

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

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

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

Volume XXIV, No. 2

May 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18, 2010
Boston Handbell Festival
Old South Church, Boston, MA

July 18–21, 2010
Pinnacle 2010
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee

August 3–7, 2010
**International Handbell
Symposium**
Osaka, Japan

August 19–22, 2010
Friends & Family Handbell Camp
Camp Wightman, Griswold, CT

November 5–6, 2010
Adult Ringer Weekend
Mount Washington Hotel
Bretton Woods, NH

March 26, 2011
Maine Spring Ring
Cumberland Center, ME

June 23–26, 2011
Festival/Conference 2011
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

Notes From The Chair...

I first discovered handbells when I was a freshman in college. I attended a parent weekend performance of the **Westminster Concert Bell Choir**, and hearing this ensemble and watching the beautiful bronze instruments dance with a sense of precision and elegance inspired me to learn more about this fascinating instrument. That spring, I signed up for Concert Bell Choir II, where Kathy Ebling first put a C₄ and D₄ handbell in my hand. I was instantly captured by the physicality and beauty of this instrument. The following year, I had the opportunity to audition for the Westminster Concert Bell Choir, a group I had the privilege of ringing with for three years.

Each of us has our own unique story about how we became involved with ringing. I always enjoy going to handbell events and discussing with other ringers the catalyst for their involvement with ringing. Often I hear stories similar to my own experience, where one hears and sees a handbell ensemble perform and something triggers that feeling of “I want to do that!” For others, their introduction to ringing may have been less of a choice. A handbell director comes to them with a panic in their voice and says, “hey, you can read music, I need you to fill in here because my G₄–A₄ person is going to Bermuda next Sunday and we are scheduled to perform.” Some remember having a chance to ring as a child, but then left handbells for several years before finding a new group to join. I once overheard a ringer mention how she never felt comfortable with her singing voice but had always loved music. For her, the handbell ensemble provided an opportunity to make music and participate in her worship service, without the risk of having to sing.

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Friends & Family Handbell Camp.....6, 8	State Reports15
2011 Festival/Conference.....11	High School Ring-Out 201019
Adult Ringers Weekend 201012	

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

While I find it interesting to learn why people became handbell ringers, I am becoming increasingly more interested in why people continue to be handbell ringers. Recently I completed a pilot study involving an established local church handbell choir. I spent several weeks observing rehearsals and performances and had the opportunity to interview several of the ringers. This type of investigation has been used to study the motivation of adult participants in community music organizations and I want-

ed to apply this type of investigation to the handbell community. Certainly this small pilot study does not offer me an opportunity to draw any conclusions. What this pilot study does suggest is that members of this particular ensemble enjoyed participating in the ensemble, but each have different personal reasons for committing to the choir. Some ringers enjoy the social aspects of the ensemble. This was clearly evident during snack time, which gave the ringers a few moments to chat and share personal announcements with the rest of the choir. Some members just loved ringing, and this choir gave them an

opportunity to do what they enjoyed. Because this was a church choir, I was curious to see if the spiritual aspect of participating in the ensemble was a motivational factor. One ringer stated, "I was looking for a church family and to me a church family, a handbell choir is part of that." While others said that there were some pieces that had a spiritual connection, but mostly it was a musical connection that was important.

Understanding why ringers join an ensemble, or why a director chooses to continue to work with an ensemble, could offer

AGEHR AREA I OFFICERS

Elected Officers

Chair: **Griff Gall** (617-599-8656)
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Handbell Advisory Board
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Vermont **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

us valuable insight into our own ensembles. The art of handbell ringing continues to grow in many different areas. Visit Youtube and you can see many “traditional” church-based handbell ensembles, a growing number of community ensembles (including several of Area I’s own community ensembles), many solo and small group performances as well as an increasing number of “specialty” groups that are popping up all over. (Have you seen the Pavlov’s Dogs’ videos? Who would have ever suspected Burlesque and handbells would be in the same sentence, not to mention in the same performance!) With the variety of directions an ensemble can take, making sure that 13 people are on the same page can be crucial to the success of an ensemble, and to the happiness of the ringers in that ensemble.

