

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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

Volume XX, No. 3

Spring 2006

AGEHR Area I Officers

Elected Officers

Chair:

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chair@agehrarea1.org

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(978-851-3024)

chairelect@agehrarea1.org

Past Chair:

Debra LeBrun

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pastchair@agehrarea1.org

Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Holly Cerullo

(978-256-3927)

treasurer@agehrarea1.org

National Liaisons

Education:

Griff Gall

education@agehrarea1.org

Special Needs:

Jeannie Cushman

specialneeds@agehrarea1.org

*Other Officers are listed
on page 2.*

Bell Notes from Nancy

Once again I can report to you that your Board has been very active on your behalf. They are, or have been, involved in the Spring Ringing events (too many to count) that will or have been held in every state. Each State Chair has made an effort to make contact with new members and welcome them to Area I and the Guild.

We held a very successful Directors' Seminar in February; thanks to Linda Lamb, Event Chair. The weather cooperated, with snow arriving after people made it home, for the most part. Karen Leonard did an excellent job reviewing techniques and expanding reading, ringing and directing skills. Dan Moore administered the Level I certification exam and introduced the Level II certification process. Several others either taught classes of interest or led reading sessions. Feedback from those attending was positive and many new ideas for expanding the scope of the event were received and are being considered for next year, so stay tuned.

Plans are progressing for Festival/Conference '07 to be held at URI next June. Look for Sue Henderson's update elsewhere in this issue.

I encourage you to consider attending Family Handbell Camp August 20–24 at Camp Ogontz, in Lisbon, NH. Information about this wonderful, family style ringing experience can be found in this issue.

A Skill Building Workshop for newer ringers is being planned for Oct. 14th, in Groton, Connecticut. Look inside for more information about this event.

The third Adult Ringers' Weekend is scheduled for Nov. 10–11 at the Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH. This beautiful Grand Hotel is the perfect setting for this unique ringing experience. See the enclosed flier and registration form.

The Chime Loan program is going well, with all or most sets in use. Applications for the fall are being processed. If you are interested in the program be sure to contact Griff Gall, our Educational Liaison. If you are interested in helping to promote the inclusion of handbells/handchimes in the music curriculum in schools I am sure Griff would like to hear from you.

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Visit the Area I web site at: www.agehrarea1.org

Bell Notes from Nancy...

Remember, if you are a new director who would like some financial assistance to attend the National Seminar to be held July 12–15th 2006, in Milwaukee, please contact the Bradford Scholarship Chair.

I do hope you have been remembering to send your pictures, programs and any newspaper articles about your concerts and events to Barbara Bussart, Historian, so that she can help us continue to preserve our history. And speaking of history, Elizabeth Bradford, one of the founders of the first Guild of Handbell Ringers in the US, turned 100 this year. What a wonderful Legacy she has left us. I believe there may still be one or two Area I cookbooks available with some of Elizabeth's favorite recipes if you want to help preserve that legacy and support the scholarship fund that bears her name — the Bradford Scholarship. Look for them at events with the Guild Store present, or contact the Guild Store Manager.

The Guild Store also has several educational videos that you or your choir might find helpful. Contact the Store Manager for more information about these resources.

I am sad to report that Andy Wallace has resigned his position as the Rhode Island State Chair. Andy has done a fabulous job supporting ringing in RI, and skill development for new ringers throughout Area I, while also chairing the Bradford Scholarship Program. His participation on the Board will be missed, and we wish him well.

This brings me to an important issue. Presently we are without State Chair representation from Rhode Island,

Maine, and the Eastern Provinces of Canada. In addition, Ed Henderson is the acting MA Chair until someone else assumes that position. The ability of Area I to foster the art of handbell ringing, support local efforts to meet the educational and ringing needs and interests of our membership, and offer larger Area wide events (such as Family Handbell Camp and Festival/Conference), is dependent on representation from each state and province. Participation of Board Members on event committees in each state allows the event to receive AGEHR sponsorship easily, which ensures insurance coverage for the event and payment of ASCAP fees —important considerations for any ringing event. I encourage anyone who would be interested in representing the interests and sharing the enthusiasm of ringers in their state to contact me.

AGEHR has been saddened by the recent passing of two people who have contributed greatly to the Guild: president-elect Marilyn Kieiniarz passed away on January 30th; also, Dr. Norman Johnson, former national treasurer and the person who coined the term “Bronze Division,” passed away on February 8th. We appreciate all these two individuals did for the Guild.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of you in the months to come. If Area I can be of assistance to you in any way, please let us know. Be sure to visit the Area web site, www.agehrarea1.org, to find information about coming events and concerts and existing Area programs. Happy Ringing!

