



Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter American Guild of Organists June 2021

Email: northernnjago@yahoo.com **Web:** northernnjago.org **YouTube:** [northernnjago](https://www.youtube.com/northernnjago)
Facebook: [Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists](https://www.facebook.com/northernnjago) **Instagram:** [northernnjago](https://www.instagram.com/northernnjago)

Dear Members,

Last week I surprisingly took a trip down memory lane. In the late 1970s, I was hired by the Asolo Opera in Sarasota, Florida to accompany for four opera productions. The professional singers and I traveled from New York to perform a seven-week engagement. My "husband to be" was master electrician for that theater which, in addition to the seven weeks of opera, was residence to an acting company for the remainder of the year. I subsequently worked five winter opera seasons there as assistant conductor/conductor. It was explained to me at that time that the tiny Asolo theater was originally in the town of Asolo, Italy. During one of his European trips, John Ringling saw the original Asolo Theater and learned it was going to be torn down. He subsequently brought the interior of the theater back to Florida, and eventually a building was built to house it. In the 1960s Florida State University starting using the theater for its own productions.

Imagine my surprise when I opened the June edition of TAO Magazine and saw the huge spread of the John Ringling property, museum, and house. What I was not aware of was John Ringling's interest and love for the organ and art. He and several of his brothers secured a reed organ to carry on their travels of their show which at that time was named "Carnival of Fun." And of course later, the John Ringling Circus became nationally known. But more amazing than that, three of the brothers bought organs for their homes! I imagine many of us have not been able to do that.

I don't know where time has gone. This year my husband and I will be celebrating our fortieth wedding anniversary. I remember our Asolo years like it was yesterday and I am still learning about pipe organ history. If you haven't had a chance to read the article "Ringlings' Organs," I encourage you to do so. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful summer, and hope you listen to as many live performances as possible, organ and otherwise! And if you ever get to Sarasota, I heartily recommend a tour of the John Ringling house, Museum of Art, the Circus Museum, and the new Asolo State Theater. They are all extremely impressive!

Sincerely, June Marano-Murray

Our JUNE Meeting

MONDAY June 14, 2021 6:00pm

**MEET OUR ORGELKIDS KIT!
OLD PARAMUS REFORMED CHURCH
660 E GLEN AVE., RIDGEWOOD**

We're back live! Join us as we gather in person for our last meeting of the year. It will be SOOO good to sit and enjoy each other's company.



PICNIC PLANS: As we did a year ago (the last time we were live/in person) we will be gathering "in the pines" picnic area adjacent to OPRC's sanctuary. Bring your own dinner and drink. Tables will be provided, and chairs will be available for those who choose not to bring their own foldable chair.

In the case of rain, we will move into the Sanctuary. In this case we ask that you bring a "sealable container" for your drink in order to avoid spills. We will follow CDC guidelines, which means masks for those who are not vaccinated.

OUR PROGRAM: The **Orgelkids Kit Committee** will present our Chapter's latest investment. You will be able to see us put this wonderful instrument together. We will also give a brief review of our plans to let our members borrow this instrument for use in their own churches.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

Executive Board Meeting: Monday, June 21 at 7:00 P.M., Location TBA

Add to your "substitute" list: Richard Piluso 48 Prospect Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502 914 - 433 - 0806
pilusor@aol.com

Welcome to a new member: Mr. Gordon King, MM Member Email: Gking1110@gmail.com. Gordon King has been serving Episcopal churches as musician since 1966. His latest position was with St. Johns in the Village in New York, where he retired at the end of 2020. He is a published composer of choral and organ music with GIA, Alfred, and Leupold. He is a singing member of Ember ensemble.

Electronic Organ Available: Livingston United Methodist Church in Livingston, N.J. is in the process of disposing of a CONN RHAPSODY ORGAN. Model 628. No charge. For further information, contact Douglas Tarr at douglastarr251@gmail.com.

Position Available: Watchung Presbyterian Church, 375 Watchung Avenue, Bloomfield NJ 07003 social media site: www.facebook.com/WPCBloomfield. For further information, including job description, please email wpcb.worship@gmail.com

Summer Institute at Shenandoah University: Here's a link to this year's conference: www.su.edu/cmi

An Editor's note: Referring to June's note, above, Jean and I just returned from Sarasota where we toured the Ringling Estate. It is fantastic in all respects. We didn't hear the organ (needs repair) but Howard's Circus Model, a 44,000-piece re-creation of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Circus, is nothing short of astounding.