

# THE CLARION

JANUARY 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF EASTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER OF  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

EASTERN NEW YORK  
CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS  
CHAPTER ORGANIZED 1920

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NEXT ISSUE:  
February 2009  
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
January 20, 2009  
*Late copy may not be  
included!*

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN

As I write, I am in the final preparations for Christmas services, practicing while something spicy is cooking in the oven. This annual routine also makes me think about New Year's resolutions, and I'd like to pass a few ideas on to you.

We have had several wonderful events to celebrate the International Year of the Organ, and I was so pleased with our musical gifts to the community. My only disappointment, however, was that very few chapter members came out for the Organ Spectacular or the Choral Festival. My first gentle suggestion is for every chapter member to use this year as an opportunity to bring new friends to the organ. Please resolve to attend our events – and bring a friend who might enjoy an unusual experience.

Make a resolution to continue your music education. Our Skills Fair in January is a great way to expand your skills, and AGO's focus on education might make you consider attending more meetings. Charles Jones has worked so hard to plan programs that are interesting and educational, and I hope you will take advantage of the variety of events.

Soon it will be time to plan for the annual election of officers and board members. Please resolve to step forward and offer to run for office. Contact me if you are willing to serve.

How many of you have made a resolution to contribute to the Annual Fund each year? Your donations supplement your dues, which pay for less than 60% of AGO's budget. This year my donation will be in memory of my superb teacher, Robert Glasgow, at the University of Michigan, who died a few months ago. Is there someone who inspired you as an organist? Perhaps you might consider sending in a donation in any amount to honor that person (living or deceased). Your name will be in the November TAO, along with the person you honor.

Here's another resolution to consider: annual gifts to the AGO Endowment Fund. The income from the Endowment is used to further the many projects of AGO. Did you know that a gift of \$10,000 will establish a scholarship in your name. What a beautiful way to assure the future of our profession. You might contribute \$1,000 per year for ten years, or some formula like that. Contact me if you would be interested in this avenue to provide scholarships.

Finally, please consider joining the Clarence Dickinson Society by making provisions to leave a portion of your estate to AGO. This gift need not be large; a small percentage of each of our estates would add up to funds for many programs. Think about leaving a percentage of your IRA, or TSA, or 401(k), or insurance policy. Thanks for that resolution!

Happy New Year to everyone!

**Barbara Adler, Dean**



