

Contact Us

West Region

Regional Councillor

Matthew Burt, SPC
matthewburt@gmail.com

Regional Coordinators

Education

Angela Kraft Cross
krftcrss@yahoo.com

Professional Development

Rev. Gregory G. Norton, CAGO
(626) 676 - 8035

Competitions

Carl Kishline
kishlinec@asme.org

District Convener for Oregon

Barbara Baird
bbaird@uoregon.edu

Eugene Chapter Officers

Barbara Baird, Dean
bbaird@uoregon.edu

Brad Schultz, Sub-Dean
brad.s.schultz@gmail.com

Gail Goshert, Treasurer
gailmail67@gmail.com

Stephanie Wiley, Secretary
wiley0462@comcast.net

EIRay Stewart-Cook, Mbr. At Large
AESCC@welcometocentral.org

Susanne Giordano, Mbr. At Large
susangio@comcast.net

Michael Reiter, Mbr. At Large
mdreiter440@gmail.com

Eric McKirdy, Webmaster
eric@ericmckirdy.com

Richard Guy, Newsletter Editor
ldspkrpro@gmail.com

Eugene Chapter Website

www.agoeugene.org

AGO National Headquarters

www.agohq.org

LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Dear AGO Friends,

June is upon us, a time that normally marks the end of the program year, graduations, concert season endings, and the beginning of summertime, with festivals, conventions, and vacations. But these are strange times, and every day feels like Groundhog Day, so perhaps we can pause and recognize the milestones.

We have had a rich AGO program year which began in September after our annual business meeting with a celebratory Hymn Festival, led by Brad Schultz and the choirs of First United Methodist. Our annual October PipeScreams event, held at Central Presbyterian Church, was full of fun and surprises.

In November we ventured up to Beaverton to join with the Salem and Portland chapters in a masterclass taught by George Ritchie. Our Advent Recitals jointly hosted with First United Methodist were wonderfully varied and well attended.

The annual King of Instruments program in January, held at First United Methodist, featured many of our area student organists demonstrating the versatility of the beautiful Hochhalter organ. We welcomed Guy Bovet back to Eugene for his week of residency in February, which featured a masterclass on Spanish baroque organ music, a virtuosic organ recital, and a fun "Battle of the Sexes" harpsichord duo recital.

The Lenten Recital series at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection got off to a strong start with a program commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Brombaugh organ played by Mike Reiter, Brad Schultz, and Barbara Baird. The following Saturday recitals by Christopher Glenn and Samuel Kalcheim each beautifully presented a wide variety of repertoire, and we eagerly anticipated the next 3 programs of the series. Unfortunately, the pandemic intervened, and our season abruptly ended.

Now that we have come to the end of my term as your Dean and my final Dean's note, I want to wish you a safe and sane summer, and thank you for the honor and privilege of serving these last 2 years. I have been a member of the Eugene AGO chapter for 39 years, with 9 of those years serving as Dean, (next column)



DEAN'S LETTER, CON'TD

and I'm pleased to report that the AGO is alive and well in the Willamette Valley.

I am most grateful for the efforts, assistance and support of our many dedicated volunteers, including our 2019-2020 AGO Board: Brad Schultz, Sub-Dean; Gail Goshert, Treasurer; Stephanie Wiley, Secretary; Richard Guy, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster; Mike Reiter, Member-at-large; Susanne Giordano, Member-at-large; and Karen Williamson, Past Dean. I am especially grateful for those willing to serve as our new 2020-2021 AGO officers, who were elected by a unanimous vote (24 YES and 0 NO):

1. Dean: Brad Schultz
2. Sub Dean: Mike Reiter
3. Treasurer: Gail Goshert
4. Secretary: EIRay Stewart-Cook

How well do you know your new officers? Below are fun facts about each of these new Board members. See if you can match the fact to the officer. Answers are at the end of the newsletter.

