

THE BOMBARDE
Serving the Brooklyn Chapter
of the American Guild of
Organists
September, 2004
Soli Deo Gloria

Coney Island, Opening Picnic, Fall Service

Join us at Coney Island at the Cyclone on Saturday, August 28, 2 PM. Cyclone, Carousel, Wonder Wheel, and Nathan's are the order of the day (and *in that order*, please—*never* put Cyclone on top of Nathan's!)

Our 2004-2005 season officially kicks off with a picnic on Sunday, September 19, at St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Place (off 7th Ave.), Park Slope. Brian McAnuff, a Past Dean of the Chapter, is our Host. Time: 4 to 7 PM. Please bring a dish to pass, and BYOB.

And remember there are NO barbecue facilities, so all gustatory offerings must be what the Army calls MREs—Meals, Ready to Eat.

Our annual Service of Installation takes place on Sunday, October 3, at 4 PM at the Church of Sainth Charles Borromeo, 51 Sidney Place, the Heights.

This service is very special, as it is to be shared by the national convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO). This group is keenly interested in the NYC organ scene, and is looking forward to hearing the 1880 Odell—and to meet all of us! This service is a great coup for the Chapter: be there!



From the Dean

Here it is July 31st as I write this—the middle of the summer, as I sit by my computer in air-conditioned comfort! Most people are on vacation or thinking about where they will go or where they have been. And with the Brooklyn chapter we have members who have kept the organ world in their travels. In June, I went with our registrar, Jonathan Hall, to Grenada and visited some mid 19th century organs made by Bevington of London. They were small: 2 manual plus pedal, 10 to 11 ranks; well made, effective instruments. They are being maintained by Walker of England, and should continue to serve for many more years.

In July, our chapter was well represented at the national convention of the AGO. Brooklyn treasurer Roland Blackburn, board members Gregory Eaton and Gregory Jack, former board member Eric Birk and his wife, Bernadette Hoke, Roger Castellani, Newell Middleton and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dodsley Walker all were there. I got good feedback about the convention from them. There was an exhibit at the convention about award-winning chapters, of which Brooklyn was one! The three chapters listed had had the greatest increase in membership in the country this past year. The credit goes to all of you, especially our new board members who are coming up with new ideas and working hard to update things. A special thanks to Jonathan Hall, who has taken on the job of registrar and updated our newsletter and website. We are even getting our pictures in *The American Organist!* And my personal thanks to Joe Carson, who has served us so well for so long. It's people like the aforementioned that make us an award-winning chapter.

Our first event of the new season is the annual Coney Island Picnic on Saturday, August 28, 2004. We will meet at the Cyclone at 2 PM, have supper and then go to the Carousel, Cyclone, Wonder Wheel, and finish up with fireworks on the boardwalk. Questions? Check with our chapter secretary, Hope Engelsen at 718-836-1751, c. 1-347-203-1311; or Joe (Rick) Dennon at 718-855-3650. The fall picnic will be on September 19th at St. John's Episcopal Church, Park Slope from 4 to 7. This is a potluck supper, where everyone brings a dish and BYOB. Our thanks to our host, Brian McAnuff.

Our first board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14 at the St. Charles School auditorium, 23 Sidney Place. Come through the big green doors in front. Social hour at 7:30. Meeting at 8.

Being the summertime, it's easy to forget to RENEW YOUR AGO membership. Please get your renewals in to Jonathan as soon as possible. We have an exciting year planned, especially with our tour of the Austin Organ Factory! To those who have never come to a chapter event, come! You'll really enjoy yourself!

—Donald C. Barnum Jr., Dean

Our national headquarters are at 475 Riverside Drive, Suite

Officers, Board Members and Appointments, 2004-2005

Dean: Donald C. Barnum, Jr. 212-799-6944
Sub-Dean: George B. Williams 718-230-9087
Secretary: Hope Engelsen 718-836-1751
Registrar: Jonathan Hall 917-596-4002
Treasurer: Roland Blackburn 212-982-9287

Class of 2007: Mick Tucci, Sylvester Nichols, Jonathan Hall.

Class of 2006: John Cunniffe, Gregory Eaton, Joseph Extejt.

Class of 2005 : Stephen Danziger, MD, J. David Williams, Gregory Jack.

Appointments

Chaplain: The Rev. Thaddeus Grzelak, St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Archivist: Keith Bigger 718-875-1858, x160

Bombarde Editor & Webmaster: Jonathan Hall

Professional Concerns: Gregory Eaton 212-924-4963

Substitute List

Please direct all inquiries and corrections for this list to Past Dean Julian Goodwin, chapter Placement Officer. He can be reached at 718-875-3542. for permanent positions, see the National website, www.agohq.org. For spelling mistakes, flog your Editor with a wet noodle.

Ellen Wright 718-625-3903

Julian Goodwin 718-875-3542

Roy Prescod (no Sundays) 718-253-8498

Sylvester Nichols 718-493-0445

Andrew Violette (no Sunday AM) 718-821-6055

Mark Victor Smith (no Sundays) 718-728-7038

Authentic Brooklyn

Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984: Twenty Years On

On August 5, 1984, Calvin Hampton, New York's most beloved recitalist and leading organ composer, died in Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Port Charlotte, Florida, after a struggle with AIDS. His funeral was in his hometown, Ravenna, OH; and his memorial service in New York was at Calvary Church on September 16. Twenty years later, his legacy continues as his organ and choral music continue to be published by Wayne Leupold, and as his music finds a secure place in the canon. Wouldn't it be wonderful to feature some of his music in church this year!

