



# The Coupler

The Official Magazine  
of the  
American Guild of Organists  
Washington, DC Chapter  
[www.dcago.org](http://www.dcago.org)

February 2009

## The Dean's Letter

On January 23, I presented the revised budget for the 2010 Convention to the AGO Executive Committee at our organization's headquarters in New York. I am happy to report that the budget was approved unanimously. This, of course, is an important moment, since work on contracts may now proceed. A special word of thanks to Kathleen Burger and Charles Miller for the many hours and the professional skills invested in preparing this budget!

More good news: also on January 23, AGO headquarters issued a press release about NEA funding for the Convention (See below). The Steering Committee is most grateful for this grant, and for the work of the New York AGO staff in obtaining it. Kudos to Keith Reas and Julie Evans for their heroic efforts to put the proposal together!

The local Regional Competition for Young Organists [www.agohq.org/competitions/index.html](http://www.agohq.org/competitions/index.html) will be held at 2:00 PM on February 21 at St. Paul's Lutheran on Connecticut Ave., NW, and, also this month, the DC Chapter Board will establish a Nominating Committee.

On January 14, our colleague Everett Kinsman died. His memories of church and organ music in Washington, DC went back far. It was always interesting to hear him talk about the days of old, which he loved to do, even though one could sometimes detect a tinge of sadness. He studied at CUA and was an organ student of Conrad Bernier and Paul Callaway. Everett's early professional experiences were at St. Matthew's Cathedral and at St. Patrick's. In 1949, he went to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart on the corner of 16th Street and Park Road, NW, and the twenty-two years in that stately building with its four-manual

Casavant may have been the happiest of his career. His many years at Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, Md. were the concluding chapter of close to seventy years of faithful service in the Archdiocese of Washington.

We're also saddened by the passing, a few months ago, of Al Neuman who was Director of Music at Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring from 1958 to 1994 and who was associated with Dale Music Co. for 30 years. At Christ Congregational Church, he took the choir on several international tours including trips to the New York World's Fair of 1964, EXPO '74, and to the White House; he made a number of professional recordings. During the late 70s he was organist at Washington Hebrew Congregation and was accompanist for Todd Duncan's voice studio in Washington. A published composer and accomplished performer, he was a member of ASCAP and played the piano at several local restaurants, most notably the old Tivoli Restaurant in Georgetown.

We remember them both with gratitude. *Requiescat in pace*

**Ronald Stolk, Dean**



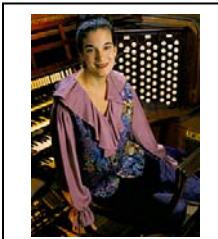
## **National Endowment for the Arts to support 2010 DC National Convention**

The American Guild of Organists has been awarded an Access to Artistic Excellence grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the commissioning and premier performances of new music at the biennial AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C., July 4–8, 2010 [www.ago2010.org](http://www.ago2010.org). The \$15,000 grant carries a mandate that it be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources. The 2009–2010 funding cycle will mark the fourth and fifth consecutive years the AGO has received funding through the NEA's Access to Artistic Excellence grant program.

The new music commissions (see below) include works for: organ solo; organ and orchestral instruments; organ and jazz ensemble; organ and chorus; two organs and chorus; organ, brass, and chorus; and a hymn. In addition to being present for the premieres of their new works, the composers will be presented in a Composers' Forum workshop at the convention.

"Since its founding in 1896, the AGO has commissioned more new works for organ and chorus than any other single organization in the world," declared AGO President Eileen Guenther (and DC AGO Chapter member). "The AGO also provides outstanding performances of these new works. It is an honor for us to be recognized by the NEA, and we are highly grateful for the grants that will enable this tradition to continue when we meet for our 2010 AGO National Convention in the Nation's Capital. The recognition by the NEA

reaffirms the importance of new music commissions to increase organ and choral repertoire available to future generations, and to increase the American public's knowledge of and appreciation for contemporary classical music. The AGO is especially interested in supporting new music for the concert stage, as there are increasing numbers of American concert halls being constructed or renewed that contain new or rebuilt organs."