- A. Look for this organist / car fanatic tooling around town in a classic 1969 MGC-GT, most likely heading to the golf course.
- B. This current member has been a Eugene Chapter member for 43 years and served as Dean of our Chapter for 3 times.
- C. A proficient tuba player, this organist regularly performs in the Eugene / Springfield OcTUBAfest and Tuba Carol Concerts with the Oregon Tuba Association.
- D. Like a true Oregonian, this member spent Memorial Day weekend camping out, roughing it in a tent in the backyard.

Getting to Know Chapter Members

Thanks to all who responded to our request to share information about yourself. Your statements have been edited, sometimes with added comments, and are presented in the order in which they were received. I enjoyed getting to learn something new about each and every one!

Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers came to Eugene in 1982 but didn't play the organ here until she started her doctoral studies at U of O in 2005. She has worked at Springfield Christian Science Church, and Central Lutheran Church, where she is currently Associate Organist, playing the organ by John Brombaugh. She first joined the Eugene AGO in 2005 to meet and network with other organists. She most enjoys the guest concerts here in Eugene, for which she often serves as registrant and page turner.

Michael Reiter came to Eugene in November 2016, working at the University of Oregon as Piano Technician for SOMD and as a private contractor doing in home tunings. He is currently substituting at Church of the Resurrection (and others), where the organ is the "baby" Brombaugh. He first joined the Eugene AGO in 2017 to continue a long relationship with AGO, having been a member of other chapters. The thing he most enjoys about AGO is the local programming and camaraderie.

Jane Knobel came to this area in 2008. She worked in Eugene/Springfield for one and a half years as a substitute organist at Christian Science Church, Springfield, OR. Her current church affiliation is with the congregation of Salisbury Cathedral in England, where there is a 150 year old Father Willis organ. She first joined AGO in 1980 as an International member and she joined the Eugene AGO because of the music degrees. It was her first time to work in a local chapter, and she served as Dean 2014 – 2016. Jane most enjoys guild member gatherings with a casual program, talk, or demonstration; New Organist classes by Barbara; events with young organists the focus; serious and fun organ concerts.

Karen Williamson came to Oregon in 1979 and has worked as organist for several churches over the years: Cottage Grove Methodist, Emerald Baptist, First Presbyterian in Cottage Grove, and Bethesda Lutheran, in addition to subbing at various area churches. She is currently retired. The two churches where she served the longest each have small two-manual Moeller organs. Karen first joined the Eugene AGO in the late '80's to help her improve her playing skills,

and served as Dean from 2016-2018. She continues to provide the calendar of local musical events for our monthly newsletter. Karen has enjoyed many aspects of AGO membership, including friendships with other members, the opportunity to play a variety of area pipe organs, and attending concerts, special programs, and the Convention in Seattle some years ago.

Brad Schultz came to Eugene in the summer of 2017 and joined the Eugene AGO in September 2017 as he began doctoral studies at the UO. His interest in joining Eugene AGO was to be more active in the organ community. He first worked as Choir Director at the Unitarian Universalist Church, where he also assisted with the move of the Walker organ that is now housed there. He is currently organist, choir director, and artistic director for the concert series at First United Methodist Church in Eugene. The organ there is a 3 manual, 45 rank instrument built by Lanny Hochhalter. He most enjoys the many opportunities AGO provides to showcase the excellent organs in our area.

Gail Goshert moved to Eugene on October 21, 2012, and she joined the Eugene AGO in January of 2013, becoming treasurer of the chapter in May 2014. She was organist at Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church in Springfield from September 1, 2013 to June 1, 2014, and at Faith Lutheran Church in Junction City from July 10, 2016 to September 22, 2019. She is currently retired. Gail's interest in joining Eugene AGO was networking, having joined AGO in November of 1990 as a student in Pennsylvania, and continuing her membership through most of the years since then. She appreciates that through the guild she has found organ substitute jobs and learned of the vacancy at Faith Lutheran in 2016. In addition, because of AGO, she enjoys opportunities to hear organ music locally and attend amazing concerts.