Nancy Reynolds
Area I Chair

Additional Area I Officers

Appointed Officers

<i>Festival/Conference Chair</i>	Sue Henderson (978-851-3024) fcchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Historian/Archivist</i>	Barbara Bussart (401-765-8015) historian@agehrarea1.org
<i>Membership</i>	Jane Nolan (860-464-2873) membership@agehrarea1.org
<i>Guild Store Manager</i>	Bobbie Fillioe (802-438-2974) store@agehrarea1.org
<i>Publications</i>	Ruth H. Bowers (978-922-8137) Bill Noss (603-886-1512) editor@agehrarea1.org
<i>Webmaster</i>	Linda S. Lamb (603-886-1512) webmaster@agehrarea1.org
<i>Video Librarian</i>	Bobbie Fillioe (802-438-2974) store@agehrarea1.org
<i>Bradford Scholarship</i>	TBA

State/Provincial Chairs

<i>Atlantic Provinces (Canadian)</i>	TBA canchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Connecticut</i>	Susan Wilber (203-407-4189) ctchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Maine</i>	TBA mechair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Ed Henderson (Acting Chair) machair@agehrarea1.org
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Co-Chairs: Pat Anderson (603-673-9940, x-167) Tomi Solzman (603-774-3547) nhchair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Rhode Island</i>	TBA richair@agehrarea1.org
<i>Vermont</i>	Jerilyn Bergdahl (802-425-2177) vtchair@agehrarea1.org

Festival/Conference 2007!

By the time you receive this *Fundamental Tone*, many flowers will be in full bloom and Easter will have come and gone. For the members of the FC '07 committee, the countdown has already begun — just a little over 14 months will bring many of us to the AGEHR Area I Festival Conference at the University of Rhode Island June 28th–July 1st at their beautiful campus in Kingston, RI. The massed ringing area will be in the new Thomas M. Ryan Center, which opened in 2002. This venue has many amenities, the most important of which may be the fact that it is air-conditioned. Please note that this fact has been verified multiple times!!!! Check out the Ryan Center news release at <http://www.uri.edu/news/release/html/02-0620.html> for more information.

Our massed directors will be Bill Mathis and Michael Helman and the conference committee is already hard at work to insure you each have a wonderful experience. Our opening concert will feature the New England Ringers, New England's premier ringing ensemble. Visit their Web site for more information — www.newenglandringers.org.

Mark your calendars and watch for more information on the Area I Web site in the coming months!

We are also in the process of selecting repertoire for the massed ringing as well as the three divisions so you can all start getting ready for what is sure to be a wonderful and exciting event. The repertoire will be published in the fall *Fundamental Tone* so you will have adequate preparation time.

Jane Nolan will be serving on the FC '07 Committee as Dean of Education. In this role, she will be recruiting clinicians for the event. As always, we encourage past clinicians to volunteer again and new folks to contact Jane if they are interested in participating as a clinician. New ideas are always welcome! Keep checking the Area I Web site and future editions of *Fundamental Tone* for more information.

I hope to welcome you all to Rhode Island in 2007!

Sue Henderson
Chair-Elect, Area I
Festival/Conference Chair '07

State Reports

Connecticut

The handbell community in Connecticut enjoyed another successful Spring Ring on Saturday, April 1 at Valley Community Baptist Church in Avon. 116 ringers spent the day participating in a variety of activities including repertoire sessions, skill building and technique classes, and round table discussions. Our clinician this year was Jane Nolan, who very enthusiastically led us all through massed ringing rehearsals and the sharing concert which concluded our day. Four other choirs from the state presented solo pieces during the final concert, as did an ensemble group who prepared and presented a piece they had worked on in one of the classes offered during the day. One of our most popular (and non-handbell oriented classes) was origami, which provided a nice break for many participants. The date for next year's event is currently under discussion and will be communicated soon.

By the time this is published, the Spring Concert of Connecticut's premier community handbell ensemble, the Hockanum Valley Ringers, will be history. It was held

on Sunday, April 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon. This group, under the direction of Greg Fisher, has only been in existence since October of 2005; they also performed a solo piece at the Connecticut Spring Ring and were very well received. Rumor has it that there is another community group in another part of the state; more news on this will follow.

For the second consecutive year, southeastern Connecticut will be the site for the Area I Skill Building Workshop. This event received rave reviews from those who attended last October, and the workshop this year will be hosted by Suzanne Stottlemeyer and The Stone Church Ringers of Groton on October 14th. More news will follow on this event.

