



The CYPHER

Volume 31, Number 1
September 2012

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter
American Guild of Organists

OPENING EVENT TO FEATURE NEW FRITTS ORGAN

The opening celebration for the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be held on Sunday, September 30, at 3 p.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 3738 N Old Sabino Canyon Road. The event will be a worship service/organ recital to celebrate the installation of the new Fritts tracker organ at St. Alban's. As part of the worship service, host Dr. Stephen Keyl will present a mini-recital featuring music of Bach, Sweelinck, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Pachelbel. An open console period and a potluck dinner will follow the service.

This is what Steve says about the new organ:

The Paul Fritts organ at St. Alban's Episcopal Church is a musical instrument of the highest quality both in musical and visual appeal. Completed in 2012, the organ has twenty-two stops on two manuals and pedal, with more than 1100 pipes. It is the first mechanical-action organ of its size in southern Arizona. The instrument's specification, construction, and details of voicing are inspired by the great Baroque organs of northern Europe. While it is best suited to the music of the northern Baroque, the organ's tonal warmth and balance, together with its two string stops, extend its capabilities surprisingly into the organ literature of the 19th and 20th centuries. The beautifully crafted fir case complements the ceiling of the church. Exquisitely carved pipe shades are the work of the builder's sister Judy Fritts. The organ is the result of a nine-year fundraising effort with support from well over two hundred donors, both members and friends of St. Alban's. It will be heard frequently at services, recitals, and other musical events.



St. Alban's Episcopal Church: www.stalbansaz.org
Paul Fritts & Company Organ Builders: www.frittsorgan.com

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SOUTHERN ARIZONA
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INCLUDE YOUR PROGRAM INFORMATION

The CYPHER

So that we might keep our members informed of our special musical events, we invite you to include notice of your events in future issues of *The CYPHER*. If you have programs you would like to include, please send program descriptions, along with pertinent information—title, date, location, time, brief description, cost, and photos—to Derek Redmore, *CYPHER* editor. The information will appear in the print edition as well as in the online edition. Material may be edited as needed.

The CYPHER deadlines:

Oct. 15
Dec. 15
Feb. 15
Apr. 15

Please email the information to Derek Redmore, editor, at derekredmore@msn.com by the published deadlines.

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ROY A. JOHNSON MEMORIAL ORGAN SERIES

PAMELA DECKER

Friday, September 21, 7 p.m.



Dr. Pamela Decker will present a faculty organ recital in Holsclaw Hall on Friday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m., as part of the Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series. She will perform works by Liszt, Vierne, Yuki, Cooman, and Decker.

Dr. Decker, professor of organ and theory at the University of Arizona, earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stanford University and was awarded a Fulbright grant in 1980 to study organ and composition in Lübeck, Germany. She has performed extensively as a concert organist throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. She has ten CD's (as performer or composer) in distribution. In 2004, she was awarded the Henry and Phyllis Koffler Prize for Research/Creative Activity at the University of Arizona. In 2000 Dr. Decker was the recipient of the College of Fine Arts Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Ticket price:

General admission: \$5

PAUL HESSELINK

Sunday, October 21, 7 p.m.



Dr. Paul Hesselink will perform a recital in Holsclaw Hall on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m., as part of the Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series. He will perform works by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Seitze DeVries, Cor Kee, Bert Matter, and J.S. Bach.

Dr. Hesselink earned his DMA in organ performance at the University of Colorado in Boulder. For 26 years, he was on the music faculty at Longwood University in Virginia. Taking early retirement from teaching and administration, Dr. Hesselink moved to Las Vegas to affiliate with Nevada School of the Arts. Since 1993, he has been an adjunct music faculty member at UNLV. Dr. Hesselink played a major role in the securing of the Maureen Jackson Smith Memorial Organ in UNLV's Doc Rando Hall, completed in 2004 by the Rudolf von Beckerath Orgelbau of Hamburg, Germany.

Ticket prices:

General Admission: \$9

Seniors and UA Employees: \$7

UA Students: \$5

Halloween Extravaganza at Catalina!

Featuring Dorothy Papadakos, Organ Improvisator

Saturday, October 27, 7 p.m.