Eric McKirdy came to this area in 1976, by virtue of having been born here. He has worked in this area for Eugene Concert Choir and The Shedd Institute for the Arts, and is currently working at Albany First United Methodist Church, where the organ is a 1985 Möller, IV/49, installed by Lanny Hochhalter. He first joined the Eugene AGO in 2002 to connect with other organists, both locally and beyond. Eric is known for his headless performances at PipeScreams. He most appreciates the educational aspect of the guild, learning new things from all the publications and events. Eric has recently created our new chapter website www.agoeugene.org

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ONCARD MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal reminders have been e-mailed from our national office in New York. Check your e-mail for the letter in case you missed it. The procedure for payment is clearly explained in the e-mail. Payment can be made by credit or debit card online. If you have questions, or need assistance, you can call (212) 870 - 2310 and they will help you with the process.

If you are more comfortable sending a check, it can be sent by mail to:
American Guild of Organists
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260
New York, NY 10115

Please note that the check should be made out to the American Guild of Organists, NOT the Eugene Chapter.

Current member categories are: Regular Member (\$105), Young Organists (\$50), Special, 65 and older (\$80). Chapter Friends are \$35. All members receive The American Organist magazine by default. If you wish to opt out of receiving the paper copy by mail, you can do so by indicating ... and save \$8. The magazine can be read on-line at: <https://www.agohq.org/current-issue/>



The Organ Loft is a radio program about choral and organ music, particularly music of the Pacific Northwest. The program is hosted by Roger Sherman,

the Associate Organist of St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. The Organ Loft features music of Pacific Northwest choirs, organs, composers and organ builders. The programming is half organ, and half choral music.

This program is underwritten and sponsored by your Eugene AGO Chapter on KWAX-FM and the University of Oregon radio network (webcast: KWAX-FM Homepage) on Sundays at 6 PM.

Eugene, 91.1 KWAX-FM Redmond, 88.5 KWRX-FM
Florence, 91.5 KWVZ-FM Canyonville, 92.3 KWRZ-FM

and on these translators:

		Corvallis 92.9
Bend 98.9	Cottage Grove 101.9	Salem 92.9
Newport 91.3	Reedsport 90.9	Roseburg 97.9
Sunriver 90.9	Sutherlin-Oakland 107.1	Glide 105.3

MORE ON CHAPTER MEMBERS ...

Linda Gurney moved to Eugene in 1982. She began playing organ at Grace Lutheran, Eugene, in 1992, having previously worked as a substitute organist. The organ at Grace is a two-manual Moeller. She most enjoys the AGO chapter teaching workshops and PipeScreams, the annual Halloween program.

Pamela Swisher came to Eugene in October 2016 after she retired as a pharmacist. Before coming to this area, Pam was the organist in Klamath Falls at the First Presbyterian Church for 35 years. In Eugene Pam has attended First Congregational Church, singing in the choir and playing bells, while also serving as a substitute organist at the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Springfield, Faith Lutheran Church in Junction City and St Mary's Episcopal Church. She first joined the Eugene AGO in October of 2017 to support the guild and to be aware of events and activities. Of all our chapter activities, Pam has most enjoyed PipeScreams, as well as the Orgelkids pipe organ building project with the Springfield elementary school.

Ardel Wicks came to this area in 2005 and is currently at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on River Road, Eugene. The organ there is a Rodgers C-505. Ardel first joined the Eugene AGO in 2017 to be able to join with fellow organists, increase his knowledge and help promote organs. He most appreciates AGO concerts, TAO magazine, and training events.

Hunter S. Slawosky came to this Eugene in January 2017, to study at the University of Oregon. He has played the organ at St. Thomas' Episcopal, St. John's Episcopal, and St. Mary's Episcopal churches. He is currently organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal in Cottage Grove, where the organ is a 2 manual Estey, (*the Oak Gorilla*), and a parishioner at St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox church. He first joined the Eugene AGO in 2018 because his organ instructor was the Dean. He has participated in and most enjoys the Eugene AGO King of Instruments program.

