

# OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026



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## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

### **Term Expires 2026**

Dr. James Calhoun

Abraham Fabella

Mark Husey

### **Term Expires 2027**

Dr. Zach Neufeld

Dr. Joseph Simms

Mike Wilson

### **Term Expires 2028**

Dr. Michelle Kardos

Russ Litchfield

Dr. Haesung Park

## LOS ANGELES CHAPTER PROGRAMS 2025 – 2026

Wishing you all a happy, relaxing, and refreshing summer, and looking forward to seeing you all at our first event in October!"

Sean

### **Monday, October 27, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.**

#### **HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR**

First United Methodist Church

1008 11th St., Santa Monica

Social Hour 6:15 p.m. – Dinner 6:45 p.m.

### **Monday, November 17, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.**

#### **HYMN FESTIVAL:**

#### **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

First Friends Church

13205 Philadelphia St., Whittier

Social Hour 6:15 p.m. – Dinner 6:45 p.m.

### **Monday, December 8, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.**

#### **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1757 North Lake Ave., Pasadena

Social Hour 6:15 p.m. – Dinner 6:45 p.m.

### **Monday, January 26, 2026 – 8:00 p.m.**

#### **THE FRENCH CONNECTION: ORGAN WORKS BY FRENCH COMPOSERS**

Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Community

10750 Ohio Ave., Los Angeles

Social Hour 6:15 p.m. – Dinner 6:45 p.m.

### **Monday, February 16, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

#### **PRESIDENTS' DAY ORGAN FESTIVAL**

Woodland Hills and Thousand Oaks

St. Mel Catholic Church

20870 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills

Ascension Lutheran Church

1600 E Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks

Samuelson Chapel, CLU

165 Chapel Ln., Thousand Oaks

### **Saturday March 14, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

#### **EDUCATIONAL EVENT:**

#### **HYMNODY AND IMPROVISATION**

#### **FEATURING BRUCE NESWICK**

Covenant Presbyterian Church

607 East Third St., Long Beach

Lecture 10:00 a.m. – Lunch 12:00 noon

Recital at 1:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, May 2, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.**

#### **THE ORGAN IN COLLABORATION:**

#### **ORGAN AND ORCHESTRA**

#### **FEATURING TIMOTHY HOWARD**

Pasadena Presbyterian Church

585 East Colorado Blvd., Pasadena

Social Hour 6:00 p.m. – Dinner 6:30 pm

### **Sunday, May 24, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

#### **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

#### **FEATURING DAVID HIGGS**

Memorial Chapel

University of Redlands

1200 East Colton Ave., Redlands

Social Hour 4:15 p.m. – Dinner 5:00 p.m.

# Thank You

We, and all of Los Angeles Chapter, thank you, Peter Fennema, for publishing the chapter newsletter for the past three years. Peter will continue producing our chapter website.

Now— for the newsletter- Bill's back!!!

## OUR AGO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIRECTORY IS COMING SOON

AGO National no longer collects job/position information. If you have changed any of your information this year, please text/email directly to [mistmedia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mistmedia@sbcglobal.net)

In order to be included in the 2025-2026 AGO Southern California Directory with your correct information, you must have an active membership and correct personal information at the national AGO website.

Please visit the national AGO website [AGOHQ.com](http://AGOHQ.com) to renew your membership (if due) and review and update your information.

In the world today working on our AGO Southern California Directory is a specially challenging event. In the past years we have put the book together in a much easier way. The "ONCARD" program we had access to from the National Organization, enabled us to get the information we included in the book. This year however ONCARD is gone, it has been replaced with "iMIS", which is a much more difficult program to access and more difficult to get the information we need.

One of the more interesting items I found was in the listing of an individual I have known for many years who had the label as "Mr." I have always thought he held a "PhD" degree. In other words, put your desired prefix in the name column of the iMIS file.

Due to the issues with iMIS we are not able to access your college degree or your job information. Especially if you are a new member, sending us your information and including a picture would be really cool.

[mistmedia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mistmedia@sbcglobal.net)

## LOS ANGELES PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER NEWS

Sunday, June 21 - Saturday, June 27, 2026

Visit our website: [poela2026.org](http://poela2026.org)

Fifty youth ages 9-18 years signed up for and attended a Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza event at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, on Tuesday, July 22. LA Chapter members Peter Bates and Joseph Simms hosted three different, successive youth working groups who assembled the LA Chapter's Orgelkids working pipe organ kit to the level where the organ--with its bellows, keyboard, and pipes--produced real organ music.

