



## ***Chiff Chat - February 2016***

### ***Dean's Message:***

Dear AGO Chapter Deans,

As part of spreading the 'good news' and getting the word out, could you kindly include the following letter in your next chapter newsletter or bulletin along with a copy of the POE brochure? It would be sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ladislaw Pfeifer, Dean & POE Director  
Springfield AGO

Dear Musical Friends,

We are united in a common purpose and a common love of the organ, it's music, and the sound of choirs singing. We also live in a time of great change when even apparently massive rocks of the landscape slide away. Some of us even worry about the future of the music we so dearly love. I want to tell you to take heart. The instrument and the music we love has a future, however, we should not be sitting idly by.

Teenagers display a natural fascination and interest when exposed to the organ. When confronted by the acoustical science of pipes, the variety of construction, and the myriad of tones, young people are captivated. Recently, a public school group visited several important music locations for an educational day. Each location put their best foot forward and was impressive, but a last minute stop to visit a pipe organ was the crowning point of that day. According to their teacher they are still talking about the organ.

I am asking you to take hope in the organ's future. I am also asking you to keep in mind that this summer there is a wonderful, eye opening opportunity to expose teenagers to the pipe organ in our region. If you know any teenager with a moderate to advanced level of piano playing,



### ***Chapter Officers:***

***Dean: Lad Pfeifer***  
***Sub-Dean: H. David Pullman***  
***Treasurer: Jim Barnes***  
***Sec.: Martha Sienkiewicz***

### ***Board of Directors:***

***Klaus Becker, PhD***  
***Michael Carney***  
***Sheila Heady***  
***The Rev. Dr. John Hooker***  
***Mary Jeanne Tash***  
***Elizabeth Zellmer***

### ***Other Volunteers:***

***Chaplain - Rev. William Wallis***  
***Telephone Committee - Don Hooton***  
***Historian - Don Hooton***  
***Professional Concerns - Becky Issacson***  
***Substitutes Website - John Anderson***  
***Webmaster - Allan Taylor***

(continued on page 2)  
Dean's mssg. continued:

encourage them to have a fun musical week discovering the "King of Instruments." Let them know that as an organist they too, like Bach and Mozart, can be a Prince or Princess among musicians. Even if you don't personally know of someone now, someone may cross your path in the next few months that would find it a life changing experience or at the very least acquire a new friend for the organ.

Recently, I wrote to Katelyn Emerson, a young woman organist with quite a professional career. She told me that she attended the POE at Smith College in 2007 and it had a tremendous influence on her. This coming summer she is giving a concert tour of France. Not every teen that attends a POE will be giving concerts in France, but many will someday be sitting on your organ bench keeping the tradition and the music you love alive. I am asking that you keep the upcoming POE in mind with the people that cross your path. You can do a lot of good encouraging someone to come and experience the sound and beauty of the organ.

I encourage you to visit [springfieldago.org](http://springfieldago.org) and click on the POE icon and see what the POE is about. The organ has a future when we tell teenagers about it. Someone you tell will be very grateful.

With sincerest thanks.

Ladislaw Pfeifer, Dean & POE Director  
Springfield, MA

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Hello! If you are still receiving your Chiff Chat through the postal service, would you consider receiving it by e-mail instead? Truly no bother for us if you love getting your Chiff Chat by snail mail. Just double checking to see if you would like changing to e-mail.

Thank you.!

## Janet Robbins Dahlberg (1927 - 2016)

### Obituary

#### [Guest Book](#)

"May the Almighty God comfort you at this time of deep..."

[View](#) [Sign](#)



NORTHAMPTON 6 Janet Robbins Dahlberg, 88, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016, at home with her family after several years of declining health. A longtime resident of Northampton, Janet was Minister of Music Emerita at First Churches of Northampton.

Janet was born July 12, 1927, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, the daughter of W. Rei and Helen Robbins. She grew up attending the Presbyterian Church and found joy and meaning in playing piano and studying sacred music. She shared this spiritual love of music with innumerable church members, friends and family during more than half a century here in Northampton.

While attending Douglass College, Rutgers University Janet began taking organ lessons. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Douglass in 1949, she taught organ and piano for one year earning money to continue her education. She then attended Union Theological Seminary, where she met her future husband, Bruce Dahlberg, while they were both students studying systematic theology with Paul Tillich. Janet and Bruce became close friends after she played organ for a service at his church in Brooklyn, and they married in 1952. Janet wrote her thesis 'Music in the Religious Development of Children' and received her Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary in 1952. She served as organist and choir director at several churches in New Jersey before moving to Northampton with Bruce and continuing her career in sacred music.