Susanne Zudegi Giordano completed a five-year undergraduate college education in pipe organ performance at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, where she was the only pipe organ student. She has lived/traveled in 10 countries and moved to Eugene from the east coast in October 1985. She was employed by the University of Oregon in 1985 and worked as classified staff in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management until she retired in 2017. She has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene since 2011 and in 2013 became their piano accompanist for three choirs, in addition to playing solo piano music for services. The organ there was installed about 2 years ago but was built in 1969 by German builder E.F. Walcker. It is particularly well-suited for early baroque German repertoire, with 723 pipes, two manuals and pedals, 13 ranks and 9 registers. It is owned by the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance and currently is on loan to the UU church. Susanne first joined the Eugene AGO in 2018 when her church acquired the organ. She enjoys networking with other professionals and appreciates the benefits of brushing up her pipe organ education from 40 years ago. The AGO events she most enjoys are the two annual concerts, PipeScreams and King of Instruments. She has served as a member-at-large of the board, and enjoys meetings when she can hear more of what the other organists are doing and working on within their own churches.

PIPE DREAMS ON KWAX-FM

Michael Barone, host of Pipe Dreams is heard on KWAX-FM on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and at 8 pm. This program's presentation on KWAX-FM is underwritten by the Eugene Chapter of the AGO. The program can also be heard anytime streaming on the world-wide web. More details at: www.pipedreams.publicradio.org.

John Jantzi moved to Eugene in September 1992 from Germany to pursue graduate degrees at the UO in conducting and theory, where he currently teaches Keyboard Skills. Since coming to Eugene, John has been organist at United Lutheran Church from 1992-1994, Director of Music Ministries, Central Arts Committee and organist at Central Presbyterian Church from 1994-2002, Organist and Bell Choir Director at First Christian Church from 2002-2019, and is now Music Director and Organist at St. Mary's Episcopal church from 2019 to present. John was the Chorus Master and Artist Mentor Program Director for Eugene Opera from 1994-2015. He is currently Principal Keyboardist with Oregon Mozart Players since 1994, and has been Music Director of the Eugene Gleemen since 2002. John joined a student AGO chapter in 1974 as a student of Lester Groom at Seattle Pacific University. He served as Eugene AGO Chapter Dean from 1999-2001 and was on the board prior years.

Richard Guy came to Eugene in August 2005, working as a consulting engineer/designer, and as organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Eugene. The organ there is a 2 manual, 18 rank Moeller. Richard first joined the Eugene AGO in 2005, having been an AGO member in college. His interest in joining Eugene AGO was to find mutual support, as well as to promote the organ and organ music. Through Richard's efforts, we have expanded our educational offerings. The King of Instruments, a brainchild of Richard, has become an annual educational outreach program of the Eugene Chapter. Richard served as Dean 2012 – 2014, was AGO webmaster for many years, and continues to be our newsletter editor.

Andrew ElRay Stewart-Cook has been Organist-Choirmaster at Central Lutheran since Thanksgiving Eve 1984, when he performed a service and a choral anthem the next morning at the Thanksgiving Day service. Christmas and Advent were days away. It was baptism by fire! ElRay came to Eugene in October of 1976 and joined the Eugene AGO in 1977. The Brombaugh organ arrived in Eugene for installation at Central Lutheran in August 1976. ElRay had visited the Brombaugh shop in Ohio in January 1976 as he was on his way back to London for his final terms at Guildhall School of Music, University of London. At the shop he saw the Central Lutheran Brombaugh organ being built and had no idea at the time that it would be the instrument he would spend most of his life playing.