Dress in costume, and join us in a darkened Sanctuary on October 27th for an evening of "thrills"! World renowned organist and organ improvisator, **Dorothy Papadakos** "spooks" Tucson with original musical accompaniment to the 1925 Lon Chaney version of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Within the style of early movie-making, the musical score will be entirely improvised, on the spot, right in tune with the action on the BIG SCREEN.



Prior to the show, you are invited to attend **The Phantom's Gala Dinner**, with special guest stars, **The Tucson Girls Chorus!** Proceeds will benefit the chorus and the Great Sanctuary Organ to be installed at Catalina for Easter Day 2014!

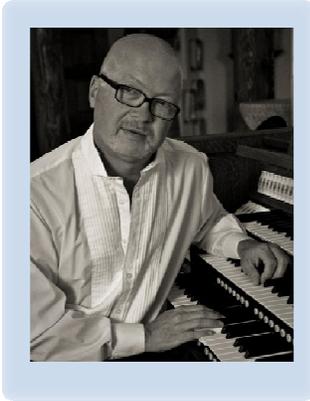
The Phantom's Gala Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. (limited seating by reservation). The show will begin immediately following at 7:00 p.m.

Order your tickets now! tucsonphantom.eventbrite.com

DOROTHY PAPADAKOS is a member of the 7-time Grammy Award winning Paul Winter Consort. She came to international attention as the first woman organist of the world's largest gothic cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in NYC from 1990-2003. A graduate of Barnard College and The Juilliard School, she is also a composer & playwright. Dorothy & *The Phantom* are just back from touring (spooking!) Norway's spectacular west coast & fjords to great acclaim.

(funded in part by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the AGO)

message from the dean...



I am writing in the midst of a thunderstorm! Like the summer months, our monsoons contain many opportunities for renewal and growth. Our members have been busy traveling this summer...some to conventions, others to perform, rebuild organs, worship in new places, hear new organs, and many to visit family and friends. I know some of you have acquired new homes, new jobs, new hips and new retirement! With all of this, I hope your adventures have been filled with time for relaxationand like the desert, you feel rejuvenated! Please read the informative reports from chapter members Larry Grove, Bob Foltz and Jeffrey Campbell which highlight their recent experiences at conventions held in Nashville, Chicago and Los Angeles this summer.

Even though our newly-elected board members will not be formally installed until September 30th at St. Albans, some of us have been busy over the summer planning the details for the 2012-2013 season. We are working on a new look to our website. It will serve to celebrate our 75th anniversary as a chapter! Please look for changes in the coming months at www.agosaz.com. Beefing up our advertising campaign as well, you will notice new supporters listed on the website, newsletter and directory. Perhaps you and your church/synagogue/music organization would also like to advertise your services, concerts and programs. Any ad revenues contribute to our fund drive for AGO programming. As you consider this, please mark your calendars to attend the outstanding programs listed in this newsletter.....and please remember to extend an invitation to your friends as well!

We give our gratitude to Jeffrey Campbell, for his superb leadership of our chapter the past four years. Jeffrey, you offer so much to our chapter and the entire musical community in Tucson! Thank you, also, to Chris Fresolone for his work on the Board of Directors. Both of these men do not get off the hook so easily, however! Thankfully, Jeffrey remains on the board as Dean "Emeritus". Chris will be one of three featured performers on the November Showcase Recital.

Several of our retiring board members are actually not retiring at all! Former Sub-dean, Pamela Decker has been appointed University Representative, a newly created position, appointed by the board. And where would we be without Dusty Johnson? Dusty retires as Past Dean, but jumps in immediately as co-Program Chairman. Applause to each of you!

We also welcome several new board members this year. David Gay is our newly-elected Sub-Dean. Fern Hieb, along with Charlotte Cordes join the fold as Programming and Professional Concerns coordinators, respectively. The Reverend Dr. Ed Bonneau, Senior Pastor at Catalina United Methodist Church will serve as our Chaplain. Thank you to returning board members, Bob Foltz, Dhira Mahoney, David Horr, Derek Redmore and Joyce Swinehart for their fine work and support.

And now for the BIG news...

We are thrilled to welcome the new Paul Fritts organ to Tucson! This delightful gem is the first of several exciting new organs for Tucson. Please join me on Sunday, September 30 at 3 p.m. as resident organist, Stephen Keyl and St. Alban's Episcopal Church introduces their new mechanical action organ. You will be given a special opportunity to play the instrument as well as to share your favorite dish with friends at a dinner immediately following the program. What a way to start the new season!