As a director myself, my ultimate goal for all of my ensembles, is to produce the most musical performance we are capable of creating. However, it is important that I think about the ringers I am working with. What motivates them to continuously carve out time in their busy schedule to participate in the ensemble? First, I can guarantee that my fourth and fifth graders have different motivations from my college students, who also have different motivations from the ringers in my community choir. I can also bet that if we did not have some fun in rehearsals, I would most



Be thinking about who you’ll nominate for Area I’s first-ever Leadership Award. Complete details will appear in August’s *Fundamental Tone*.

likely lose all of my ringers. Knowing that my fourth and fifth graders love playing the chimes, enjoy playing some pieces that they know, and enjoy some social time helps me structure that ensemble. I know that some of my fourth grades signed up for chimes because their friends signed up. This is a common motivation for joining and participating in a group across generations. My college ensemble is a small, beginning ensemble with five very dedicated ringers, who have shown an excitement for learning new techniques. My community ensemble enjoys receiving challenging new music that will allow them to grow as musicians, but they equally enjoy the social aspects of being a part of a “team.” Like the ringers I interviewed in the pilot study, I can see that each of the ringers I work with have their own reasons for dedicating their time and energy to being a part of their ensemble. Their unique talents and personalities are part of the success of those ensembles.

For directors, I would encourage you to consider what motivates the ringers in your ensembles to

continue to participate. For ringers, take time to reflect on your personal motivations for participating in an ensemble share your thoughts with your director. When I was a student at Westminster Choir College, we had vocal choir rehearsal everyday, and as a voice major, I had coachings with my accompanist and weekly voice lessons. We were always singing. (Go figure...at a place with Choir as its middle name.) I found the bell choir to be an inviting place to make music in a way that was not singing, a welcome break from my routine. When I was evaluating the results from the pilot study, this idea of a “welcome break from our routine” repeatedly came back. As a director, we cannot control what has happened in our ringers lives before they walk into our rehearsal, but we can try to understand why they come to us every week. We can try to create a safe and welcoming place to make music together. We can try to encourage our ensembles to strive for excellence in musicality and hopefully we can all have fun.

Thank you. 
Griff Gall, Chair, Area I

Westminster Concert Bell Choir

To Perform Four Concerts in New England

This May, handbell enthusiasts throughout New England are in for a rare treat. The Westminster Concert Bell Choir will be performing a tour in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The 15-member Westminster Concert Bell Choir is composed of undergraduate students of Westminster Choir College. The director is Kathleen Ebling. This year celebrates the 31st year of the handbell curriculum at Westminster Choir College, the first institution in the world to develop such a program.



Sunday, May 16, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Naugatuck, CT

Naugatuck Congregational Church
 9 Division Street • 203-729-3037

Contact: Mahlon Peterson
mahlonp@gmail.com

Free-Will Offering

Monday, May 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Falmouth, MA

John Wesley United Methodist Church
 Gifford Street & Jones Road
 508-548-3050

Co-Sponsored by: Church of the Messiah

Contact: Brittany Haskell
 207-450-8679
Brittany.haskell@gmail.com

Admission by Ticket

Wednesday, May 19, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Medfield, MA

UCC Medfield
 496 Main Street • 508-359-2351

Co-Sponsored by: Back Bay Ringers

Contact: Griff Gall
 617-599-8656
ggall@backbayringers.org

Free-Will Offering

Thursday, May 20, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Stockbridge, MA

Stockbridge First Congregational Church
 4 Main Street • 413-298-3137

Contact: Marj Fuller
 413-623-2342

Free-Will Offering

Hailed for its virtuosity, the Westminster Concert Bell Choir uses the largest range of handbells in the world — eight octaves, from C₁ to C₉. Many of the bells are made of bronze and range in weight from four ounces to 11 pounds; the Choir also uses the large “Basso Profundo” aluminum-cast bells that are a new phenomenon in handbell ringing. The Choir supplements their handbell set with a six-octave set of Malmark Choir-chime® instruments from C₂ to C₈ — the widest range in existence.

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir has appeared on Public Television’s “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” and several holiday broadcasts of the “Today” show, including one in which the ensemble was joined by NBC tel-

levision personalities Katie Couric and Willard Scott. Its holiday performances have been heard annually on National Public Radio's "Performance Today," and it is included on NPR's *Christmas Around The Country II* recording. The choir has performed at Carnegie Hall twice during the Christmas season. Most recently, the choir was featured on New Jersey Network's *State Of The Arts* program.

