

# FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc. • American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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

Volume XXIII, No. 1

February 2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February, 2009

**Think Spring Mini-Rings**

St. Johnsbury, VT

and March, 2009

Weybridge, VT

and Burlington, VT

February 6–7, 2009

**2009 Directors' Seminar**

Sheraton Framingham Hotel

Framingham, MA

March 21, 2009

**Massachusetts Spring Ring**

Tewksbury, MA

April 24–25, 2009

**Vermont Spring Ring**

Barre, VT

March 28, 2009

**Maine Annual Spring Ring**

April 25, 2009

**Rhode Island Invitational Ring**

Westerly, RI

June 6, 2009

**Workshop with Cathy Moklebust**

Boston University

June 25–28, 2009

**Festival/Conference '09**

University of Maine at Orono

May 19, 2009

**Boston Handbell Festival**

Boston, MA

## Festival Registration Information

Page 3

## Sue Says... *a few words from the Chair*

Happy New Year to you all!

Many of you may be joining in the collective sigh of relief marking the final performance of the holiday repertoire. I am aware of many groups who had to cancel concerts in December and are just now finishing up their performance commitments. If you're a holiday "junkie," you enjoyed the season's extension — I, on the other hand, have turned the tree over to the trash men and am sweeping up the remains of 2008.

The fall was full with many activities which you may read about in the state reports. I would like to take this opportunity to mention the **Adult Ringers Weekend**, which premiered their new location at Sunday River. While attendance was down from past weekends, those who were able to attend had a great experience. Area I's own Ed Henderson was the clinician receiving positive comments from the ringers. The site itself was excellent and the Sunday River staff attentive to our needs. Thanks to Patrick Gagnon for this successful event.

Looking to the remainder of winter and spring, there is already much activity in the air. Again, I point you to the reports from our state chairs for upcoming events. The next large event is the Directors' Seminar February 6–7. This has proven to be a wonderful event in the past with many opportunities to learn and grow. You may still have time to register and attend — contact Patrick Gagnon.

(continued on page 2)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Festival Registration .....	3	Handbells on Facebook! .....	10
Other Festival Information .....	4	The Beginnings of St. Christopher Special Friends Handbell Choir.....	14
How Mentoring Can Benefit			
Everyone Involved!.....	6	State Reports .....	17
Bradford Scholarship Recipients .....	9		

## SUE SAYS...

(continued from page 1)

While many of you provided concerts recently, it is important to continue to remember to get bells out into the community. Whether it is a retirement home, local club or organization, reach out to them and offer to provide a short concert on a Sunday afternoon. If you think it's too late for this spring, it's NOT too late to make plans for the fall — what a great way to ramp up your program!

Festival Conference '09 is 143 (or so) days away! The registra-

tion process is in full swing. Please review registration carefully as it is in a new format that will streamline the entire process. You should be planning (if you have not already done so) your fundraising events to help defer the cost to your ringers. Speaking of cost — every effort has been made to keep expenses to a minimum which is reflected in the rates. Please refer to Patrick Gagnon's article in this *Fundamental Tone* for more complete details. REGISTER EARLY!!

Finally, ballots will be mailed on February 2 for the upcoming Area I elections. The Nominating

Committee has been hard at work over many months to provide our membership with a slate of officers to fill the upcoming vacancies. I encourage each of you to read carefully the biographies and mission statements of each of the nominees and give careful consideration as you make your choices. Please return your ballot as quickly as possible.

Wishing you all enough snow to make you happy, someone to shovel it, and the expectation of the first crocus this spring. 

*Sue Henderson, Area I Chair*

## AGEHR AREA I OFFICERS

### Elected Officers

**Chair:** **Sue Henderson** (978-851-3024)  
chair@agehrarea1.org

**Chair-Elect:** **Patrick Gagnon** (978-851-0513)  
chairelect@agehrarea1.org

**Past Chair:** **Nancy Reynolds** (802-748-4760)  
pastchair@agehrarea1.org

**Secretary:** **Pam Sturdevant** (603-881-8689)  
secretary@agehrarea1.org

**Treasurer:** **Sue Wilber** (978-256-3927)  
treasurer@agehrarea1.org

### National Liaisons

**Education:** **Griff Gall**  
education@agehrarea1.org

**Special Needs:** **Jeanne Polcari**  
specialneeds@agehrarea1.org

### Appointed Officers

**Festival/Conference '09 Chair** **Patrick Gagnon** (978-851-0513)  
fcchair@agehrarea1.org

**Historian/Archivist** **Barbara Bussart** (401-765-8015)  
historian@agehrarea1.org

**Membership** **Jane Nolan** (860-464-2873)  
membership@agehrarea1.org

**Publications** **Bill Noss** (603-886-1512)  
editor@agehrarea1.org

**Webmaster** **Linda S. Noss** (603-886-1512)  
webmaster@agehrarea1.org

**Bradford Scholarship** **Nancy Reynolds** (802-748-4760)  
scholarship@agehrarea1.org

### State/Provincial Chairs

**Atlantic Provinces (Canadian)** **To Be Announced**  
canchair@agehrarea1.org

**Connecticut** **Greg Fisher** (860-647-1470)  
ctchair@agehrarea1.org

**Maine** **Brian Wilson** (207-781-5880)  
mechair@agehrarea1.org

**Massachusetts** **David Wurth** (978-745-7387)  
machair@agehrarea1.org

**New Hampshire** **Joan Fossum** (603-224-0866)  
nhchair@agehrarea1.org

**Rhode Island** **Gayle Keinard, Sec., Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board**  
richair@agehrarea1.org

**Vermont** **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)  
vtchair@agehrarea1.org



*...the newly redesigned  
Maine Center for The Arts!*

## *Registration for Festival has begun.*

Group Registration Forms were sent to Group Registrants on January 15.

Some registrations have already been received as of this writing.

HOW TO

# REGISTER

For Festival

Registration Forms are now available on our website at:

**[www.agehrarea1.org/Festival](http://www.agehrarea1.org/Festival)**

1) Group members should choose their Courses from the “Individual Pre-Registration Form.” Consult your choir director when choosing courses; they may have suggestions for you.

2) One person in your group is responsible for returning the “Group Registration Form.” Email the completed Group Registration Form to *ncpiehl@gmail.com*.

3) Print final page of the form and mail with check.