She first became organist and choir director at the old Methodist Church on Elm Street in 1957 and then at South Church in Amherst. In 1966 she began a 45 year career at First Church in Northampton. Janet was organist and choir director for 22 years at First Church of Christ, U.C.C. After First Church merged with the First Baptist Church, becoming First Churches of Northampton in 1988, she continued to share the role of Minister of Music with her dear friend Dana Pasquale. Janet retired from First Churches of Northampton in 2011, becoming Minister of Music Emerita.

Janet was tireless in creating and sharing music. She would research music for the choir during the week, direct choir practice Friday

nights, play weddings and give organ lessons on Saturdays and then play organ and direct the choir for Sunday morning rehearsals and worship services. As a member of the American Guild of Organists, Springfield Chapter, playing the 1936 E. M. Skinner and son organ at First Churches was one of her great joys. With its booming giant bass pipes and the many timbres of its soprano pipes this magnificent organ fills the large First Churches sanctuary with glorious accompaniment to the congregation, choir and the many children and other instrumentalists who create music there. On week days Janet gave piano lessons in her house to children and adults. For many years after Sunday church services she played organ at services for patients of the former Northampton State Hospital and the Northampton VA Medical Center, sharing music with people whose mental illness kept them isolated from society. Janet also played organ for graduations at Northampton High School, Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School and Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech, celebrating the graduation milestones with generations of students and their families.

In addition to her ministry of music Janet worked in community outreach. In the early 1970's, with Rev. Don Fonda of the First Baptist Church on West Street, she co-founded Decisional Training which she then coordinated for several decades. The program recruits college students and other local volunteers to work with inmates at the Hampshire County House of Correction. The training program is designed to help inmates take responsibility for actions, separate feeling from actions, set goals and make choices for the future. In the 1980's Janet trained as a supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. She then trained hospital chaplain interns for many years in the Clinical Pastoral Education program, based at the Passionist Clinical Pastoral Education Center in West Springfield, where students learned to counsel patients with long-term illnesses, cognitive disease and palliative care.

Janet had a deep, spiritual love of nature. She spent many summers at her family's old camp on Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey. She continued to return to the wilderness over decades with her family and the Robbins

clan on long canoe trips to remote rivers and lakes such as the Allagash, the Missinaibi River to James Bay and La Verendrye and Quetico Provincial parks. On these trips, she collected minerals, rocks and seedlings from throughout North America. She loved loons and found peace sitting by a camp fire listening to their eerie mournful calls echo across wilderness lakes.

Janet was Grandma to her grandchildren Erin and Megan Brasch, Jonathan and Ellen Dahlberg, Desmond, Nora and John Dahlberg and to her step-grandchildren Eric, Tyler, Michael and Mia Pariseau.. She was Aunt Janet to her nieces and nephews. She shared her love of music with the children, encouraging them to study musical instruments, play in concerts and accompany the First Churches choir. She read innumerable books and stories and played games such as Uno and Backgammon. She had a gift for truly listening and showed the children genuine warmth and unconditional love.

During her final years of illness the devoted care of her son Andy and his wife Kim made it possible for her to remain at home where she died with her family at her side. Classical music, hymns and carols were played and sung by visiting singers, a harpist and Janet's family. Recordings of loon calls echoed past wilderness canoe trips.

Janet leaves four children, Seth Dahlberg, physician, of West Boylston, James Dahlberg, attorney, of Arlington, Virginia, Judith Brasch, research nurse, of Rochester, New York, and Andrew Dahlberg, intensive care unit nurse, of Northampton; seven grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and an extended caring circle of family and friends.

She is predeceased by her only brother Allen Robbins and by her husband Bruce, Professor of Religion Emeritus at Smith College, and their first son Stephen.

Reflecting her love of education and teaching, Janet Dahlberg donated her body to the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Janet's family would like to thank the staff at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice, and Comprehensive Home Care for their dedicated care.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 18, at 11 a.m. at First Churches of Northampton, 129 Main Street.

Gifts of remembrance may be made to The Organ Fund, First Churches of Northampton, 129 Main St., Northampton, MA 01060 or to Decisional Training Volunteers Of Hampshire County, P.O. Box 65, Northampton, MA 01061.

To sign a Guest Book, express condolences, share memories and read other obituaries, go to [www.gazettenet.com/obituaries](http://www.gazettenet.com/obituaries).

Published in Daily Hampshire Gazette on Jan. 14, 2016.