There are long works and short ones, the fiendishly difficult and the deceptively simple. There is truly something for everyone in his work.

Calvin was notorious for not knowing his way around most of Manhattan, let alone the Siberia of the "outer boroughs." Still, we in Brooklyn can and should honor the man who has so greatly enriched the musical heritage of our city and our culture. His is an enduringly *authentic* voice, and that's what counts.

Francesca Norsen:

Person of the Year

Organists do not work in a vacuum! We need support and friendship from people in other fields. Our chapter has been blessed with a real friend in the print media: Francesca Norsen. She has helped give us coverage and promote our presence in Brooklyn, and for that help we were proud to name her our first Person of the Year at the Spring Banquet at the Danish Athletic Club. *Bravissima*, Francesca!

Prayers for Joe Carson and Father Ted

Our friend Joe Carson is recovering, slowly but surely, from a stroke suffered earlier in the summer. he has stepped aside as Professional Concerns person, and Gregory Eaton has been named to take his place. Meanwhile, our new Chaplain, Fr. Ted Grzelak, suffered a mild heart attack over the summer. Our prayers are with both members of our chapter family.

Brooklyn Chapter Program Year, 2004-2005

Sept 14: Board Meeting, St. Charles Borromeo, Sidney Place, the Heights.
September 19: Chapter picnic. St. John's Episcopal Church, Park Slope. Time: 4 to 7 PM. Bring a dish--there are no barbecue facilities, so all items should arrive ready to serve.
October 3: Joint AGO/AIO Service of Installation. St. Charles Borromeo RC Church, 51 Sidney Place, Brooklyn Heights. Time to be announced. 1880 Odell organ.
October 19: Board meeting, St. Charles Borromeo, Sidney Place, the Heights.
November 9: Board meeting, St. Charles Borromeo, Sidney Place, the Heights.
January 9, 2005: Annual Epiphany Party. St. John's, Fort Hamilton. Time TBA.
February 8: Board meeting, St. Charles Borromeo, Sidney Place, the Heights.
March, 2005: Members' Recital, St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, corner Clinton and Montague, Brooklyn Heights. Gregory Eaton, host. Time TBA.
March 15: Board meeting, St. Charles Borromeo, Sidney Place, the Heights.
April 19: Board meeting, St. Charles Borromeo, Sidney Place, the Heights.
April 30: Spring Trip to Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Date and Time TBA.
June 5, 2005: Spring Banquet. Danish Athletic Club, Bensonhurst. Time TBA.

The Coney Island Carousel: A Back-story

Although it may be our proudest boast, the grand pipe organ in the cathedral is only one part of our story. Pipe organs of all shapes and sizes have accompanied our public, civic, religious, and recreational life in a myriad of forms. As a small boy, I had a tiny savings account at the "Beehive Bank"--The New York Bank For Savings--near the Flatiron Building. There was an organ in the grand lobby, and I remember a man playing Christmas carols there. (No, it wasn't Calvin Hampton. I don't think so, anyway.)

There are organs in banks; there are organs in schools; there are organs in synagogues; there are organs in movie houses and Masonic halls; there are organs in circuses and stadiums, on street corners, in rock bands, blues bands, jazz bands, storefront churches, yachts, steamboats, malls, and bars. (A bar on the Southwest Side of Chicago used to feature a big Hammond built in to the bar itself. No, it didn't have a "Chivas Regal 4/5" on it.)

And there are organs in merry-go-rounds, or to give them their 'proper' name, carousels. Their bright, penetrating tone, the relentless homophonic cheeriness of their music, their insouciant whistling away of all care, form a musical backdrop to most of our childhood memories of fairs and amusement parks. Their clowns' faces conceal a machine of the same breathtaking intricacy as any other organ; their breeziness conceals their nobility; their highest art is the concealment of their art. When else have you danced with a king? Why should the AGO not be interested in these little gems?

Vincent Morgan is the president of the Lady Liberty Chapter of AMICA, the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association. He cheerfully provided a wealth of information on the subject. There are two societies dedicated to carousels: The National and the American Carousel Associations. The former works a bit like the OHS; the latter, like the Organ Clearinghouse. Visit www.nca-usa.org for a start.

There is also a club devoted just to the *organs* in these whimsical creations. This is the Carousel Organ Association of America, or www.carouselorganassociation.org. There is a privately printed book by COAA member Ron Bopp, *The American Carousel Organ*. Try the COAA website to secure a copy. There is also a brand-new carousel, with a brand-new carousel organ, made by Stinson, in Shoreham, Long Island. Mr. Morgan himself is the US representative for L'Odeon, a firm in Toulouse that makes circus and carousel organs. The beat goes on!

According to Chapter member Rick Dennen (also suspected of membership in AMICA, along with Keith Bigger), there is at least one historic carousel with an organ in every boro of the city save the Bronx; there are two in Brooklyn (Prospect Park is the other, dating to 1914-1916), one in Queens (the organ works but they play tapes instead these days), and one apiece in Staten Island and Manhattan. In Suffolk, besides Shoreham there is a carousel in Greenport, with a 1920 Herschell-Spillman organ. Wouldn't it be fun to make a day trip to the Wine Country of the North Fork and visit a carousel or two as well?

Harry Chapin used to sing, "All my life's a circle..." Why not join us at Coney Island on Saturday, and "go 'round one more time?"

RETURN ADDRESS:

Jonathan B. Hall
4916 11th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219

MAIL TO:

Brooklyn Chapter: Leading the Nation in Chapter Growth!

Have you renewed your membership yet? Don't delay any longer! We need YOU to be a part of our chapter!