



# EN CHAMADE



## Winchester Chapter American Guild of Organists

### February 2021 Newsletter

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Ms. Emily Bentgen  
[ebentgen@mac.com](mailto:ebentgen@mac.com)  
[winchesterago.com](http://winchesterago.com)

## THE DEAN'S MUSINGS



*Photo: Linda Beville*

### Season of Faith and Hope

I get easily caught in the push/pull of life's celebrations; the self-imposed demands of driving through projects and then complaining about the lack of time for other important things. I thought of the typical seasons that our culture will celebrate next month. February has Valentine's Day, President's Day and, should you be a devoted Punxsutawney Phil fan, Groundhog's Day. And, some of us will have birthdays and anniversaries. But our profession

as church musicians requires our attention to the Liturgical Church Year as well. That is why we had such a joyful January meeting celebrating the Epiphany. As we observe the lengthening of the daylight, we read, plan and practice our musical choices that prepare us for Easter. That season of preparation is LENT, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17.

In the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, the push/pull in all our lives is more acute: creativity vs. a bit of fear. I felt like this during a church staff meeting where we were excitedly designing offerings for Lent. My rector asked that I plan several new Lenten programs for online posting. A request has been made by several parishioners to join in the musical part of the service (masked, socially distanced and within an extremely small number of people). Great! However, we are very limited in internet capacity, we are no technicians (most of us hate the complexity of technology) and we have come to discover that the gorgeous virtual choir had many, many long hours in production and a bunch of guidelines to make it come together. I share this because I expect you have experienced much of this, too. We are colleagues in life's lessons as well as vocations.

So I escaped one very early morning to Sky Meadows State Park to take some pictures of the dawning day. It was really cold! Even the critters hadn't stirred. This was a push/pull activity that grounded me—especially thinking of my Lenten practices. I created a space free for me to be present in wonder.

Our Chapter is preparing two important outreach activities for February and May. For March and June we will have several very contrasting programs. There will be no meeting in April. In brief:

- February: A group of members will meet to prepare a hand chime video recorded program of favorite hymns as a Lenten offering to our various communities within our region. To be posted on YouTube.
- March: A conversation about overhauling the lines of communication within the Chapter and making better use of our web page; a shorter companion presentation about one of our area churches, its history and anecdotes including tidbits about its Music Ministry
- May: A virtual concert by composers of note who have commemorative celebrations but dedicating their works to those who have suffered from the Corona virus, those who have lost their lives or the lives of loved ones. Celebrating the lives of all our fellow citizens
- June: A program of diverse keyboard instruments: their relationships and their differences

And so, I see our work in our homes, in our churches and in our communities as a testimony of hope and our efforts given to our Chapter and its wonderful programs as an act of faith that we have done some good. Music is a great healer. As always, be safe and keep well.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

*Linda*



*Photo: Linda Beville*

*Our dear Dean proved herself to be a playwright and narrator of note at our January chapter Zoom meeting, as we witnessed an imaginative recounting of the tale wherein the Three Wise Jameses extrapolate upon their backgrounds and reasons for coming to Bethlehem, their chance meeting, and the blessings they received upon meeting the Holy Child and His parents. Our thanks indeed go to **Linda Beville** for the effort in creating this memorable Epiphany delight, to **Jim Kriewald, Jim Laster, and Jim Greene** as Wise Men, **Jim Charest** as God, **Marilyn Shenenberger** as Herod, scenery designer and costumer, and **Wendy Oesterling** as the Angel.*

*Each made a significant effort to enliven this part of the story of The Word made Manifest for us. Greatest appreciation is here given.*

*Thank you also, **Dr. Cooksey**, for your delightful reading of the most amusing parody of “The Night Before Christmas”, another gift for the ages! ☺*