## Calendar of Events 2016

### First Congregational Church



#### **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza:**

*Introducing young students to the Pipe organ.*

**April 2, 2016 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – Noon**

**First Congregational Church**  
18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA  
Scott Bailey and Allan Taylor –  
Presenters

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#### **Exultate Deo – A Festival of Choirs** Brass and Organ

**May 22, 2016 (Sunday time TBA)**  
**Christ Church Cathedral**  
35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA

*Featuring a newly commissioned  
anthem  
By Peter Stoltzfus Berton*

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## Calendar of Events

2016

### Continued:

*As Artistic Director of “The Brick Church” Music Series at **The First Church of Deerfield**, Old Deerfield, MA, and also a member of our AGO Chapter, I am submitting the performers and dates of two of our upcoming concerts:*

**“The Brick Church” Music Series** will present Dr. Thomas Pousont in concert playing Opus 13, built by Richards, Fowkes Organ Builders on **Sunday, February 28, 2016, 3:00 p.m.**, at **The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA.** Performing regularly in the U.S.A., Canada, and Europe, he is presently organist and Director of Music at **The First Church of Deerfield.** There is a reception following the concert in the Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy. Suggested Donation is \$10 at the door. For further information please call 413-774-2657.

On **Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 3:00 p.m.**, at **The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA,** “The Brick Church” Music Series will present Jooyoung Kim, pianist, a native of South Korea, acclaimed on international stages for her dazzling technique and superb musicianship. Currently, Dr. Kim serves as Adjunct Piano Professor at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. She will play works of J. S. Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. There will be a reception following the concert at the Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door. For further information please call 413-774-2657.

# THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER PRESENTS:

Mini-Convention XVIII Saturday, February 27, 2016 Sponsored by THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER, A.G.O. Mini-Convention No. 18 is coming soon, and we look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and some new ones too, so invite a friend, student, or the new organist in town. We have another interesting and varied lineup for you again this year, based on suggestions by former attendees and our chapter members. Choral and organ music from ECS and Morning Star will be on sale. Attendees are welcome to also bring pre-owned music, books and CDs for our Scholarship Fund flea market table. The Party Connection of Methuen will again be providing a delicious catered lunch, and there will be time for socializing and browsing. Here's the schedule (bring it with you!):

**8:30 – 9:00 Coffee and Registration**

**9:00 – 9:45 Anthem Reading led by MVAGO members.**

**10:00 – 10:45 Cyndi Bliss: “Working Musically with Groups of Children”**

**11:00 – 11:45 Jay Lane: “Help for the Aging Voice.”**

**12:00 Noon Lunch, Conversation and Browsing**

**1:30 – 2:15 Abbey Siegfried: “Women’s Werk - Organ Works by Women Composers”**

**2:30 – 3:15 Barbara Owen: “A Closer Look at Brahms’s Chorale Preludes”**

The 2012 Mini-Convention will again be held at First Calvary Baptist Church, at the intersection of Route 125 and Massachusetts Ave. in North Andover (same location as last year). From I-495 take Exit 43 (Massachusetts Ave. 6 North Andover); follow Mass. Ave. south about two miles, past one traffic light, until you see another traffic light ahead (Rte. 125). The church is a modern building on the left, just before the intersection, and entrance to the large parking lot is just before you get to the church. We are continuing to keep the cost down as in the past few years. Full day this year only is \$40.00, and either a morning or afternoon half-day session is \$30.00. Coffee break and Lunch are included in all registrations, whether full-day or half-day. Students with appropriate ID may take \$10.00 off the cost. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register print out, clip, and complete the form below, enclose a check or money order payable to MVAGO Mini-Convention and mail to Linda Paulet, Registrar, 126 Lowell Ave., Haverhill, MA 01832, by Feb. 20, 2016. Membership in the American Guild of Organists is not required for attendance at this Mini-Convention. Please photocopy or e-mail this flyer around to your colleagues, friends, and especially students. If you have questions, please e-mail Barbara Owen, [owenbar@juno.com](mailto:owenbar@juno.com).

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## Mini Convention Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

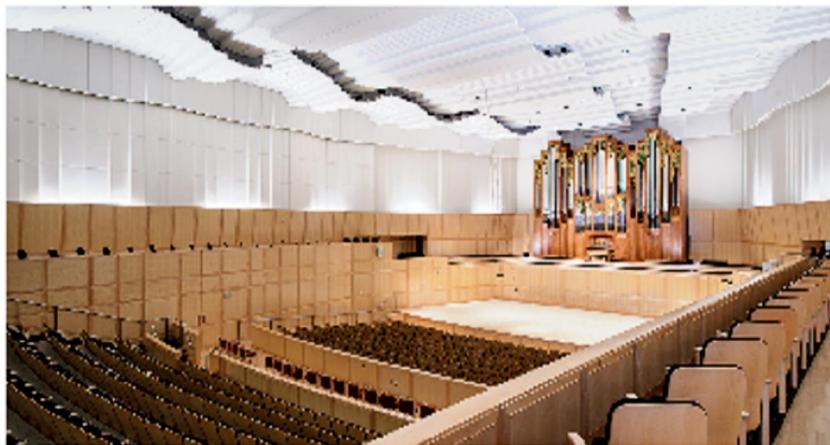
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ All

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Morning only \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon only \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail this form with your registration fee to Linda Paulet, Registrar, 126 Lowell Ave., Haverhill, MA 01832, by February 20, 2016.