In December 2002, the ensemble joined Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Charlotte Church and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for a critically acclaimed 15-city tour entitled "A Royal Christmas." The Choir

has made seven recordings: *The Pealing Bells, Westminster Concert Bell Choir, Christmas Bells, Westminster Rings!, Praise and Adoration, Christmas at Westminster: The Westminster Concert Bell Choir, By Request* and *Westminster Concert Bell Choir: 30th Anniversary Collection*.

Director Kathleen Ebling is a graduate of Westminster Choir College. She is a member of the sacred music department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where she teaches classes in handbell training and conducts a second handbell choir. Ms. Ebling is also director of sales and marketing

This is the season for
concerts and workshops
throughout New England.
Check them out at...

www.agehrarea1.org

at Malmark, Inc./Bellcraftsmen
in Plumsteadville, PA.

In May 2003, Ms. Ebling received the Alumni Merit Award from Westminster Choir College of Rider University for her dedication to the art of handbell ringing and her enthusiasm and accomplishments in the classroom as well as the concert hall. 🎵



*Musical Excellence
In Handbell Ringing*
978-851-3024
www.newenglandringers.org

Upcoming Concerts

Tuesday, May 18 8:00 p.m.	Boston Handbell Festival Old South Church • 645 Boylston • Boston
Friday, May 21 7:00 p.m.	First United Methodist Church 25 Church Street • Greenfield, MA
Saturday, May 22 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Wesley United Methodist Church Afternoon Workshops with NER Concert • 98 North Maple St. • Hadley, MA
Sunday, May 23 4:00 p.m.	Orange Congregational Church 205 Meeting House Lane • Orange, CT
Sunday, June 6 4:00 p.m.	The United Church of Christ in Medfield 496 Main Street • Medfield, MA
Friday, June 11 7:00 p.m.	Tewksbury Congregational Church 10 East Street • Tewksbury, MA
Sunday, June 13 Time TBD	First Parish Congregational Church One Church Street • Wakefield, MA

Would your organization like to present an NER concert or host a workshop event?
Contact us at info@newenglandringers.org, or call 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently
being sought for the Holiday 2010 and Spring 2011 seasons.

There's Something Magical About Family Handbell Camp...

If you know me, I know what you're thinking: that my opinion of Family Handbell Camp is biased because I met my wife there.

Actually, I was only going to mention the other lifelong friendships forged at camp—adults and young people too. Some of the young people attending the first camps—some working and in college now—still get together every now and again and keep in touch all the time. Most of the adults I see every year at events or concerts. There are others I consider close friends and see fairly regularly.

I was not going to mention our old camp site in New Hampshire, because everyone who's seen Camp Wightman in southern Connecticut thinks it's even better! And that's saying a lot.

A Ringing Endorsement

I will mention the relaxed handbell learning atmosphere. You won't believe

how many people there are willing to help out; at *any* time you have a question, I should add. Attending for the first time, the thought I recall most was that every good/great ringer there remembered what it was like to be a "newbie." There were a few of us newbies! And we learned.

Let me describe a few of the families at camp: a mother who rang, her husband and two daughters who did not; a music director who rang, his wife who didn't, and six or

seven "adopted" children who rang; and a man and his wife and their college-attending daughter who all rang handbells (this was their annual quality time together). My first-year family included my church music director (who was also my best friend), his wife and his cousin; three of us rang, one brought her knitting and quilting! A lady from Connecticut came with three to four of her best friends: some who rang, some who did not. They also made camp their annual quality-time get-together.

So, if you like to learn and have a great time while doing it, surrounded by people you know and love, Friends & Family Handbell Camp has it all...at a very mentionable good price!

Oh, yes, I recommend to you the annual Perseid meteor showers over the lake...pretty spectacular. Let me know if there is anything else you'd like to hear about. I think you already mentioned that I met my wife at Family Handbell Camp. 🪔

The Editor



Schulmerich Bells



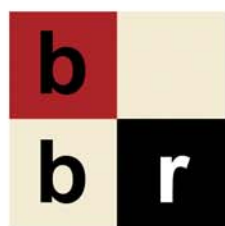
Susan S. Chamberlin

Regional Independent
Sales Representative

Phone: 603/491-8358

SChamberlin@SchulmerichBells.com

**** NEW! Ring 'N' Roll Cases with WHEELS!! ****



back bay **ringers**

Boston's community handbell ensemble

Perpetual Motion

Saturday, June 5, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

**Firehouse Center for the Performing Arts
One Market Square, Newburyport, Massachusetts**

CD release party with cash bar to follow concert
Visit www.firehouse.org or call 978-462-7336 for tickets

BBR to release latest CD!