*-Editor*



*Linda Beville*

*The Journal of the Musical Home Everywhere*

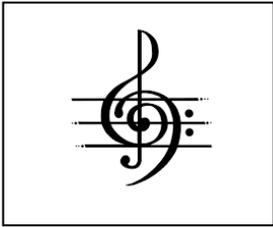


PRICE 15 CENTS

JANUARY 1930

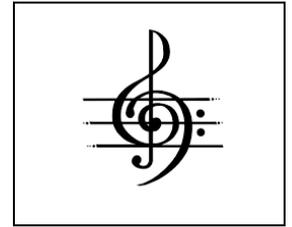
\$1.00 A YEAR

*Found by a friend in an antique store in California: January 1930 copy of The Etude magazine. Original price 15 cents; subscription \$1 per year.*



# Here's What's Coming!

## Winter & Spring, 2021



**Friday, Feb. 19**

### **ZOOM MEETING 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrate the birthdays of Corelli, Mendelssohn, and Handel with a performance by flautist Jessica **Balick** and accompanist **Terry Sisk**. See below for birthday cupcakes.

**Saturday, Feb. 20**

### **CHIMING 11:00 a.m.**

About 8 AGO members will be meeting outside at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley to ring choir chimes and sing several hymns. These and hymns from many of our member's Sunday morning online church services will comprise a 30-minute program, *Favorite Hymns*, which will be posted on our website throughout the month of March.

**Please Note:** We ran into a major roadblock with the February 20<sup>th</sup> Ring and Sing event. When we originally announced it, the plan was to ring and sing in the Braddock Street parking garage. Although the Ring and Sing series comes with only 8 books, one per ringer/singer, there would be plenty of room in the parking garage to accommodate some extra singers, if we ended up with more than 8. However, the parking authority would not give us permission, citing insurance regulations made more stringent after a rock group using the parking garage shook the building! So, we needed to find a new venue. The parking garage acoustics would have broadcast our music to anyone visiting the walking mall. But, without the resonance of the parking garage, we would need to record ourselves ringing and singing, and then share the event later on our website. This also means no yummy visit to Red Fox Creamery after!

Linda Beville was able to convince the MSV to let a small group of people come to record outside in the gardens, masked and socially distant, since we will be singing as well as ringing. Jim Moon has agreed to film this event, and it will be posted on our website for the month of March as part of a Hymn Celebration. Unfortunately, this means we cannot have additional members come to sing along.

We didn't want to leave out the rest of you, so we added a **meeting for everyone** the evening before. That way, we can all participate together in a February program. On **Friday, February 19, at 7:30**, we will **meet via Zoom** to celebrate the birthdays of Corelli, Handel and Mendelssohn. After a 5-minute biography of each composer, we will have a short selection by each of the composers performed by Jessica Balick, flautist and accompanied by Terry Sisk.

Linda has been seen consulting her recipe for cupcakes, so be sure to RSVP if you can join us for the Zoom party: [beville@verizon.net](mailto:beville@verizon.net) We're hoping the birthday cupcakes will soften the disappointment for any who were hoping to join us to ring and sing.

**Friday, March 12**  
**7:30 p.m.**

### **Terry Sisk – Simplifying our lives and WAGO Communication through Streamlined Technology**

We are working to centralize chapter communications for our members. Our goal is to expand our web page in the near future by posting a chapter calendar (for meeting dates, various deadlines and committee meetings) and links to archived newsletters and community events. We will provide advance notice of chapter meetings by way of our newsletter (Daniel at first of each month), mail chimp (Heather at a week in advance) and a final email notice 24 hours in advance (Marilyn as ZOOM meeting host). Our March chapter meeting will focus on ways to improve and streamline communications. -- Terry Sisk

**And a fascinating, but very brief history of one of our Winchester churches.**  
**Brian Kirk**, guest.

April – No Meeting

God bless your preparations for and observance of Holy Week and Easter!

