

# The Brooklyn Bomborde

**Late Summer 2014**

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

*Ad Hoc* Editorial Staff: Timothy Chun, Ellen Wright, John A. Wolfe

## A Message From Our Dean:

Let me begin my term as your Dean with abundant thanks to my predecessor, Raymond Trapp, CAGO, for two fruitful years of sharing his gift for inspiring us to “share our gifts.” Anyone who has been to any recent chapter events has seen how his special ability for outreach has expanded both the numbers and the diversity of our chapter.

Raymond’s emphasis on outreach has turned our work increasingly in the direction of service. Our upcoming service projects have been a couple of years in the making, and as Raymond resigns to work on a master’s degree in choral conducting, these projects are just now coming to fruition. During the 2014-2015 year, look for us to sponsor a Scholarship Competition for high school and college students that will be held this Spring. As you register on the ONCARD database to renew your membership, you will notice an opportunity to “round off” your dues to include a contribution to help fund the Competition as well as to contribute to a new Pipe Organ Encounter Scholarship Fund that will aid attendees with their transportation expenses to POE events.

Speaking of Pipe Organ Encounters, I am very pleased to announce that the Brooklyn Chapter will be holding its very own POE in July of 2015. Board Member Eric Birk, FAGO, chair of the event describes it in detail on page 3 of this newsletter. Our September Bach to Brooklyn tour, now in the planning stages, is scheduled for September 6th and, this year, will feature churches in and around the Parkville neighborhood. Be sure to read the flyer on page 6. We also hope to welcome all of our members to a “homecoming” barbecue at the home of Board member Gary Di Franco and his partner Trevor Stokes on September 14th from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Please see the announcement on page 4 for details.

Finally, I ask you please to visit our website, [www.brooklynago.org](http://www.brooklynago.org) frequently as we are constantly updating it. Information that is still germinating as the e-newsletter goes to “press,” will take on more specificity as time goes by, and the website is one place to find out how the planning is progressing.

Finally, please accept my best wishes for a refreshing and rejuvenating end-of-summer. I hope to further extend my good wishes to you in person at the September barbeque.

Yours in fellowship,  
Ellen Wright, Dean

## Dues Are Due 2014 -2015

Many of our members have already succeeded in navigating the new ONCARD system to pay their dues for 2014-2015. Very few people have reported having any trouble with it.

Since some people are still unaware that the AGO's dues collection procedure has now been absorbed into a nationwide database that processes payments at AGO National Headquarters and remits a portion back to the local chapter, here are the instructions for paying dues the new way:

When you receive your emailed invoice from AGO headquarters, click on the link to ONCARD and follow the instructions which will guide you through the dues-paying process, or go onto the national website, [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org). From the homepage, click the Membership tab, then Renew My Membership. Login to ONCARD. Fill in the requested information, making sure that is up to date and complete, and pay. If you do not wish to pay by credit card, ONCARD will create an invoice for you. Print it out and mail it in to AGO/475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260/New York, NY 10115-0055 with your check.

If you do not have access to a computer, you should have received, by US Mail, an invoice from AGO National Headquarters which you can simply mail in with your payment. In case you were not contacted with an invoice, you can call the national office at (212) 870-2310 and request a Membership Brochure. When you receive it, snip off the application form and mail it in with your payment. You can also ask any of our officers to log in for you. They can help you pay your dues with a credit card that way. Please do not, under any circumstances, hand a check to any of our officers without completing the registration form.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Brooklyn chapter was a pilot chapter in the development of ONCARD. To build such a complicated, multi-purpose national website is an enormous and complicated undertaking. Accordingly last year's dues-collection and record-keeping were fraught with bugs, SNAFUs, hitches and glitches. But, in my experience, ONCARD is working well now – easy to use and efficient. A few dual-chapter members have reported difficulties recording their dual status. I, personally, found that it processed my dual membership with no problem at all. I have directed dual members with registration issues to Leah Semiken, Manager of Membership and Chapter Relations, (212) 870-2311, ext. 7512, and she has been able to solve their problems.

If you are lacking in computer “chops” and need step-by-step guidance through the registration/renewal process, Timothy Chun, [oceantim@hotmail.com](mailto:oceantim@hotmail.com), is the Brooklyn chapter's official ONCARD Liaison Officer.

If you have not already done so, please do take advantage of our wonderful, newfangled technology and get your dues-paying painlessly out of the way. I predict you will find it a significant improvement over the Good Old Days.