OR

Email *ncpiehl@gmail.com* with your group’s name, city and state, and she will email you a Registration package.

# FC'09 Information

**Come one, come all**  
 to Orono, Maine for the 2009 AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference! Actually, come during the time "window" that I'm going to give you late in May. This year

we're going to have to load-in to the Alfond Arena in timed stages due to some pretty severe space restraints on the load-in level. Your choir will be assigned a "window of load-in opportunity"

based on several factors, including registration date, floor placement, and amount of ringing equipment. This will assure the event organizers and the participants (i.e., YOU) have a pleasant day on Thursday, June 25, and so that we can be ready to MAKE MUSIC at 6:30 p.m.



## Embellish to perform at 2009 AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference

Mark your calendars! Thursday, June 25, 2009, 8:15 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts! A large and enthusiastic audience will cheer for fourteen ringers, 6.5 octaves of bells, 6 octaves of chimes, and a wonderful program of handbell music. This will mark the last stop on a week-long tour of the east coast which will take this wonderful choir from their home in Grand Rapids, MI, through Washington D.C., New York City, Boston, and finally to Vacationland!

*Embellish* is a community handbell ensemble representing the greater Grand Rapids area. The group was founded in the fall of 1995 as a professional level group that promotes the art of handbell ringing by providing a high quality musical experience for diverse audiences.

**So how are you getting to Maine?**  
 Are you thinking about carpools? Do you have a reliable van/SUV to get your tables, foam, bells, chimes, bongos, claves, and dulcimer up to Vacationland? Will you tow it all up the highway on a recumbent bicycle? Your plans are yours to make, but now is the time to make them!

**So, are your bells insured?** No, seriously, are they? Talk to your church's, school's, or choir's insurance expert (maybe the treasurer, or the pastor, or the secretary?) and find out! For example, I know that my church's bells are insured as part of the church's policy. The company representative and I had a meeting, and we detailed the things that are and are NOT covered, and I felt much better. Have you done this? I mean, really, have you?

**Do you remember all of the things I've asked you to think about in previous articles?** Read up on FC issues in past *Funda-*

*mental Tone* editions on our newly re-designed website ([www.agehrarea1.org](http://www.agehrarea1.org)). Ringing divisions (February '08), insurance (August '08), class selections (*many times*), MONEY (May '08), Monica McGowan's words of wisdom about stopped techniques in massed ringing (August '08), and lots more!

## Registration

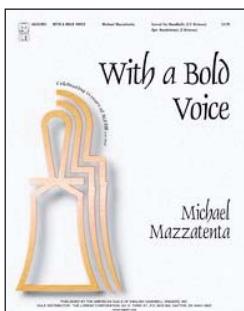
Huge thanks are due to *Norah Piehl, Bill Noss, and Sue Henderson* for working on registration processes and procedures; and to *Darren Bennett*, who will be managing our registration database. Thanks also to *Dan Moore* for creating a

comprehensive curriculum for this event. Handbell YOU will make you so smart you will scare yourself! Thanks also to all of you who are registering for FC'09. This is your event, so I need you there to enjoy it. If you still need to get your registration engine running, email Norah ([ncpiehl@gmail.com](mailto:ncpiehl@gmail.com)) for more information as soon as possible! Earlybird registration ends on March 15; regular registration ends on April 15. Course schedules and *Individual Course Selection Forms, Group Registration Forms*, and lots of other information is available at the Area I website: [www.agehrarea1.org/Festival](http://www.agehrarea1.org/Festival).

## WITH A BOLD VOICE USED AT AREA EVENTS!

On January 21, 2008, Dr. Michael Mazzatenta wrote me an email expressing interest in writing a piece for our first Area I composition contest. Now, almost a year later (I'm writing this on January 18) I'm amazed to see a copy of it sitting on my desk, and to know that this piece has been used at several events, been played in church services, at concerts, and soon will be opening the public performance at Festival.

Michael will be in Maine in June to hear Monica McGowan lead



hundreds of ringers in this performance, so I would encourage choirs to buy it, practice it, and use it in concert and in worship. This is a very accessible work and an especially good teaching piece for rondo form.

Thanks to the contest committee for looking over so many submissions, and to Dr. John Behnke and AGEHR publications for promotion and for putting it to print so early, and finally, thanks to Dr. Mazzatenta for creating "With a Bold Voice!"

**Come one, come all** to Orono, Maine, for the 2009 AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference!

## AGEHR National President John Pfeiffer To Attend 2009 Area I Festival/Conference!



We are pleased to report that AGEHR National President John Pfeiffer will be in attendance at our 2009 Area I Festival/Conference! John is the vice president of technology and chief information officer at Corrections Corporation of America in Nashville. He began ringing in fourth grade under the directorships of Martha Lynn and Felix Thompson at St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and remained active in that program throughout high school. John is the co-founder and principal conductor of the Music City Bronze, a community handbell ensemble in Nashville and has served on boards of directors for non-profit organizations.

Perhaps the most exciting thing is that John might be an orphan ringer in YOUR CHOIR!!! Register now and reserve your spot on the ringing floor for this exciting event!

*Patrick Gagnon, Area I Chair-Elect, and Festival '09 Chair*

# “To teach is to learn.”

*Japanese Proverb*

## A new music director

arrives in a small Vermont church eager to lead the volunteer adult choir, plan the service music and play the church's historical tracker organ. The director has studied choral conducting, was an organ performance major and has served as music director at a church in Maine for six years prior to accepting this new position. However, this new position comes with the additional responsibility of directing the adult handbell ensemble.

Unfortunately, many sacred music programs do not offer training courses for handbell directors, so many well-qualified church music directors take on the position of handbell director with extreme trepidation, lack of information and sometimes not the greatest attitude towards the instrument's ability to make fine music.

There are several directions the handbell program might take with this new music director. Perhaps he will simply wash his hands of the ensemble and turn to one of the ringers who expresses an interest in the ensemble and ask them to conduct, or he might try to conduct the ensemble himself, without doing the appropriate research on handbell techniques and without an understanding of

## How mentoring can benefit everyone involved!

healthful ringing practices. Or maybe he will contact a local handbell director he knows and have that person come in and work with both him and the ringers, establishing a peer mentoring partnership that can be beneficial for everyone involved.