Susan Wilber
CT State Chair

New Hampshire

New Hampshire has two new co-chairs, Tomi Salzmann and Pat Anderson. (*continued on next page*)

State Reports—New Hampshire...

Tomi Salzmann lives in Dunbarton, NH, and teaches music at Trinity Christian School in Concord. She is responsible for K–6 music education and directs the Junior High and Senior High Competition handbell choirs for the school and also directs a youth handbell choir for Trinity Baptist Church called the “Freedom Ringers.” Before moving to New Hampshire, Tomi was very involved with Area III while living in Virginia Beach area. Tomi has been ringing bells for over 25 years and has directed choirs for the last 10 years. She developed a passion for bells while ringing with the Raleigh Ringers, Raleigh, NC, while living in the Raleigh area in the early 90’s.

Pat Anderson currently teaches music at Souhegan High School in Amherst, NH. Pat is originally from Indiana and has been in New Hampshire since 1988. She has taught K–12, both choral and instrumental, over her 26 years of teaching. She has been at Souhegan for 11 years and teaches chorus, guitar, and handbells. Pat is the conductor of the Amherst Town Band, a local community organization. She is the current president of the New Hampshire Music Educators Association.

As for New Hampshire news, the “Tintinnabulators” from Trinity Christian School, Concord, NH, under the direction of Tomi Salzmann, competed against six other choirs at a National Competition in South Carolina and received first place. How’s that for putting Area I on the map?

*Tomi Salzmann
NH Co-Chair*

Vermont

Vermont directors and ringers had a chance to participate in a number of ringing and learning opportunities in the past couple of months, and everyone is looking forward to the Directors’ Workshop and the celebration of the 25th annual Vermont Spring Ring.

The Directors Roundtable was held January 29, 2006, and hosted by Averill Tinker. Twelve directors had a chance to review the Spring Ring 2006 repertoire, exchange ideas and celebrate achievements.

Over 50 ringers attended one of two mini-rings that were held on opposite sides of the State. The mini-ring in St. Johnsbury was hosted and directed by Phil Brown, and the mini-ring in Burlington was hosted by the community choir, Northern Bronze, and directed by Carolyn Harris, Sally Yankee, Marilyn Sink and Jerilyn Bergdahl. There are no fees to attend the mini-rings but their purpose is threefold:

1. rehearse the five Spring Ring pieces as a massed group and spread helpful ringing hints,
2. provide a massed ringing experience for newcomers, and
3. meet others who also like to ring.

Judging from the comments and reactions of participants, there should be mini-ring opportunities in other parts of the state as well.

Celebration of the 25th Annual Vermont Spring Ring and Directors’ Workshop was held on April 28 and 29, 2006, in Bellows Falls, VT. An exciting time was planned by the Spring Ring committee: Mary Jane Bosworth, Don Maher, Marilyn Distleberg, Barbara Hoag, and Beth Smallheer. The Directors’ Workshop was held at Christ’s Church, Saxtons River, on April 28th, starting at 6 p.m. After directors enjoyed dinner together, there followed a short business meeting; clinician Lee Afdahl presented an evening workshop. Lee directed the massed ringing rehearsals during the day on Saturday, April 29th. The public was invited to a 4 p.m. concert. To open the concert, ringers processed playing the piece commissioned in honor of the 25th annual Spring Ring entitled “Triumphant Celebration” by Paul McKlveen and directed by past Vermont chairperson, Karen James.

*Jerilyn Bergdahl
VT Chair*

Special Needs Report

My comments here are based on an article about hearing-impaired musicians in the March/April 2006 issue of *Overtones* by my friend from Distinctly Bronze ’05, Marilyn Chandler. She suggests, and I have heard it said in other settings, that accommodations for many special needs actually make life more efficient for everyone. Many of these suggestions sound good to me, as I have to work around my own attention deficit issues.