Ellen Wright, Dean

# Pipe Organ Encounter - Brooklyn!

When we held our Bach to Brooklyn event last year, someone at one of our host churches suggested we do an AGO Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) at their location (not realizing, of course, that this is not the type of event that you just suddenly decide to do and “Presto!” it happens). But it got me to thinking that we have a really unique situation in Brooklyn: thousands of youth (a good number of whom study piano), hundreds of churches (often situated close by other churches, and, even more often than not, needing to find an organist), and an AGO chapter with some really dedicated people who have something to offer. Our chapter applied to the AGO Committee on the New Organist this past March and was approved by AGO National Council at the end of April. The focus of our curriculum will be skills that prepare young musicians for leading music in African American and Roman Catholic worship. This will be a unique feature of our POE and will serve to meet some real needs in many churches hiring musicians in our region.

For those who've never experienced a POE, they soon discover that this is a really intensive experience: one week, lots of organs, daily private lessons, listening to daily performances and the students (yes, some of whom have never played an organ!) performing at the end of the week. We have tentative approval from at least 3 churches with fine instruments and are working on 7 more. There are some fine organists with international reputations who have agreed to serve on our faculty (we'll be able to announce this soon), and we have housing arranged at the Bethany Methodist Home on East 40th street for a very low cost.

The most important thing we need to make this event a success is your involvement as a member of the chapter. Here are some things you can do:

1. Create buzz - blab our business with everyone you know about the fact that we are hosting a POE in Brooklyn;
2. Volunteer to help during the week next summer or beforehand. We need:  
Chaperones (for lessons, practice sessions and day-trips), all of whom will have to be cleared by a criminal background check and will receive training in youth safety issues  
Ushers for concerts (there will be public concerts as part of the week's events)  
Meal and activity facilitators;
3. Give to the Brooklyn Chapter POE fund. POE events cost quite a bit more than tuition provides, and while there is a \$5,000 grant provided by AGO National, that does require some evidence of significant fund-raising on the chapter's part before it is distributed. All gifts no matter how small are appreciated and needed. If you've not yet renewed your dues online, there is an opportunity in the renewal process to donate to this and other chapter funds;
4. Invite people to attend the events of that week next summer, and once our brochures are ready, ask for some and send them to potential participants or those with access to young people with readiness and interest.

Our committee so far is made up of the following chapter members: Ellen Wright (facilities), Gregory Eaton (faculty), Raymond Trapp (funding & services), Gary Di Franco (publicity), Sophie Williams Johnson (secretary/registrar), and Eric Birk (director). We look forward to hearing from you about in way in which you can take part in the success of this event.

Eric Birk, POE Director

## Upcoming Events

### **Bach To Brooklyn 2014**

Date: Saturday, September 6th / Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Starting Location: St. Mark's United Methodist Church

2017 Beverley Road (at Ocean Avenue), Brooklyn, NY 11226

*A Fall Bus Tour of distinguished organs in diverse houses of worship in and around the Parkville neighborhood in central Brooklyn. Tour guide Andrew Dolkart, author of Landmarks of New York City, will speak about items of architectural interest in the featured churches as well as in the neighborhoods surrounding them. A chapter organist or the resident organist will showcase the instrument at each location.*

*Please see the flyer on page 6 for more information.*

### **Homecoming Barbecue**

Date: Sunday, September 14th / Time: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: 318 Maple Street (between Nostrand & New York Aves.), Brooklyn, NY 11225

*Our board member Gary Di Franco and his partner Trevor Stokes will host this potluck-style barbecue dinner. All are welcome, and the event is a wonderful chance to enjoy the company of your fellow Guild members, organists, church music professionals, aficionados and friends. Please bring a dish!*

### **Upcoming Concerts at Our Lady of Refuge Church, 2020 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY:**

For more information please visit <http://www.olrbrooklyn.org/pipeorgan/> or call (718) 551-8093. Tickets are \$15 in advance online; \$20 at the door. Online tickets are available at <http://www.olrbrooklyn.org/organ-recitals-in-new-york-city/>. In upholding the Americans With Disabilities Act, the church is accessible via ramp.

#### **Music for Trumpet & Organ**

Date: September 5th / Time: 7:30pm

**Artists/Performers: Craig Cramer, organ; John Thiessen, trumpet**

Works to be performed: Various Baroque music for organ and trumpet and solo organ works by Howells, Fauchard and Barber.