Throughout New England there are hundreds of church and community handbell programs that have similar, but unique situations. Some have a director with little handbell experience. Some have directors who have been ringers for many years, but who need to develop an understanding of the teaching process or develop their conducting skills. Still other programs have established choirs with experienced directors who may benefit from having an “outsider’s” perspective. Peer mentoring is a subject that receives a considerable amount of attention in music journals. One important aspect of peer mentoring is that everyone



involved in the partnership can grow and learn from each other. In this article, I will discuss why peer mentoring is valuable for ringers, directors and the mentor. I will also provide some tips for creating a successful peer mentoring experience and how you can get involved either as a mentor or a mentee.

When a mentor is invited to a handbell rehearsal, the purpose of the mentor's visit needs to be established for everyone involved. Is the mentor there to specifically work with the ringers? Is the mentor working with a new director with hopes of coaching the director? Is the choir an established ensemble and the mentor is bringing a new perspective to the ensemble rehearsals?

In qualitative research, the idea of participant/observer spectrum describes the involvement of the research in the scenario being observed. Mentoring can also be thought of on this sliding scale. If the purpose of the mentorship is to help the existing handbell director improve his rehearsal techniques, the mentor may

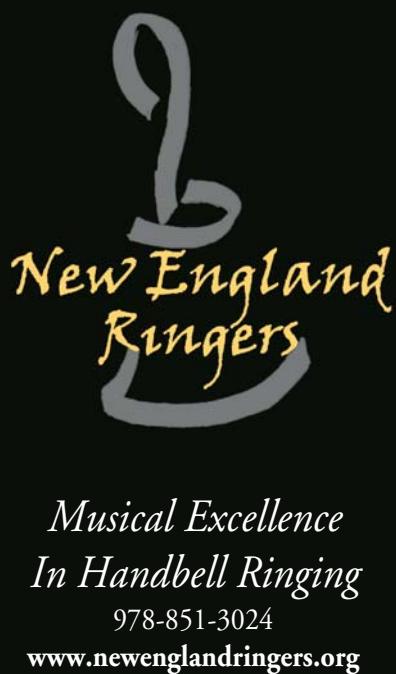
begin by quietly observing and scripting, possibly videotaping the rehearsal and then meeting with the director to discuss the process. In this case the mentor is taking a strict observer position, not being involved in the rehearsal process and is trying to learn what is taking place in the situation on a regular basis. This observation model may be most beneficial for new handbell directors who are looking to improve their conducting technique or their rehearsal process.

Inviting a conductor to step in and lead the ensemble takes the mentor from observer to participant, but will allow the ensemble's director to become the

observer. This is often helpful for the director in many ways. First, having someone else work with "your ringers" provides a fresh perspective on the ensemble. The mentor will not bring the same bias or pre-conceived ideas about individual ringers or the ensemble's history into the rehearsal. This may lead to the mentor challenging the ensemble to approach skills or musicality issues differently from the ensemble's director. While the mentor is working with the ensemble, the director has a chance to carefully observe the ringers. Focused observations can bring to light many interesting discoveries about an ensemble that are difficult to

notice when a director is busy working on bigger picture issues.

When asking a mentor director to conduct an ensemble, it is again important to understand what the focus of the observation will be. Perhaps the mentor is helping a new director by modeling the rehearsal process, or maybe the mentor was invited to work on specific ringing skills with the ensemble. The focus should be clear to everyone involved before a mentoring session begins. The ringers need to understand why the mentor is there so they feel comfortable ringing, the director needs to understand the focus so they may concentrate on observing specific aspects of the



## Upcoming Concerts

<b>Saturday, May 1</b>	First Baptist Church 111 Park Avenue • Worcester, MA Tickets: Free
<b>Saturday, May 2</b>	St. Paul's Church <i>Music at Park Place</i> 50 Park Place • Pawtucket, RI Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students
<b>Sunday, May 3</b>	Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC 267 Falmouth Road • Falmouth, ME Tickets TBD
<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>	Boston Handbell Festival Old South Church 645 Boylston Street • Boston, MA
<b>Sunday, May 31</b>	St. Cecilia Church 180 Mechanic Street • Leominster, MA Tickets TBD

Would your organization like to present an NER concert? Contact us at [newenglandringers@aol.com](mailto:newenglandringers@aol.com), or call at 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently being sought in New England for the 2009 and 2010 Seasons.

## "TO TEACH IS TO LEARN"...

(continued from previous page)

rehearsal and, of course, the mentor needs to understand the focus so they may prepare the rehearsal to present the aspect clearly.

In addition to having a mentor attend a rehearsal to either observe or to lead the mentee ensemble, a director might gain a great deal from visiting the rehearsal of the mentor's own ensemble. In this case, the mentor will know his own ringers and the ensemble's history and might be able to be more direct with feedback and allow the mentee to ask questions specific to pro-

cedures that may be in place in the mentor's rehearsal that are basically a habit for that ensemble, but might not come up in conversation between the mentor and the mentee.

While directors can benefit from a mentoring program, often new ringers can also benefit from a mentor. This maybe a peer mentor within the group, but consider bringing one or two advanced ringers into a rehearsal to work specifically on ringing techniques. Having a treble ringer and a battery ringer from a well-established church or community ensemble come in and workshop treble techniques or weaving with your ensemble members

may help your ringers feel more comfortable with techniques that are asked of them in so many pieces. Plus the director can observe and often find different ways to teach the techniques from the mentors who actually perform them every week.

Learning works both ways in a mentoring relationship. In much of the research done about peer mentoring, it is clear that those who are teaching are also learning a great deal. To make these sessions effective, the mentor must be willing to reflect on his own process and techniques. He must discover a way to present the focus concept in a clear, concise manner and be willing to

### Notebook Stands

Our music Notebook Stands come in four sizes and are constructed of durable vinyl with a heavy-duty metal ring assembly. The ring assembly has no tabs to catch and tear the music while turning pages and is attached with a thick nylon web strap that is guaranteed for five years. Each notebook comes with a set of plain black sheet lifters.

3141	1" ring	\$ 9.95
3142	1-1/2" ring	\$10.95
Oversize: Holds music up to 9"x12"		
3143	1" ring	\$10.95
3144	1-1/2" ring	\$11.95
3149	Extra Sheet Lifters (pair)	\$0.95

### Notebook Covers

Dress up your notebooks while protecting them for prolonged life with our corduroy notebook covers! Available in seven colors, these are the perfect way to outfit your choir with a professional, finished look. Customization, such as embroidery and velvet, is available (*please allow for extra time- call for a quote*).

