

JUNE 2017

www.SWMichiganAGO.org**FEATURING YEAR-END GUILD ACTIVITIES****FINAL CHAPTER GATHERING*****Dinner – Officer Installation – Choral Reading***

Monday 5 June
 Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo
 3919 Portage Rd
 One-half mile north of I-94 at Exit 72

5:30 p.m. Punch Bowl Gathering
 6:00 Catered Dinner followed by
 Officer Installation
 7:15 Choral Reading Session

Dinner Information

We will begin at 5:30 with a Punch Bowl hosted by Rhenda Pease. Our meal will be prepared by David and Carol Heflin of “Foodies Catering.” The Heflins are part of our church family at Milwood UMC.

Salad of greens, dried cranberries, fresh apples
 Swiss steak with homemade mashed potatoes
 Seasoned vegetables
 Rolls or bread w/butter
 Iced tea and coffee
 White chocolate mousse with raspberry sauce
A vegetarian entrée is available on request.

The cost will be \$15 payable when you arrive. Plan to make checks payable to SW Michigan Chapter AGO. If you are bringing an accompanist for the choral reading session, do remember to make a reservation for them as well.

Important reminders from our Executive Committee re: no-show reservations:

People who make a reservation for a meal and then do not come will be expected to pay for the meal as we must pay for all we order. This rule includes student members who make a reservation and do not come even if they would otherwise eat for free.

Reservation information follows:

Reservations are requested by the end of the day on Tuesday, May 30 –

Carl Doubleday at cdayday@chartermi.net
 or (269) 345-7336.

Please leave your name, number of reservations, and if you want a vegetarian entrée.

Dinner is FREE for student members of our chapter, but they still need to make a reservation.

Note from Carl: I like to confirm your reservations when they are received, but I will be away the week of May 22. I plan to confirm all reservations received during that time on Sunday, May 28.

Choral Reading Session

Following dinner we will have an officer installation ceremony led by Chapter Chaplain, Fr. Bill Spaid. Our choral reading session will follow as described in our May newsletter and summarized here:

You are invited to bring unison / 2-part / SAB pieces from your library which would work for a summer choir or small group. Children’s choir pieces at the beginning and intermediate levels are encouraged. At the time this issue was being prepared, sub-dean Elizabeth Bruce noted that additional children’s choir selections would be helpful. Some SATB selections are welcome, but we want to make sure that we are inclusive of ALL types of choir programs – no matter if you have one bass and fourteen altos or a 40-person chorus. If you bring selections to share, you should plan to be or supply your own accompanist.

Finally, if you do plan to bring music for this session, please email Elizabeth Bruce to let her know:

ekent1231@gmail.com

OUR DEAN'S MESSAGE

from Dr. Stephen White

It is difficult to believe that another program year is coming to a close – for the life of me, I don't know where the time goes! It has been a good year for the chapter – we have seen members benefit from thoughtful programming, chapter scholarships for organ study, and from numerous social opportunities. We have welcomed a few new faces and, as life would have it, will be saying goodbye to some long-time members as they move from the area.

While the day-to-day operational responsibilities of the chapter fall to the executive committee, the strength of our chapter comes from its members – from each of you. To each of you I say thank you...thank you for your contributions of time and talent, and for believing in the AGO. As we say goodbye to some dear friends, I hope we will each renew our efforts to invite new folks into our midst – whether organists or organ enthusiasts – there is a place for them all in our Guild membership.

I want to personally thank **Helene Stuurwold** (councilor), **Elizabeth Bruce** (sub dean) and **Nate Mattson** (treasurer) for their invaluable service on the executive board. We are sad to see them leave these roles, but give thanks for the time and expertise they contributed to our chapter's elected leadership.

Summer is often a time for a bit of rest, relaxation, and reflection – as well, as AGO conventions and other professional development opportunities. I hope many of you are planning to be in Youngstown for our region's convention. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend due to a recital tour in the UK during that time, but will be with you in spirit. Wherever the Summer finds you, I do hope you will take advantage of opportunities for enjoyment and come back to our shared work in the Fall with a new sense of energy and commitment.

Soli Deo Gloria!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL HAS BEGUN

initiated by the National AGO

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Do remember that membership renewals are now initiated and administered by the National AGO. Your reminder will sent to you by mail or email – as you have requested – close to your renewal date. **Do watch and respond.** Remember: our next membership directory will include all those who are members in good standing on October 1.

ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTION

Ballots will arrive in US Mail

Chapter members who have voting privileges will receive a ballot in the US Mail soon and very soon. Please plan to respond at once! Our 2017-18 chapter leaders will be installed following dinner on June 5.

Soli Deo Gloria!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

from Secretary Kay Ensfield

Meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017:

Recent events and budget decisions were reviewed. We discussed how to allocate funds going forward. New Kathryn Loew Scholarship applications were reviewed. We were delighted to name three recipients including college students Alexis Young (Western Michigan University) and Heidi Ordaz (Andrews University), as well as Bethany Dame who will attend a Pipe Organ Encounter this summer.

Carrie Groenewold reported that one person has taken the service playing exam, but does not yet have the results. She checked with the National AGO and learned that one does not need to be a chapter member to take the exam. Also, we have received an updated membership report from National. Most chapter renewals come due by July 1.

We thank the outgoing EC members for their service. This includes **Elizabeth Bruce** (sub-dean), **Nate Mattson** (treasurer), and **Helene Stuurwold** (councilor). Steve White reported that our nominating committee will soon complete its work after which the ballot will be sent to our voting members.

THIRTIETH BACH AROUND THE BLOCK

from Coordinator Tom Fielding

Thanks to all who made our 30th annual Bach Around the Block recital a success! This was my fourth year as coordinator of this event and I can truly say that I am very impressed with how our members “rise to the occasion” for this, our most public event of the year. I'll make special mention of the clergy and staff of First Congregational, First United Methodist and St. Augustine Cathedral who have opened their doors to us again this year. Please know that the enthusiasm of the host venues, performers, and our supporting chapter members in the audience make this a very fun event for me to plan each year.

ORGANizer CALENDAR

*Please send entries to cdayday@chartermi.net as early as you wish. They will be entered in a master calendar and shared in each issue as space permits. Chapter member names are noted in **SMALL CAPS**.*

Steven Flick and Glenn Getty Organ Recital on Friday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in First Baptist Church Kalamazoo (315 W. Michigan Ave). These students of Karl Schrock will perform works by Reubke, Ibert, Bach, Clérambault, Couperin, and Dubois. Free admission, reception following

Stephen White Organ Recital on Sunday, May 21, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Freewill offering.

Choral Evensong for Pentecost on Sunday, June 4, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Begins with a 4:30 p.m. Organ Prelude by STEPHEN WHITE. Sung by an Eastern Deanery Choir: Responses by R. Sheppard, Canticles by ERIC STRAND, Anthem by O, Gibbons. Freewill offering.

POSSIBLE MUSIC BROWSING *from Deb Rafferty*

It is possible that Deb Rafferty will bring some music to our June 5 meeting which will be free for the taking. If so, it will include piano music, organ music, and music for organ and brass quartet. You will be able to look it over during the gathering time and, if necessary, at the end of the evening as well.