Marilyn makes a number of suggestions for directors that will help them be more precise:

1. A clear directing pattern. It is something I appreciate. Counting out loud or tapping a foot in addition can be more distracting than helpful because it adds another layer of information to be processed. A clear downbeat has saved me from missing more than a few measures when a distraction got me lost.
2. Speak clearly. Be concise. Too much information all at once won’t be remembered. (*continued on page 7*)

Register Now for the Third AGEHR Area I

ADULT RINGERS WEEKEND

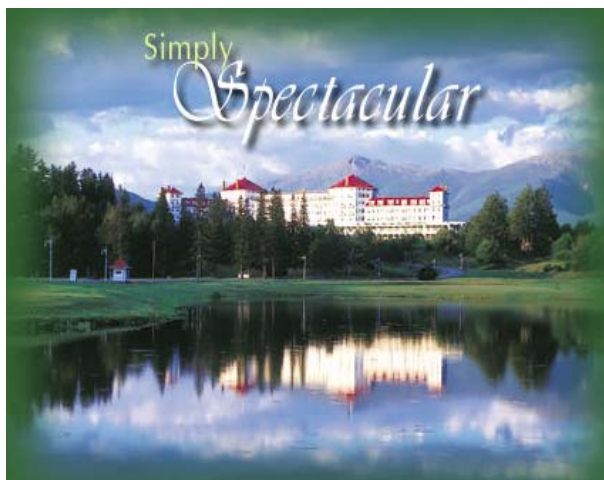
providing a unique ringing opportunity for any adult ringer

November 10-11, 2006

at "The Magnificent"

Mount Washington Hotel

Bretton Woods, New Hampshire



RINGER REGISTRATION:

Resident Rates:

\$35 - Early bird (before 9/1/06)

\$50 - Regular (after 9/1/06; deadline 10/15/06)

Separate charges apply for hotel accommodations.

Commuter Rates:

\$136 - Early bird (before 9/1/06)

\$151 - Regular (after 9/1/06; deadline 10/15/06)

Commuter rates include Friday dinner & Saturday lunch.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

\$179 per person double occupancy, American plan

\$246 single occupancy, American plan

Rates include tax and service charges.

Room reservations are made directly with the Hotel.

Guest Clinician:

Jane Anderson

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION RATES

include three gourmet meals; use of Jacuzzi, sauna, indoor pool, and sports club; and tax & service charge.

Conference rates are available for additional nights (early arrival or extended stay), based on availability; rates apply to ringers and their family or guests.

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.

**Advance
preparation is *not*
required**

**Music is included
in your
registration fee**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Karen James, Registrar
Kjamesbell@aol.com
Fax: 802-483-6167

Kathy Merrill, Event Chair
lucy@kingcon.com
Phone: 802-748-8915

OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

www.agehrarea1.org

FOR HOTEL DETAILS:

www.mtwashington.com



The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort

Since the turn of the century people have come to the breathtaking Mount Washington Valley of New Hampshire seeking a special place to relax and rejuvenate. Many choose to stay at the grand Mount Washington Hotel, a National Historic Landmark, built in 1902 by railroad tycoon Joseph Stickney.

Noted for its magnificent European style masonry and woodwork, panoramic views, and gourmet dining, the hotel retains its original atmosphere of elegance. Located at the center of the Bretton Woods Resort, it is an ideal setting for exploring the Mount Washington Valley and participating in a myriad of year-round recreational opportunities including hiking, golf, tennis, riding, and skiing.

Located in Bretton Woods, NH, the hotel is 165 miles from Boston, MA; 220 miles from Hartford, CT; 130 miles from Rutland, VT; and 90 miles from Portland, ME.

Our Guest Clinician



JANE ANDERSON

A graduate of the University of Kansas, Jane is currently Organist and Director of Music at the First Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas, where she personally directs nine of their fifteen choirs.

Jane has directed at handbell workshops and festivals throughout the United States and three International Handbell Festivals in the Bahamas. She was very well received as guest director of the 2003 Vermont Spring Ring.

Jane has written several articles for *Creator* magazine, and AGEHR's *Overtones of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers*. She is Past President of the Fellowship of American Baptist Music. She also teaches handbells at the University of Kansas.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

AGEHR Membership #: _____

(Use your number or the number of your sponsoring choir or director. Enter "Guest" if you are not an AGEHR member)

Telephone (day): _____

Telephone (eve): _____

Fax: _____

Bell Assignment Preference:

[1] _____ [2] _____ [3] _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Early bird registration: Resident (hotel accommodations paid separately) | \$ 35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Early bird registration: Commuter (includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch) | \$ 136 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular registration: Resident (hotel accommodations paid separately) | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular registration: Commuter (includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch) | \$ 151 |

Early bird registration MUST BE POSTMARKED prior to September 1, 2006. 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,
58 Hendee Lane, Pittsford, VT 05763-9871. (Keep a copy of this form for your records.)

This event requires a great deal of equipment. Please loan if you can! Phil Brown will contact you to confirm your loan by October 1, 2006.