Friday, May 14-  
June 14  
Continuous

**May Scholarship Belated Birthday Bash of 2020,  
featuring music of composers with significant birthdays in 2020**

Our Scholarship concert will be a memorial concert to honor those who have died from COVID as well as those who died in other circumstances and those who have died defending our nation. Our goal is to bring comfort and healing to those who remain. The title of the concert will be called “*In Memory*” and will feature performances by our members, scenes of various memorials around the country, some Bible verses and poetry.

**We are looking for pictures** from a variety of memorial sights, including beautiful cemeteries, 9-11 memorial sights, and places of worship. Any pictures you may have taken that would fit into one of our 4 categories: Weeping, Remember, Comfort, or Hope would be welcome additions. **Please email any photos** you think we might be able to use to **Marilyn Shenenberger**: [handbelle@comcast.net](mailto:handbelle@comcast.net). If you have any suggestions or questions, please call or text her at 609-502-3642. And, please pass the word to your congregations and friends.

Continued---  
June date TBA

**Other Keyboard Instruments**

The June meeting will be devoted to study of a clavichord, one-manual Flemish harpsichord, an English Bent-Side Spinnet, and a classic forte-piano. Each one of these instruments is constructed differently, and each has its own unique sound. Music from the different eras takes on a new life when performed on instruments from that specific time period. Mozart, for example, takes on a whole new life when performed on a forte-piano instead of the modern one.

A mini recital will end the program. The idea is to make the program informative and interesting. We are lucky to have working reproductive examples of all of these instruments. Plan to join us.

**And a fascinating, but very brief history of another of our Winchester churches.**



# RCYO Update

The Northern Virginia, Potomac and Winchester Chapters will host a competition on **Saturday, April 17** for the **Regional Competition for Young Organists** (RCYO). At this time, all details are still being worked out. The committee, headed by Clarice Snyder, will meet by way of zoom, very soon.

Harold Calhoun, from AGO National office, has collected and distributed applications.

Due to the pandemic, the 2021 chapter competitions will be conducted by recordings. Each of the chapter competitors will create and submit a recording with the aid of a proctor. The RCYO Committee has developed guidelines (found on the AGO website) that will help competitors and proctors create a successful recording. The winner will then advance to a regional competition, where the seven regional winners will be awarded.

At this unusual time in our history, it is always interesting to witness the creativity of our members, as they strive to recreate new methods of operation. It is exciting to have the Winchester chapter taking a part in this endeavor to support the advancement of young organists.

## **Judy Connelly**

AGO Mid-Atlantic Region  
Education Chair

## **POSITION AVAILABLE**

Job Title: Church Music Director/Accompanist  
Employer: Otterbein United Methodist Church  
Location: Hagerstown, MD  
Hours per Week: 5-15hrs

Do you enjoy contemporary Christian songs and leading classical hymns as part of modern and traditional worship services?

Otterbein United Methodist Church in Hagerstown, MD is searching for a part-time Music Director and accompanist to help lead our adult & youth choirs, handbell choirs, praise band, and ensembles during one weeknight rehearsal and Sunday morning traditional and contemporary services (8:00 and 10:30AM).

The ideal candidate will have the following experience:

Experience in choral and/or instrumental performance of church music which reflects a broad variety of musical periods and styles.

Experience supervising and facilitating the work of others.

Experience in the musical traditions of Christian church denominations

Teaching, inspiring, collaboration, and collegial approaches to working with others

Please describe your experience as a music director, leading choirs and praise bands, playing the piano and pipe organ, and accompanying ensembles. We appreciate you including the number of years of experience, type of music performances, and instruments you play.

The successful candidate shall have a passion for helping build a vibrant music program as part of the worship team. Please send your resume and cover letter to Human Resources at Otterbein United Methodist Church, 108 E Franklin Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740 or [hr@otterumc.org](mailto:hr@otterumc.org).