When ElRay was a new student at the University, it was common to "start at the bottom" playing electronic organs at smaller churches as you worked your way up. ElRay started as organist in this area at Unity of the Valley in 1977 on Hilyard Street. They had a dreadful electronic organ. The most memorable experiences of that job were the pastor baptizing with rose petals and her request for music to be played under the prayers "that nobody will want to listen to!" ElRay then went to Peace Presbyterian Church on River Road with another dreadful electronic, this one even smaller: 2 – half keyboards and short sticks for pedals (like the home organs that were popular then). They now have a 3 rank Møller Artiste which was formerly located in another small Presbyterian Church in Eugene which has since been demolished. ElRay was at Peace Presbyterian from September through Christmas 1978. He became organist at Bethesda Lutheran in January 1978, his first job with a pipe organ, a 4 rank Møller at the time, buried behind a grill cloth of burlap that looked good, but only 30% of the organ sound came out.

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WITH HEART AND VOICE

With Heart and Voice is a radio program that spans the full range of Western classical music from the Gothic period through the 21st century. There are occasional surprises from the non-western tradition. The program is hosted by Peter DuBois, an active organist who teaches at the Eastman School of Music. This program originates from Rochester, New York, and is broadcast Sundays, 11 am and 7 pm on KWAX-FM.

MORE ON CHAPTER MEMBERS ...

That problem was fixed quickly, and several new stops were wired in including a strong 2' principal and a 4' Trumpet on the Great which gave the organ a sound capable of leading hymns. A Celeste was also added to the Swell. The move from Bethesda to Central Lutheran was clearly a big leap. When he took the job at CLC, a fellow graduate student told him that it would be the "biggest mistake of his life – that they would eat him up and spit him out!" Happily, she was wrong! He marked his 35th anniversary last Thanksgiving.

You may know **Wendy Wong-Haigh** by her nickname and maiden surname, **Elona Wong**. Originally from Santa Monica, California, she moved to Seal Rock, OR in 1988 to raise her daughter and stayed on the central Oregon coast until moving to Eugene in 1990. From 1990-1997 she worked part-time as a licensed massage therapist and went to the University of Oregon, first studying architecture and eventually graduating as a linguistics major. Elona moved to Days Creek in the countryside of south Douglas County in 1997 to open up her own healing arts business, Elona's Circle of Healing Arts, and has served as a piano accompanist for various local churches, young instrumentalists, and school and community choirs. After attending the Organ Institute taught by Paul Jacobs as part of the annual Oregon Bach Festival in the summer of 2017, Elona was inspired to begin organ lessons with Dr. Barbara Baird, who introduced Elona to the Eugene AGO concert series. Elona became a dual member (Eugene/Southern Oregon) to support organ activities in her area. Her favorite Eugene AGO activities are the concert series and the educational workshops.

A retired law professor, **Dan Rinnan** came to Eugene in 1992. Since 2002 Dan has been organist at Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene, where they have a 3 manual 1968 Reuter. Dan joined the Eugene AGO in 1999 for professional enhancement. He most enjoys organ concerts when they are not on Sunday afternoons!

Raymond Anderson returned to Oregon after 6 years in exile in the United States Virgin Islands in January 1997. He worked in the Portland area, primarily as an accountant, the last 9 years as an auditor for the Insurance Division of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. Since his retirement he has served as organist at several churches in the Portland area, and off and on, at Reedville Presbyterian Church in Aloha, for about 15 years. There were two organs at Reedville: a Rodgers digital and Ray's own Walcker 9 rank pipe organ. Ray donated the Walcker organ to the University of Oregon, and it found a new home in Eugene at the Unitarian Universalist church. Since October 2019 he has been attending All Saints Episcopal in Hillsboro where the organ is a three manual Rodgers. When Ray returned to Oregon, he joined three AGO chapters: Portland, Salem and Eugene. Now he is a member of only the Eugene chapter, where over the past 23, years he has enjoyed numerous beautiful and exciting events.