One young lady asked specifically about the purpose of the bellows. She received a brief demonstration where the bellows produced wind. Dr. Simms explained that an organ pipe needs wind to speak, just as one must blow wind through a flute or clarinet in the orchestra to make sounds.



At the invitation from David Ball, Christ Cathedral's Music Director, Joseph Simms as Director of the LA POE, highlighted events planned for next summer's POE. Several students and a few parents received POE brochures and some youngsters said they would not yet be 13 years old, but knew siblings, friends, and others with intermediate to advanced piano skills, or those already taking organ lessons.



### Overview of the 2026 POE Schedule

After breakfast each morning, screened volunteer drivers will each take two students to their assigned church organ lesson sites, ten churches in all. Near the noon hour each day we will eat lunch at the Cathedral Center. Ten adult drivers and six adult chaperones will be needed from our LA AGO Chapter members.

On most afternoons, we will visit various churches and other sites for open console opportunities for the students to play prominent Los Angeles Area pipe organs. These will include Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles, First Congregational Church, a wondrous set of over 150 sample registrations from organs all over the world in an elegant private home, Occidental College Herrick Chapel, and the large concert-voiced instrument at Walt Disney Concert Hall which is home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

On Thursday afternoon we will visit a car museum which has a huge collection of large, working music boxes, an expanded range Bösendorfer concert grand piano, and a large theater organ. Los Angeles organists will play recitals on most other evenings.

On Thursday evening we will attend an orchestral concert at world-famous Hollywood Bowl. And Friday holds a practice time on a large instrument leading up to Saturday morning's POE student recital.

## LOOKING TO OBTAIN or LOOKING TO DONATE ORGAN SCORES

[www.organlibrary.org/music-sales](http://www.organlibrary.org/music-sales)

The Organ Library of the Boston Chapter AGO is located at the School of Theology on the campus of Boston University. The Organ Library is a repository of music written or transcribed for the pipe organ, as well as books pertaining to the history of organ music and organ performance. It also includes the archives and papers of notable concert organists.

Donations of music and books inevitably contain duplicate copies of items already present in the Library's holdings. These are sold at modest prices (plus postage) as a service to the organ community. All proceeds are used to support the mission of the Organ Library.

See the above website for the listing of available scores.

To place an order, please send an e-mail to [orglib@bu.edu](mailto:orglib@bu.edu). Please copy and paste the listing for each piece you wish to order, one item per line, and please be sure to include your mailing address. Please remember that this is used music; the condition of the score is reflected in the price. We regret that returns cannot be accepted.

Every effort is made to keep the list of available music up-to-date, but items are sold on a first-come, first-served basis; some pieces may no longer be available when your order is received.

You will be informed of the total cost of the music + shipping. Our preferred payment method is Paypal, to [orglib@bu.edu](mailto:orglib@bu.edu). A Paypal invoice will be sent when your order is ready. Domestic orders may also be paid by check payable to The AGO Organ Library, and the payment address will be provided via email if necessary. Monetary donations may also be made via Paypal, again to [orglib@bu.edu](mailto:orglib@bu.edu)

**JOIN US ON MONDAY, AUG. 18 AT 7 P.M. ET / 4 P.M. PT FOR A SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING ABOUT THE TRIP. LEARN ABOUT THE INSTRUMENTS, CHURCHES, AND OTHER DESTINATIONS, AND TOUR LEADERS WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS LIVE.**



**Hear and Play the Great  
Organs of the Netherlands**

**8-Day Study Tour**

**AMSTERDAM**

**February 22 - March 2, 2026**

With Russell Weismann, DMA, AAGO, Councillor for Education  
and Michelle Kardos, DMA, CAGO, Director of Education

Travel arrangements facilitated by  
**Peter's Way Tours**

## Dear AGO Members, *Message From National*

I am pleased to share more details about the AGO's inaugural Organ Study Tour to the Netherlands, taking place Feb. 22 – March 2, 2026. This exciting new initiative invites members to experience the country's rich and varied organ culture through guided visits, demonstrations, and opportunities to play some of the most significant historic instruments in the region.

Over the course of the week, we will visit a remarkable collection of organs representing a wide span of stylistic and historical periods, including Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces as well as instruments shaped by French symphonic and Romantic traditions. Notable highlights include Arp Schnitger's 1691 organ in the Martinikerk in Groningen and the 1738 Müller organ at the St.-Bavokerk in Haarlem. At each stop, local musicians will greet us with live demonstrations and offer insights into the instruments' history, construction, and musical significance.