Regular Item #	Oversize Item #	Price
1" Notebook Cover	3141_	\$6.50
1½" Notebook Cover	3142_	\$6.50

*When ordering, please include color code after item#: Navy= NY, Black= BK, Burgundy= BU, Green= GN, Red= RD, Water Blue= WB, Beige= BE*



### Risers

Our risers raise the music above the table, helping ringers see the director. Use them with an Acrylic, Metal or Notebook Music Stand. Unused handbells or other equipment can be placed underneath and out of the way. The Acrylic Riser is lightweight with strong hinges and smooth round edges. It weighs 3 lbs. 11 oz., and measures 24" long x 11" wide x 8" high.

3102      Acrylic Riser, ea.      \$43.95

The Stackable Metal Riser, perfect for slimmer budgets, features strong steel construction and a convenient handhold in the top. It weighs 4 lbs. 3 oz. and measures 23-3/4" long x 10-1/2" wide x 8" high.

3103      Metal Riser, ea.      \$26.95



### Acrylic Riser Bag

Cordura nylon on the outside adds extra strength and durability, while soft corduroy flaps on the inside separate your risers and protect them from scuffs and scratches. Holds four of our newer acrylic risers, three of our "old-style" risers.

3101      Acrylic Riser Bag      \$39.95



**1-800-JHS-BELL**

Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.

**www.HandbellWorld.com**

research the focus concept to gain a more informed understanding. Often, taking the time to debrief after a mentoring session, both the mentor and mentee will come away with a stronger understanding of the focus concept. We often learn best when we are teaching. Taking the time to be a mentor is also investing in your own professional development.

### Tips for successful peer mentor partnerships

Inviting a mentor into your rehearsal takes some preparation. First, choosing a mentor is important. Talk with other people who have worked with the person you are thinking of inviting, or ask that person if you may observe one of their rehearsals first. Then sit down and talk with the mentor, but know what it is that you are looking for before you sit down with them. As mentioned above, there are many ways a mentoring program can function and there are many reasons for inviting a mentor into your rehearsal. Being clear with your goals is important so everyone involved may have a successful experience. If you are asking your mentor to lead a rehearsal, provide the mentor with copies of the music you are working on in advance and let them know about any unusual circumstances that exist in your ensemble. Talk with your ringers prior to the mentor's visit. Making sure the ringers feel comfortable with the mentor being in the rehearsal is impor-

tant because the goal of most observations is to create a scenario that most reflects the "natural environment" of the situation. Make sure all of your ringers will be able to attend the rehearsal or rehearsals that the mentor attends; make sure the rehearsal space is set up prior to the mentor's arrival. During the observation or the rehearsal, write down questions you have regarding specific instructions the mentor gave or ways the ensemble responded to a particular gesture or comment the mentor gave. After the rehearsal, take the time to "debrief" with the mentor. Ask the mentor about those points you noted during the rehearsal and ask the mentor to share thoughts about the ensemble. If it is possible, schedule more than one observation or rehearsal with the mentor.

As ringers grow more comfortable with the guest in their room, the ensemble may be more open to try new ideas. In addition, after a mentor has worked with an ensemble once, the mentor may learn about the needs of that specific choir and will be able to focus subsequent visits around their previous experiences.

### Coda

With careful planning and a willingness to work cooperatively with another director, a mentoring relationship can be rewarding for everyone involved. If you are interested in either inviting a mentor to work with you or your

## Bradford Directors Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to  
**Dale Neth**  
of Hollis, NH, and

**Carlene Ruesenberg**  
of Concord, NH.

Both are attending Area I's  
Directors' Seminar Feb. 6-7.

ensemble, or if you are interested in becoming a mentor, contact AGEHR Area I membership director Jane Nolan at [membership@agehrarea1.org](mailto:membership@agehrarea1.org) or contact your AGEHR Area I state chair, who will be happy to help find a match for you.

AGEHR Area I is committed to promoting productive mentoring relationships. If you have had a successful mentoring experience, take a moment to send a paragraph or two describing your mentoring situation and how you found it beneficial. Sharing your experiences with mentors may inspire others to benefit sharing their time. Send your brief submissions to *Fundamental Tone* editor Bill Noss at [editor@agehrarea1.org](mailto:editor@agehrarea1.org) so other may learn from your experiences.

*Griff Gall, Education Liaison  
AGEHR Area I*

# Handbells on Facebook!

Are you my friend on Facebook? Is “friend” a noun or a verb? Over the past several months, Facebook has become a great way to find out about handbell concerts, meet handbell ringers, become fans of handbell choirs, and plan for handbell events. If you are “on Facebook,” join some groups that pertain to our activities here in Area I, such as:

**Basic Info**  
Type: Music - Instruments  
Description: The (not so) few, the proud, the AMERICAN GUILD OF ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS. Come one, come all, Area I, Area XII, and everything in between.

**Contact Info**  
Email: [executive@agehr.org](mailto:executive@agehr.org)  
Website: <http://agehr.org/>  
Location: 1055 E. Canerville Station Rd., Cenerville, OH

**Recent News**  
Uni. handbell ringing is awesome!

**Members**  
Displaying 8 of 217 members

**Officers**  
Patrick Gagnon (everyone's frenemy)  
Brooke O'Donnell (Marlboro)  
Bob, BS, FS, F#S, BS, ET, FT, F#T  
Jill Davis (everything)

**Embellish Handbell Ensemble**

**Recent News**  
View Updates Remove me from Posts Share +

**Events**  
View All  
"Tic the Season to Embellish" (Grand Rapids, MI) Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00pm  
"Embellish! Tic the Season" CD Part 1... Grand Rapids, MI Saturday, December 6 at 1:00pm  
Embellish at Major Gardens (Grand Rapids, MI) Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00pm  
Embellish and Friends (Grand Rapids, MI) Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00pm  
Festival Of The Arts (Grand Rapids, MI) Saturday, June 7 at 7:00pm

**Members**  
Displaying 5 of 20 members

**Basic Info**  
Type: Music - Instruments  
Description: Because nothing gets your adrenaline pumping like playing bass bells. Loudly. And in big chords. Preferably with other bass bells.