Our new CD, entitled *Perpetual Motion*, can be enjoyed year-round and features compositions that celebrate movement and dance.

The CD will be available on June 5, 2010, and we'll be celebrating its release at the party following our concert that evening at Newburyport's Firehouse Center for the Arts.

Be among the first to get your own copy of the CD and join us in Newburyport!



Visit www.backbayringers.org to learn about additional performances, receive full concert details, and subscribe to our e-mail newsletter.

Friends & Family Handbell Camp

When you get tired of basking in the sun, lying on the beach or paddling a canoe on the beautiful lake, you can get your fill of the best handbell activities Area I has to offer:

- Massed Ringing for all
- Solo Ringing with Karen James
- Ensemble Ringing with Sue Chamberlin
- A new exciting Youth Program led by Pete Larson
- Techniques Classes covering...well, everything!
- Musicianship and Theory with Pierre Masse
- Floor Cloth painting with Bill Noss
- Scavenger Hunts, games, social gatherings, the return of 'talent' night, and other activities organized by Rachel Cerullo-Romano
- Directors' classes (assigning, conducting) with Jane, Dan and Ed
- Drumming with Kim Visbaras

REGISTRATION DEADLINE Extended To JULY 1st

All this in the friendly and relaxed setting of Camp Wightman on the shores of Billings Lake in North Stonington, CT.

This is a great opportunity to get 'warmed up' for the new ringing season, review good ringing practices and have great time doing it.

Bring Friends. Bring Family. Be a part of this exciting event. *Jane, Dan, and Ed* 🗑️

MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS

Sunday, May 23, 2010 – 3:30pm
St. John's UMC Dover, NH

Saturday, June 5, 2010 – 7:00pm
appearing with Bay Colony Brass
St. Matthew's UMC Acton, MA

Sunday, June 6, 2010 – 3:00pm
appearing with Bay Colony Brass
Brookside Congregational Church Manchester, NH

Friday, June 11, 2010 – 7:30pm
St. Christopher's Church Nashua, NH

Saturday, June 12, 2010 – 7:00pm
First Congregational Church Shrewsbury, MA

Sunday, June 13, 2010 – 6:30pm
Carlisle Congregational Church Carlisle, MA

Saturday, June 19, 2010 – 7:30pm
West Chelmsford UMC North Chelmsford

"Handbells for any occasion!"



MVR's spring tour 2010 is entitled "A Time to Dance". We have a dynamic program planned that is full of toe-tapping music. Repertoire includes "Five Four Waltz", "Polka from the Golden Age Ballet", "Danse Macabre", "Can-Can" and "Rock Around the Clock" - as well as some other surprises. All concerts are free admission (a free-will donation will be accepted), and our two CDs, "Season's Ringings!" and "Kaleidoscope" will be available for purchase at all performances. So dust off your dancing shoes and join us at one of our concerts. We look forward to entertaining you!



Visit our website for more details: www.mvringers.com



Camp Wightman, Griswold CT, August 19–22, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM

Please PRINT all information

Adult Camper responsible for this group:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Street _____ City: _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ **AGEHR Membership # _____

Organization or Individual Name on membership: _____

Please list each camper in the group and estimate his/her ringing ability:

(include person listed above!)

Name	Age: (if under 18)	Ringer/ Non-Ringer:	Ringling Ability: <u>N</u> ovice, <u>I</u> ntermediate <u>A</u> dvanced OR # years	Handbell Director? Y / N
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Equipment I/We can loan *(stipends available)*

Foam: # feet: _____ Bells: # octaves: _____ Chimes: # octaves: _____

Financial Worksheet: Fill out all information on the reverse side. Registration fee is per camper and includes board and room and all activities, except as noted. Make a copy of this form for your records. Mail this form with check made out to *AGEHR Area I, Inc.*, to:

Jane Nolan, FFHC Registrar
18 Robin Hood Drive
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

(OVER)