In addition to guided tours and presentations, participants will have the unique opportunity to play several of the featured instruments, making this a hands-on, immersive experience that combines learning with performance.

We will also visit Orgelpark in Amsterdam, an international concert venue known for its exceptional collection of pipe organs from various eras and for its pioneering work in modern organ technology. A behind-the-scenes tour of Flentrop Orgelbouw, the renowned Dutch organ-building firm, will further enhance our understanding of the craftsmanship behind these majestic instruments.

Participants will follow along with a printed guidebook, which includes detailed information about the instruments, builders, and churches featured on the tour. This will serve as both a helpful reference during the journey and a souvenir keepsake afterward.

The tour will be based in Amsterdam, with time set aside for personal exploration of the city's museums, neighborhoods, and cuisine. Our travel partner, Peter's Way Tours, is coordinating hotel accommodations, local transportation, and a knowledgeable guide who will accompany us throughout the week. Please note that walking is an essential part of the tour, especially when visiting historic churches located along narrow streets that are not accessible by bus.

Registration is now open, and space is limited. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the Netherlands through the lens and sound of its magnificent organ heritage. The deadline to register is Sept. 1, 2025.

Plan to join us on Monday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT for a special live Zoom presentation. Director of Education Michelle Kardos and I will discuss the itinerary and instruments, and answer any questions you may still have about the trip. [Click Here to Register and Join The Zoom Meeting](#)

I hope you'll consider joining us for this unforgettable experience.

Sincerely,

Russell Weismann, DMA, AAGO

Councillor for Education [education@AGOhq.org](mailto:education@AGOhq.org)

**Constance Evelyn Telfer Grisham****December 29, 1940 – May 11, 2025**

Connie Grisham passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 11, 2025, in Lafayette, California. Born Constance Evelyn Telfer to Ralph and Evelyn Telfer, Connie grew up on a farm in Lafayette, Indiana, where she first discovered her lifelong love of music. A talented pianist and organist from a young age, she pursued her passion through her studies at the University of Evansville, Cal State Northridge, and Occidental College.

It was at the University of Evanville where she met her future husband and father of her children. In 1961, Connie moved to California, where she was soon married and began raising her family. She was the proud mother of three children: Geoffrey, Genesa, and Sherry. Connie dedicated over 40 years of her life to music, most notably as the organist and Director of Music at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Northridge and St. George's

Episcopal Church in La Cañada, California. Her work there was not only a career but a calling—one that enriched the spiritual and artistic lives of many. It was through this community that she met her beloved life partner, David Rennels, who joined the choir and shared in her deep love of music.

She was also a devoted member of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Guild of Organists, serving in various leadership roles. Beyond music, Connie was a passionate supporter of the arts, a curious and adventurous traveler, and a gifted cook who brought people together through her hospitality and warmth.

She is survived by her daughters Genesa Wagoner and Sherry Grisham; her cherished grandchildren Jasper Wagoner, Maya Wagoner, Violet Reed, and Estella Reed; and by the many friends, musicians, and parishioners whose lives she touched with grace, creativity, and compassion.

Connie's life was a beautiful composition of family, art, love, and spirituality. She will be deeply missed and joyfully remembered. In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations in Connie's memory to a fund she created to support a cause deeply important to her: Geoffrey Grisham Bipolar Disorder Research Fund.

**Thanks to the Newsletter Team**

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Sean Coburn O'Neal, owner

## American Guild of Organists Southern California Directory 2025 - 2026



for the Chapters of

Central Coast Kern County Long Beach  
Los Angeles Orange County Palomar  
San Diego Ventura County

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# AGO CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES, LONG BEACH, AND ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
*As of August 14, 2025*



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## **SAT AUG 16, 2025**

**7:30pm - 10pm Nick Galinaitis, Pianist and Organist**

**Description:** Nick Galinaitis plays masterworks on the Steinway grand piano and on the Hauptwerk virtual pipe organs. **Where:** Stan's Music Parlor - mid-city LA address provided via Eventbrite registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n6bu349>

Cost: Donation to musician.

## **SUN NOV 23, 2025**

**4pm - 5pm Carey Robertson, Organist**

**Description:** Celebrating Dr. Robertson's 35th year as the principle organist at the CUCC. Glatter-Goetz/Rosales organ. Laughter and drama unfold in a lively work for organ and narrator, while the ethereal fusion of organ and tape blurs the line between the real and the other worldly. \$35 adults/\$25 seniors/\$10 students, children are free.

**Where:** Claremont United Church of Christ 233 W Harrison Ave, Claremont, CA 91711.