**Contact Info**  
Location: Lewistown, PA

**Recent News**  
No news at the moment.

**Members**  
Displaying 8 of 131 members

**Officers**  
Cliff Reilly (Bucknell) plays G3-B3

“Back Bay Ringers, Handbell Ensemble”

“Embellish Handbell Ensemble”

“Penobscot Bay Ringers”

“Let the Bells Ring 2009”

And, of course:

“AGEHR Area 1 FC '09–Orono”



**Basic Info**  
Type: Music - Instruments  
Description: It's that time again. Okay, I admit it...I wanted to begin this group the second festival ended last year, but I waited patiently. Now it's 2009, and this fabulous event is a mere ONE YEAR away instead of two!

**Contact Info**  
Website: [http://agehraea1.org/festival/default.htm](http://agehrarea1.org/festival/default.htm)  
Locations: Orono, ME

**Members**  
Displaying 8 of 28 members

**Discussion Board**  
View Discussion Board Message All Members Edit Group Edit Members Edit Group Officers Invite People to Join Create Related Event Leave Group Share +

**Penobscot Bay Ringers**

**Basic Info**  
Type: Music - Instruments  
Description: Maine's first community handbell choir

**Contact Info**  
Email: [penobscotbayringers@gmail.com](mailto:penobscotbayringers@gmail.com)  
Location: Rockport, ME

**Members**  
Displaying 8 of 12 members

**Group Type**  
This is an open group. Anyone can join and invite others to join.

**Admins**  
Ella Saltonstall (creator)

**handbells**

**All Results** People Pages Groups Events Web

Show results from All Networks

Displaying 1 – 10 out of 198 results for: handbells

**Handbells... It's a little too awesome for you**  
Size: 503 members  
Type: New  
6 More Members, 1 Wall Post

**You know you play handbells if...**  
Size: 240 members  
Type: New  
15 More Members, 1 Wall Post

**Handbells!**  
Size: 178 members  
Type: New

# P.O.E.M.

Performing Organizing Educating Mentoring  
Performing Organizing Educating Mentoring

*Review previous issues (Feb.–Nov. '08) of Fundamental Tone for detailed information about FC'09...*

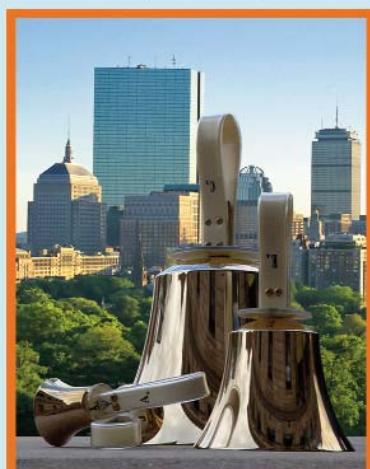
- *Rates*
- *Repertoire*
- *Ringing Divisions*
- *Performance Notes*

GO TO:

[www.agehrareal.org/Ft](http://www.agehrareal.org/Ft)

*Save the date for the 3rd annual*  
**BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL**

**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009 AT 8:00 PM**  
**OLD SOUTH CHURCH, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**



Event co-sponsored by:  
 back bay ringers  
[www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org)

 Old South Church  
[www.oldsouth.org](http://www.oldsouth.org)

# Workshop with Composer Cathy Moklebust

## June 6, 2009

The Back Bay Ringers, Boston's leading community-based handbell organization, will offer a day of workshops and performances featuring renowned handbell composer Cathy Moklebust, Saturday, June 6, 2009. Registration for the workshop is now open—workshop information and registration materials are available at [www.backbayringers/bbrworkshop.html](http://www.backbayringers/bbrworkshop.html).



The workshop, which will be held at Boston University's College of Fine Arts, is designed to appeal to handbell ringers and directors at all levels and will allow these musicians to interact with Ms. Moklebust throughout the day-long, hands-on workshop. The morning's sessions will highlight Ms. Moklebust's use of small percussion instruments and of innovative handbell techniques in her compositions. Following a break for lunch, workshop participants will have the opportunity to watch Ms. Moklebust work with the Back Bay Carillon in a master class and then to work with Ms. Moklebust themselves in a reading and discussion session.

In honor of BBR's fifth anniversary, the Back Bay Ringers have commissioned Ms. Moklebust to compose a work that will have its world premiere at a concert to be held at 8:00 that evening, at Boston University's Dance Theater. Workshop participants will have the option of receiving one free ticket to this concert as part of their registration. "We're thrilled that Cathy Moklebust will be our honored guest as we present the world premiere of her newest composition," says BBR's Artistic Director Griff Gall. Tickets for the "Art of Ringing" concert will go on sale to the general public in May 2009.

Norah Piehl, BBR's executive director, expresses the

organization's enthusiasm for the event: "We're so pleased to be able to honor Ms. Moklebust's visit to this area with this day-long celebration of her work." BBR has planned the event to draw out-of-town ringers, with reasonably-priced parking, lists of local restaurants, and other area attractions provided to registrants. "It's a great opportunity for musicians from our area to spend a fun day in Boston," Piehl adds.

The registration fee for the day-long event is \$45. Registration forms for the June 6, 2009, workshop are available at [www.backbayringers.org/bbrworkshop.html](http://www.backbayringers.org/bbrworkshop.html). For more information, please visit [www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org) or contact Executive Director, Norah Piehl, at 617-688-5768 or via e-mail at [ncpiehl@backbayringers.org](mailto:ncpiehl@backbayringers.org).



## Your AGEHR Area I Board

*This photo was taken at the recent quarterly meeting on January 10, 2009. Seated, (l. to r.): Pam Sturdevant, Secretary; Sue Henderson, Chair. Second row, (l. to r.): Jeanne Polcari, Special Needs Liaison; Linda S. Noss, Webmaster; Nancy Reynolds, Past Chair / Bradford Scholarship Chair; Jane Nolan, Membership Chair; Joy Miller, Atlantic Provinces Representative. Back row, (l. to r.): Patrick Gagnon, Chair-Elect; David Wurth, Massachusetts State Chair; Bill Noss, Newsletter Editor; Griff Gall, Education Liaison; Greg Fisher, Connecticut State Chair. Not pictured: Sue Wilber, Treasurer; Brian Wilson, Maine State Chair; Joan Fossum, New Hampshire State Chair; Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair; Gayle Keinard, secretary, Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board; Barbara Bussart, Historian. Photo: Andrew Lamb.*

# International Festival of Handbells

## June 8–16, 2009

Debbie Rice, Artistic Director

[www.harmonyinternational.com](http://www.harmonyinternational.com) OR  
[<dricenc@triad.rr.com>](mailto:<dricenc@triad.rr.com>)

There are still openings for the International Handbell Tour June 8–16, 2009 that includes Scotland and England through Harmony International. Teams from the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB) have been invited to ring with us. Cost is \$2,990, based on current airfare from a major U.S. International departure city.

