



## CAPE COD and the ISLANDS CHAPTER **AMERICAN GUILD of ORGANISTS**

### November 2024

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Dear Colleagues,

THINGS CHANGE. Seasons, jobs, plans, health, relationships, activities – the list goes on. Change can feel like loss, reminding us that we don't have total control of the world around us. Something shifts during changing times, and we need to be open and alert for what is the next good thing.

Many changes have taken place at AGO headquarters, providing wonderful support and resources to members and Chapters. Younger members are bringing new wisdom and vision along with their energy, and the Guild responds in ways that support their study, performance, and work in the community. Some Chapters have merged in order to remain active, and quite a few Chapters have closed. Events and traditions are being reimagined. In our own Chapter, we are fortunate to have a rich mix of long-time members – many now retired – as well as recent arrivals who are sharing their superb talents in local workplaces and as volunteers. Our Chapter is small, but mighty! As reported at the Annual Meeting, our membership is steady and our financial position is strong. The world has changed in the last few years, and we all face challenges and new ways of living and working. To keep our Chapter strong, it was time to regroup and look for new ways to move forward together.

The responsibilities of board members have been redefined to reflect current needs of the Chapter. We are committed to encouraging participation, education, and community building. Technology and the quirky geography of our Chapter boundaries are both a challenge and a blessing. Our goal is to work smarter, not harder, seeking collaborative opportunities as they arise.

Dates are now set for our next two events, back by popular demand. Our midwinter social gathering is a great time for conversation and fun while enjoying a delicious meal. The “lightning round” workshops will open your eyes (and ears) to new possibilities. Check out details and dates elsewhere in this newsletter and add them to your calendar.

Our Chapter is as strong as we make it. This year, we are asking everyone to get involved in some way. Please be ready to say “yes” when called upon, or better yet, reach out to a board member with an idea or an offer to help.

While writing this, I was listening to Mountain Stage on the radio, where the guests had just finished a new album called *Texicali*. The refrain of the featured song had lyrics that were a perfect reminder for this moment:

We're still here; we're still here,  
We're still standing, no matter what you hear.  
We're still here; we're still here,  
We just keep on rolling  
'cause we're still here.

It's a fun tune – check it out!  
*Charlene*

## A Few Words from our AGO Board Members

Becoming Dean of this wonderful AGO Chapter was more surprise than preparation for me. The Nominating Committee was persistent, and our conversations helped everyone look realistically at how we should proceed. Their argument was persuasive. My years in varied settings – paid and volunteer, musician and administrator, interim and long term – included several situations facing change or reorganization. Having served the Boston AGO Chapter and the Northeast Region as Professional Development Coordinator, I've had the opportunity to listen and learn with others in planning how to look forward collectively. Eventually, my arm was twisted and I said "yes," being assured that we all have a part to play in the work that keeps us connected in the work we love. We often hear that a lot of success is simply about showing up, and I look forward to all of us showing up together!

*Charlene Higbe, Dean*

Simply put, the sub-dean leads board members in subcommittees in the formulation and execution of chapter programs. The sub-dean assists the dean in additional tasks as needed.

*Richard Bunbury, PhD, Sub-Dean*

Although my training and career are in the field of finance and accounting, I have had a life-long passion and enthusiasm for the organ and organ music. While not being a "professional" organist, I do enjoy playing the organ as a hobby as both mind-stimulating and relaxing. Being a member of the Cape & Islands Chapter has given me the opportunity to learn and help in a small way to further the mission of the AGO.

*Jeff Mereschuk, Secretary*

I have been blessed to be in my position as Director of Music & Organist at St. Paul's since 2018, coming to Nantucket after retiring from fund raising positions primarily in the East Coast and Indiana. Throughout this career I kept my "feet on the pedal board" by singing in wonderful choirs and on occasion serving as music director and/or organist for several churches.

*Joe Hammer, Registrar*

I'd like to introduce myself to you as the new Membership Coordinator! I am available to provide you with information about membership categories, benefits and dues. I am also here to ensure that you are welcomed into the community as a new member. Being in this new role, I'd like to extend an invitation to all new and seasoned members of Cape and Islands chapter AGO to become active in the community and contribute any ideas in which we can make our chapter an exciting, intellectually stimulating and welcoming place for all! You can contact me, Paula King at [pk.musicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:pk.musicdirector@gmail.com) with and questions or suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Paula King, Membership*

Hi Everyone! I've been editing the newsletter and working on the chapter website for a couple of years now. Communication is very important not only to keep chapter members connected but also to share all the wonderful events happening in our parishes. Please make sure to reach out and share your upcoming events so they can be included in future newsletters and on our chapter website. My email address can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

*Brittany Lord, Communications*

The Oxford dictionary definition of hospitality is: "the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or strangers." Two words that stand out are "friendly" and "generous". This is our goal as we welcome performers, patrons and audience members to our events. Food and drink is the ultimate unifier at concerts, events and meetings where we plan our agenda.