Salt Lake Chapter // American Guild of Organists  
**MASTER CLASSES**  
February 2016  
*rules/information*



The Salt Lake Chapter is sponsoring two master classes in February 2016. We invite all interested organists to apply, regardless of age, student status, or AGO affiliation.

### **AUDITION**

The participants will be chosen through a blind audition process with judges. These judges are experts in their field, most possessing doctoral degrees, FAGO certification, or both. All applicants will receive comments from judges.

Recordings may be submitted online, via email, via YouTube, or mailed in audio CD format. Materials will not be returned.

### **DATES**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2016 - 8 am - 5 pm**  
**Robert Plimpton**



*Former Organist,  
First United  
Methodist Church  
and Emeritus  
Civic Organist,  
Balboa Park, San  
Diego, CA*

*In conjunction  
with the Feb-  
ruary Festival  
(jubilee) held by*

the Salt Lake Chapter, Robert Plimpton will conduct a master class focused on 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century music.

Plimpton will also perform a concert on the renowned Tabernacle Organ on Friday February 5 at 7:30 pm. A separate concert on the organ at Libby-Gardner hall will be performed as part of the Festival. All participants are invited to attend.

Registration for the February Festival is required to audition.

**FEB 13, 2016**  
**Daniel Roth**



*Titular Organist,  
Church of Saint-  
Sulpice, Paris*

*Daniel Roth  
will conduct a  
master class on  
French music  
of the Ro-  
mantic period  
and twentieth  
century. Per-*

*formers wishing to perform an improvisation based on the French styles of the same period are welcome to audition, as well.*

M. Roth will perform a concert as part of the renowned Eccles Organ Festival on February 14 at 8 PM on the IV/80 Kenneth-Jones organ of the Cathedral of the Madeleine. All participants are invited to attend.

## ***ACCOMMODATION***

Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodations. We have negotiated a hotel contract rate of \$109/nt. for the February Festival and Roth master class.

## ***SUBMISSIONS***

The Salt Lake Chapter should receive all materials by Saturday January 23 for the Plimpton master class and Saturday January 30 for the Roth master class.

Professional recording is not necessary; however, recording should be of sufficient quality to be able to hear the piece well and evaluate the performance.

A decent quality video camera which can record in high definition is likely suitable for recording. This may be uploaded to YouTube. Many churches have existing recording facilities/equipment already in place.

Whether by video or audio, only the audio will be heard in the audition process.

## ***REPERTOIRE***

Repertoire must follow the guidelines for each master class.

Music for the Plimpton master class must be from the 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Music for the Roth master class must be French, from the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It should be a major work, or a selection of a movement(s) from a larger work around 10 minutes in length.

Applications which do not fit the repertoire guidelines will be rejected.

## ***JUDGING PROCEDURES***

All applications which contain appropriate repertoire will be evaluated blind. Only audio will be heard (no video), and applicants' names, schools, ages, etc. will not be disclosed to the judges.

The judges will be identified after all master class slots are filled and comments will be returned.

## ***APPLICATION***

Submit your name, piece title, composer, opus information and other pertinent information with your recording (mp3 format, link to YouTube, Dropbox link) to [info@slcago.org](mailto:info@slcago.org) or mail to:

SLCAGO

PO Box 671

Springville, UT 84663

If you have any questions, please email [info@slcago.org](mailto:info@slcago.org)

## ***FEES***

For the Plimpton master class, registration for the February Festival (\$25) is required.

For the Roth master class, fees are as follows:

Salt Lake Chapter Members: Free

University of Utah Students: Free

AGO members of any affiliation: \$10

Non-AGO Members: \$20

Payment may be made via credit card or check payable to SLCAGO.

# **Chiff Chat Newsletter**

## **For January, 2016**

***Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists***  
***Celebrating 66 years of life!***

*Visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org) & “like” us on Facebook!*

Dear Members,

If you have email, please consider receiving the monthly Chiff Chat at your email address. It is easy to access. Never gets lost or misplaced and will put some of your yearly dues to another use. We currently spend approximately \$250 mailing out the monthly Chiff Chat to members over a year. We are Very Happy to mail a Chiff Chat to anyone who is not on the internet and needs a hard copy, but if you are getting a snail mail copy out of force of habit, please consider instant delivery through email. You can email Lad Pfeifer or Elizabeth Zellmer if you wish to change from snail mail to email. Thanks. :)

***Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists***  
***Chiff Chat Monthly Newsletter***  
***Elizabeth Zellmer, Editor***  
***601 Northampton Street***  
***Holyoke, MA 01104***