- ♪ Major work for choir and brass by **Rihards Dubra** (Latvia)
  - ♪ Works for choir and organ by **James MacMillan** (Scotland) and **Leo Nestor**
  - ♪ Motets for choir and two organs by **David Hurd** (supported in part by a grant from the DC AGO Foundation)
  - ♪ Work for organ by **Gwyneth Walker** [www.gwynethwalker.com](http://www.gwynethwalker.com)
  - ♪ Work for organ and harp by **Rachel Laurin** (Canada),  
organ and instruments by **Craig Phillips**,  
organ and jazz quartet by **Dorothy Papadakos** →
- 

## **DC AGO 2010 Workshop Proposals Application Deadline – February 15, 2009**

The 2010 AGO Workshop Committee invites applications for workshop presentations for the 2010 Convention in Washington, DC. The goal is to offer a broad spectrum of educational topics of interest to the professional and semi-professional musicians which have practical application in the daily lives of the diverse Guild membership. Workshops range from 45 to 90 minutes, and applicants' presentations should demonstrate both classic and cutting-edge qualities. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, organ building/maintenance, literate and pedagogy, improvisation, recording, worship, choral music, choral reading sessions, and global music.

**Deadline for applications is February 15, 2009.** Please submit a two-page proposal, résumé, supporting materials, and audiovisual and spatial needs. Applicants whose ideas successfully fit the overall plan of the convention will be contacted by April 1, 2009. An honorarium plus hand-out copying costs will be paid. No traveling or housing costs are offered. Send applications to Dr. Donna Whited, Workshop Committee Chair, AGO 2010 Convention, 2454 Ridgehampton Court, Reston, VA 20191 or email to [workshops@AGO2010.org](mailto:workshops@AGO2010.org)



## DC AGO FOUNDATION

The DC AGO Foundation invites you to submit grant applications for the 2009-2010 season. The mission of the Foundation is to support the organ profession. Competitions for organists, scholarships for organists to pursue higher education, educational experiences and programs for organists, commissioning of new organ compositions, and the advancement of professional concerns will be considered for this coming season.

**Application forms are found at [www.dicago.org](http://www.dicago.org) and are due by March 1, 2009.** Mail them to:

Dr. Peter Latona  
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
400 Michigan Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20017-1566

For more information visit [www.dicago.org](http://www.dicago.org) or contact Peter Latona at [pjl@bnsic.org](mailto:pjl@bnsic.org) or 202-281-0618



## VERNON DE TAR COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The Delaware Chapter of the AGO sponsors the Vernon de Tar Scholarship Competition. This competition is for young organists ages 12-18, and provides scholarships to attend a summer POE of the student's choice and a cash award. **Application deadline is March 20, 2009** David Schelat, Coordinator / Vernon de Tar Scholarship Competition / Delaware Chapter, AGO / First & Central Church, / 1101 N. Market Street / Wilmington DE 19801 302-654-5371 ext 18 Email: [Schelat@fandc.org](mailto:Schelat@fandc.org) Web: [www.fandc.org](http://www.fandc.org)



## FROM THE WEB

(Not an endorsement; for informational purposes only)

Jeremy Filsell shows off the blazing reeds of the IV/157/172 Moller of 1965 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVoLxmtgnsk>

Jeffrey Smith at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, K St.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLf-rv5tMPw>



## CALENDAR

**Sunday, February 1, 5:00 PM**, Organ Recital, Prokofiev's "Peter and the wolf," transcribed and played by Theodore "Ted" S. Davis, Narration by Diane Finlayson of WYPR-FM, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 4711 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, MD Tel: 410-945-7263; [www.stbartholomew.org](http://www.stbartholomew.org)