Cheers to the Fritts!

Dennis

2012 SUMMER CONVENTION REPORTS

National AGO Convention in Nashville

Bob Foltz, Membership Chair

The worship services were the highlights of the convention for me. The music selection and performances were superb. At the pre-convention service Saturday at the West End United Methodist church (1983 Möller), we were welcomed with the sound of Vierne's Messe Solennelle. The combination of the organ and choir was very moving. The West End United Methodist Chancel Choir was excellent. The service concluded with Widor's Messe à deux choeurs et deux orgues.

The opening service was held at the First Baptist Church (1970 Shantz). Craig Phillips played 3 of his compositions in the pre-service concert. The combined choirs of West End United Methodist and Christ Church Cathedral sang several pieces with the Belmont Brass and Andrew Risinger (organ). The homily was delivered by Dr

Anna Carter Florence. She challenged organists to be brave because we are often the only ones to bear our souls in worship. Most of the services today are well orchestrated and do not provide opportunity for expressing spontaneous praise or exposing our inner selves in worship.



1st Presbyterian Church

Monday the worship service was again at the West End United Methodist. Risinger played the Herbert Howells Voluntary: Psalm-Prelude No 2, Second Set. The choir sang a varied program of selections from current composers: Dove, McDermid, Martin, Biery, Gjeilo, Grundahl and Daley. Eleanor Daley's commissioned piece "Fill Us, Lord" was particularly nice. As always it was a thrill to sing hymns with a congrega-



1st Baptist Church

tion full of musicians. The church rang with beautiful singing.

Tuesday evening we were at the Westminster Presbyterian Church (1985 Schlicker). Again the anthems were from current composers: Hanson, Rutter, Hopson, Sumsion, Conte, and Herbert/Snider.

Organized Rhythm displayed their talent for very engaging arrangements of orchestral music. Clive Driskill-Smith (organ) and Joseph Gramley (percussion) arranged most of the music. Gramley used a wide variety of instruments to provide very expressive interpretations of selections from



Brentwood United Methodist Church

Holst' Planets as well as Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals. I highly recommend hearing them if you have the opportunity.

Nashville is justifiably proud of their Schermerhorn Symphony Center and orchestra (2007 Schoenstein). We were treated to the venue twice during the week. Thomas Trotter played for the St Cecilia Recital, endowed by Marianne Webb. He opened with Handel's Organ Concerto Op 4 no 2. His closing piece was Lemare's arrangement of the William Tell Overture. His program was well balanced and very well received.



Belmont University Concert Hall

Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS)

Larry Grove

The AGO & ATOS conventions are always held concurrently (the first week of July), so those of us who are interested in both must make a decision of which to attend. This year I attended the ATOS convention which was held in Los Angeles. ATOS always has a four-day main convention with optional events scheduled on the day or days before and after which they call “preglow” and “afterglow”. I attended all the events from Monday, July 2 through Sunday, July 8.

Mon. 07/02 – Preglow. We began the day by driving to First Congregational Church in downtown LA for a wonderful classical concert by Scott Foppiano on what is believed to be the largest church organ in the world (nearly 400 ranks—and still growing!) We also had a concert by up and coming young artists on a newly-installed Wurlitzer theatre organ in a private residence called Trousdale Castle. Our final theatre concert of the day was at the fascinating Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo.

Tue., 07/03 – The first official day of the convention was spent with daytime exhibits and activities at the Hotel. The opening concert was on the magnificent Moller theatre organ in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium with Walt Strony and Mark Herman (an amazing young artist).

Wed., 07/04 – In the morning we had meetings and seminars at the Hotel. In the afternoon there was an Allen Organ extravaganza on several large Allen organs installed in a ballroom. In the evening we drove to the Hollywood Bowl for a concert by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Barry Manilow and (of course) fireworks.

Thu., 07/05 – After a morning drive to San Diego, we had a private concert on the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park by Dave Wickerham (a Tucson native and student of Roy Johnson). After a noontime concert at Trinity Church (with box lunch), there was an afternoon concert at the recently restored and reopened (and gorgeous!) Balboa Theatre.