Dan Smith came to Eugene in September 2017, working part-time as Director of Worship Music at Emmaus Lutheran, Eugene, and full-time in nonprofit Management for Holt International Children's Services. The organ at Emmaus is an old, ailing Allen electronic organ that needs to be replaced. Dan first joined the Eugene AGO in fall 2018 to meet other musicians, as well as to work on playing certifications to improve his skills, although he hasn't had much time to do either yet. He most appreciates and enjoys the Eugene AGO Advent and Lenten recitals.

Lorna Walker lives in Salem, Oregon and has enjoyed coming to the Eugene area to attend musical activities at the University, including the Bach Festival, and at some of the churches over a period of several years, becoming acquainted with the area and some of the residents. Lorna has been a longtime member of Portland and Salem AGO,

and in 2019 she added a Eugene AGO membership because she appreciates the personal interaction and the opportunities for musical involvement. She has been organist for many years in a variety of denominations and locations, most recently playing at a church in Salem, Oregon. Lorna thought our joint meeting with Salem and Portland last November in Beaverton was a treat, watching George Ritchie teach and explore the Bach [Orgelbüchlein](#). She appreciated the grace with which each of the performers "stretched their skills" in demonstrating something different from their initial presentations, and she enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces at that event.

Nancy Dunn came to Corvallis in August 2015. She is currently Director of Music, (Choir Director/ Organist) at Church of Good Samaritan, Episcopal, in Corvallis, where they have a 1962 Casavant organ, renovated by Hochhalter in 2018 (addressing melting zinc pipes, new wiring, leather, etc). She joined the Eugene AGO shortly after arriving in Corvallis because she is an organist and wanted to get to know other organists and musicians. She is not often able to attend Eugene AGO events because the drive from Corvallis is a challenge to squeeze into her schedule, but she most appreciates the OrgelKids project, and the recent visit of Guy Bovet.

Stephanie Wiley moved to Florence, Oregon 28 years ago to work for PeaceHealth as a nurse midwife. After her house burned down in 2005, she moved to Eugene and started taking organ lessons with Julia Brown, while working full time as a nurse practitioner. When Stephanie was working on a master's degree in Oriental medicine, her organ lessons stopped, but when they started up again, Stephanie met Martha Lawrence, who was also studying with Julia. Martha came in one time with her cane and her suitcase of music and told Stephanie in no uncertain terms that AGO needs more "young ones" and she should get involved. Being close to 60, Stephanie didn't consider herself young, but she nevertheless joined AGO, and eventually became the secretary of our chapter! Now that Julia is in Michigan, Stephanie is taking lessons with Barbara Baird and practicing on the "baby" Brombaugh organ at Resurrection where she also attends Centering Prayer. Stephanie finds that playing the organ is for her, a way of praying and connecting with all the people through the ages who have listened to or performed the music. Her favorite AGO events every year are the Lenten series and the FUMC/AGO Advent recital series.

Barbara Baird came to Eugene in 1981 to teach music history, piano, and organ at Northwest Christian College. She has been organist at First Congregational Church since April 1, 1982, where the organ is a 1957 Moeller which Lanny Hochhalter has expanded and revoiced. Since completing her doctorate at the University of Oregon in 1988, she has been teaching organ and harpsichord in addition to piano, music theory and music appreciation at the UO. She joined the Eugene AGO in 1981 to meet and become a part of the organ community in this area. The thing she most enjoys about AGO is the network and support of organ colleagues in the Guild.

Joy Schroeder came to University of Oregon in 2013 to earn a second doctoral degree. Her first doctorate is in organ performance from the University of Michigan, and the second doctorate is in Music Theory. Joy has subbed at numerous area churches, and joined the Eugene AGO in order to meet other organists. She most enjoys the organ masterclasses, and participated as a performer in George Ritchie's masterclass last November.

I hope you have taken advantage of the opportunity to check out our newly designed Eugene AGO website. Our new webmaster, Eric McKirdy, has created a beautiful technicolor, easy to navigate site, which is packed with information about our Guild. You can find it at: www.agoeugene.org

ANSWERS to AGO officers quiz:

1. D 2. A 3. C 4. B

Continued in next column