and heads for the bathroom saying, "Excuse me. I'll just be a second." Then A comes in, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor. Then the bartender notices B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and says, "Get out! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

E-Flat comes back the next night in a three-piece suit with nicely shined shoes. The bartender says, "you're looking sharp tonight. Come on in, this could be a major development." Sure enough, E-flat soon takes off his suit and everything else, and is au natural. Eventually, C, who had passed out under the bar the night before, begins to sober up and realizes in horror that he's under a rest.

So, C goes to trial, is convicted of contributing to the diminution of a minor and sentenced to 10 years of DS without Coda at an up-scale correctional facility. The conviction is overturned on appeal, however, and C is found innocent of any wrongdoing, even accidental, and that all accusations to the contrary are bassless.

The bartender decides, however, that since he's only had tenor so patrons, the soprano out in the bathroom and everything has become alto much treble, he needs a rest and closes the bar.

From Your Newsletter Editors...

The Dean and the Executive Committee encourage you to send informative articles and any other items of interest for publication in the Newsletter.

Please send us your material by the **20th of each month** to ensure that we will be able to deliver the Newsletter to the membership on or about the 1st of each month. If still relevant, late submissions will be published in the subsequent issue.

The Trompette is sent out by email, and by regular mail to those members without an email address. The electronic versions are sent out immediately after finalization, but processing the printed copies can take a week or more, plus the delivery of the regular postal mail can additionally take a week or more. If you have an email address, but are presently receiving your copy by postal mail, consider receiving it electronically instead, saving the Chapter postage expense. Send your email address to: Lois Simmonds.

Do not send in items more than once. For the Concert Calendar, include event, date, time, location, cost (if any) and an information phone number. (Incomplete or unclear submissions cannot be printed.) Due to space constraints, articles and notices are frequently edited.

If you have provided a notice for the “Empty Benches” section, please be advised that postings will be carried for 3 calendar months unless we are advised that the position has either been filled or is still active. Newest listings appear first. Listings carried more than one month will be arranged alphabetically by organization and will indicate the month they were first run. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping *The Trompette* accurate and up-to-date.

Send your concert notices, articles, and other materials to:

John Cecconi (MS Word is preferred)

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website: www.agowestchester.org.

Thank you!

John Cecconi
Lois Simmonds
Editors

*Here is the LATEST issue of the
Westchester Chapter AGO Newsletter.....*

Inside:

**Alice's musings; Concert Schedule;
Wanamaker Event; New Board
Members...and much more!**

*Mark your calendar now and you won't miss an
important date!*

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Trompette

John Cecconi &

Lois Simmonds, Editors