**Sunday, February 8, 5:00 PM**, Nathan Gunn, baritone and Julie Gunn, piano, Grace Church concert series (10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season), Grace Episcopal Church, 6507 Main Street, The Plains, Virginia 20198. For further information and to purchase tickets please call Grace Church at 540-253-5177 or visit [www.gracechurch.net](http://www.gracechurch.net),



One of the most charismatic and celebrated baritones of his generation, Nathan Gunn has earned international renown for his extraordinary artistry. He received the first annual Beverly Sills Artist Award, and returned to the Metropolitan Opera last season in Roméo et Juliette (broadcast live in movie theaters around the world). Following his recent engagement as Lancelot in Camelot with the New York Philharmonic, The New York Observer said: "...whenever opera star Nathan Gunn was onstage the excitement neared the status of a mob riot." "Nathan Gunn used his beautiful baritone exquisitely in the title role, projecting innocence and goodness both vocally and visually. His youthful good looks did not hurt a bit, and his final monologue was heartbreaking...a brilliant performance." - Opera News

**Saturday, February 14, 11:00 AM**, Organ Recital Rudolf Kelber, Hamburg, Germany, St. John's Episcopal Church, 100 West Queens Way, Hampton, VA 23669. This concert is sponsored by the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. A suggested donation of \$15 will be received at the door, to cover expenses. [www.stjohnshampton.org](http://www.stjohnshampton.org)

**Sunday, February 15, 4:00 PM**, Beau Soir Ensemble, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, DC, 20015, Tel. 202-363-2202. Bring your Valentine to experience this exquisite duo featuring flutist, Lauren Panfili, and harpist, Michelle Lundy. With discussions about the composers and origins of the music, the artists give listeners a new perspective on the music. [www.chevyCHASEpc.org](http://www.chevyCHASEpc.org)

**Sunday, February 15**, DC AGO 2010 Workshop Proposals Application Deadline (see below)

**Sunday, February 15, 6:00 PM**, Organ recital with Richard K. Fitzgerald, Church of the Resurrection RC, Burtonsville, MD [www.resurrectionadw.org](http://www.resurrectionadw.org) (one of a series of inaugural recitals dedicating the 100 'rank' Walker Technical Company Digital Organ)

**Sunday, February 16, 2:00 PM**, Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Choral Festival, Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Dr. Gary Schwartzhoff, festival artistic director, McLean Youth Orchestra. Pauline (Tina) Anderson, director, in celebration of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, Music Celebrations International presents a 350-voice festival chorus in a stirring musical tribute to the time, legacy, and words of our sixteenth President. [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

**Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm** – Lecture by R. Larry Todd, “Reflections on the Mendelssohn Bicentenary” Library of Congress, Whittall Pavilion (no tickets required). Hailed in the *New York Times* as “the dean of Mendelssohn scholars in the United States,” R. Larry Todd is the author of *Mendelssohn: A Life in Music* (2003), the most up-to-date biography of the composer whose 200th birth anniversary occurs in 2009. A professor of musicology at Duke University, Dr. Todd shares his insights on the Mendelssohn reception in the 19th and 20th centuries, and how different composers responded to his music. Contact: (202) 707-5502

**Thursday, February 19, 8:00 PM**, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop, conductor, Saint-Saens' "Organ" Symphony; Ives' The Unanswered Question; Mozart's Symphony No. 29; The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD 20852-3385 [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

**Friday, February 20, 8:00 PM**. Henry Sgrecci, Director of the Bells of Blessed Sacrament, will conduct the Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra. The program will include Beethoven's Triple Concerto with *Triptych* as soloists, the Concerto for Organ and Strings by Francis Poulenc with organist Ann Carney and Cantata 51 by Bach with soprano Anastasia Robinson. Free-will offering. Blessed Sacrament RC Church, 1427 West Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA [www.blessedsacramentcc.org](http://www.blessedsacramentcc.org)

**Saturday, February 21, 2:00 PM**, AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Aline Otten, host), 4900 Connecticut Ave NW, DC