### Concert Program:

Metanoia Phil Roberts GIA 6865

Contemplation on *Ubi Caritas* Catherine McMichael  
AG36036

When in Our Music God is Glorified Arnold Sherman  
Agape2414

Individual Performances offered by HRGB  
and US ensembles

*Big Ben Birthday Waltz* Sandra Winter HRGB  
(Order through Jeffers Handbell Supply, 1.800.jhs-bell)

*Londonderry Air* Don Allured HP-5093

*Laudamus* Arnold Sherman Lorenz20/1309L

Join us for new friendships, cultural experiences and musical concerts using 7 octaves of bells and chimes plus other sets as needed. Email Debbie for detailed rehearsal notes at <[dricenc@triad.rr.com](mailto:dricenc@triad.rr.com)>.

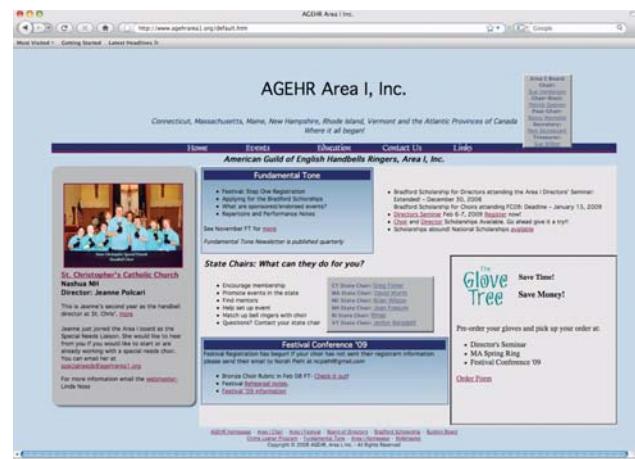


The  
**Glove  
Tree**

Please look for the Area I **Glove Tree** at upcoming winter/spring events. The **Glove Tree** has black, white, & tie-dyed gloves in various sizes available. Directors can save shipping costs by purchasing gloves for their choir through the **Glove Tree**. Checks are accepted made payable to AGEHR Area I. If you have any questions about the **Glove Tree**, please contact Pam Sturdevant at [store@agehrarea1.org](mailto:store@agehrarea1.org).

Check out the  
**CHOIR OF THE MONTH**  
on our new website!

[www.agehrarea1.org](http://www.agehrarea1.org)



If you'd like to be featured on our website as Choir of the Month, email our webmaster at [webmaster@agehrarea1.org](mailto:webmaster@agehrarea1.org). Include a photo and a brief history of your group.

# The Beginnings of St. Christopher Special Friends Handbell Choir

On the internet one day, I came across a video of an adult special needs handbell group at a residential school in New York. What piqued my interest was how visually committed the group was to the music they were creating and how beautiful they sounded. It not only made an impact but motivated my curiosity enough to further explore the possibility of having a similar group.

Personally, Beth, my niece of 18 years who has Down Syndrome, had touched me in many ways over the years with her loving personality and embracing enthusiasm for life. I can still remember the day at the playground as she stood on top of the jungle gym and coaxed me to join her with "come on Auntie, you can do it..."

I was also fortunate in that, 40 years ago, when Special Needs programs were virtually non-existent, Barbara and Jack Keegan, parents of Elizabeth, who has Down Syndrome, had the vision



to gather special needs children in the community to offer religious education at St. Christopher Parish. The group of Special Friends grew into a much needed support and social opportunity that would not only set a precedent with its high standards of commitment, but would, with education, begin to address and overcome barriers that this unique population dealt with on a daily basis. Because of the Keegan's hard work and dedication, the group is intact today

with many endearing friendships and joyous memories of the years together.

Meetings with Barbara produced a list of possible new ringers. The criteria included probable consistent transportation to rehearsal as well as apparent level of functioning for success. Providers (caretakers) and family members were contacted to enlist interest and support for the project. All were invited to a fantastic concert by The Merrimack Valley Ringers which got the word started around town that something exciting was about to happen!

Next issue: Our first rehearsal... 

*Jeanne Polcari, Special Needs Liaison and Director of St. Christopher Special Friends Handbell Choir*

**St. Christopher  
Special Friends  
is Area 1's VERY  
FIRST CHOIR OF  
THE MONTH!**

If you'd like to be featured on our website as Choir of the Month, email our webmaster at [webmaster@agehrarea1.org](mailto:webmaster@agehrarea1.org). Include a photo and a brief history of your group.

# Massachusetts Spring Ring

You and your choir(s) are invited to participate in the **Massachusetts Spring Ring** (formerly the Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival) to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009 in the gymnasium of Tewksbury Memorial High School in Tewksbury, MA.

Invitations are being sent to groups throughout Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and beyond! Although the facilities allow space for many choirs to participate, we were near maximum capacity last year. Early registration will ensure your participation and a good location on the ringing floor.

The highlight of the Spring Ring is the presentation of a concert, open to the public. Your choir will participate in "massed ringing" as all choirs play simultaneously under the direction of one conductor. In addition, your choir or your ensemble (of 1–6 ringers) may also perform a solo piece of music. Solo selections are limited to five minutes (including set up and applause) so that many groups may have this opportunity. Please note: solos will be assigned by date of receipt of the registration form and last minute additions will only be permitted as space in the program allows.

The massed selections are listed below. Please purchase sufficient copies for your ringers and rehearse the music thoroughly ahead of time. Our rehearsal time together is limited and intended for developing an ensemble performance, rather than learning the music.

