

June & July 2017 The American Guild of Organists San Francisco Chapter Newsletter

Dean's Column

by William Vaughan

Our annual dinner on Monday, May 22, at Congregation Sherith Israel was a great success! Thank you to Jonathan Dimmock (organ) and Angela Lee (cello) who played an exquisite and unique program. Thank you also to George Emblom and his Program Committee for all their hard work in creating this year's programming.

The evening opened with appetizers and wine followed by a delicious catered dinner in a spacious banquet room adjacent to the Temple. It was wonderful to see old friends and make new acquaintances. The evening flew by.



Towards the end of dinner, Jonathan Dimmock spoke about the program and the organ. During dessert, George Emblom and I led a short meeting reviewing the treasurer's report and

hearing what the Special Projects Committee is up to. I then gave a few reflections on my first year as dean. In short, I have had a fun year getting to know you all, going to chapter events, and learning the organization.

We then proceeded up to the sanctuary. On the way up, we stopped by the blower room to see the belt-driven blower. One won't see another one like it. The floor vibrated when we were anywhere near the blower room, (even up in the organ loft).

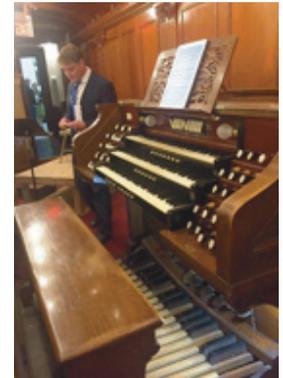


Once in the sanctuary, one can't help but marvel at the beauty of the Temple. It is meticulously cared for. We made our way up to the rear gallery to hear and see the concert. We were joined by many congregants of the Temple.

Afterwards we all were invited to view the organ chamber and console. Again, everything was clean and well taken care of. This



is a great picture of Andy Chislett viewing his smart phone while we are looking at an instrument over 100 years old. Then there is the picture of my little organ student, Tim, who is standing near the setter board inside the chamber. How time has stood still in this organ chamber and loft!



Thank you to all of you who came and enjoyed each other's company. It will be exciting to see you all at next season's events.

I have included some history of the organ and also the stop-list of this historic organ.

Among synagogue organs in the United States, the Murray Harris organ (The Los Angeles Art Organ Co.) at Congregation Sherith Israel is a standout. Both conservative and progressive, it exhibits a thoughtful tonal concept that has withstood the test of time since its installation in 1904. Voiced by the

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Submission deadline for the **August** issue is **July 10**

Karen Haslag Moving to Missouri – but Not Leaving SFAGO

from Karen Haslag

Bill Vaughan asked me to write a few words, since my husband and I have decided to move back to my roots in Jefferson City, Missouri. I will be joining the Central Missouri AGO and continuing a dual membership with SFAGO. Why? There are too many friends and warm memories that I want to keep alive since I moved to San Francisco in 1972. Although it was later that I joined SFAGO, it has provided many opportunities to make life-long friendships through working together on committees.

In 1977 I became organist at St Charles Borromeo Church in San Francisco, and played a lovely nine rank Austin organ. I can remember how excited I was when Jack Bethards came over to work on it, and he took me inside the organ chamber. Shortly after that I attended an organ concert at the Civic Center Auditorium with Gerard Stafford and some others, and Gerry encouraged me to join the SFAGO.

In 2000 Robert Kerman was Dean and a group of us resurrected the floundering Hospitality program and made it flourish. Other members have faithfully worn that hat since then. Rob insisted on a “Martha Stewart” serving of wine at receptions so that we would have a managed food budget. Handling the certification process for one successful AAGO candidate was a later challenge and a very gratifying experience. A most memorable invitation was to be on the 2011 Regional Convention Steering Committee under the inspiring leadership of Pat During and working with a remarkably productive and cooperative team. Our Hospitality Committee became an army of organists and ‘groupie’ volunteers. During this past year I was on the program committee of the REAGO under the capable leadership of Paul Blanchard, and came to appreciate new friends in the Redwood Empire. About 2003 I remember phoning former Dean Paul Rosendall several times to sub for me at a funeral at St Elizabeth Church, and then would listen to him talk for hours about his aspirations for a POE in San Francisco. I think of the patience George Morten has when I email him a pesty question about a newsletter deadline.