**This is an AGEHR sponsored event. You must list the AGEHR membership number of your church, school, community choir, or an individual in your group. For membership information go to:
www.AGEHR.org



Camp Wightman, Griswold, CT August 19–22, 2010

FINANCIAL WORKSHEET

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 1, 2010

AT LEAST 50% PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Responsible Adult Camper (from other side): _____

Registration Fees: -

- Full Registration (all age ringers, youth - adult, includes Board and Room and all activities).....\$200.00
- Non-Ringer Registration(4 years–adult, includes Board and Room only—no instruction or other handbell-related activities)\$175.00

REFUND POLICY: Requests for refunds must be made in writing and sent to the Registrar:
Requests for refunds postmarked prior to July 1 will receive a full refund.
Requests for refunds postmarked prior to August 1 will receive a 50% refund.
No refund requests will be accepted or honored after August 1, 2010.

ALL REGISTRATION MATERIALS, PAYMENTS AND REQUESTS MUST BE SENT TO:

Jane Nolan, FFHC Registrar, 18 Robin Hood Drive, Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Checks payable to: AGEHR Area I, Inc.

Calculations:

Full Registrations: _____ x \$200.00 = \$ _____

Non-Ringers Registrations: _____ x \$175.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES: _____ = \$ _____

Deposit (at least 50% of the total) *included with this form:* _____ – \$ _____

BALANCE DUE BY AUGUST 1, 2010 _____ = \$ _____

ALL Deposits subject to REFUND POLICY. Schedule, directions, health forms and other information will be sent with confirmation of deposit.

Other Information: Jane Nolan, Registrar: 860-464-2873; email: janecz@comcast.net
www.agehr.org (Membership information)
www.agehrarea1.org (Area I information)
www.campwightman.org (Facility information)

Festival/Conference 2011

Update from the Festival/Conference Chair

June 23–26
2011

I hope you all have marked your calendars for **Festival/Conference 2011** to be held at **UMASS at Amherst**. The dates are **June 23–26**. I sincerely hope to see each and every one of you there next year. I know several choirs have already started

fundraising efforts to help towards registration fees. This is a good time to also mention that there is the Elizabeth Bradford scholarship available to first-time choir attendees. Please contact Sue Henderson for more information at scholarship@agehrarea1.org.

It is hard to believe that in a short year from now we will all be making preparations to attend Festival/Conference 2011. Our fabulous directors will be **Bill Alexander and Michael Kastner**, and I am thrilled to say that it is looking very likely that “Strikepoint” will be performing the opening night concert as well as being part of our faculty.

I still need some key people to serve on the FC committee. If you have a desire to be a part of FC in any way, right down to sharpening pencils (just part of the job), please contact me.

I am pleased to announce that Martha Goodman has agreed to be our Dean of Education. This job is no small undertaking and Martha has already been working diligently to provide you with an amazing educational experience!

The Repertoire committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to select music and the selections should be posted no later than June. I also hope to have all registration information available in June as well. Please check Area I's website for all the latest information.

As you can see, this indeed will be an exciting event—if you have comments, questions, whatever, feel free to contact me either at fcchair@agehrarea1.org or bwilson@maine.rr.com.

Let's make this the highest-attended and best FC ever! 🪛

Brian E. Wilson
Festival Conference Chair 2011

Fundamental Tone

is a publication of the **American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Area I (AGEHR Area I, Inc.)**

It is published four times per year at 3 Sarasota Av., Nashua, NH, Bill Noss, Editor
(editor@agehrarea1.org) or call 603-886-1512.

Publication date is the first Monday in **February, May, August, and November**. Editorial copy and advertising is due on the 18th of the month preceding publication.

Advertising Rates:

Full page: (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.) \$80.00;
Half page: (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.) \$50.00;
Quarter page: (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.) \$30.00;
Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20.00.
Payment is due before publication.
Discounts are available for prepayment of two issues (–5%) and four issues (–10%).
Preferred formats for ads is a .pdf or .jpg file.

Adult Ringers' Weekend Registration Now Open

Registrations are now being accepted for the November 5–6, 2010, Adult Ringers' Weekend at the Omni Mount Washington Hotel and Resort in Bretton Woods, NH. Remember that space is limited, so register early. This event, held at one of New England's Grand Hotels, is an opportunity to relax and socialize while taking advantage of working with one of AGEHR's most skilled Directors. Nancy Cappel, most recently seen last summer on tour in Area I with her High School Choirs and participating in Festival/Conference '09, has chosen 3–4 pieces of music for us to develop from initial sight reading to an "Open Rehearsal" for the guests of the hotel at the end of our time together.