Fri., 07/06 – The last day of the main convention started with a concert by Chris Elliot on the Wurlitzer organ in Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton (Orange County). In the afternoon we went to the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse (East of

Pasadena) for a concert by the Australian Organist Tony Fenelon that “blew everyone away”. He had pre-recorded several tracks on the organ recorder and then accompanied himself on the grand piano. He got many standing ovations and gave several encores.

Sat., 07/07 – Afterglow. The full day was spent at The Nethercutt (Merle Norman Cosmetics) Private Collection and Museum in Sylmar (San Fernando Valley). This is a “must see—and hear”. The private collection, which is only open by invitation, includes many perfectly restored automobiles as well as hundreds of antique musical instruments, including a large Wurlitzer theatre organ, which we heard in concert by Simon Gledhill, the British theatre organist. After a catered lunch, we went to the Nethercutt Museum, which is free and open to the public and includes hundreds of completely restored cars.

Sun. 07/08 – Afterglow. We spent the day driving to Long Beach where we boarded a catamaran for the one-hour trip to Catalina Island. We had free time to explore the town of Avalon in the morning, had a private lunch at the Galleon Restaurant, and then had a private tour of the Avalon Casino, which includes a beautiful theatre and ballroom where many of the big bands played and broadcast from the late 1920s to the 1950s. The Casino was magnificent in its day, but needs some renovation work. The theatre has a Page theatre organ which has not had anything done to it (other than tuning) since it was installed in 1929. Needless to say, it needs a lot of work. In the afternoon and early evening we had more free time to explore Avalon before the convention ended.



Dave Wickerham
University of Arizona graduate in organ

Organ Historical Society Convention in Chicago

Jeffrey Campbell, Past Dean

I was fortunate to attend the annual Organ Historical Society convention this past summer, held in Chicago, Illinois and environs. If you have not had the opportunity to attend an OHS gathering, I can recommend them heartily to you! The group is really a large extended family at an annual reunion! Although this year's convention was large (upwards of 500 people) the feeling of being a part of a friendly family never left me the whole week. People come from all "walks" of life, organ builders, performers, church musicians, and many just organ-lovers, a very diverse group from across the country, and even from Singapore!



1928 Skinner Organ
Rockefeller Chapel

The wealth of instruments old and new, on display in Chicago and environs was impressive, as was the scheduling, which allowed us a little bit of breathing room between concerts! The buses were on-time, every time, and even the fabled Chicago expressway traffic seemed to co-operate, with only a couple of exceptions.

Outstanding recitals included those by

Nathan Laube on the recently restored Skinner organ of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of

Chicago, Scott Montgomery playing a 1914 Skinner at the Music Academy of Chicago (formerly a Christian Science Church, now conservatory!), Ken Cowan at another large Skinner in Oak Park, and so on. There was really no end to the aural and visual delights to be had in our travels, which encompassed builders such as Casavant (several vintage and newer organs), Aeolian-Skinner, Flentrop, Noack, and Schlicker.

It was wonderful, on a personal note, to rediscover some instruments, and places that I was familiar with from my time studying at Northwestern University. Several of the larger venues were simply breathtaking in their architectural beauty, including several Roman Catholic churches hidden away in neighborhoods that routinely possessed marbles, mosaics, and that most elusive quality, reverberation!

The week was capped off with a wonderful dinner cruise on Lake Michigan, highlighting the magnificent Navy Pier and Millennium Park developments in the fabulous downtown! I would encourage everyone interested in the organ to become a member and support the work of the OHS, and to attend a convention perhaps in the off year of AGO National, to become a part of this "family" which strives to promote the legacy of instrument, builders, teachers, and performers new and old. <http://www.organsociety.org/>



