

A Letter From the Dean

Dear AGO Colleagues,

Marie Blauwkamp, esteemed matriarch of our chapter, is the third long-term member we have lost in the last two months. She died January 29 after having had a fall the week before.

Some of us were talking at the January meeting, the annual Epiphany soup supper at Linda Fulton's home, about how Marie had brought a big pot of chicken soup to the last one a year ago. She was 98. Up until just a few years ago, she was still driving to the U.P. to play at the Methodist Church in Newberry during the summer. Our condolences to her family. Our chapter will be donating to the Hope College Organ Scholarship Fund in her memory. The service for Marie will be this Saturday, Feb. 3, at Overisel Reformed Church, 4706 142nd Avenue., at 11:00.

Several of us attended the very lovely service for Steve Jenkins recently at Grace Episcopal Church. It had been postponed because of the blizzard conditions on the day it was scheduled. Steve was the organist at Grace Episcopal for 16 years after having served at many other churches. Our chapter sent a memorial gift to the Southern Poverty Law Center which had been specified by the family.

A memorial gift was also sent to the David P. Roosien Organ Scholarship Fund when he died the beginning of December. It is my understanding that a memorial musical service will be held in the future to honor him. David was the donor of three organs at Hope College and the Steinway concert grand as well.

We were privileged to have known these fine people who have served as exceptional role models. This is a loss for the community as well as our chapter.

Thanks go to Linda Fulton, our amazing hostess for the January meeting. She prepared not two, but three delicious soups which were enjoyed by all. The side dishes were outstanding as usual. One of the most creative was some filo dough stars for Epiphany, made by Karen Howells.

Some very nice news is that our chapter received kudos from Elizabeth George who is the Chief Membership Officer of AGO in the New York office. She complimented us on paying the membership dues for organ students. She thought that was terrific and wishes more chapters would do that. This year we will be supporting 14 students. Of these, 9 are new! Please look for these new people at our meetings, and introduce yourself.

Our next meeting is on Monday, February 5 at 7:30. It is the Membership Recital and will be held at Second Reformed in Zeeland, 225 E. Central Avenue. Please come and support your fellow members. The emphasis is on service pieces for Lent and Easter. Aaron Goodyke is heading this up, and I believe he mentioned snacks afterward.

Warm regards,
Julia Colingsworth

2023-2024 Calendar		
Feb 5, 7:30 p.m.	Membership Recital featuring new service music	Second Reformed Church, Zeeland
Mar 11	Virtual Home Pipe Organs	Sander Owens' Home
Apr 15	Introducing and Playing New Hymns	Location TBA
May 13	Workshop with guest composer Michael Burkhardt	Location TBA
Jun 17 (tentative)	Annual potluck picnic	Location TBA

Chapter Officers for 2023-2024

Dean - Julia Colingsworth

Sub-Dean - Aaron Goodyke

Secretary - Karen Howells

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Board Member/Web Site Admin - Rick Van Oss

Student Board Member - Sander Owens

Board Member at Large - Alex Cross

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – hollandareaago.org