

# FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Atlantic Provinces, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Volume XVIII, No. 3

May 2004

## AGEHR Area I Officers

### Elected Officers

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**Debra LeBrun**  
(978-692-1309)  
chair@agehrarea1.org

*Chair-Elect:*

**Nancy G. Reynolds**  
(802-748-4760)  
chairelect@agehrarea1.org

*Area I Rep:*

**Ed Henderson**  
(978-851-3024)  
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*Secretary:*

**Linda S. Lamb**  
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secretary@agehrarea1.org

*Treasurer:*

**Sue Henderson**  
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treasurer@agehrarea1.org

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*Education:*

**Bunny Stanley**  
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*Special Groups:*

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## *The Chair Chimes In*

Happy Spring! I hope that many of you have the opportunity to attend a ringing event or handbell concert during this season. I have already attended the Rhode Island Spring Ring and the Massachusetts Youth Spring Ring. Both events ran smoothly, were well-attended, and were a lot of fun. The 50th Anniversary of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers was celebrated at both events. At the Massachusetts Youth Ring we had a birthday cake and throughout the day we taught our young ringers about the history of the Guild and handbells in the United States. We even included some historical questions in the Musical Jeopardy class! The Rhode Island Spring Ring also had a birthday cake and we rang an arrangement of "Happy Birthday" in honor of the Guild.

Don't forget to regularly visit the calendar of events on our website. If your choir is presenting a concert in the upcoming months, submit information about it to [webmaster@agehrarea1.org](mailto:webmaster@agehrarea1.org) so we can add it to our calendar. There are many choirs presenting concerts this time of year and I strongly encourage you to attend one or more. Attending a handbell concert not only encourages and supports your fellow ringers who are performing but also provides an opportunity for you to hear new pieces and to get ideas about things you can do in your own handbell group. Your attendance also helps to promote the art of handbell ringing to the non-ringing public, because they are more likely to get excited about handbell ringing when they attend a concert and see a full and enthusiastic audience than when they attend a concert with only a handful of people in the audience.

Although there is no Festival in Area I this summer there are other local, multi-day events you can attend in the next several months. In August there is Family Handbell Camp and then, in November, the Adult Weekend.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you this year and I hope to meet more of

## *In This Issue*

The Chair Chimes In . . . . .	1
Reports . . . . .	2
New Members . . . . .	3
Coming Events . . . . .	5
Directors' Seminar Pictures . . . . .	6
Adult Ringers Registration . . . . .	7-8

Visit the Area I Web site at: [www.agehrarea1.org](http://www.agehrarea1.org)

you in the coming months. The Guild is here for you and we are always looking for more people to get involved and for more new ideas. Feel free to contact your state chair or any board member with any questions or suggestions you have about the Guild or handbell ringing in general.

HAPPY RINGING!

Debra LeBrun, Chair, AGEHR, Area I

## Reports

### Connecticut

The various handbell choirs of First Church of Bethlehem, under the direction of Rick Wood, will be presenting the following concerts over the next few months:

May 1: The Messengers of First Church will present a Spring Handbell Concert at the Park Congregational Church at 283 Broadway in Norwich at 2:30 PM. Admission is free; donations to the Missions Fund will be accepted.

May 16: The Messengers of First Church will present a Founders Day Handbell Concert at Christ Episcopal Church on the Green in West Haven at 3:00 PM. The suggested donation is \$10, and all proceeds will benefit the Restoration Project of the church's bell tower.

June 13: The Handbell Choirs of First Church will present their Annual Handbell Concert at 3:00 PM in the church meeting house on the Bethlehem Green. Admission is free; donations to the First Church of Bethlehem Handbell Fund will be gratefully accepted.

For more information on any of these concerts, please contact the church at 203.266.7288 or E-mail Rick at RCWood@alumni.williams.edu.

Sue Wilber, CT State Chair

### Maine

The Maine Handbell Festival on March 27 drew nearly 150 ringers from Maine and New Hampshire. Under the direction of Karen Leonard and Karen Leland, ringers spent the day in rehearsal and in classes, and presented a concert to an enthusiastic audience at the end of the day. Classes ranged from score study to dancing to one called "Baddaboom, baddabing," an exploration of percussion instruments. One participant had been ringing for only 10 weeks; another had been ringing for 47 years. The newcomer rang the festival's opening bell, and the "senior" ringer rang the closing bell. The massed choirs played a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to AGEHR," in honor of the organization's 50th birthday. The festival was organized by the Parish Ringers of First Parish Church, Brunswick, with the able assistance of the Chapel Ringers, also from First Parish.

Thanks to Karen Leonard, Holly Cerullo, Kim Visbaras, Doug Leland, Bunny Stanley, Brenda Angotti, and Jacki Frisk for teaching classes.

