



# VOX OCEANA

SEP 2023

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS | VOLUME LV1 NO. 2

## RI CHAPTER OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS 2023-2024

Dean, Gigi Mitchell-Velasco  
pipeorganlady22@gmail.com

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Stephen T. Martorella

Secretary, David Cranmer  
401-447-9848  
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Placement: Gina Vecchio  
401-954-2163

Membership: Christopher Souza  
401-368-2758

Auditors:  
Denise Petrucci, Jackie Gourd  
Reg. Councillor: Leslie Smith  
northeastago@gmail.com

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2023  
Adam Schneider  
adamschneider39@gmail.com

2024  
Fred Jodry  
Lawrence E. Wilson 860-857-5493  
lewilson3rd@gmail.com

2025  
Philip Martorella  
Gina Vecchio 401-954-2163

[www.riago.org](http://www.riago.org)

## Let's Get Back to EVENTS!

Happy Fall!

Let's get back to gathering in person! Your Chapter Board has been meeting via Zoom since COVID reared its ugly head. Like many of you, we are anxious to once again gather in person to enjoy each other's company and the music we all love.

To that end, we have planned our first event of the new season. Last year, a group of us gathered at the Grist Mill restaurant in Seekonk for lunch and face-to-face visiting. It was a great deal of fun for all of us: catching up, hearing each other's back stories about the sometimes convoluted paths that brought us to the King of Instruments. We'd like to recapture more of that camaraderie this fall. So we are planning once again to meet at the Grist Mill for a Kick-off lunch and conversation, and to find out what events YOU would like to see on our calendar. Please set aside the date: **Saturday, September 30 at 12 PM.** You can contact Gigi to be counted in: pipeorganlady22@gmail.com You choose what you like from the extensive luncheon menu, and we each pay for ourselves.

Looking ahead a bit further, we look forward to a presentation of history through a Festival of Spirituals thanks to the work of Steve Martorella and Larry Wilson for The First Baptist Church in America. We anticipate a Members' Recital which we hope will also feature performances by some of our recent Conboy grant winners. A workshop on a subject to be determined and a concert sponsored by the Vitullo Fund are also in the offing.

Plan to join us on September 30 to renew acquaintances with those you've missed during the hiatus. We look forward to launching an exciting year.

*Gigi*  
Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, MMus, CAGO  
Dean

## PLACEMENT LISTINGS

Contact Gina Vecchio (401-954-2163) to list

Trinity Church 4/1/2023  
139 Ocean Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02905  
Episcopal  
Rev. Tanya Watt 401-684-2844 [rector@trinitycranston.org](mailto:rector@trinitycranston.org)  
Schantz \$16,000-\$19,000 Minister of Music

All Saints Memorial Episcopal Church 8/1/2023  
674 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
Episcopal  
Rev. Julianne Hanavan 401-480-3941  
Austin \$18,000-\$23,000 Director of Music / organist

Channing Memorial Church 7/1/2023  
135 Pelham Street  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840  
Unitarian - Universalist  
Betsy Leerssen 401-339-2516  
Baldwin electronic \$19,000/39 weeks Organist/Director

Original Congregational Church 11/22  
East Street Wrentham, MA 02093  
United Church of Christ  
Ned Ligon 508-505-5865 [esligon@gmail.com](mailto:esligon@gmail.com)  
Austin Opus \$20,000-24,000 Organist/Director

## SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS

Contact Gina Vecchio (954-2163) with changes.

### AVAILABLE SUNDAYS & WEEKDAYS

Babbitt, Jonathan 401-864-9009  
Clarke, Margaret: 401-726-4128 (all)  
Jones, William: 401-848-4327 (all)  
MacCubbin, Jay: 401-521-0698  
Nicholson, Nancy: 401-521-9097 (all)  
Norton-Jackson, Diana 401-714-2700 interim, sub, no weddings  
Tagen, Julia L.: 401-225-9594 (all, weddings/funerals/interim)  
Taylor, Terry: 401-253-9030 ([tutti@fullchannel.net](mailto:tutti@fullchannel.net))  
Vecchio, Gina: 401-954-2163  
Wilson, Lawrence: 860-857-5493 Organ; Sacred Jazz Composer/Arranger  
AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS ONLY  
Black, John: 401-737-1230 (all, available Saturdays & weekdays)  
Cranmer, David: 401-447-9848  
Martorella, Philip: 401 243-3431 (no Sun. a.m.)  
Seaholm, Edward 401-309-2167  
Sobaje, Martha: 401-626-0099 (weddings, funerals)  
Westhaver, Verna: 401-683-2636

## A PLEA

In this day of rolling AGO registration, when membership renewal is due in the anniversary month of your last dues payment, rather than universally in July, our Membership master, Chris Souza, has had a difficult task in assembling a Directory. Those who missed inclusion in the 2022 Directory can be noted in the newsletter. Please send your information to me at [altheaallard@gmail.com](mailto:altheaallard@gmail.com).

Dues can be renewed online (perhaps the most efficient, since office staff are working from home). If you need to renew via US mail for reimbursement by your employer or for other reasons, it is especially important to initiate the process in advance to allow for the delay at headquarters. Your Chapter appreciates your support in this effort.

***Up for dues renewal? Do it today--please.  
Your membership matters!***

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### SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: 20th of each month. SUBMISSIONS: Send Word or Text files to [altheaallard@gmail.com](mailto:altheaallard@gmail.com) or to Althea Allard, 166 Suffolk Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02861. ADVERTISING: Word doc, PDF (print ready), JPG (high resolution), or TIFF. All files should be grayscale at 300 dpi resolution. Email to [altheaallard@gmail.com](mailto:altheaallard@gmail.com)

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### ADVERTISING RATES

1/4-page ad (3.5"W x 5"H): \$18 -or- 1/8-page ad (3.5"W x 2.5"H): \$10  
Flyers provided electronically for inclusion with newsletter (for RIAGO members): \$10.  
Make checks out to RIAGO and mail to Althea Allard by the 20th. \$25 non-members.