**Sunday, February 22, 4:00 PM**, Organ Recital by Victoria Shields, Minister of Music. Music by Bach, Conte, Dupre, Paulus and Widor, Washington Street UMC, 115 S. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314 [www.wsumc.com](http://www.wsumc.com)

**Sunday, February 22, 4:00 PM**, Master Chorale, "American a cappella," a concert of American music for unaccompanied voices, featuring Copland's "In the Beginning", and music of Eric Whitacre. For tickets and information call 202-467-4600 or [www.masterchorale.org](http://www.masterchorale.org) Contact: Master Chorale 202-467-4600 [singing@masterchorale.org](mailto:singing@masterchorale.org)



**Sunday, February 22. 5:15 PM**, Cathedral organist Scott Dettra plays a free recital (music of Willan, Howells, Vaughan Williams, Walton, and Brewer). Washington National Cathedral [www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

**Sunday, February 22, 8:00 PM**, "Music for the Cathedral," The Fairfax Choral Society Adult Chorus, and the Washington Symphonic Brass with Paul Skevington, Organist, St. Thomas More Cathedral, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA 22203, Tel.: 703-524-2815, [www.cathedralstm.org](http://www.cathedralstm.org)

**Wednesday, February 25 – DEADLINE** – March 2009 Coupler (Send info to [rsaladini@gmail.com](mailto:rsaladini@gmail.com))

**Sunday, February 27, 8:00 PM**, Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, Library of Congress, Coolidge Auditorium, Ground floor, Thomas Jefferson building, The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh is the city's largest choral group and the city's oldest continuously running cultural organization. In celebration of the anniversaries of Handel, Haydn, and Mendelssohn, and its own centennial, the choir performs Mendelssohn's Psalm 55, *Sechs Spruche*, op. 79, in addition to works by Haydn and Handel. Tickets required. Contact: 202-707-5502

**Sunday, March 1**, DC AGO FOUNDATION - grant application deadline [www.dicago.org](http://www.dicago.org)

**Sunday, March 1, 4:00 PM**, Piano recital, Thomas Pandolfi, music by Liszt, Chopin, Gershwin, First Baptist Church, 1328 16<sup>th</sup> St NW, DC. FREE [www.firstbaptistdc.org](http://www.firstbaptistdc.org)

**Sunday, March 1, 4:40 PM**, Organ Recital and Choral Evensong, Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314, tel. 703-778-4929 Organ recital by David Davies, Organist at Guildford Cathedral (UK) followed by 5:00 Choral Evensong sung by the Christ Church Choir. The service will include the G Major canticles by Herbert Howells, and works by Craig Phillips. A wine and cheese reception will follow. All are welcomed. [www.historicchristchurch.org](http://www.historicchristchurch.org)

**Sunday, March 1, 5:00 PM**, Choral Evensong and Organ Recital with Thomas Smith, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland, Tel: 301-229-3770, [www.redeemberbethesda.org](http://www.redeemberbethesda.org)

**Sunday, March 1, 6:30 PM**, Lenten Procession, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21210, 410-464-4020. The choir of St. John's Church Huntingdon under the direction of Mr. Thomas Hetrick, will perform works celebrating the Season of Lent, beginning in the Narthex of the Cathedral, continuing the Lenten journey to the Sanctuary, and finally proceeding to the steps of the high altar of the magnificent Cathedral. FREE (free-will offering) [www.cathedralofmary.org](http://www.cathedralofmary.org)

**Saturday, March 7, 8 PM**, Chantry [www.chantrydc.com](http://www.chantrydc.com) in concert, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2430 K St. NW, Foggy Bottom metro

**Sunday, March 8, 6 PM**, Chantry [www.chantrydc.com](http://www.chantrydc.com) in concert, St. Bernadette RC Church, 70 University Blvd., East, Silver Spring, MD, Orlando Gibbons, Complete *First Service* "Verse" and "full" anthems