Currently, I have the privilege of being the music director and organist at Kenwood Community Church (Kenwood, CA) and working hand in hand with Reverend Jim Fish, the guest speaker at the Opening SFAGO Clergy/Organist Dinner in September of 2012, under the creative leadership of Jerry Lenk. At the 2016 dinner at Original Joe’s I was touched



Karen Haslag and The Rev Jim Fish

SFAGO Board 2017–2018 Officers

from William Vaughan

Dean	William Vaughan
Sub Dean	Eric Choate
Sub Dean Elect	Kymerly Payne
Secretary	Liz Forsyth
Treasurer	Michael Page

If you are interested in serving on the board this year, please let William Vaughan know. He may be reached at billyv32@gmail.com

We wish our members a safe, refreshing and restful summer.

The next scheduled newsletter will be the August issue.

Refer to notices on pages 1, 5 and 6 for submission deadlines.



by the down-to-earth friendliness of the current Dean, Bill Vaughan. I remember George Emblom emphasizing the importance of meaningful relationships among members at the September installation dinner in 2016. So what is all this about? By working together on projects, by engaging other members as volunteers, by appreciating the advice and successes of our peers and creating a hospitable and productive organization, we all thrive! Even a little participation goes a long way to make our world as organists better for everyone.

Karen has a B.A. in music from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, an M.A. in Creative Arts Education from San Francisco State University and a life credential in Music Education K-12. She credits Dr. James Kosnik as her primary organ teacher. Besides her career in education and working as a church music director, Karen is a life-long calligrapher. She is a charter member of the SF Bay Area “Friends of Calligraphy” started in 1975 and has calligraphy represented in the Richard Harrison Permanent Collection of Calligraphy, Special Collections Department, San Francisco Public Library.

San Francisco AGO Chapter Recital Series Donors

The San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists thanks the following people for their support of the 2016–2017 Recital Series.

Bombarde (\$1000+)

Contra Costa Performing
Arts Society Organ
Workshop

Tuba Mirabilis (\$500-\$999)

Jon Townsend

Trompette en Chamade (\$250-\$499)

John Agraz
Jonathan Dimmock and
George Emblom
Patricia During
Thomas Flesher
Jason M. Surles
Steven Wallace
Arthur West
Timothy Zerlang

Clarion (\$100-\$249)

Linda Frances Boggiano †
Gail Burnett
Charles Corum
Jud Hammon
Justin Kielty
James Martin
Natsuko Murayama
Chris Nichols
Father Robert Rien
George Allen Schell
Christoph Tietze
Robert Walker

† Deceased

Hautbois (\$50-\$99)

Claramae J. Co
Jeanette Cool
Gregory De Santis
Richard Ditewig
Elizabeth Forsyth
Douglas Franks
Karen Haslag
David Howitt
Reiko Oda Lane
Stephen Luzmoor
Lilyane Moulton
W Wayne Ritchie
Stewart Sarch
Gerald Skeels
Gary C. Toops
William Vaughan
William Visscher

Krummhorn (\$25-\$49)

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Steven C. Gray
Martin Lilley
Lois Nelson
Terry O'Connor
Marian E. Ott
Helen Pereira
Elisabeth Vache Pintar
Jan Robitscher
Eric Stevens

Vox Humana (\$1-\$24)

Patricia Harre
Valda Volkova-Moran

Total Donations this year to date are \$6,125.00.

We thank all of you who contributed this past year.

Please consider contributing again for our 2017–2018 program year.
You can do it through Oncard when you renew, or send a check to:

William Vaughan
1100 Fulton Ave
San Leandro, CA 94577.