# **WAGO RECOGNIZED**

## **AT AGO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

*by Linda Beville*

I participated in the National AGO Leadership Winter Conference on January 24 – 26. The event had approximately 200 registered nationwide to attend this virtual workshop. The theme was “Connect, Collaborate, Create!” and each evening was divided into presentations by several of the Regional Councillors, breakout small group discussions and a wrap-up session that included a humorous skit about some wayward interpretations of AGO regulations and guidelines. The WAGO had four members in attendance: **Heather Ankerbrand, Judy Connelly, Wayne Wold** and myself.

Topics of interest included:

- Recruitment of new officers from your membership
- What do the officers actually do; an officer interview
- Planning diverse programs
- Collaborating with other chapters
- Technology-technology-technology
- Using the National web page to access video programs and chapter resources

The event was planned by **Elizabeth George**, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development. She is exceptional in her position. For me, the most rewarding part was the sharing in the small groups. I met members from New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, Arizona, California, Washington State and many more.

The proudest moments were when our chapter was recognized TWICE: **Wayne Wold** referred to our wonderful Lessons and Carols program as an interesting model for other chapters. I took a couple of minutes to further elaborate and mentioned our web site address. Our web master, **Emily Bentgen**, says we are still having people check out the video/audio programs!

Then, **Elizabeth George** told of her zoom visit to our September meeting that honored our retirees. She recommended it to other chapters as a very interesting program. It was also mentioned that Elizabeth publishes a Chapter Leader newsletter each month. She tries to highlight a chapter leader and a chapter member. WAGO was mentioned when she featured Dr. **Steven Cooksey** as an important and irreplaceable part of this chapter. There was a page long narrative of his longstanding involvement in the AGO Guild. And, while not mentioning WAGO particularly, **Wayne** did say he had been invited as a guest to several Mid-Atlantic Chapters to provide program material. We hosted him at our October meeting and featured his compositions.

I will write up a more extensive review for the BOARD and we can go over it at the next meeting. I am the richer for sharing in this wonderful event.

# Favorite Hymns

Choral, Choirchimes and More

Online during March  
[Winchesterago.com](http://Winchesterago.com)



Presented by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

# IN MEMORY

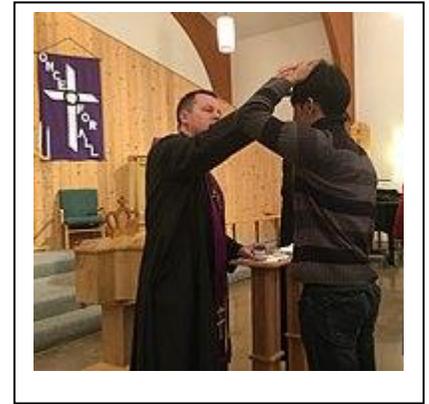
Online May 15-June 15  
[Winchesterago.com](http://Winchesterago.com)



Presented by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

# ASH WEDNESDAY

**Ash Wednesday** marks the start of a 40-day period which is an allusion to the separation of Jesus in the desert to fast and pray. During this time he was tempted. Matthew 4:1–11, Mark 1:12–13, and Luke 4:1–13.<sup>[112]</sup> While not specifically instituted in the Bible text, the 40-day period of fast and pray is also analogous to the 40 days during which Moses repented and fasted in response to the making of the Golden calf. (Exo. 34:27–28) (Jews today follow a 40-day period of repenting in preparation for and during the High Holy Days from Rosh Chodesh Elul to Yom Kippur.)



Ash Wednesday is exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday, a moveable feast based on the cycles of the moon. The earliest date Ash Wednesday can occur is 4 February (which is only possible during a common year with Easter on 22 March), which happened in 1598, 1693, 1761 and 1818 and will next occur in 2285.<sup>[110]</sup> The latest date Ash Wednesday can occur is 10 March (when Easter Day falls on 25 April) which occurred in 1666, 1734, 1886 and 1943 and will next occur in 2038.