Casavant Frères, Limitée
Opus 1467, 1932

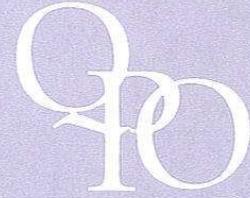
C.B. Fisk Organ Company
Opus 123, 2005

PHOTOS: William T. Van Pelt

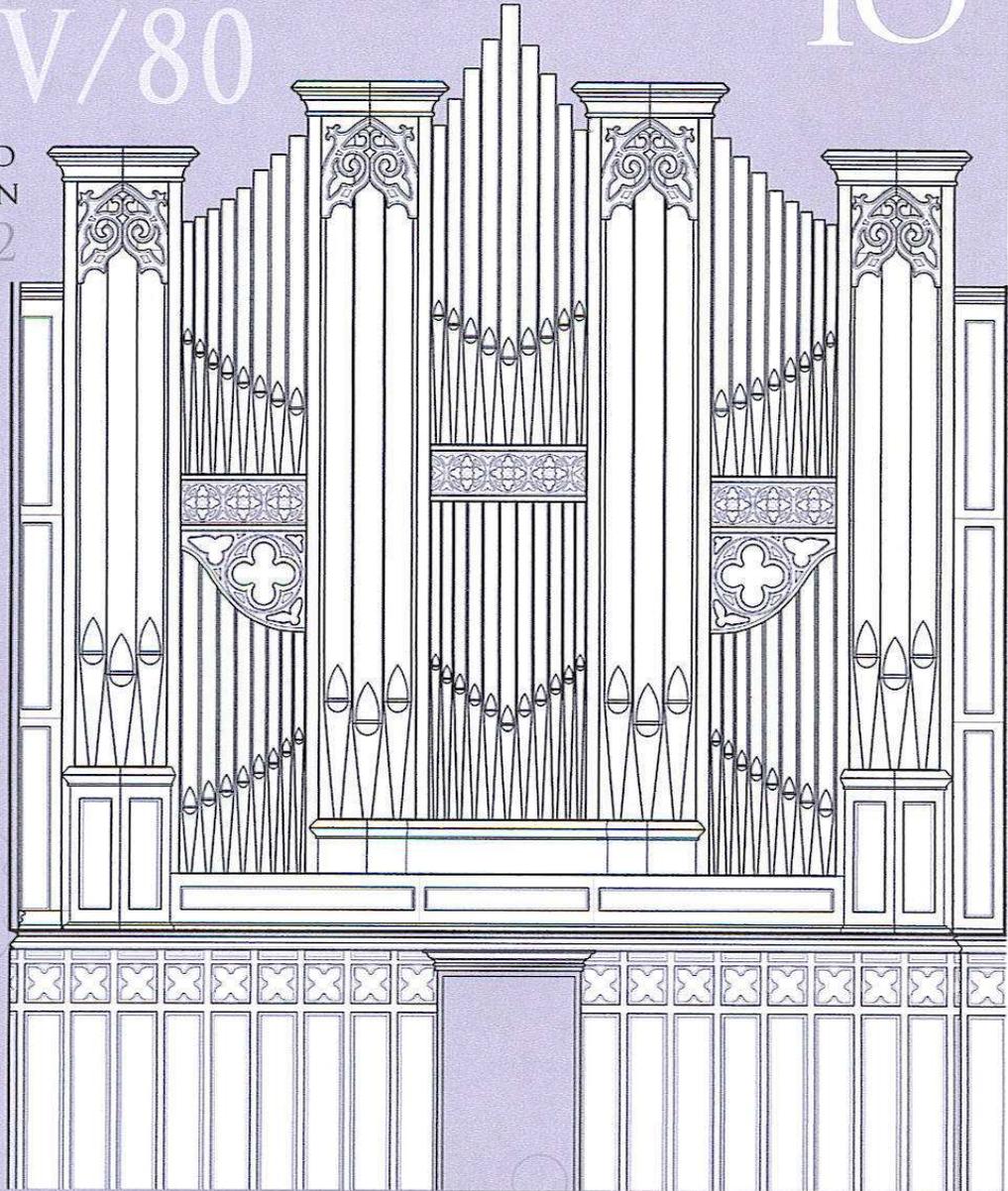


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2012-13 Program Preview

Reserve the dates on your calendars

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Sunday, September 30, 3 p.m.
See page 1 for details.

The Phantom of the Opera
Dorothy Papakados.
Saturday, October 27, 7 p.m.
See page 4 for details.

Showcase Recital
Sunday, November 18, 3 p.m.
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 East Fort Lowell Rd.

Annual Showcase Recital on the Quimby organ (1998, III/46). Norene Walters, Chris Fresolone and Fern Hieb will perform, with Ms Hieb playing works composed by the late guild member Marilyn Rinehart. Reception following. Suggested donation: \$10.

