

Biennial Report from Connecticut
Area 1, Handbell Musicians of America
June 2015

We continue to reach out to handbell ringers and directors, encouraging networking, support and skill-building. And we have a lot of fun along the way!

Connecticut Spring Rings have been held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol since 2013, and we appreciate the facility and the support from them. Spring Ring in Connecticut offers a variety of workshops for ringers and directors of all levels, as well as a concert with massed ringing, and a chance for individual bell choirs to offer a selection. Jane Nolan (director of Shoreline Ringers) was the clinician in 2014, and Lawrence Berdensey (director of Hockanum Valley Ringers) in 2015. Many thanks to them, to the clinicians who led workshops at the events, and to all the others working behind the scenes to make it happen.

We have had handbells at the Connecticut building for the past two New England Expo's in Springfield, initiated by Steve Mazeau. The Niantic Bay Ringers have represented us and shared the magic of handbells with many people who have not heard them before. Thank you! We'd love to hear of any other "outside the church walls" events anyone has done.

But "a bell is no bell 'til you ring it..." as the song goes. Nationally, Handbell Musicians of America is trying to establish connections with schools or churches who have handbells not being utilized, or who would like to re-start their handbell programs. Locally, we are calling this initiative Bells in Closets, and we need help identifying these places. You may know of someone near you, so please share that information!

Suggestions are always welcomed for future Rings and other events—locations, clinicians, workshop needs, etc. We are also trying to make sure we connect with all known handbell groups in the state. If you know of someone who might not be receiving email notices, please ask, and then let us know. (We are also happy to send out "snail mail" as well.) We grow stronger together!

Keep on ringing!
Mobby Larson
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