

## Special Projects Committee Recap

By Douglas Franks

Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

The past season has been a busy one for the Special Projects Committee. June is an opportune time for a quick look back.

We welcomed two new members to the committee, Katya Kolesnikova who was elected last spring to serve a full term, and Jeanne Struble who graciously stepped in to fill a one-year vacancy. Their input has enlivened and enriched our meetings, and I thank them. A huge thank-you also goes to committee member Rod Gehrke for his ongoing and faithful service and active role on the committee. We say farewell to David Farr whose three-year term on the SPC comes to an end. He has been a valuable committee member who opened his home and hosted our meetings several times over the past three years. We will miss him and his experienced, insightful perspective. Thank you, David, for helping us do our work with both wit and wisdom.

I would again like to thank SFAGO chapter members who made special donations to the Special Projects Fund when they renewed their membership dues last spring. We encourage members to do likewise when they renew their membership this year. All gifts will go directly towards funding worthy organ-related projects approved by our committee.

A heartfelt thank-you also goes to Mr. Oscar Burdick who generously donated to the Special Projects Fund on behalf of his wife Dora's estate. His gift is a tremendous boost to our grant-giving capacity.

In our fall 2013 and winter 2014 funding cycles we awarded a total of \$7000 in grants. Described in detail in previous newsletter articles, grant recipients were as follows:

- ◆ *2014 AGO National Convention (Boston)*—Funding for a “Family Organ Encounter Day” at the 2014 AGO National Convention
- ◆ *AGO-HQ/ONCARD Project*—A grant in support of the ONCARD project (“Online National Collection and Remittal of Dues”) national AGO developed and implemented
- ◆ *Ann Arbor AGO Chapter*—Funding for Ann Arbor AGO's Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced (POEA) scheduled for this summer
- ◆ *Dr. Ann Marie Rigler* (professor of organ at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri)—Support for Dr. Rigler's continued research for a video-based project titled “Conversations and Legacies: Exploring Late 20th-Century Organ Pedagogy Through Oral History”

At our next SPC meeting, the culmination of the spring funding cycle, we will review five grant requests, including an application from one of our international AGO chapters. Stay tuned for the results. There are also several improvements in the works as our committee continues to figure out how to best fulfill its mission of helping bring to fruition “special projects” worthy of our support.

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