I can provide: _____ octaves of bells _____ octaves of chimes _____ feet of foam & covers

Special Needs Report...

3. Be sure a ringer is listening before talking to them. If you have to repeat yourself, repeat yourself (don't re-word it yet, until they have a chance to hear you "the first time").
4. Giving measure numbers one number at a time, e.g., five-six instead of fifty-six, does make it seem quicker to find the measure.
5. A ringer "may need a moment to process the verbal information given and another moment to find the place the director wishes to begin." In other words, delayed reactions may not be from inattention but from slow processing. Getting frustrated or angry with this person will probably upset them and slow them down even more. Practice patience, and they'll relax and do better.
6. Designate appropriate times to talk. Some breaks are for discussing the music, others for socializing. Doing both at the table at the same time can be too chaotic!

There are several points that apply to all ringers:

1. Talking can be disruptive, not only to the hearing impaired. Being just plain tired can make it difficult to stay focused on the task at hand. If you talk

whenever the music stops, or if you talk even while playing, you are probably distracting your neighbors. They are probably too nice to say anything; they probably wish the director would do something.

2. When a neighbor has a need, either from a recognized problem or they are simply less experienced, "overzealous assistance" may cause more problems. Work it out who is going to cue the person during rehearsals, a neighbor or the director. Either the individual or everyone else may become frustrated if one person is singled out excessively.
3. Ask your director how to get recordings of the music you ring, so that you "hear the melody, and...gain a sense of where [your] bells fit in the piece." Have you tried simply air-belling your part along with a recording, just to get your arms moving at the correct time? The more prepared you are for rehearsal, the easier it is to watch the director, and the more efficient and fun the rehearsal can be.

Finally, there is the individual's responsibility:

1. Be aware of your special needs. That makes it a lot easier to problem-solve your individual needs.
2. Be willing to discuss your needs with the director.
(continued on next page)

THE ART OF RINGING

Music by: Mozart, Faure, Payn, Desmond, Joy and others

back bay ringers

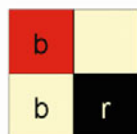
June 16th, 2006

8:00 PM

Old South Church, Boston MA

Tickets will be available at the door \$15.00

www.backbayringers.org



back | bay | ringers
griff gall, artistic director

boston's
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handbell ensemble

Special Needs Report...

Any teacher makes adjustments for the individuals they work with, and music directors are the same. Your challenges don't need to be public knowledge. But if your challenge is being extra-challenged at bell rehearsal, and the director can make some simple adjustments for you, why not let things be made more efficient for you?

3. Musical ringing and damping are your job – you can be coached, but you ring the bell. Bell choirs have the most helpful and supportive musicians. Let that support lead you to a greater confidence in yourself!

Jeannie Cushman
Special Needs Liaison

Education Report

Recorder and Chimes in the Elementary Music Classroom

As an elementary music specialist, I am always trying to find ways to reinforce music reading skills with my students. After all, developing independent musicians requires developing not only an enjoyment of making music, but also the skills to create music when the teacher is no longer around. November was a very exciting month for my third grade students, maybe a dreaded month for their parents, because that is when I send home a brand new recorder to each lucky third grader. To see the excitement on their faces is amazing. But maintaining this excitement can be a challenge.

Many elementary general music classes use recorders as part of their programs, and recorders can have many benefits for young musicians. As an Orff based teacher, I use the recorder frequently as an instrument to add color to orchestrations, often teaching a simple pattern

Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendars!

AREA I Festival/Conference 2007

July 28–July 1, 2007

Directors: Bill Mathis & Michael Helman

by rote. Recorders can also be an excellent instrument to introduce students to the concept of reading music, in preparation for learning a band instrument. When learning new music, I require my students to learn to play the piece by reading the printed music. We explore the concepts of reading notes from the staff and how notes are lined up on the staff. Then we concentrate on working only on the notes that we are learning on the recorder, in this case BAG. Now you are probably wondering why I am talking so much about recorders in a handbell newsletter, I will be getting to the ringing part soon.