Plans are underway for next year's festival. Since Easter is very early next year (March 27), it is likely that the festival will be early also. The planning committee is reviewing suggestions and comments offered at this year's festival. If you have any thoughts, wishes, or fears about next year's festival, please contact Chris Madsen at 207-865-0278 or cmadsen@suscom-maine.net. We especially welcome new teachers, and

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## More AGEHR Area I Officers

### State/Provincial Chairs

<i>Atlantic Provinces</i>	<b>TBA</b>
<i>(Canadian):</i>	canchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Connecticut:</i>	<b>Susan Wilber</b> (203-407-4189) ctchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Maine:</i>	<b>Christine Madsen</b> (207-865-0278) mechair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Massachusetts</i>	<b>Marianne McVoy</b> (508-845-6060)
<i>Co-Chairs:</i>	machair@agehrarea1.org <b>Linda Chadwick</b> (508-842-0541)
<i>New Hampshire:</i>	<b>Emlee Kohler</b> nhchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Rhode Island:</i>	<b>Daniel Moore</b> (401-438-4299) richair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Vermont:</i>	<b>Jerilyn Bergdahl</b> (802-425-2177) vtchair@agehrarea1.org

### Appointed Officers

<i>Festival/Conference</i>	<b>TBA</b>
<i>Chair</i>	fcchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Historian/Archivist:</i>	<b>Barbara Bussart</b> historian@agehrarea1.org
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<i>Webmaster:</i>	<b>Linda S. Lamb</b> (603-886-1512) webmaster@agehrarea1.org

we hope that you will start preparing your solo piece for next year's concert.

We'd like to hold one or more events in a more northern part of the state, and we seek assistance to do so. A Bar Harbor ringathon and a directors' seminar are two ideas. If you can help with either of these, or if you have another idea, please contact Chris.

Chris Madsen, ME Chair

### Rhode Island

On March 27, 2004, a well organized and enthusiastic group of volunteers known as the Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board (RIHAB), welcomed nearly 150 ringers and directors to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the Swift Gymnasium in East Greenwich, RI for a day of ringing, workshops and fellowship. Many participants and clinicians travel several hours from other states to participate.

Massed Ringing Conductor Jean Degan was joined by clinicians Ed Henderson, Andy Wallace, Karen James and Dan Moore to provide an educational and successful day of ringing and learning. Seven choirs and soloists, including the New England Ringers, presented selections during the final concert.

Next year's Spring Ring will be at the same location.

### 2004-05 Activities

RIHAB is already planning the 2004-05 series of RI Handbell Workshops, adding several new sessions, topics and clinicians to the schedule. One session will include a repertoire reading devoted to Festival Conference 2005 and RI Spring Ring 2005 repertoire. Another session will offer a luncheon for RI directors.

The success of the workshop program (three-hour workshops limited to 12-13 participants) was one factor in the improvement of massed ringing in RI.

For information on any RI activity contact: [danielmoore@wheelerschool.org](mailto:danielmoore@wheelerschool.org),

### Search for a New RI State Chair

Throughout this year, RIHAB has had conversations with several state members concerning the position of state chair. Since I agreed to fill the position for only one year, these conversations have been an opportunity to involve many voices in the process, and for the RI Handbell Advisory Board to consider several options. I am happy to report that a candidate has been identified and that announcement will come from the Area I Chair, Debra LeBrun.

Daniel K. Moore, RI Chair

### Vermont

April was a busy month for bell ringers in Vermont. The Vermont Youth Ring was held on April 3 at the Dothan Brook School in Hartland. Thirty-three youth took part in a full day of activities organized by Averill Tinker, which included games and activities and a pizza lunch. John Leonard directed the enthusiastic group of intermediate ringers in challenging music and the day ended with a concert.

Vermont Spring Ring was held April 23rd and 24th in Manchester, VT. Lynne Welch and her group of very able volunteers prepared a day full of activities. A special addition this year was a birthday cake in honor of the AGEHR 50th Anniversary celebration. Thirty directors registered for the Directors' Workshop on Friday evening. Michael Helman asked for directors who would be willing to get up in front of the group and direct a piece for some critique and bring along questions about conducting. It was a helpful session for the participating directors. We are pleased to have had Michael Helman direct the 246 registered ringers representing 27 different groups for the day on Saturday. Participating choirs joined us from as far away as St. Lambert, Quebec. A public concert was held at the end of the day.

Two mini-rings were held in preparation for the Vermont Spring Ring music. Phil Brown hosted and directed a mini-ring in St. Johnsbury for the third year with 23 participants. Northern Bronze, a community handbell choir, hosted their first mini-ring for the Burlington area with 46 participants from 8 choirs. Four directors, Marilyn Sink, Sally Yankee, Carolyn Harris and Jerilyn Bergdahl each directed one of the Spring Ring pieces.