ARW is designed specifically for ringers. You do not need to come with your choir, although some choirs use this more relaxed setting as a choir retreat. Our Registrar is a master at mixing us up, so even if you do come with a group, more than likely you will not be ringing together. You will be able to tell the Registrar which bell assignment you prefer, and she will take it from there. Use this time to get to know more ringers in Area I and learn from your new ringing partners. It is a fun ringing experience.


Some things to remember about Adult Ringers' Weekend:

- Go to the Area I web site to download your registration form.
- You will not be expected or be able to prepare music ahead of time. The music is part of your registration fee; you will receive it upon arrival.
- You will be asked to provide your bell assignment preferences. The registrar will make bell assignments based on that input. Expect to ring next to people you may not know. Take advantage of this opportunity to make friends and learn from each other.
- You must make your room reservation directly with the Mt. Washington Hotel. The room rate includes three meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch). Please remember to mention you are attending the *AGEHR Adult Ringing*

Event. The event rate will be extended to pre- or extended stays. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!**

- You are encouraged to bring your spouse, significant other, or a friend. They will be able to take advantage of all the activities available at the hotel, resort and surrounding area, while you are ringing, and meet the wonderful ringers you enjoy spending time with.
- Enjoy the gourmet meals provided. Pamper yourself.
- Take advantage of the opportunity to relax and socialize with your fellow ringers and get to know more of your Area I family.

Download the registration form at www.agehrarea1.org and mail it in today. And call the Mt. Washington Hotel to make your room reservations. Consider loaning your bells and foam for the event. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Reynolds, Event Chair at 802-748-4760 or david-nancy2003@yahoo.com, or Karen James, Registrar at 802-345-6759 or Kjamesbell@aol.com.

We expect to see you in November. 

Nancy Reynolds, Event Chair

Please Welcome Our New Area I Education Liaison...

...KIMBERLEE STREPKA of East Longmeadow, MA, is the director of the Bronze Ambassadors, an auditioned teen handbell ensemble from Newport, VT. She also directs two handbell choirs at Pioneer Valley Christian School in Springfield, MA, and plays handbells with the community group New England Ringers. Kim received her B.M. in Music Education from the Hartt School of Music and her M.M. in Music Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has done graduate work in Laban Movement Analysis and is an advocate for the use of dance vocabulary in the handbell rehearsal. Area I is fortunate to have her with us.

Register Now for the FIFTH AGEHR Area I

ADULT RINGERS WEEKEND

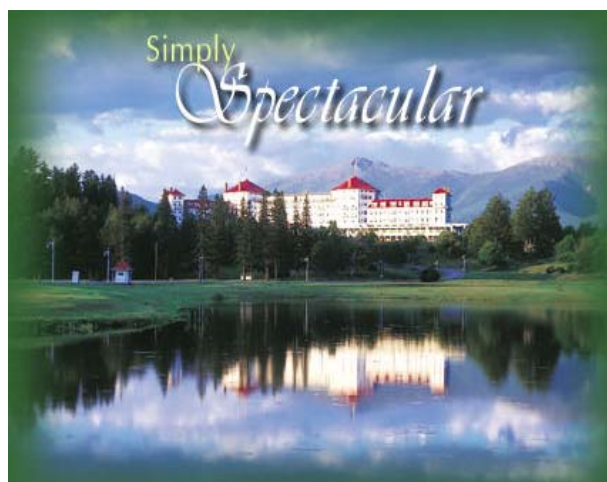
...providing a unique ringing opportunity for any adult ringer.

November 5-6, 2010

at "The Magnificent"

Mount Washington Hotel

Bretton Woods, New Hampshire



RINGER REGISTRATION:

Resident Rates:

\$55 - Early bird (before 9/01/10)

\$70 - Regular (after 9/01/10; deadline 10/01/10)

Separate charges apply for hotel accommodations.

Commuter Rates:

\$154 - Early bird (before 9/01/10)

\$169 - Regular (after 9/01/10; deadline 10/01/10)

*Commuter rates include **Friday dinner & Saturday lunch.***

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

\$277 per person double occupancy, American plan

\$370 single occupancy, American plan

Rates include tax and service charges.

