

A Letter From the Dean

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy fall! I was in Ithaca, NY for a conference earlier this month, and was jealously gazing at the beautiful hills and ravines in that part of the country, wondering why I chose to move to such a flat area (this from a native of Pennsylvania...) However, upon returning, I drove myself out to the beach, and remembered that West Michigan does have a few things going for it, flatness and all! I hope you've been able to enjoy the beach recently – September on Lake Michigan is always beautiful.

And September for most of us means the starting up of the program year – new students' lessons, perhaps, getting back into things at church and school. Your board met to put together some great creative ideas for the program year, which you can read about below.

For this month, we look forward to hearing from some of the students that Julia Collingsworth has placed in homes, as a "hobby" of hers is placing, supervising, and sometimes also housing high school exchange students. Julia has done this for many years (let's ask her at some point how many students she has worked with!), and I know we've all heard wonderful stories from her.

Well now we all have the chance to hear some of those stories first-hand! Three of "Julia's" students will give a presentation on their homelands for us and the general public, on Sunday afternoon, Sept 23 at First United Methodist Church. Aidana Dogdurbaeva, from Kazakhstan, Yermakhan Maulet from Kyrgyzstan, and Ines Baccari, from Tunisia will tell us about their countries, the culture and traditions there. In addition, Aidana will play the komuz, and Yermakhan will play the dombra – these are stringed instruments from Central Asia, with a fascinating sound. I've been told that Ines, while she doesn't play an instrument, has volunteered to prepare refreshments for us afterwards! This should be a fascinating opportunity to hear more about the rich culture of these countries, and show a warm welcome to Julia's students. Please feel free to invite friends, church or choir members, or anyone you think might be interested.

Linda Fulton attended the OHS convention this summer in Rochester and brought back a pamphlet from Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, who have a number of quality smaller used pipe organs for sale. She thought these could be useful for a smaller church looking for an organ. Their Opus 2 from 1985 has two manuals and nine ranks, recently restored in 2017, and is going for \$48,000 plus shipping and handling. You can read more about this and others on their website.

I also have recently heard from First Congregational in Allegan, who is looking for an organist (or pianist with desire to learn) for their choir and service playing. If you know of anyone who might be interested, let them know about this opportunity!

Looking forward to seeing some of you this weekend at First United Methodist.

Rhonda

Chapter programs for 2018-19:

Sept 23 – 3:00 – First United Methodist Church - Exchange Student Cultural Presentations - see above

Tues, Oct 16 – 7:30 – Hope Church – The Music of Raymond Haan – The composer will join us and discuss his works, with examples played by members of our chapter (be thinking about your favorite Haan piece that you could play as part of this presentation)

Nov 5 – 7:30pm – Central Avenue CRC – Organ Plus – We can all bring our favorite organ plus repertoire, plus our favorite collaborator (instrumentalist, piano 4 hands, organ/piano) and it will be a collegial time of music sharing together

Dec – Visiting Mike Van Doornik and others at Freedom Village (details to follow)

Jan 6 – Epiphany party at home of Julia Collingsworth – including singing together from the Oxford book of Carols

Feb 4 – 7:30pm – First Reformed, Holland – Rick Van Oss – Choral Reading Session, plus Introducing 1st Reformed's new Lending Library, and New Organ Console

Rick and Cheryl will present some of their favorite choral anthems for us to sing together, Rick will demonstrate the new organ console at First, and we will have a tour of the new lending library that has been recently opened to the public at First, with organ music and choral anthems available to borrow

March 1 – 7:30pm – Hope Church – Dr. Mary Cohen, U of Iowa – Inside/Outside Prison Choirs

An expert in the field of Arts in Prisons, Dr. Cohen leads a ground-breaking ensemble in Iowa City, that combines inmates with volunteers who make music together

March 25 or 26 – Sacred Dance with Hope college prof. Linda Graham

The head of the dance department at Hope College, Linda will answer questions you have about sacred dance, how it can be used in worship, and some best practices for collaborating with dancers

April (after Easter - TBD) – Musician-Clergy Relations, with Brian Carder and the pastors at Hope Church – the second in our series, after last year's very successful event at Grace Episcopal

May 19 – 5pm – Second Reformed of Zeeland – Members Recital (on the newly installed organ!)
Start thinking about what you'd like to play

June – End of year Potluck, location TBD

Additional calendar stuff:

Monday, Sept 24 at 7pm at St. Adalbert's in GR - David Jonies - the Assistant Organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago will play a recital as the opening program of the GR AGO program year. David is a very fine player (and comes from Germany by way of England and a stint in Northern Michigan!) and I'm looking forward to this concert.