Ten directors attended the Directors' Roundtable Jan. 31st held in Lebanon, NH and hosted by Averill Tinker. Karen James and Jerilyn Bergdahl directed the Spring Ring music. The Directors' Roundtable also provided directors with a chance to discuss upcoming events, challenges, and celebrations.

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*The Raleigh Ringers*

*David M. Harris, Director*

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

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*A community handbell choir*

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Vermont will be donating a "Manchester, VT Package" to the AGEHR 50th Anniversary Celebration in Norfolk for the silent auction. The package will include: lodging, maple syrup, cheeses, special offers, etc. in a basket for a wonderful time in Manchester, VT, a vacation destination.

We look forward to our annual directors meeting this summer.

Jerilyn Bergdahl, VT Chair

## Family Handbell Camp

Camp Oguntz, NH  
August 7-10, 2004

Check the Area I Web site for registration information

## Area I New Members

Please welcome these new members to Area I:

Lillian Buck, Wethersfield, CT  
Susan Kapec, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Stratford, CT  
Shari Lucas, First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC, Middletown, CT  
Althea Madigan, Vernon, CT  
Amy Pummill, Noroten Presbyterian Church, Darren, CT  
Sue Stottlemeyer, First Church of Christ Congregational, Groton, CT  
Nancy Barnes, Acton, MA  
Judith Kavanagh, 1st Congregational Church. W. Boylston, MA  
Linda Kirk, Free Christian Church, Andover, MA

## Coming Events

Sunday, May 16th, 4:00 PM: Annual Handbell Concert of the Congregational Church of Littleton (330 King St. (Rte. 2A/110), Littleton, MA.). Secular and sacred music performed by the church's five handbell choirs, youth and adult ringers, and the handbell duet team,

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Janet Anderson and Debra LeBrun. For more information contact Debra LeBrun at (978) 486-3245 or by E-mail at [debra@lebruns.com](mailto:debra@lebruns.com).

Sunday, May 16, at 3:00 PM: The Messengers of First Church will present a Founders Day Handbell Concert at Christ Episcopal Church on the Green in West Haven, CT. The suggested donation is \$10, and all proceeds will benefit the Restoration Project of the church's bell tower.

Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 8:00 PM: Perkins Handbell Festival at the Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston, MA.

Friday, May 21, 2004: Les Sonneurs of the Union Congregational Church (3 Elm Street, Rockville, Connecticut) will present a concert of sacred and secular music.

5:30 PM - Pot Luck Supper (all are welcome)

7:00 PM - Concert at the Union Congregational Church, freewill offering will be taken.

For more information, contact the Church Office: 860-875-2559

Sunday, May 23, 2004: Les Sonneurs of the Union Congregational Church will present a concert of sacred and secular music at 3:00 PM, at the First Congrega-

tional Church, Hartford Turnpike, Vernon CT. A freewill offering will be taken. For more information, contact the Church Office: 860-875-2559.

Saturday, June 12, 2004 at 7:00 PM: Les Sonneurs of the Union Congregational Church will present a concert of sacred and secular music at Union Chapel, Fishers Island. Freewill offering will be taken. For more information, contact the Church Office: 860-875-2559.

Sunday, June 13 at 3:00 PM: The Handbell Choirs of First Church will present their Annual Handbell Concert in the church meeting house on the Bethlehem, CT Green. Admission is free; donations to the First Church of Bethlehem Handbell Fund will be gratefully accepted.

Friday, July 2, 2004 at 7:00 PM: handbell concert at the Baptist Church in Rockport, MA by the Rockport Ringers and the Bells of Harvey Park.

July 22-27, 2004: The national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Guild, in Norfolk, Virginia.

August 7-10, 2004: Family Handbell Camp at Camp Oguntz, NH. To register download the form from the Area I Web site: [www.agehrea1.org](http://www.agehrea1.org).

November 12-13, 2004: Adult Ringers Weekend at the Mount Washington Hotel. Michael Kastner, clinician.



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1103	250 gram can	\$19.95
1104	1000 gram can	\$48.95

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1011	4 Cloths	\$2.95
1014	16 Cloths	\$9.95

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Each packet contains two 4" x 6" moistened polishing cloths in a reclosable foil pouch. The collector's tin of six 6" x 10" cloths includes one pair of nitrite gloves.

1108	Package of 2 Cloths	\$4.50
1109	Tin of 6 Cloths w/Gloves	\$16.95

### Cloths for Polishing

After each rehearsal, use these cloths to clean your bells. Inner red cloth has jeweler's rouge embedded in the cloth for cleaning. The outer buffing cloth wipes away the rouge and light tarnish.

