

SFAGO Special Projects Committee: Round-Up of Recent Activities
By Douglas Franks
Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

The Special Projects Committee met on February 16, 2015 at the Unitarian Universalists of Berkeley. Overlooking the Bay from high in the East Bay hills, we enjoyed a delicious pre-meeting repast then wended our way through a full business agenda.

We were pleased to receive a \$500 check from Ann Arbor AGO as partial refund of the grant we awarded them one year ago for their POEA last summer. The POEA did so well financially that they were able to pay us back some of the grant award money.

We awarded a grant in the amount of \$2000 to Ronald Ebrecht, a Maurice Duruflé scholar and interpreter. The grant will pay for translation services so that a series of articles he wrote in French about revisions in some of Duruflé's organ pieces can be translated into English and published for the benefit of English-speaking organists interested in taking a more critical look at these organ works. Mr. Ebrecht, editor of and contributor to the first biography of Duruflé, works closely with *Association Maurice et Marie-Madeleine Duruflé* and is eminently qualified to work on this project.

We noted progress being made by recently funded projects: We received a copy of Bynum Petty's book on the history of Henry Pilcher's Sons Organ Company; Dr. Christopher Marks' project of recording lesser-known and previously unrecorded works of Seth Bingham is well underway; the organ and organ-plus recital series at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland that we're helping underwrite is ongoing with due credit given to SFAGO's Special Projects Fund.

Our committee is designing an ad for the program book of the 2015 West Region AGO Convention in San Diego. We intend to have an attractive presence in that publication for colleagues from around the country to see, many probably finding out about SFAGO's Special Projects Fund grant program for the first time.

Committee member Katya Kolesnikova submitted a copiously researched spreadsheet of all past projects funded by the Special Projects Committee since its inception in the mid-1980's. Her comprehensive report will be combined with grant data already compiled from 2009 to the present with the ultimate goal of making the committee's grant-award history available online.

It's not too early to encourage SFAGO members who plan on renewing their chapter membership dues in a couple of months to please consider making an extra donation to the Special Projects Fund as they navigate their way through the ONCARD web pages. Our committee is dependent on such donations for maintaining a healthy capacity to fund grant applications that come our way during our three annual funding cycles. Donations to the Fund through ONCARD will go directly into our operating account, the funds of which are used for the cash grants we award to worthy applicants. SFAGO member gifts will help our committee continue to help others, as it's been doing on behalf of our chapter for three decades now, who are endeavoring to enrich the organ world with their special and unique projects.

The next SPF grant deadline is April 15. Our committee will meet again in May.

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