#### **The Phantom of the Opera (1925 Version)**

Date: October 17 / Time: 7:30pm

**Artists/Performers: Todd Wilson, organ**

Works to be performed: Todd Wilson accompanies the classic silent film on the organ.

#### **The Composer Improvises**

Date: November 21 / Time: 7:30pm

**Artists/Performers: Thierry Escaich, organ**

Works to be performed: Various French Romantic works, improvisations on Gregorian chants and more.

## Board and Officers 2014

*Dean & Placement:* Ellen Wright | (718) 625-3903 | auntiegrover@gmail.com  
*Sub-Dean:* John A. Wolfe | (717) 253-2886 | johnwolfe@johnwolfemusic.com  
*Secretary:* John Klauder | (718) 797-1425 | klauder@verizon.net  
*Treasurer:* Stephen Danziger, MD | (718) 398-3980 | sjdanziger@gmail.com  
*Registrar:* Sophie Williams-Johnson | (718) 826-1621 | sodojo07@yahoo.com  
*Archivist/Bach to Brooklyn:* Keith Bigger | (646) 201-2458 | k-bigger@yahoo.com  
*Chaplain:* The Rev. Peter Cullen | rector@stpaulscarrollst.org  
*Placement:* Ellen Wright | (718) 625-3903 | auntiegrover@gmail.com  
*Professional Development:* Gregory Eaton | (212) 924-4686 | GCEaton@msn.com  
*Webmaster:* Edward Odell, CAIO | eodell@odellorgans.com  
*Board Members:* Donald C. Barnum, Eric Birk, Keith Bigger, Timothy Chun, Aaron Comins, Gary Di Franco, Francesca Norsen Tate (on leave of absence), Nancy Wright

## Substitute List

Robert Agis | robertagis@mac.com  
Don Barnum (no Sun. AM) | (917) 689-2953 | dcbjr1@aol.com  
Bassler, Samantha | (570) 669-8101 | samanthaebp@gmail.com  
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Gary Di Franco | (917) 626-7760 | GAGGY1@hotmail.com  
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Robert Vogel | (718) 727-9864 | robertvogel150@gmail.com  
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John A. Wolfe (no Sun. AM) | (717) 253-2886 | johnwolfe@johnwolfemusic.com  
Ellen Wright | (718) 625-3903 | auntiegrover@gmail.com

## Organ For Sale

Three rank Moller Artiste for sale. Currently not assembled.  
Available for viewing. \$2,500. Buyer to remove.  
<http://nycago.org/Organs/SI/html/ResVogelR.html>  
Additional pictures and information available from seller at robertvogel150@gmail.com

# *Celebrating Historic Churches and Organs in Brooklyn!*

## **Bach to Brooklyn**

**Rain or Shine**



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2014. FROM 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is pleased to present a *Fall Bus Tour* of distinguished organs in diverse houses of worship in the central Brooklyn area. Tour guide Andrew Dolkart, author of *Landmarks of New York City*, will speak about items of architectural and historical interest in the featured churches as well as in the neighborhoods surrounding them. A chapter organist or the resident organist will showcase the instrument at each location.

Bus transportation, Continental Breakfast and Lunch are included in the package price of \$40.00 per person for members of the AGO Brooklyn Chapter, or \$45.00 for non-members.

The tour will begin at 9:00 am and end about 5:00 pm. ***The starting and ending point of the tour will be St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2017 Beverly Road (at Ocean Avenue), Brooklyn.*** This is convenient to the Beverly Road stop on both the D train and the #41 Bus. ***PLEASE NOTE: The bus will leave NO LATER than 9:30 am.***

**To guarantee a seat on the bus, please complete the reservation form below and return with your payment by September 1.** (For further information you may contact Ellen Wright, Dean, at (718) 625-3903 or at [auntiegrover@gmail.com](mailto:auntiegrover@gmail.com).)

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### **BACH to Brooklyn 2014 – The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (If any): \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ ACH: ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about this event? ☐ Flyer ☐ Newsletter ☐ Newspaper Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join our events mailing list? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to AGO Brooklyn Chapter and mail with the form to:*

THE BROOKLYN CHAPTER AGO  
35 PROSPECT PARK WEST, APT. 12D  
BROOKLYN, NY 11215 - 0126