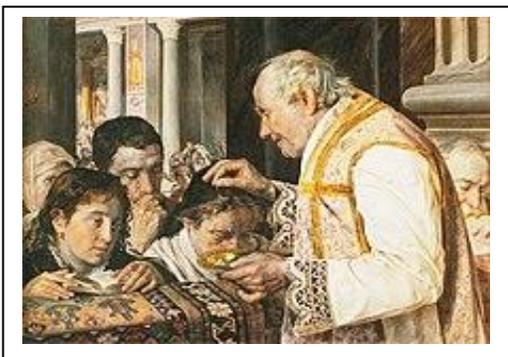
## ***Biblical significance of ashes***

Ashes were used in ancient times to express grief. When Tamar was raped by her half-brother, "she sprinkled ashes on her head, tore her robe, and with her face buried in her hands went away crying" (2 Samuel 13:19). The gesture was also used to express sorrow for sins and faults. In Job 42:5–6, Job says to God: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." The prophet Jeremiah calls for repentance by saying: "O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in the ashes" (Jer 6:26). The prophet Daniel recounted pleading to God: "I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). Just prior to the New Testament period, the rebels fighting for Jewish independence, the Maccabees, prepared for battle using ashes: "That day they fasted and wore sackcloth; they sprinkled ashes on their heads and tore their clothes" (1 Maccabees 3:47; see also 4:39).

Examples of the practice among Jews are found in several other books of the Bible, including Numbers 19:9, 19:17, Jonah 3:6, Book of Esther 4:1, and Hebrews 9:13. Jesus is quoted as speaking of the practice in Matthew 11:21 and Luke 10:13: "If the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago (sitting) in sackcloth and ashes."

## **Christian use of ashes**

*An 1881 Polish painting of a Roman Catholic priest sprinkling ashes on the heads of worshippers, the form prevailing in, for instance, Italy, Spain, and parts of Latin America*



Christians continued the practice of using ashes as an external sign of repentance. Tertullian (c. 160 – c. 225) said that confession of sin should be accompanied by lying in sackcloth and ashes. The historian Eusebius (c. 260/265 – 339/340) recounts how a repentant apostate covered himself with ashes when begging Pope Zephyrinus to readmit him to communion.

*(continued)*

John W. Fenton writes that "by the end of the 10th century, it was customary in Western Europe (but not yet in Rome) for all the faithful to receive ashes on the first day of the Lenten fast. In 1091, this custom was then ordered by Pope Urban II at the council of Benevento to be extended to the church in Rome. Not long after that, the name of the day was referred to in the liturgical books as "Feria Quarta Cinerum" (i.e., Ash Wednesday)."

The public penance that grave sinners underwent before being admitted to Holy Communion just before Easter lasted throughout Lent, on the first day of which they were sprinkled with ashes and dressed in sackcloth. When, towards the end of the first millennium, the discipline of public penance was dropped, the beginning of Lent, seen as a general penitential season, was marked by sprinkling ashes on the heads of all. This practice is found in the Gregorian Sacramentary of the late 8th century. About two centuries later, Ælfric of Eynsham, an Anglo-Saxon abbot, wrote of the rite of strewing ashes on heads at the start of Lent.

The article on Ash Wednesday in the 1911 *Encyclopædia Britannica* states that, after the Protestant Reformation, the ashes ceremony was not forbidden in the Church of England, a statement that may explain the research by Blair Meeks that the Lutheran and Anglican denominations "never lapsed in this observance". It was even prescribed under King Henry VIII in 1538 and under King Edward VI in 1550, but it fell out of use in many areas after 1600. In 1536, the Ten Articles issued by authority of Henry VIII commended "the observance of various rites and ceremonies as good and laudable, such as clerical vestments, sprinkling of holy water, bearing of candles on Candlemas-day, giving of ashes on Ash-Wednesday". After Henry's death in January 1547, Thomas Cranmer, within the same year, "procured an order from the Council to forbid the carrying of candles on Candlemas-day, and the use of ashes on Ash-Wednesday, and of palms on Palm-Sunday, as superstitious ceremonies", an order that was issued only for the ecclesiastical province of Canterbury, of which Cranmer was archbishop.