*Please note: AGEHR strictly adheres to the copyright laws and NO photocopies of any published music will be allowed.*

1. *With a Bold Voice* - Micheal Mazzatenta (2009 Area I Contest Winner) AGEHR AG35283, 3-5 oct, L2
2. *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* – Cathy Moklebust, Choristers Guild CGB461 (Ringer

Part) 3–5 oct., L3, [(Full Score) Choristers Guild CGB460]

3. *What Wondrous Love is This* – arr. Arnold Sherman, Agape 2392, 3–6 oct., L3-

We are also planning a Youth Division again this year. Repertoire selected is:

1. *Ring Jubilee* – Susan E. Geschke, Agape 2437, 2–3 oct., L2

The proposed schedule for the Spring Ring will be:

2:00 – 3:00 individual choir setup and rehearsals as scheduled  
3:00 – 4:30 massed rehearsal – Adult Division in gym  
4:30 – 5:00 individual choir rehearsals as scheduled  
5:00 – 5:30 massed rehearsal – Youth Division in gym  
5:00 – 6:00 supper and fellowship (bag supper) – Adults in cafeteria  
5:30 – 6:00 individual choir rehearsals as scheduled  
5:30 – 6:30 supper and fellowship (bag supper) – Youth in cafeteria  
6:00 – 6:30 final massed rehearsal – Adults in gym  
7:00 – 8:30 concert in gym  
8:30 – tear down and refreshments in cafeteria

Registration cost is \$5.00 per ringer (you may list multiple choirs on a single form) which covers performance royalties, guest musicians, massed conductors, and insurance liability coverage.

Participants typically bring a bag supper and share fellowship time together before the final rehearsal. Following the concert, refreshments, supplied by the participant groups, are enjoyed with the audience. The program is sponsored by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area I Inc.

If you would like to be part of this exciting event, please fill out the accompanying registration form (following page) and return it by March 1, 2009. Please give this opportunity serious consideration as you plan your calendar of events for the spring.

All questions about registrations can be sent to Dave Wurth at <[dave.wurth@verizon.net](mailto:dave.wurth@verizon.net)>.



## REGISTRATION FORM

### MASSACHUSETTS SPRING RING (formerly Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival)

March 21, 2009  
Tewksbury Memorial High School  
Tewksbury, MA

Your Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church/School \_\_\_\_\_

**AGEHR Membership #** (must be included) \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Choir Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of ringers\_\_\_\_\_

Youth Choir Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of ringers\_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of ringers registering \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 per ringer = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

We are bringing \_\_\_\_\_ linear feet of tables. **Please be accurate in your space request. If your space needs change due to a change in the number of ringers, you MUST notify us.**

We would like to perform in the final concert:

Title\_\_\_\_\_

Composer\_\_\_\_\_

Performers (choir name, soloist, ensemble)\_\_\_\_\_

For multiple groups, please list additional requests on the back of this form.

**To avoid duplication, the musical selection(s) will be confirmed by the registrar via e-mail.**

We have room for #\_\_\_\_\_ orphan ringers at the following position(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I am an orphan ringer and am willing to ring the following position(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Massachusetts Spring Ring.**

**Please print out and complete this form  
to be returned via snail mail  
WITH PAYMENT by March 1 to:**

David Wurth, Registrar MSR  
79 Proctor St  
Salem, Ma 01970

**Any questions?**

Email David Wurth [dave.wurth@verizon.net](mailto:dave.wurth@verizon.net)  
Phone: 978-745-7387

## REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



The Christmas season was chock full of concerts and events. In November and December alone there were 10 concerts rung by 6 different bell choirs. The two community ensembles, the Hockanum Valley Ringers and the Shoreline Ringers, each had multiple events, with the Shoreline Ringers' concert season extending into January.

The **Hockanum Valley Ringers** will be appearing several times this spring, with public concerts scheduled for May 3 and May 9. They will also be appearing at the Rhode Island Invitational on April 25. See their website ([hvringers.org](http://hvringers.org)) for more information as we get closer to the springtime. The **Shoreline Ringers** are also planning a full spring season and their schedule will be posted on their website ([shorelineringers.org](http://shorelineringers.org)) as soon as it is available.

We are planning a **Skill Building Workshop** for May 2 at the First Baptist Church in Southington. Beverly Simpson and Greg Fisher will be the instructors. Classes will be available from 9 a.m.

until noon, followed by an informal lunch and possibly a short mass ring of a Level 1 or 2 piece. The classes will cover such topics as beginning techniques, stopped sounds, sight-reading, rhythms, Service music, and healthy ringing practices. You can bring your whole choir, part of the choir, or just yourself. Stay tuned for more details. We will post more information on the Area 1 website ([agehrarea1.org](http://agehrarea1.org)) and in a statewide newsletter going out in early February. If you are interested in helping out, either as an instructor, registrar, or on-site volunteer the day of the workshop, please contact Greg Fisher <[hvringers@cox.net](mailto:hvringers@cox.net)> or Beverly Simpson <[bsimpson01@snet.net](mailto:bsimpson01@snet.net)>.

I am also looking to host a **director's luncheon** in the western part of the state this summer or fall. If your church has a hall or meeting room we could use, please let me know.

As always, if you would like your event publicized in the state newsletter or *Fundamental Tone*, please let me know. I am eager to get the word out about all the great events in our state. 

*Greg Fisher, Connecticut State Chair*

## REPORT FROM MAINE



**Maine Spring Ring** – The Maine Spring Ring will be held at Greely Middle School, Cumberland Center, ME, on Saturday, March 28th. Dan Moore and Ray Cornils will be guest conductors. Some of Festival 2009 music will be studied and performed in preparation for that event.

**Concert by New England Ringers** – A Spring Concert will be presented by New England Ringers on Sunday, May 3, at the Falmouth Congregational Church in Falmouth.

**2009 Festival Conference** – June 25–28 at University of Maine at Orono.

After several set-backs, the first Maine newsletter is due out in Early March.

The **Casco Bay Ringers** will have their first informal meeting on February 1 to make rehearsal plans. YEA!

The **Fall Skill Building Workshop** was postponed due to low sign-up. It will be scheduled again for this year. 

*Brian Wilson, Maine State Chair*

## REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



After recovering from a busy holiday season, most groups are getting back up and running for the spring season.

On March 21, we will be holding the annual **Massachusetts Spring Ring** in Tewksbury. There is still plenty of space available to groups. This is a fun day for groups of all levels, sizes and ages. More info can be found at [www.agehrarea1.org/EventFiles/MASpringRing/Invitation\\_letter\\_2009.pdf](http://www.agehrarea1.org/EventFiles/MASpringRing/Invitation_letter_2009.pdf)

On May 4, the Highlands School is hosting the **Highlands Handbell Festival**. Last year, Back Bay Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, and Holy Trinity United Methodist Church joined the Highlands School Handchime choir. This will be a great evening for all that attend. The kids are great! For more info go to [www.highlandsarts.org](http://www.highlandsarts.org).