Dean's Column, *from front page*

English voicer John W. Whiteley, the organ exhibits the exquisite string tone that thrived in the Anglo-American sphere in the mid-20th century. The “chorus sounds” of the organ are well-developed, with reeds that compliment the full ensemble sound — giving the instrument an English cathedral character. The three-rank Echo division, high in the dome, was the first in a San Francisco house of worship. We are fortunate to have the instrument in its original condition, including the original pitch of A=434.5. (A=440 didn't become the standard pitch until after WWII.) Perhaps one of the most notable things about this instrument, especially by today's standards, is the builder's attention to very soft sounds. Long before microphones and loudspeakers were dreamed of, synagogue organs (such as this one) needed to be able to play “under” the voice of the unamplified cantor's voice. Since the cantor might want to sing softly, the organ had to be even softer! Organs became

part of the Reform musical tradition in 19th-century Germany, leading to a flowering of Jewish musical composition. Our sanctuary with its choir loft and organ showcased this rich musical heritage. In 1904 Sherith Israel purchased the organ for \$18,000. Other organs by Harris's company include Stanford University's instrument built in 1901 and the core of the famed Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, originally created as the world's largest organ for the 1904 St Louis World's Fair. Behind the organ's magnificent, stenciled façade, a gigantic mechanism supports and controls more than 3,500 pipes that vary in length from six inches to sixteen feet. The organ blower room, with its 40-foot leather belt, is unique — something akin to what one might find in Thomas Edison's workshop of the same period. The organ contains over 15,000 board feet of choice

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Special Projects Committee Report

by Helen Pereira

The 2016–2017 year of our SFAGO is coming to a close and I would like to inform you of the work of the Special Projects Committee this year.

First of all, I would like to thank committee members Lenore Alford, Donald Mulliken, Jerry Lenk, and John Karl Hirten for their input and support. The terms of Lenore and Donald have come to an end. Nominated to replace them are Steve Repasky and Natsuko Murayama.

Our business this year has included providing funding in the amount of \$17,000 for seven grants and the placement of SPC ads in the booklets of five of the seven regional conventions taking place this summer, the ads costing a total of \$770.

We are grateful to all of you who donate to our funds through the opportunity at membership renewal time, such as is taking place presently.

Donations are gratefully accepted at any time of the year. We especially thank Oscar Burdick for his generous annual donation on behalf of his late wife Dora's estate.

With more detailed information concerning the grants, I list them:

- David Pickering \$3,000 Documentary film highlighting the organs and program at KSU.
- Velda Graham Bell \$2,000 Sacred Heart Music Center in Duluth, MN. Silent film fundraiser for repair of Felgemaker organ in preparation for August Festival
- Erin Scheessele \$3,000 Orgelkids, USA; a project sponsored by Eugene AGO; Curriculum & kit to build a 2-rank mechanical-action organ.
- Daniel Zager \$3,000 EROI Festival projects
- San Diego Pro Arte Voices \$2,000 Adding an organ scholar component to the annual San Diego Summer Choral Festival
- Richard Spotts \$2,000 Tournemire research and recital in Paris; also coming to SF in 2017-18
- Adam Zagotti \$2,000 Great Lakes Regional Convention Funds

Thank you again for your interest and support of this important part of our San Francisco chapter of the AGO. ~~~~~

Dean's Column, from page 3

white pine and hardwoods, more than 50 miles of electrical wire, five tons of metal and enough leather to make 10,000 pairs of fine lady's gloves. The keys and stops are made of pure ivory. The decoration of the pipes and the carving of the elaborate console were all completed by hand. The most unusual mechanical feature of the instrument is its electrical action. It uses the principals of telephone signals to control thousands of valves that operate the pipes.

The Specifications

Great Organ

16' Double Open Diapason
8' First Open Diapason
8' Second Open Diapason
8' Viola d'Gamba
8' Viol d'Amour
8' Doppelflute
4' Octave
4' Harmonic Flute
2' Fifteenth
IV Mixture
8' Trumpet
4' Tuba Clarion

Choir Organ

16' Contra Gamba
8' Geigen Principal
8' Dulciana
8' Quintadena
8' Melodia
8' Lieblich Gedackt
4' Fugara
4' Flute d'Amour
2' Piccolo
8' Clarionette
Tremolo