Post-Christmas Fun, Fellowship & Fugues
Sunday, January 6, 2013, 4 p.m.
Join your colleagues at the home of Robert and June Foltz for a post-Christmas celebration and potluck.

Open Console
Saturday, January 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St Mark's Presbyterian Church
3809 E. Third Street
Sign-up details will be published in *The Cypher*.

John Sherer, Organ
Sunday, January 27, 3 p.m.
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd.
Organist and Director of Music for the prestigious Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

Bringing out the Best—Organ and Choral Workshops
Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dr. Jeffrey Campbell, organist, St. Philips in the Hills, and Dr. Eric Holtan, director of Tucson Chamber Artists.

The Mighty Fox Theatre Wurlitzer Rises again
Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.

Grahame Davis presents an update on the restoration of the Wurlitzer organ at Tucson's Fox Theatre.

Shimmering Summer Social
Sunday, June 2, 4 p.m.
End of season gathering and potluck.
Location: TBA

Julia Brown, Organ
22nd Annual Bach Marathon
Saturday, March 2 & Sunday, March 3
Dr. Julia Brown, Brazilian organist, will present a recital and a master class. Details to be announced.

Check our website www.agosaz.com for more details. Future issues of *Cypher* will provide updates during the year.

More Fall Musical Events

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Annual Scottish Heritage Weekend
October 26, 7:00 pm
Kirkin' O' the Tartan. A traditional Kirkin' service with the Seven Pipers Band, the Sanctuary Choir, and family blessings, followed by a reception featuring homemade Scottish shortbread.

October 28, 9:30 & 11am
Festive Reformation Worship Services with stirring processional including clergy, choir and the Seven Pipers Band.

November 11, 5:00 pm
Choral Service featuring the Schubert "German Mass" (*Deutsche Messe*, D 872) with organ and instrumental ensemble.

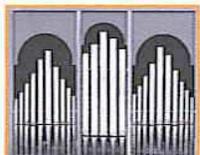


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Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series

The University of Arizona
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Isabelle B. Harris Organ
Holsclaw Hall, 7:00 p.m.



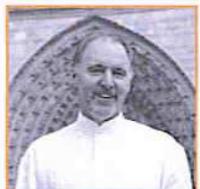
Pamela Decker

Faculty Artist
Friday, September 21, 2012



Paul Hesselink

Guest Artist
Sunday, October 21, 2012



Jonathan Dimmock

Guest Artist
Sunday, February 17, 2013

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In Memoriam

Marilyn Rinehart (1926-2012)

Marilyn, a longtime member of our chapter, wrote dozens of sacred choral and organ works and held organist positions at First United Methodist Church and Catalina United Methodist Church in Tucson. During her tenure at First United Methodist, the church installed the 25-rank Möller pipe organ in 1967.

Genie Ve West (1926-2012)

Genie, a longtime member of our chapter, played for the U of A School of Music and First Christian Church for many years. She served continuously as organist and choir director for over 46 years at San Manuel Community Presbyterian Church.

Roy Barker (1924-2012)

Roy was the husband of Mary Lou Barker, who has been a faithful and active member of our chapter for many years. Roy supported Mary Lou in her many roles in the chapter and was noted for his dedicated service as a Boy Scouts of America leader.

Donna E. Lichty (1929-2012)

Former member of our chapter, Donna Lichty, was a school teacher and organist in the San Diego area for over 30 years before she retired to Green Valley. She was a member of AAUW, the American Guild of Organists and Presbyterian Women.

The AGO wishes to acknowledge these members/friends of the Southern Arizona Chapter who have passed away in the past year. Please notify the Cypher editor if you know of others who should be included in this column in the future.

Inside:
Opening event, September 30
Dean's Message
Pamela Decker Recital, September 21
Halloween Extravaganza, October 27
Chapter Program events for 2012-13

Publication Information: ***The Cypher*** is a bimonthly newsletter published by the **Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**. It is distributed to chapter members, organists of churches in Tucson and surrounding communities, and deans of all chapters in Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Utah). **Southern Arizona Chapter members who do not request the printed version will receive *The Cypher* via email.** Send information for publication to Derek Redmore, 5646 N. Genematas Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704-5934, or to email address derekredmore@msn.com. Please type "Cypher" in the subject line. Views expressed in any of the pieces herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Southern Arizona Chapter—AGO, its officers or members.

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