**Sunday, March 15, 2:00-7:00 PM**, 32nd Annual Bach Marathon, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, DC, 20015, Tel. 202-363-2202. A Washington institution, ten organists will feature the music of J.S. Bach in half hour programs each on the magnificent 3-manual, 50-rank, 2,500-pipe glass-encased Rieger tracker pipe organ. Come when you can; leave when you must; and fill your soul. The theme of this year's program is Bach's transcriptions. [www.chevychasepc.org](http://www.chevychasepc.org)

**Saturday, March 21, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM**, J.S. Bach Pipe Organ Marathon, National City Christian Church, Thomas Circle, DC. Each hour, from 10:00am until 8:00pm, will feature a 50-minute-long organ recital composed of J.S. Bach's toccatas, preludes, fugues, trio sonatas and choral preludes. National City Christian Church's Minister of Music and Organist, Charles Miller, will perform eight out of the ten recitals on the church's 7,000-pipe Möller organ. One of these recitals will feature American University flute professor, Jonathan Baumgarten, in Bach's Six Sonatas for Flute and organ continuo. The remaining two recitals will be performed by 17-year-old Oliver Wolcott, an American Guild of Organists competition winner, resident of Charlottesville, Virginia, and one of the rising stars of the pipe organ world. FREE (free-will offering). For more information: Charles Miller at [cmiller@nationalcitycc.org](mailto:cmiller@nationalcitycc.org) or 202-797-0103, [www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org)

**March 22, 3:00 PM**, Washington Bach Consort, J. Reilley Lewis, conductor, presents J.S. Bach "The Great Organ Mass," National Presbyterian church. See [www.bachconsort.org](http://www.bachconsort.org)

**Sunday, March 22, 3:00 PM**, The Trinity Chamber Orchestra of Washington, Richard Fazio, Conductor, (Leonore Overture - No. 1 Ludwig van Beethoven; Romance for Strings - Gerald Finzi; Pastoral Suite - Lars-Erik Larsson; featuring Stone Ridge Junior Chorus - Nancy Fazio, Director; Young Artists, Caravita Pape-Calabrese, Pianist) St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church Wisconsin Avenue at Tenley Circle, NW, DC 20016, Tel. 202-966-6288 Tenleytown/AU Metro, [www.stanndc.org](http://www.stanndc.org)

**Sunday, March 22, 5:15 PM**, Cathedral organist Christopher Jacobson plays a free recital [www.nationalcathedral.com](http://www.nationalcathedral.com)



**Sunday, March 22, 5:30 PM**, Cathedral Choir Concert, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, [www.cathedralofmary.org](http://www.cathedralofmary.org), 5200 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21210, 410-464-4020 . The Cathedral Choir will perform the *Requiem* by Herbert Howells under the direction of Mr. Daniel J. Sansone and sacred choral works celebrating the season of Lent.

**Sunday, March 22, 6:00 PM**, Organ recital with Stephen Harouff, Church of the Resurrection, [www.resurrectionadw.org](http://www.resurrectionadw.org), Burtonsville, MD (one of a series of inaugural recitals dedicating the 100 'rank' Walker Technical Company Digital Organ)



## **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
(none at this time)

### **SUBURBAN MARYLAND**

Listed 12/10/08

**ORGANIST / CHOIR DIRECTOR** – Avail. March 1, 2009

St John's Episcopal Church (average Sunday attendance: 175-200)

3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd, Olney, MD 20832; Phone: 301-774-6999

Direct one adult choir. Position averages 12-15 hrs/week; 2-manual pipe instrument  
Salary: AGO scale; 4 weeks' paid vacation, 2 weeks' continuing education.

Book/music allowance and continuing ed. fund. "St John's is a suburban congregation with a K-8 school and three small services on Sundays since the 1842 building and worship spaces are small. Music to be provided for the 9 and 11 a.m. services – the 9 o'clock is an abbreviated Rite-II Eucharist with youth involvement; the 11 o'clock is a standard Rite-II Eucharist with an adult choir of a dozen or so that rehearses on Thurs. evenings plus Sunday a.m. warm-up."