Learning to read music for some students is easy. However, for many students reading music is a daunting task that they have difficulty understanding and therefore may choose not to put in the effort needed. We can teach the concepts of reading music, but unless the children experience reading notes from the staff on a regular basis, they are not going to develop the ability to read successfully. I have been encouraging my students to say the letter names when they get new music for the recorders, but let's face it – it's boring. I know I should not say that as a music teacher, but think about it from
(continued on page 11)

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A community handbell choir



Skill-Building Workshop For Newer Ringers

Saturday, October 14, 2006

First Church of Christ, Congregational

162 Monument Street

Groton, CT

Program

This event will be a skill-building workshop and sight reading session for beginning ringers and/or choirs who would like help developing their skills in a low-pressure environment. This event is for you if you are a beginning ringer or a ringer who has been ringing for a while, but still does not feel comfortable with reading music or interpreting how to do the various techniques required. Topics covered will include the following:

- Warm up activities to prepare for ringing properly
- Developing a "more perfect" ringing stroke
- Notation of special bell techniques and how to properly execute them
- Developing your sight-reading skills

Details

Date: October 14, 2006 9:00 am - 3:00pm (set up at 8:30 am)

First Church of Christ, Congregational

Emergency Phone (day of event only) 860-445-7409

Cost: \$15.00 per Ringer

Lunch will be provided.

Music

The music rung during the event will be Level 1 and 2 music and will be provided for use on that day. No advance preparation is required.

Clinicians

Clinicians are all well known directors or ringers in Area 1. All have extensive experience as musicians, ringers, directors, and/or clinicians. We look forward to working with them.

Equipment

Attending choirs are encouraged to bring their own equipment: bells, foam, covers, music binders/stands, mallets, gloves, etc. Individual ringers are also very welcome. Tables will be provided. Please loan if you can! You will be notified if your bells and foam are needed by October 1.

Registration Form

Skill-Building Workshop – Oct 14, 2006

Church/School/Group: _____

AGEHR Membership #: _____ (Individual or choir #)

Director's Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Attendees:

	Name (as it will appear on name tag)	Years ringing experience
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

I can bring _____ octaves of bells & _____ feet of foam to use in the workshop.

(You will be contacted by October 1 if your equipment is needed.)

Registration Fees: _____ ringers @ \$15 each = \$ _____

Send completed registration form, with check for the total above (**payable to "AGEHR, Area I"**), postmarked by **September 15, 2006** to:

Sally Turner, Registrar
13 Ashby Street
Mystic, CT 06355-2423

Registrations will be honored on a first come first served basis up to the 50 attendee limit. Those postmarked after September 15 may not be able to be honored.

If you have any questions, contact Sally: phone (860) 536-6904 or e-mail ezekiel44@sbcglobal.net
Directions to the church will be provided upon receipt of the registration form.

Education Report...

an active third grader's point of view. When you say the letter names, there is no music being made. I am lucky to have a two-octave set of chimes plus the diatonic twelve-note set, which gives me three groups of BAG. I have the students sit in groups, since there are nine chimes, I have two or three people in a group, and each group is assigned one chime. First, we all say the letter names, but it's OK, because they know they have the chimes! Next, we clap only our chime part. Finally, we get to ring it! OK, to be honest, it's not very musically satisfying at first, but the students are hooked, and they are willing to practice. Now each student has to be responsible for following along with the music.

They each have a copy and I project a copy from the over head. This really helps those students who tend to have tracking issues, or who just can't pay attention long enough to follow the eight measures. I have found that we can do this several times, and since a BAG melody is a pentatonic melody, they can add a simple xylophone part on the Orff instruments. Now we have the melody on chimes, some kind of repeated bass pattern played on the a xylophone or two, maybe some other non-pitched percussion instrument here and there, and I can start playing the melody on the recorder. After

playing this through just a few times, the children start to make music together. It's wonderful!

The students have had some fun and made a little music, but what they have learned? By having the children say the letter names with the chimes, they have become more familiar with the isolated notes on the staff, practiced following a score and reading rhythm values, and worked together as an ensemble to make music; they begin to understand how a chime choir works. After learning a recorder melody on chimes, the children learn to quickly transfer the melody to recorder. Once the class plays the song well on recorder, I bring back the chimes and create a chime arrangement of the recorder piece. This means I simply add a few one and five chords on the down beats. I have the students learn the new arrangements with the chimes and then we can create a full performance piece out of a simple eight-measure recorder tune. For example, the children can create an introduction with xylophones, drums or other non-pitched percussion instruments, play the recorder melody on the recorder with the xylophone ostinato or repeated pattern, then play the chime arrangement with the chords, and finish with a combination of the xylophone part, the recorder, and the chimes.

(continued on next page)



Friday June 2, 2006 7:30
Faith Lutheran Church
1120 Silver Lane
East Hartford, CT

Saturday June 3, 2006 7:00
St. James Episcopal Church
25 West Street
Danbury, CT

Sunday June 4, 2006 7:30
West Chelmsford UMC
242 Main Street
North Chelmsford, MA

Tuesday May 9, 2006 7:30
Highlands Handbell Festival
Highlands Elementary School
Danvers, MA

Friday May 12, 2006 7:30
Congregational Church
Church St.
Amherst, NH

Saturday May 13, 2006 7:30
First Congregational Church
19 Church Road
Shrewsbury, MA

<http://www.mvringers.com/>

Education Report...