On May 19, the **Boston Handbell Festival** will be

co-hosted by The Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church. This is another great evening of music for all. This event raises money for a set of chimes to be donated, yes, DONATED, and not loaned to a local school. More info can be found at [www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org).

On June 6, you can learn from **Cathy Moklebust** at Boston University at a workshop hosted by the Back Bay Ringers.  
[www.backbayringers.org/bbrworkshop.html](http://www.backbayringers.org/bbrworkshop.html)

I will be beginning a **Massachusetts newsletter** in the next few months. It will contain articles from anyone who sends them to me. If you have Massachusetts Ringing "News" PLEASE send me any info you may have. No story is too small.

It is time for all of us to get back to practicing our music for the Festival/Conference in Orono, Maine. It is closer than you think.

See you in Orono in June!   
David Wurth, Massachusetts State Chair

## REPORT FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE



### Events Since Last Board Meeting

Lakes Region Handbell Festival: This event, organized by Mary Divers, was held Saturday, November 15, 2008, at the Gilford United Methodist Church. 6 choirs from central New Hampshire participated. The morning was dedicated to basic skills workshops with clinicians Jane Nolan, Sue Chamberlain and Joan Fossum. The choirs worked on music that will be part of the repertoire for the '09 Festival Conference. The

massed directors for this were Jane Nolan and Joan Fossum. The sharing concert, which included the massed pieces and a piece by each individual choir, was filmed by the Laconia Public Access television station and has aired several times since.

### Planned Events

During the next few months Mary Divers and I will be looking at offering a sponsored event in the state of New Hampshire and seeing how we can expand the support for ringers and choirs.

Joan Fossum, New Hampshire State Chair

# REPORT FROM RHODE ISLAND

April 25, 2009

Rhode Island's Invitational Ring will be hosted at Dunn's Corners Presbyterian Church, Westerly, RI, under the massed direction of Andy Wallace. Participating choirs will be: St. Pauls Episcopal, RI; Granite State Ringers, NH; Back Bay Ringers,



MA; Hockanum Valley Ringers, CT; along with Andy Wallace's bell choir from Westerly.

The Invitational Ring is a bi-annual event that flip-flops every other year with the RI Spring Ring so as not to detract from Area I's Festival/Conference attendance.



— Compiled from RIHAB Board emails

# REPORT FROM VERMONT

## Recent Events

- **Vermont Skill Building Workshop:** The Vermont Skill Building Workshop was held at the United Methodist Church in Rutland, VT, October 11, 2008. The event drew ringers from seven different handbell choirs. More ringers said that they would have attended had the workshop been scheduled on a day without so many other events occurring throughout the State. Ringers suggested that we schedule the Workshop later in the month next year. Directed by Karen James, Jeanne Cushman, and Phil Brown, the participants enthusiastically worked on techniques all day and gave overwhelmingly positive evaluations for this very successful event. One evaluation form suggested that we hold a Skill Building Workshop quarterly.



sion, skill building, relaxation and massage techniques, beginning and advanced four in hand, and conducting techniques. A large committee is working on the event.

- **Spring Ring 2010:** Bill Mathis has agreed to be the clinician for Spring Ring 2010 to be held in Essex Jct., VT.
- **Think Spring Mini-Rings:** Two mini-rings will be held this year; one on February 14 in St. Johnsbury, VT, hosted and directed by Phil Brown, and the other March 14, in Essex Jct., VT, hosted by Northern Bronze, a community handbell choir, and directed by Northern Bronze members. The mini-rings are free of charge, half day events that focus on rehearsing Spring Ring 2009 repertoire and provide an excellent chance for the different choir members to get to know one another. Another mini-ring was originally scheduled; however, it had to be cancelled for this year due to an illness.

## Upcoming Events

- **Vermont Directors Roundtable:** The Directors Roundtable will be held Jan. 31, 2009, in West Lebanon, NH. Averill Tinker will host the event. Directors will have a chance to review Spring Ring 2009 repertoire in the morning, discuss concerns and celebrations over lunch, and then learn Area I Festival repertoire in the afternoon with Karen James and Phil Brown, directing.
- **Spring Ring 2009:** Granite Rocks and Rings, Barre, VT April 24 and 25. Jane Anderson, clinician. Registration ends January 30th. There will be a site visit by the committee on Jan. 16, 2009 to determine where the six noontime classes will be held and to measure spaces. Noontime classes include a music reading ses-

**New Choir Contacts Made:** This fall was exceptional for renewing contacts with choirs and directors who have not been active for a number of years. I found that if I contacted church secretaries through church websites, I was able to get in contact with handbell directors. Northern Bronze, the community group I direct, performed for the third year at First Night Burlington. I left time for a question and answer session on bells at the end of the concert. This event is a great way to introduce handbells to the general public with capacity crowds in a beautiful, accessible setting.



*Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair*

The *Fundamental Tone* is published four times a year (on the first Monday of February, May, August, November) by Area I of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. Deadline for submitting information/advertising for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. It is distributed from 3 Sarasota Av., Nashua, NH 03060. If you would like to place an advertisement in the *Fundamental Tone*, contact Bill Noss (<editor@agehrarea1.org> or call 603-886-1512).

Advertising rates: Full page: \$80.00 (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.); Half page: \$50.00 (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.); Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.); Eighth page: \$20.00 (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.); Business Card: \$10 (3.5" w. x 1" h.). The preferred format for ads is a .jpg file.

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest members to Area I

**Cataumet  
Methodist Church**  
Cataumet, MA

**Grace  
Episcopal Church**  
Norwalk, CT

**The Stanwich School**  
Greenwich, CT

**Shore Country  
Day School**  
Beverly, MA

**Please let us  
know how  
we can serve  
you better!**

Contact us at anytime at [editor@agehrarea1.org](mailto:editor@agehrarea1.org).

And **please** keep your email and mailing addresses current by updating your information at AGEHR's national website: [www.agehr.org](http://www.agehr.org).

(May issue)  
**APRIL 18, 2009**  
Deadline for next issue:

## FIRST CLASS

**Return Service Requested**

Nashua, NH 03060  
3 Sarasota Avenue  
Newsletter of AGEHR Area I  
**Fundamental Tone**