



# VOX OCEANA

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
VOLUME XXXVIII, No. 3

MARCH, 2005



## RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2004-2005

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231-5699

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Chaplain, Fr. Doug Spina  
231-2220

Regional AGO, Lois Toepfner  
(508) 366-0509

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2005  
Donald Dame: 647-4654

Meribeth Bowden: 434-6036

Yelena Kishkovich: 651-5175

2006  
Lois Conboy: 658-3838

Stephen Kirby: 246-0039

Christopher Souza: 231-5374

2007  
Janice Aubin: 568-6571

Susan Carroll:

Everett Salisbury: 782-2931

## FROM THE SUB-DEAN

### REPORT ON THE CHAPTER RETREAT

On Saturday, February 12, twelve of our members gathered at Canonicus Camp & Conference Center in Exeter, RI for a day of renewal. The morning began with continental breakfast, followed by devotions on our theme *Soli Deo Gloria*. The program was then turned over to Sally Riley and Ginny Rasmussen, who led a workshop on "Exploring Your Spirituality with Myers-Briggs." We worked in both small and large groups, as we discovered new insights to ourselves and others. Following lunch, we had a dialog with clergy, and addressed a number of questions including the issues of communication, deadlines, relationships, salaries, and the music itself. Some thought that perhaps this type of dialog between organists and clergy might lead to further discussions which could be opened up to a larger group, and improve clergy/organist relations throughout the state. (Anyone interested in exploring this further should speak to Martha Sobaje.) It was a wonderful day, and a good time was had by all!

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MARCH

March 5<sup>th</sup> program cancelled.

### DAVID HIGGS IS COMING!

Yes, this internationally renowned organist/master teacher will be here to provide both our April & May Chapter Events, both to be held at Central Congregational Church, Providence.

Saturday, April 30, 10-12, come and observe a master teacher at work

Sunday, May 1, 4 PM, hear Mr. Higgs in recital

*Dr. Martha Sobaje*

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### New London Chapter announces Roberta Bitgood Scholarship 2005

The **Roberta Bitgood Scholarship** assists pianists who would like to study organ and intend to seek employment as church organists. This year, \$500 is to be awarded. The deadline for applications is April 15. Applicants must have keyboard experience and an enthusiasm for the organ and must demonstrate musical potential and commitment. Applicants must have an interview with the three scholarship judges and play two pieces that differ in style. These pieces may be for piano or organ, or both. The scholarship winner will be asked to play his or her pieces for the guild membership at the Chapter's Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday May 22 at 5:30 PM at First Congregational in New London. The award will be given at that time.

Award covers cost of 15-20 lessons. Books and other sheet music are to be purchased at the student's expense. After one year of study, the recipient may choose to appear as a performer in the New London County Chapter Member's Recital. Chapter members enjoy seeing the progress and accomplishment of the student. The recipient has the right to reapply for the scholarship the following year.

For complete guidelines and application forms, please contact Kathleen Cooper, 9 N. Washington Avenue, Niantic, CT 06357; (860) 739-4391.

## EVENTS

**Sunday, March 6, 3 PM:**

Twentieth Annual Frank Crandall Memorial Organ Recital. **Diana Norton-Jackson**, former Dean of the Rhode Island Chapter, AGO, will perform works by Bach, Benoit, Buxtehude, Dubois, Dupont, Gigout, and Guilment. Peace Dale Congregational Church, 261 Columbia Street, Peace Dale, RI. Free admission; donations accepted. Reception follows. (401)789-7313.

**Thursday, April 7, 7:30 PM:**

The **Salisbury Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys** (18 boy choristers and 9 men) in their only New England stop on their tour of the Northeast will perform music by Byrd, Palestrina, Parry, Stanford and Howells as well as contemporary US composers Paul Manz and Gerald Near. St. Paul's Church, Park Place, Pawtucket. Suggested donation \$20; \$12 students, seniors. Families pay no more than \$50. For tickets and information call 728-4300 or visit [www.stpaulspawtucket.org](http://www.stpaulspawtucket.org).

