



*A brief history of the AGO in Western Connecticut*

The Stamford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was formed by several members of the Bridgeport (CT) Chapter AGO in the mid-1950's. According to Nelson Close, one of its founders, he, Claude Means (Christ Church in Greenwich), Ray Randall (First Presbyterian in Stamford), Ray Harrington, Sr., Virginia DuBois and Viola Worrell (First Congregational in Old Greenwich) were among the first members.

Former Stamford Chapter deans include: Claude Means, Ray Randall, Nelson Close (First Church of Christ Scientist, Greenwich), Hedley Yost (St. Mark's, New Canaan), James D. Wetherald (First Presbyterian, Stamford), Lowell Lacey (Second Congregational, Greenwich), Jayson R. Engquist (Norfield Church, Weston), Marilyn Ballantine (First Presbyterian, New Canaan), Edward Thompson (Unitarian Universalists, Westport) and Jane Wilmot (First Congregational, Ridgefield).

This chapter continued, as did its sister chapter in Danbury, CT, until the early 1990's. At that time both chapters decided to merge into one entity after polling the membership of both. A new name, Fairfield West Chapter, was selected and Jane Wilmot became the first Dean of this newly-named chapter in 1995.

[Historical information submitted by Nelson Close, Eugenie Sherer and Jayson R. Engquist]