Chimes are wonderful teaching tools for students of all ages. So many musical concepts can be introduced through the use of chimes or handbells in the music classroom. If you are a music teacher and do not have access to chimes, please contact the Area I chime loaner program to learn how you can use a three-octave set of chimes in your classroom for a full school year. If you know that your child's music teacher does not have access to chimes, offer information on our program. An application for the Area I chime loaner program can be found on line at <http://www.agehrarea1.org/Pages/ChimeLoaner.html>. Please contact me with any questions regarding the chime loaner program at gcall@backbayringers.org.

A call for teachers!

Are you a K-12 music teacher who uses handbells or chimes to supplement the curriculum in your classroom? If so, please consider joining the Area I Education team as we begin to reflect on curriculum needs for handbells and chimes in our schools. As our instrument becomes more popular, we need to make sure quality materials are available for teachers who do not have a strong background in using this unique and wonderful instrument. Our goal is to create a K-12 lesson plan

packet that can be sent out with our chime loaner program. If this is something that interests you, please contact me at gcall@backbayringers.org.

Griff Gall

Education Liaison

New Members

Please welcome these new members to Area I:

Leigh William Gesick, Old Saybrook, CT

Marilee M. Morse, Danielson, CT

Norma Atwood, South Yarmouth, MA

Thomas Bold, Nahant, MA

Peter Coulombe, Boston, MA

Diane Piraino, Richmond, MA

Handbell Director, Christ Church Cathedral,

Frederickton, NB, Canada

Marlene Woodworth, Hillborough, NB, Canada

Sandra Clark, Bow, NH

Bill Noss, Nashua, NH

Beth Barefoot-Jones, New Gloucester, ME

Scott Hood, Clinton, ME

John Rimkunas, South Portland, ME

Kevin Di Lorenzo, Smithfield, RI

NEW ENGLAND RINGERS, INC.

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978-851-3024

www.newenglandringers.org



UPCOMING APPEARANCES

2006 CONCERTS

Saturday,
June 17, 7:30 PM

Grace Congregational Church
Rutland, VT

Thursday,
July 6, 7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church
Greenfield, MA

Friday,
July 7, 7:30 PM

Avon Community Baptist Church
Avon, CT

Saturday,
July 8, 7:00 PM

Dunnis Corners Community Presbyterian Church
Westerly, RI

Saturday
Oct. 21, 7:30 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church
Amherst, MA

Would your organization like to present an NER concert? Contact us at newenglandrings@aol.com, or call us at 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently sought anywhere in New England for Fall and Holiday Season 2006.

Family Handbell Camp

Camp Ogontz • Lisbon, NH • August 20th–24th, 2006

Do you have a beginner group? Have you been dying to start ensemble ringing but needed to learn how to do it? Do you have a family that wants to vacation together but they are not all ringers? Are you an advanced ringer that would like a bigger challenge?

Come join us for 4 days of ringing in a beautiful 300-acre facility in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. This event is unique in that you can bring your whole family whether they are ringers or not. There is child care for those 3 and under, beginner through advanced ringing classes and ensemble ringing. This event is a perfect place to get your handbell group together for a new beginning of their ringing year. We would love to teach your beginner group the foundations of bell ringing. Bring your entire "family" to camp.

Discounts for early registration, groups of 4 or more and families that bring a "newbie." Go to www.agehrea1.org/FHC to read more about it. Registration forms are available online and on page 15 of this *Fundamental Tone*.

Chair: Linda Lamb

Registrar: Jennie Haney

HELP WANTED:

Do You Know a **LIFEGUARD** or have one in your family?

Family Handbell Camp is in need of a certified lifeguard for three hours each day of camp. Pay is \$120 and *camp is free for the lifeguard*. They do not have to be handbell ringers, but we'll be glad to teach them.

For more information, please contact Linda Lamb
at 603-886-1512 or by email at
linda.s.lamb@verizon.net

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 for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. It is distributed from 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915. If you would like to place an advertisement in the *Fundamental Tone*, contact Ruth Bowers (<Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net> or call 978-922-8137).