**Friday, April 8, 8 PM:**

In a program as part of the **centennial celebration of the Boston chapter AGO**, **Olivier Latory** plays works by Franck, Vierne, Gigout, Duruflé, Messiaen, Escaich, and offers an improvisation. Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington Street, Boston. Suggested donation \$20. [www.bostonago.com](http://www.bostonago.com)

**Friday, April 15, 8 PM:**

**Jubilate Chamber Music Ensemble** presents lively chamber music for woodwinds and piano, featuring compositions of Francaix, Alla Borzova, Wayne Barlow, Ibert, Schimmel, and Glinka. **Amy Mendillo**, oboe; **Meighan Stoops**, clarinet; **Jennifer Rhodes**, bassoon, and URI professor emeritus **Donald Rankin**, piano. All performers and noted composer Carl Schimmel have roots in Rhode Island. Kingston Congregational Church, Kingston, RI. (401)783-5330.

**Sunday, April 17, 3PM:**

**Gomidas Organ Fund 35th Anniversary Concert** is a Berj Zamkochian Memorial Concert featuring **Hector Olivera** at Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway (Route 28) Methuen, MA. Tickets \$25. (508) 254-5925 or [www.GomidasOrgan.org](http://www.GomidasOrgan.org).

## FEATURED ON WCRB 102.7FM

Listeners to the Boston AGO chapter program each Sunday on WCRB heard Lois Toepfner play the *Trumpet Tune* by **Martha Sobaje** as the opening number on February 20. Congratulations, Martha!

## 2005 AGO REGION I CONVENTION

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, JUNE 26-29

AWESOME VENUES, GRAND INSTRUMENTS,  
& MORE!

Complete that registration form and make your hotel reservations NOW for the 2005 AGO Region I Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, to experience some of the finest architecture and instruments in New England:

**Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal/Anglican)**, built in 1828, has an **Austin organ** restored with new antiphonal organ installed in 2001.

**Center Church**, "The First Church of Christ in Hartford," led by Thomas Hooker, founder of Hartford (1636), features five stained-glass windows by Tiffany. The **Austin organ** was cleaned and the console upgraded, the 1807 church building restored in 2000.

**Cathedral of Saint Joseph**, (1962) features a 110-foot ceiling and 70-foot windows and an **Austin organ**, the largest church organ in Connecticut, boasting 137 ranks playable via two consoles (gallery and side chapel).

**Congregation Beth Israel** (in West Hartford): recently-restored **Austin organ** is an OHS-designated historic instrument.

**South Church**, (New Britain): **Gress-Miles organ**

**Chapel at Trinity College**: stunning rose window and **Austin organ**.

**Second Church of Christ, Scientist**: unaltered **E. M. Skinner organ**.

**Asylum Hill Congregational Church**: revoiced, rescaled **Aeolian-Skinner organ**

In addition to these venues (gothic, Georgian, neo-classical) and instruments, **exhibitors** located in the grand ballroom of the Hilton Hartford, the convention's headquarters, will have materials for sale. (Prospective exhibitors may contact exhibits coordinator, Phillip Truckenbrod, at [ptruckenbrod@concertartists.com](mailto:ptruckenbrod@concertartists.com).) See [www.HartfordAGO.org](http://www.HartfordAGO.org) for details of venues and instruments.

## COUNTDOWN TO CHICAGO!

The magnificent 2006 Chicago National Convention is just over a year away! Join us in the "Windy City" for our second AGO National Convention. We are thrilled to welcome you, as most of you were not at the first one; it was in 1925! Watch this newsletter for interesting information about the 2006 ChicAGO convention.