Swell Organ

16' Bourdon
8' Open Diapason
8' Violin Diapason
8' Salicional
8' Aeoline
8' Unda Maris
8' Spitz Flute
8' Stopped Diapason
4' Geigen Octave
4' Flauto Traverso
2' Harmonic Piccolo
V Cornet
16' Contra Fagotto
8' Cornopean
8' Oboe & Bassoon
8' Vox Humana
4' Clarion
Tremolo

Echo Organ

8' Aeoline
4' Wald Flute
8' Vox Humana

Pedal Organ

16' Open Diapason
16' Gamba
16' Dulciana
16' Bourdon
8' Octave
8' Violoncello
8' Flute
16' Trombone

It has been such a delight serving you as your Dean this past season. I have enjoyed meeting as many of you that I could at the various chapter events. There are many more of you that I would like to meet. Perhaps our paths will cross at next season's events. ~~~~~

Classified Ads

Collected by David Howitt

This information is provided as a service to SFAGO members and the employing institutions. Inclusion of information in this column does not imply endorsement by the SFAGO. Send **Job Referrals** items, **Substitutes Available** notices, and **For Sale** items to: dhowitt@sjbalameda.org. Deadline for the **August** issue is **July 10**. Online listings available at: www.sfago.org/jobs/

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

NORTH BAY

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, 1510 Fifth Ave., San Rafael 94901. ORGANIST. Seeking a part-time organist to play on the third Sunday of each month for the 10 am service with additional services at Christmas and Easter. The music should include Prelude, Postlude and Offertory/Special piece with occasional hymn and choir accompaniment. The organ is in good condition and is a three manual, Moeller pipe organ built in 1962 with 31 stops and approximately 19 ranks. The instrument is available for practice during the week. Rate of pay competitive/negotiable. Please send a résumé to janie.m4rtin@gmail.com or call Jane Martin at 415-472-1118.

PENINSULA

Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024 - ORGANIST/PIANIST position, three-quarter time available at Los Altos United Methodist Church. Must be comfortable with popular and classical styles on piano and organ as well as a strong sight reader. Two choir rehearsals (Tuesday and Thursday evening), three Sunday morning services. Possibility of sharing the position. Health insurance and Vacation benefits. Competitive salary. Position opens July 1, 2017. Please contact the Minister of Music, Dirk Damonte, dirkdamonte@laumc.org or call the office at 650-948-1083

Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside; MUSIC DIRECTOR. Christ Church is looking for a talented, creative and pastoral Music Director who can both conduct a choir and play the church's famous Visser-Rowland Opus #97 Organ. Candidates must be enthusiastic about building a volunteer choir and continuing the high standards of its existing music program. This is a part-time (15-20 hours) permanent position with a competitive AGO scale-based salary. However, housing is not provided.

The current program includes Sunday morning and Wednesday evening rehearsals (except during summer hiatus), two worship services (8 a.m. and 10 a.m.) on Sundays, special services occasionally

on Sunday evenings, organizing occasional concerts supported by our Special Music Fund, and annual events such as a concert with a sister parish, a Parish Retreat, and high holy days including Christmas and Holy Week/Easter. It also includes one weekly staff meeting. Applicants must consider themselves partners-in-ministry with the entire team, including the Rector, other staff members, and the congregation. While the position may not include conducting a children's choir, the candidate must be willing to support the children's ministries of the parish, and lead chapel for the Carillon Preschool classes with an organ demonstration once per semester. For consideration, please email your résumé to the Rector (no phone calls please), the Rev. Beth Phillips, at motherbeth@ccpvw.org. Christ Episcopal Church Portola Valley & Woodside, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028; ccpvw.org

EAST BAY

Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill 94523 - ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST wanted for 9:00 am service and 10:30 choir rehearsal - approximately 3 hours each Sunday. Extra services during Advent and Lent. Play preludes/postludes, hymns, service music from the Lutheran Service Book (LC-MS, 2006) and accompany the choir with demonstrated proficiency. Two manual, Bosch tracker action organ in good condition. Position is available ASAP. Salary is at current rates in the area and commensurate with proficiency and experience. Contact Pastor Peter Woodward at pastor@welcome2faith.com or call the church office at 925-685-7353