*The Church Cyclopædia* states that the "English office had adapted the very old Salisbury service for Ash-Wednesday, prefacing it with an address and a recital of the curses of Mount Ebal, and then with an exhortation uses the older service very nearly as it stood." The new Communion Office had no blessing of ashes and therefore, in England as a whole, "soon after the Reformation, the use of ashes was discontinued as a 'vain show' and Ash Wednesday then became only a day of marked solemnity, with a memorial of its original character in a reading of the curses denounced against impenitent sinners". The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in the 19th century, observed Ash Wednesday: "as a day of fasting and humiliation, wherein we are publicly to confess our sins, meekly to implore God's mercy and forgiveness, and humbly to intercede for the continuance of his favour".<sup>1</sup> In the 20th century, the Book of Common Prayer provided prayers for the imposition of ashes.

As part of the liturgical revival ushered in by the ecumenical movement, the practice was encouraged in Protestant churches, including the Methodist Church. It has also been adopted by Anabaptist and Reformed churches and some less liturgical denominations.

The Eastern Orthodox churches generally do not observe Ash Wednesday, although in recent times, the creation of the Antiochian Western Rite Vicariate has led to the observance of Ash Wednesday among Western Orthodox parishes. In this tradition, ashes "may be distributed outside of the mass or any liturgical service" although "commonly the faithful receive their ashes immediately before the Ash Wednesday mass". In Orthodoxy, historically, "serious public sinners in the East also donned sackcloth, including those who made the Great Fast a major theme of their entire lives such as hermits and desert-dwellers." Byzantine Rite Catholics, although in the United States use "the same Gregorian calendar as the Roman Catholic rite", do not practice the distribution of ashes as it is "not part of their ancient tradition".

# Shrove Tuesday

is the day before Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), observed in many Christian countries through participating in **confession and absolution**, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets.

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many

Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who "make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with." This moveable feast is determined by Easter. The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "absolve".

As this is the last day of the Christian liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations. The term *Mardi Gras* is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Many Christian congregations thus observe the day through the holding of pancake breakfasts, as well as the ringing of church bells to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, churches also burn the palms distributed during the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgies to make the ashes used during the services held on the very next day, Ash Wednesday.

In some Christian countries, especially those where the day is called *Mardi Gras* or a translation thereof, it is a carnival day, the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent.

■ *Thanks to Wikipedia!*

*Carnival in Rome circa 1850*



Pieter Bruegel the Elder: *The Fight between Carnival and Lent*, detail. 1559

# Health Update

Many of you know that **Ricky Gearhart** had a knee replaced on January 7. We are happy to state that he reports, "I really am making good progress and couldn't be more pleased at this point." He has maintained his sense of humor. Do feel free to continue/begin to pray.

## New Members

Please add the following information for recently added member **Terry Sisk**:

Terry Sisk, BM  
303 Belmont Dr SW  
Leesburg VA 20175

[terrysisk@aol.com](mailto:terrysisk@aol.com)  
c. 703-389-1978  
Substitute Organist

- Kindly note that Terry is available as a **substitute** and add him to that list on page 14 of your member directory.

Please welcome to our rolls **Steve McBride**, a dual member. Please enter the following information in your membership directory:

Steve McBride, BM, Music Ed  
4925 Olley Lane  
Fairfax, VA 22032

[smcbride@dafferorgans.com](mailto:smcbride@dafferorgans.com)  
C. 484-886-8215  
Dual Member, Northern VA Chapter

R.A. Daffer Church Organs, Inc.  
10545 Guildford Rd. Suite 106  
Jessup, MD 20794

Director of Music Ministries  
Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal)  
9350 Braddock Rd  
Burke, VA 22015





# *Smile*

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Dear Algebra: Please stop asking us to find your X. She's never coming back, and don't ask Y.

No Trespassing. We're tired of hiding the bodies.