Sun, Sept 30 at 3pm – Hymn Sing with Bob Batastini and Peter Kurdziel to celebrate the opening of the Holland Civic Center – Ice Cream afterwards!

University of Michigan Church Music Conference – Trailblazers: Women’s Impact on Organ, Harpsichord, Carillon, and Church Music – Sept 30-Oct 2 – single day \$60, full conference \$100 - This looks fascinating, and they have many good people who will be there!

Sat, Oct 27, 7:30pm – Holland Symphony with Huw Lewis at the Jack – Rheinberger Organ Concerto and Jongen Symphonie Concertante

Sun, Nov 4 at 3pm - Rietberg Recital at Third Reformed - Larry and Carla Sue on Handbells, with Linda Strouf on Organ

Tues, Nov. 6 – 7:30pm – Veteran’s Day Concert: War and Peace – Rhonda Edgington (with James Sailors, DMA Tuba) at Hope Church

Sun, Dec 2 at 3pm - Rick van Oss Free at Three Advent Recital at First Reformed

Sun, Dec 2 at 5pm - Rhonda Edgington Advent Recital at Hope Church

Grace Church's “Grace Notes” organ concerts

October 7 at 1pm – Dr. Carrie Groenewold, Organist/ Choir director, St. Luke’s Episcopal, Kalamazoo

November 4 at 1pm – Local legend (and former Grace Church Holland organist!) Alfred Fedak

December 9 at 12:30pm – Dr. Elizabeth West – Hope College, former Holland AGO dean

January 13 at 1pm – Linda Fulton – our favorite newest organist in Holland

February 10 at 1pm – Jane Bosco – another former Holland AGO dean, and organist at Harderwyck

Chapter Officers for 2018-2019

Dean - Rhonda Edgington

Sub-Dean – Linda Fulton

Board Members – Roberta Kraft, Rick Van Oss

Hope College Student Board Member – TBA

Ex Official:

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website - hollandareaago.org

2018-2019 Calendar

Sun Sep 23, 3:00 p.m.	Exchange Student Presentations	First United Methodist Church, Holland
Sun Sep 30, 3:00 p.m.	Hymn Sing with Bob Batastani and Peter Kurdziel	Holland Civic Center
Tue Oct 16, 7:30 p.m.	The Music of Raymond Haan	Hope Church, Holland
Sat Oct 27, 7:30 p.m.	Holland Symphony with Huw Lewis	Jack Miller Concert Hall, Hope College, Holland
Sun Nov 4, 3:00 p.m.	Annual Rietberg Concert - Larry and Carla Sue (Handbells) with Linda Strouf on Organ	Third Reformed Church, Holland
Mon Nov 5, 7:30 p.m.	Organ Plus – Bring and Play Music For Organ With Other Instruments	Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Holland
Tue Nov 6, 7:30 p.m.	Veteran's Day Concert – Rhonda Edgington and James Sailers (Tuba)	Hope Church, Holland
Sun Dec 2, 3:00, p.m.	Free At Three Advent Recital – Rick Van Oss	First Reformed Church, Holland
Sun Dec 2, 5:00, p.m.	Advent Recital - Rhonda Edgington	Hope Church, Holland
Dec TBA	Visit with Mike Van Doornik and others	Freedom Village, Holland
01/06/18	Epiphany Party	Julia Colingsworth's home
Mon Feb 4, 7:30 p.m.	Choral Reading Session/Library Introduction/New Console Demonstration	First Reformed Church, Holland
Fri, Mar 1, 7:30 p.m.	Inside/Outside Prison Choirs	Hope Church, Holland
Mar 25 or 26, TBA	Sacred Dance in Worship – Linda Graham from Hope College	TBA
April (after Easter), TBA	Musician-Clergy Relations – Brian Carder and Hope Church Pastors	TBA
Sun May 19, 5:00 p.m.	Annual Members Recital	Second Reformed Church, Zeeland
Jun TBA	Annual Picnic	TBA