

## **A Letter From the Dean**

Dear AGO Colleagues,

It was truly wonderful to have so many of you attend our organ crawl in February. The music swap at First Reformed was well-received. Thanks to Rick VanOss who hosted the event. His generosity in sharing the large library of organ music at First Reformed is a boon in these discouraging times. We welcomed a visitor, Marnae Evans and had a good representation of Hope College students. One of them, Samuel Grosskreutz, is organist at Zion Lutheran and a new and welcome member of our chapter. Samuel is from West Bend, Wisconsin and celebrated his 20th birthday the day after our meeting.

Among the 17 who attended the meeting was Roberta Kraft, who pushed herself to come, despite the fact that she was recovering from COVID. Thank you for making the effort and for bringing a large box of music for the music swap, Roberta. New member Jerry Jelsema made the trip from South Haven. It was heart-warming to have such good participation.

Get well wishes are extended to Marie Blauwkamp who had a hospital stay recently and was unable to join us. We hope you are better enough to come to the March meeting, Marie. Marie is our celebrated, amazing senior member, at 97 years young.

Sympathy is in order for Jim Folkert whose 95 year old father died this past week. The memorial service is Saturday, March 12.

Also on March 12 is an important organ recital. Our member Bethany Dame is presenting her junior organ recital in Dimnent Chapel at 2:00 p.m. She will play both the Pels and Skinner organs. Please try to be there to support her. That evening at 6:00 will be the Hope College choir concert in Miller Auditorium. Bethany and Alex Cross will both be participating.

It isn't long until our much anticipated program with composer Larry Visser from Grand Rapids. It had to be postponed due to COVID. This will take place on Monday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Second Reformed Church, 225 E. Central Avenue in Zeeland. Several members will play some of Larry's compositions and Larry will give us background information about them. We look forward to hearing him play also. With COVID on the downswing, maybe we can offer you some refreshments this time!

As I send out this newsletter, it is hard to not acknowledge what is going on in the world. Just hours after our last meeting, the horrendous invasion of Ukraine began. Your dean feels particularly involved, because it is the home country of two of the exchange students I placed this year. I pray for the people of Ukraine as this tragedy escalates, pray for those trapped and those who are leaving with only the clothes on their backs, those who are bearing arms, and those who are trying to provide humanitarian aid. May God be with them.

Keep the faith, dear friends.

Julia Colingsworth

2021-2022 Calendar		
Sat Mar 12, 2:00 p.m.	Bethany Dame's Junior Recital	Hope College Dimnemt Chapel
Mon Mar 21, 7:30 p.m.	Larry Visser's Music	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reformed Church, Zeeland
Mon Apr 25, 7:30 p.m.	Music for organ with other instruments	Location TBA
Mon Jun 20, 6:00	Annual members picnic	Judy Koeman's house

## **Chapter Officers for 2021-2022**

Dean – Julia Colingsworth

Sub-Dean - Linda Fulton

Secretary - Karen Howells

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Board Member - Rick Van Oss

Student Board Member - Alex Cross

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – [hollandareaago.org](http://hollandareaago.org)