Ripon Oratorio Society; ORGANIST for Handel's *Messiah*. My name is Bob DeRuiter and I am the director of the Ripon Oratorio Society's performance of *Messiah*. This will be my 27th year directing and the 77th year for the group. For 24 years David Douma played for us but he has since passed away. We are looking for someone to play for us this year. If you are interested, please contact me at bob.deruiter@gmail.com

SFAGO Newsletter is published monthly, August thru May, with a Summer issue for June/July, by the San Francisco Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Opinions stated herein are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect official policies of this Chapter. The deadline for receipt of all newsletter items is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

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Newsletter Departments: Send your entries to the appropriate editor; all submissions due by 10th of the month preceding publication

Events Calendar Listings: Brian Swager, 415.551.7866, sfagocal@gmail.com
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Obituary Listings: To be announced
Newsletter Articles: George Morten, 209.565.6660, sfago-editor@att.net

2016-2017
Last updated 11/14/2016

Bay Area Concert Calendar

Collected by Brian Swager

2017 June & July

Events, dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice. Compiled from flyers, press releases, and listings submitted by members and organizations. SFAGO is not responsible for errors, although every effort is made to be accurate. Submission deadline for the August issue is July 10. Send event listings to sfagocal@gmail.com. For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.sfago.org, click on SFAGO Bay Area Concert Calendar.

Recurring Venues

Churches and institutions offering programs on a regular basis have been assigned abbreviations so as to save space in our listings. Abbreviations are listed below with the full name of the venue. When no city is stated, San Francisco is assumed.

CPLH: Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor

CSMA: Cath. of St Mary of the Assumption

SME-B: St Mark's Episcopal Ch, Berkeley

SPE-BU: St Paul's Episcopal Ch, Burlingame

June

3 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

4 Sunday

3pm. Wayne Marshall, Organ. Tickets: sfsymphony.org Davies Symphony Hall

4pm. Chamber Ensembles, Young Peoples Symphony Orchestra. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

10 Saturday

4pm. Jane Cain, Organ. CPLH

11 Sunday

4pm. Sergio Militello, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jane Cain, Organ. CPLH

6:05pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. Preceded by 5:30 Evensong. Reception follows. SME-B

17 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

18 Sunday

4pm. Eric Zhang, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

24 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

25 Sunday

4pm. Marco Pranic, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

Looking Ahead July

1 Saturday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

2 Sunday

4pm. Christoph Tietze, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

8 Saturday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

9 Sunday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH

10 Monday

7pm. Choral Evensong. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Tye, Sumsion, Gibbons. Freewill donation. SPE-BU

11 Tuesday

7pm. Choral Evensong. Susan Jane Matthews, Director. Music of Baynon, Howells, Brewer, Wesley. Freewill donation. SPE-BU

15 Saturday

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

16 Sunday

4pm. Etienne Walhain, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. Angela Kraft Cross, Organ. CPLH

22 Saturday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

23 Sunday

4pm. Norman Paskowsky, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

29 Saturday

4pm. John Hirten, Organ. CPLH

30 Sunday

4pm. John Hirten, Organ. CPLH

4pm. Paul Stubbings, Organ. Free parking. Freewill offering. CSMA

August

5-6 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. David Hegarty, Organ. CPLH

12-13 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Jeff Johnson, Organ. CPLH

19-20 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. John Walko, Organ. CPLH

26-27 Saturday & Sunday

4pm. Jonathan Dimmock, Organ. CPLH



CLASSIFIEDS

RODGERS 760 ORGAN

For donation to an individual or church – Rodgers 760 Organ. 1980s era, three manual and pedal with 40–50 stops. Includes a large speaker system with two large subwoofers and three smaller speakers. One key is not working but otherwise the organ is in excellent condition. If interested, please call Bob Irwin. 916-293-8606

HARPSICHORD & BABY GRAND

Jean Struble has available a Sperrhake Harpsichord Model 145. 37" by 51", two stops 8' and 4' and divided Lute stop on 8'. Also available, an Ibach, German 5 1/2' baby grand piano. Search on line for details. Must go as Jean is moving to smaller space with no room for these instruments. Contact: Bill Visscher 510-967-3755.

Our new website is up and running.

Please check it out at www.sfago.org