

SFAGO Special Projects Committee: Two Grants Awarded in Fall Funding Cycle

By Douglas Franks

Chair, SFAGO Special Projects Committee

SFAGO's Special Projects Committee met the first week in October and among other SPC business, deliberated on and approved two grant requests received before the mid-August deadline.

The first award was to the Boston AGO Chapter in support of "Family Organ Encounter Day" as part of the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston. "Family Organ Encounter Day" will take place at Old South Church in Boston's historic Copley Square and consist of five hours of "four fast-paced, attention-grabbing activities, designed to be welcoming and accessible," including children's stories with organ sound effects, virtual organ tours, silent films with improvised organ accompaniment, sing-alongs with organ, and performances of exciting, well-known organ pieces. A demonstration organ for educational purposes will be available for children to play. The organizers of this event are eminently qualified to fulfill its particular needs.

Mr. Trevor Pollack, Chair of Gifts and Grants for the 2014 National Convention, expressed gratitude to "the entire Special Projects Committee for such a generous grant to support Boston's 'Family Organ Encounter Day' . . . the first-ever Family Day at a national convention!"

To any SFAGO member planning on attending the national convention in Boston next summer, please take in some of the "Family Organ Encounter Day."

A second grant was awarded to the AGO national office in support of the ONCARD project ("Online National Collection and Remittal of Dues") national AGO is developing. Although our modest grant is a drop in the bucket next to the overall budget requirements of this mammoth national project, Director of Development and Communications F. Anthony Thurman responded that "we are indeed grateful. Your support will help to make a difference." AGO Headquarters aims to have ONCARD up and running by 2014.

As SPC Chairperson, I am indeed grateful to the current Special Projects Committee members: David Farr, Rod Gehrke, Katya Kolesnikova, and Jean Struble. Their experience, knowledgeable perspectives, wisdom, and belief in what we do enable us to carry out our work as successfully as we do. And their warmth and spirit of camaraderie make our SPC gatherings exceptionally enjoyable as well as productive.

The next Special Projects Fund grant application deadline is December 15, 2013.

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