## PLACEMENT LISTINGS

- Calvary Baptist Church (American Baptist) 06/04  
747 Broad St, Providence, RI 02907  
Rev. Linda Spoolstra (401) 461-7507  
O/D \$10,000 Moller
- St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Lutheran-ELCA) 08/04  
15 East Beach Rd., Charlestown, RI 02813  
Jean Fournier (401) 364-9103, (401) 364-7357  
O/D \$10,000-15,000 Allen
- Phenix Baptist Church (American Baptist) 10/04  
2 Fairview Ave., W. Warwick, RI 02893  
Dorothy Brindamour  
Organist \$90-110/week Adams
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church 11/04  
120 Nate Whipple Hwy, Cumberland, RI 02864  
Rev. Susan Stiles (401) 658-1506  
O/D \$750/month Allen
- Roger Williams Baptist Church 12/04  
224 Woodward Rd., Providence, RI 02904  
Elaine Chauvin (401) 333-5011  
O/D ---- pipe organ

## MARCH PIPEDREAMS

Visit Pipedreams online for programming, resources, and features: <http://pipedreams.org>.

**#0510 - Glory to Bach in the Highest** - a reminder of the variety of Bach's own music, and the instruments, playing styles, and compositions that he inspired.

**#0511 - Bach On the Bench** - concert performances of music by J.S. Bach presented by American organists on American instruments.

**#0512 - Death and Resurrection** - find renewal in springtime through music for the Easter festival.

**#0513 - Celebration in Switzerland** - inaugural concert performances on the new 124-rank C. B. Fisk instrument at the Lausanne Cathedral, the largest American-built pipe organ in Europe.

## NEW MEMBER:

Muriel Robinson-Edgar (Retired)  
125 Quaker Hill Lane Portsmouth, RI 02871

## ADDRESS CHANGES:

The Rev. Canon Robert Vanderau  
500 Angell Street #501, Providence, RI 02906-4491

Jane Rankin (new email): [janerankin@verizon.net](mailto:janerankin@verizon.net)

## SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

- Janice Aubin: 568-6571 (non-lit)  
Laura Brion: 578-4491 (weddings, funerals)  
Ron Brown: (508) 643-9062 (all), \$125 min  
Margaret Clark: 726-4128 (all)  
Joan Daly: 943-5191 (weddings, funerals)  
Donald Dame: 647-4564 (weddings, funerals)  
Richard Funk: 351-7299 (all)  
Andrew Galuska: 233-1363 (all)  
Diana Norton Jackson: 783-0402 (no RC), \$150 min.  
William Jones: 848-4327 (weddings, funerals)  
Brian Larkin: 272-8318 (all), \$150 min.  
Mary Jane Lide: 245-8331 (all)  
Philip Martorella: 885-3431 (weddings, funerals)  
Elsie McNeill: (508) 673-2583 (all)  
David Norfrey: 521-2839 (weddings, funerals)  
Donna O'Malley: 247-2673; 497-1931 (wedding, funerals, all)  
Brian Michael Page: 359-3222 (all, \$100 min.)  
Howard Phelps: 821-8475 (no RC)  
Ronald P. Shepard: [rpshepard@bigfoot.com](mailto:rpshepard@bigfoot.com); (413) 783-4280  
Martha Sobaje: 823-8024/ 467-3300x3 (weddings, funerals, no RC)  
Pamela Stuerke: 884-4648 (no RC, no funerals)  
Julie Tagen: 885-7438 (weddings, funerals)  
Terry Taylor: 253-9030 (no RC)  
Verna Westhaver: 683-2636 (all)  
Dorothy Yoreo: 246-1223 (all)

## BOARD MEETINGS - NOTE CHANGE

RIAGO Board meeting dates: March 15, May 9, June 6

## VIEW OUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

**WEBSITE:** [www.riago.org](http://www.riago.org) Password: brooks  
Cape Cod newsletter online: [www.capecodago.org](http://www.capecodago.org)

## FROM THE EDITOR

Submissions for the April newsletter are due by March 20, by e-mail or snail mail, with e-mail preferred:  
[aallard@ccli.edu](mailto:aallard@ccli.edu)

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*Althea Allard*