*Craig Tocher, Hospitality*

I'm Cynthia Verrill, the Director of Sacred Music at Corpus Christi Parish in East Sandwich. As the representative for Chapter Life, I will be communicating with members

as we share our common passion for organ music and sacred musical literature. I'm excited to connect with members and help foster a strong and vibrant community within our chapter, getting to better know each other and adding value to our work and our organization. I can best be reached at [cindiverrill@gmail.com](mailto:cindiverrill@gmail.com).

Cindi Verrill, Chapter Life



Friday January 31, 2025 St. Mary's -- Barnstable

5:00pm - hors d'oeuvres

6:00pm – dinner

## *Dinner Menu*

Members provide appetizers, drinks, and the desserts -- RSVP with what you are bringing

### *Choice of Entrees*

*prepared by Mark and Betsy Lawlor and Charlene Higbe*

#### *Entrée number 1*

*Salmon Coulibiac with Dilly Sour Cream served with sauteed green beans*

#### *Entrée number 2*

*Chicken and Sausage Classic Cassoulet served with warm baguette*

**Please RSVP by January 25, 2025**

**[Click here to RSVP](#)**

## **Call for Presenters: Lightning Rounds**

A previously successful "collection" of six consecutive fifteen-minute workshops. Do you have a skill to share or presentation that would be practical and useful to our chapter members?

*Date: Saturday morning, March 22, Location: West Parish of Barnstable, West Barnstable, (Mander tracker organ). Free lunch provided by the church!*

Please send a **proposal** by 12/15/2024 to [rbunbury@me.com](mailto:rbunbury@me.com) describing your presentation or workshop, detailing methods, needs (organ, piano, projector, microphone, etc.). Be sure it can be started and done in 15 minutes.

Topic suggestions include, but not limited to:

### **Digital Music**

How to use digital scores - software specific, i.e. ForScore on iOS, Mobile Sheets for Android, Muscores, etc.

### **Audience, Collaboration and Community**

For whom do you perform, and how do you reach them, Building audience, Community involvement

### **Performance Practices**

Performance techniques of keyboard literature of a historical stylistic period

**Tech:** Audio recording technology, licensing and permissions, video recording and livestreams

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## **Sad News**

Sandy Cole, who was a long time member as well as a past dean of the Cape and Islands AGO chapter, passed away in mid-October. To view Sandra's obituary in the Cape Cod Times, please [click here](#).

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## **Job Opening**

The Church of St. Mary of the Harbor in Provincetown is looking for a part-time minister of music. Please [click here](#) for more information.

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## **Upcoming Local Events**

### **Advent Christmas Concert**

Saturday, December 7th; 3:00pm  
First Congregational Church, Harwich Center

*The concert includes choral music accompanied by instruments, the Harwich Brass Quintet, and lots of fun. The theme this year is "Children". The concert is free. Directed by Marcia Hempel.*

### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

#### ***Seasonal music and scripture followed by a reception***

Wednesday, December 18th; 5:30pm  
Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans

*Join us for an offering of varied music for string quartet, harp, handbells, and choir, including Messiah choruses and favorites by Craig Courtney, Ola Gjeilo, and many others. Free will offering. Joan Kirchner, organist and choir director*

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## **Upcoming Regional and National Events**

### **2025 Phoenix AGO Convention**

June 16th -19th, 2025  
Phoenix, AZ

[Click here for more information.](#)

### **2025 Fort Worth AGO Convention**

June 30th - July 3rd, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## Guidelines for Submitting Material to the Newsletter

All articles or flyers must be submitted in PDF or JPG form as you would like them to appear in the Newsletter.

The ability to advertise our musical events to our colleagues is one of the privileges of membership in the AGO.

Articles and flyers must be submitted to [brittany.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.haskell@gmail.com).

Thank you

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### Cape and Islands Chapter Board 2024-25

#### Officers

Dean Charlene Higbe [cthigbe@aol.com](mailto:cthigbe@aol.com)

Sub-Dean Richard Bunbury [rbunbury@me.com](mailto:rbunbury@me.com)

Secretary Jeff Mereschuk [jeffmereschuk@comcast.net](mailto:jeffmereschuk@comcast.net)

Treasurer Gary Mazzola [garymazzo@aol.com](mailto:garymazzo@aol.com)

#### Members-at-large

Joe Hammer, Registrar, [joehammer01@att.net](mailto:joehammer01@att.net)

Paula King, Membership [paula.jwumc@gmail.com](mailto:paula.jwumc@gmail.com)

Brittany Lord, Communications [brittany.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.haskell@gmail.com)

Craig Tocher, Hospitality [craigtocher67@gmail.com](mailto:craigtocher67@gmail.com)

Cindy Verrill, Chapter Life [cindiverrill@aol.com](mailto:cindiverrill@aol.com)

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[Visit our Website](#)

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