Advertising rates: Full page: \$80.00 (7" x 9.5"); Half page: \$50.00 (7" x 4.5"); Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.25" x 4.5"); Eighth page: \$20.00 (3.25" x 2.2"); Business Card: \$10 (3.25" x 1"). The preferred format for an ad is a .jpg file.



Keep Your Bells Looking Their Best!

Simichrome Polish
Restore that "new" look to your bells with Simichrome Polish®, recommended by handbell manufacturers.

Apply the ammonia-based

polish on the bell surface with a soft cotton cloth. (Our cleaning cloths are perfect for this). Spread the polish evenly with a circular motion, then wipe off. This polish oxidizes the tarnish and restores the original luster to the bells.

1102	50 gram tube	\$7.75
1103	250 gram can	\$22.25
1104	1000 gram can	\$61.00

Cleaning Cloths

Not pictured. Use one cloth to apply the polish to the bell casting. Remove the polish with a second cloth. A third cloth picks up any remaining residue. The lint-free interlocking knit does not unravel. Cloths may be washed and reused, but each washing reduces absorbency.

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

Cape Cod Metal Polishing Cloths

Use these treated cotton cloths to polish bronze castings quickly and easily. Safe for most metals, these cloths also protect by leaving an invisible layer of anti-tarnish protection.

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 nitrile 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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1-800-JHS-BELL

www.HandbellWorld.com

Coming Events

Family Handbell Camp, August 20–24, 2006, Camp Ogontz, Lisbon, NH. Contact: Linda S. Lamb
Skill Building Workshop, October 14, 2006, Groton, CT. Contact Suzanne

Adult Ringers' Weekend, November 10–11, 2006, Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH
National Seminar, July 12–15, 2006, Milwaukee, WI
Festival/Conference '07, June 28–July 1, 2007, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. Contact: Sue Henderson

Photos from *The Directors Seminar*



Sixty people participated in the Directors Conference in Nashua, NH, at the Sheraton Tara, February 10–11.

Photos from *Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival*



Twenty-three ringing groups, including six youth bands, participated in the twentieth Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival on April 1 at Tewksbury (MA) Memorial High School. A wonderful crowd came to the final concert and visited with the bands afterward.



Family Handbell Camp 2006 Registration AGEHR, Area I, Inc. at Camp Ogontz August 19 - 23, 2006

Date: _____

Adult Camper responsible for this Family:

Name: _____ Day Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Eve Phone: _____ AGEHR membership #: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please list each camper in the group and their ability.

Name	Age (if under 18)	Camper Type (choose one)	Ringing Ability (choose one)	Years of Experience
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (4-8 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (0-3 yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Tins (level 1- 2+ music) <input type="checkbox"/> Copper (level 2+ - 4 music) <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (level 3+ music and up) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (4-8 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (0-3 yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Tins (level 1- 2+ music) <input type="checkbox"/> Copper (level 2+ - 4 music) <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (level 3+ music and up) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (4-8 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (0-3 yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Tins (level 1- 2+ music) <input type="checkbox"/> Copper (level 2+ - 4 music) <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (level 3+ music and up) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (4-8 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Child (0-3 yrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Tins (level 1- 2+ music) <input type="checkbox"/> Copper (level 2+ - 4 music) <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (level 3+ music and up) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ringer	_____

I can bring handbells/chimes (stipends available):

- ☐ Bells: # of octaves _____
☐ Chimes: # of octaves _____
☐ Foam # of feet _____

REFUND POLICY: Requests for refunds must be made in writing. Requests postmarked by May 15 will receive a full refund. Requests postmarked by July 15 will receive a 50% refund. We reserve the right to make no refunds for requests made after July 15.

Please fill out below. Make checks payable to AGEHR, Area I Inc. When finished, please mail with payment to:

Jennie Haney
11 Central Av.
Chicopee, MA 01020
email: haneyjen@aol.com
(413) 592-9456

SECTION A - Regular Registration

Ringers: _____ @ \$230 = _____
 Non-Ringers: _____ @ \$170 = _____
 Children: _____ @ \$125 = _____

SECTION B - Indoor Housing

3 Days: _____ @ \$36 = _____
 4 Days: _____ @ \$48 = _____

SECTION C - Extra Day

Extra Day: _____ @ \$35 = _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

Discount for groups of 4 or more (20% of subtotal) - \$ _____

Add Late Fee \$20 (after 7/1/06) + \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Deposit Enclosed \$ _____
 (at least 50% of Total Due)

The Fundamental Tone

Newsletter of AGEHR Area I

25 Pine Road

Beverly, MA 01915-3729

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS

**Deadline for next
issue: JULY 18, 2006**