1001	Polishing Cloth	\$2.75
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*Pictures from the Directors' Seminar*

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**Discussion Group Led by Dan Moore ▶**

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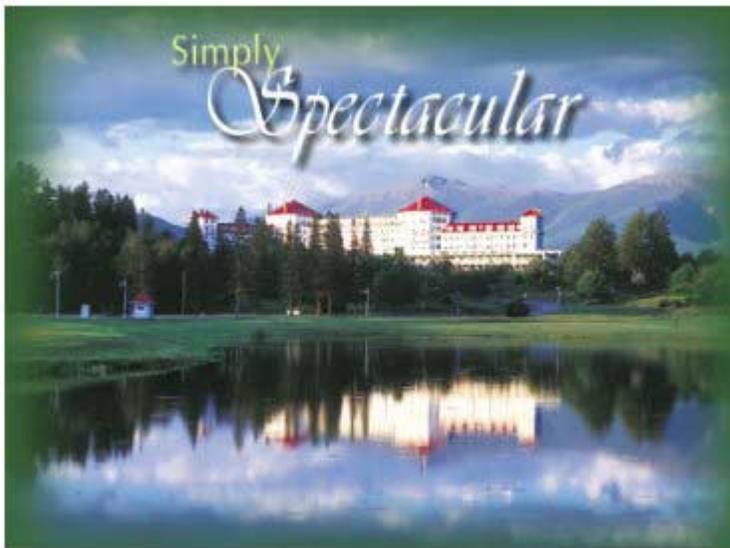
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\$50 - Regular (after 9/1/04; deadline 10/15/04)

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\$120 - Regular (after 9/1/04; deadline 10/15/04)

04)

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Please try to find your own roommate if you are attending alone and want double occupancy. Contact the Registrar for help if you cannot locate a roommate.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Karen James, Registrar  
Kjamesbell@aol.com

Phone: 802-483-2087

Nancy Reynolds, Event Chair  
dnreynol@sover.net

Phone: 802-748-4760

OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

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## Our Guest Clinician

Michael Kastner has been active in handbell ringing for nearly 40 years as ringer, director, arranger, soloist, and clinician. Currently he directs the Bells of the Rockies, an auditioned community group, and is handbell director at Mountain View United Methodist Church in Boulder, CO. He is co-author with Kevin McChesney of "Solo Ringing! Musically." Michael and Kevin are also co-founders of "STEP," the Solo to Ensemble Project, an organization that specializes in music and techniques for solo and ensemble ringers.

Michael is well known in Area I, having served as Massachusetts State Chair from 1984 to 1988 and as Area I Chair from 1988 to 1991. We are pleased to be able to welcome him back home.

---

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AGEHR Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Use your number or the number of your  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ sponsoring choir or director. Enter "Guest"  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ if you are not an AGEHR member)  
 Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_  
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[1] _____	[2] _____	[3] _____

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- Early bird registration: Commuter (includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch)      \$  105
- Regular registration: Resident (hotel accommodations paid separately)      \$    50
- Regular registration: Commuter (includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch)      \$  120

*Early bird registration MUST BE POSTMARKED prior to September 1, 2004; all registrations must be postmarked before October 15, 2004. Cancellation deadline is October 31, 2004. Registration includes program fees and music. Hotel accommodations fees are paid directly to the Mount Washington Hotel. Your event confirmation will contain a room registration form to be returned directly to the hotel by October 15.*

Make checks payable to AGEHR, Area I and mail to: Karen James, Registrar,  
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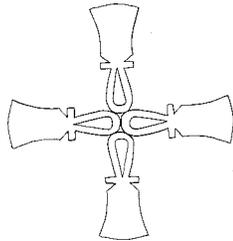
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- Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.25" X 4.5")
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*upcoming appearances (partial list)*

### 2004 Summer Tour

Thursday, June 24, 7 PM	First Congregational Church UCC, Shrewsbury, MA
Friday, June 25, 7 PM	First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush, NY
Saturday, June 26, 4 PM	Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pleasantville, NY
Sunday, June 27, 10 AM	First Congregational Church, Greenfield, MA ( <i>worship service</i> )
Sunday, June 27, 4 PM	First United Methodist Church of Greenfield, MA

### 2004 Holiday Concerts

Sunday, Nov. 28, 4 PM	Rogers Center for the Arts, North Andover, MA
Sunday, Dec. 5, 4 PM	Dunn's Corners Presbyterian Church, Westerly, RI

*The Fundamental Tone  
Newsletter of AGEHR Area I*

25 Pine Road  
Beverly, MA 01915-3729

**Return Services Requested**

# FIRST CLASS

Deadline for next  
issue: July 18, 2004