### **NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

Listed 10/31/08

**ORGANIST** – Avail. January 1, 2009

Mt Vernon United Methodist Church (200 active members)

2006 Belle View Blvd. Alexandria, VA 22307; Phone: 703-765-1100, fax: 703-765-1101

Two svcs/week, choir rehearsal Wed. eve; avg. hrs/week: 8-10

3-manual Allen electronic organ; Annual salary: \$11,000; 4 weeks' paid vacation.

“Mt Vernon UMC enjoys a variety of music styles in worship from classical to contemporary. Organist works with the Music Director and occasionally with the Sacred Dance group director. Please send a resume by mail, fax or e-mail to mvumc.office1@verizon.net.”

Listed 10/31/08

**ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST/PIANIST** – Avail. January 1, 2009

Fairfax Presbyterian Church (700 members)

10723 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22030 703-273-5300

Contact - Att'n: Worship Ministry, or e-mail resume to smmerc2@verizon.net

To accompany Adult, Children and youth/Teen choirs, avg. 16.5 hrs/week

Organ: Gress-Miles III/34, 47 stops; electronic and acoustic pianos.

Annual salary to \$25,000 (3+ years' experience, Bachelor's in Music, Master's preferred)

Continuing ed. fund avail. “FPC is seeking part-time Org./Accomp./Pianist to accompany or perform solo with its music ministry staff and volunteers during worship and rehearsals of the Sanctuary, Carol, Teen, Chapel and Bell Choirs, Instrumental Ensemble and (if needed) its Youth Choir and Praise Band. Two services/Sunday and 3-4 special services such as Christmas Eve. The candidate should have formal training in organ/piano performance in both traditional & contemporary genres as well as encouraging spiritual growth & fellowship in participants. Position reports to the Director of Music.”

11/24/08

**ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR** – Avail. per negotiation

Fairfax Presbyterian Church (700 members)

10723 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22033 703-273-5300

To direct two (2) children's choirs and one teen/youth Praise Band, avg. 15 hrs/week

Annual salary to \$25,000 (3+ years' experience, with BA in Music or higher degree)

Continuing Ed. fund avail. “FPC is passionate about its music program for all ages and is seeking a part-time Assoc. Director for children & youth music ministry. This Associate should have formal training in choral directing and will report to the Director of Music. He/she will direct the three choirs in both traditional and contemporary music in a friendly & loving environment, encouraging spiritual growth & fellowship among participants. Please send applications to FPC attn: Worship Ministry or e-mail to smmerc2@verizon.net.”

12/12/08

**ORGANIST** – Avail. immediately

John Calvin Presbyterian Church (200 ASA)

6531 Columbia Pike; Annandale, VA 22003; 703-256-3644

10 hrs/week. 3-manual Rodgers Oxford 925 (age 15 yrs); Kawai grand piano

Salary range \$13,000-16,000; 2 weeks' paid vacation, 2 weeks' sick leave, continuing-ed. fund (\$250). “We are a vibrant, mid-sized, mission-committed congregation. Our worship services are basically traditional-classical, using some Hal Hopson, K. Lee Scott, Jane Marshall and similar literature. Our Sanctuary Choir numbers 15-20 singers, using SATB, SAB, 2-part & unison anthems; emphasis is not just on singing technically well, but making

our music beautiful and inspirational. We frequently have our youth provide special vocal/instrumental music in the services, either alone or with the adult choir. Beautiful, well-played organ music and accompaniments are critical to our music program and services.”



**American Guild of Organists  
Washington, DC Chapter  
Officers and Committees, 2008-2009**

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**Deadline for the March 2009 issue of *The Coupler* is February 25, 2009. Send your information to [rsaladini@gmail.com](mailto:rsaladini@gmail.com)**