Room reservations are made directly with the Hotel.

Guest Clinician:

NANCY CAPPEL

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.

**Advance
preparation is *not*
required**

**Music is included
in your
registration fee**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Karen James, Registrar

Kjamesbell@aol.com

Cell Phone: 802-345-6759

Nancy Reynolds, Event Chair

davidnancy2003@yahoo.com

Phone: 802-748-4760

OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE:

www.agehrareal.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



Nancy Cappel

Nancy Cappel is in her 40th year as the Director of Music at St. Matthew's United Methodist

Church in Annandale, VA. She directs four vocal choirs and seven of the nine handbell choirs. Nancy received a BS in Music Education from Manchester College, and a Masters degree in Music from Ball State University, both in Indiana. The St. Matthew's handbell choirs have performed several times at the White House, at Constitution Hall, at many Washington, DC, art galleries, and on NBC, ABC, CBS, and CNN. Each year they perform on Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center; the Carol Ringers will perform four times in December in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall as guest artists of the Choral Arts Society of Washington. The youth ringers have participated in Area I festivals and performed the opening concert in 2005 at UNH. Nancy has directed festivals locally, regionally and nationally. She is a past chairman of AGEHR Area III.

REGISTRATION FORM (Registration Begins April 1st; Final Deadline 10/1/2010)

Name: _____

AGEHR Membership #: _____

Street Address: _____

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

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone (day): _____

Bell Assignment Preference:

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

Telephone (eve): _____

Fax: _____

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Early bird registration (before Sept. 1) Resident (hotel accommodations paid separately) | \$ | 55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Early bird registration (before Sept. 1): Commuter (includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch) | \$ | 154 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular registration (after Sept. 1): Resident (hotel accommodations paid separately) | \$ | 70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular registration (after Sept. 1): Commuter (includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch) | \$ | 169 |

Early bird registration MUST BE POSTMARKED prior to Sept. 1, 2010. Registration includes program fees and music. Room reservations are made and fees paid directly to the Mount Washington Hotel.

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!
David Wurth will contact you to confirm your loan by October 1, 2010.

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

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



First of all congratulations to the 192 ringers who gathered at Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor, Connecticut, on March 20 for a fabulous **Connecticut Spring Ring**. The weather was spectacular but couldn't match the Sharing Concert that capped the day at 3:15pm. Jean Degan was wonderful as our primary clinician, forgiving yet demanding, in a nice way of course. We also enjoyed the efforts of seven other class instructors (and they were pretty classy) who led us in such activities as rhythm instruction, Boomwhackers, Change Ringing, Creative Ringing in Worship, Why a Handbell Choir is Like the Body of Christ, Director's Tips, Basic Techniques and more. For those of you who attended, thanks for creating a wonderful mass ring experience. For those of you who couldn't make it, there will be another chance in 2011. If you would like to be on the planning committee for the next Connecticut Spring Ring, please let me know. In spite of the hordes of ringers, our host Bob Gilbert hinted that we might be able to go back there someday. It was such a fine venue, we may take him up on it. A special thanks to Bob and his crew.

Spring is also the time when the venerable community groups break out their finest Spring repertoire. The exciting **Hockanum Valley Ringers** will be performing at the Glastonbury Community Center May 8 and in Vernon May 15; see their website, hvringers.org, for details. The marvelous **Shoreline Ringers** will be appearing May 23rd in Avon, May 26th in Groton, and June 4th in Centerbrook. All three concerts are listed on their website, shorelineringers.org. Check out our Community groups and support them! And speaking of fabulous community ensembles, the highly-respected New England Ringers (www.newenglandringers.org) will be appearing in our fair state at 4pm on Sunday May 23rd at the Orange Congregational Church in Orange, CT.

Sunday the 23rd of May is a popular day for con-

certs. There are two other worthy events on that day. The bell choirs of the Congregational Church in Brookfield, CT, will be ringing their concert at 4pm. The

location is 160 Whisconier Road in Brookfield. Also on the 23rd the Concert Handbell Choir of St. Luke Lutheran Church will be playing at the Congregational Church in Putnam, CT, at 4pm. The location of that event is 175 Main St. in Putnam.

We are now planning for the 2010–2011 year events. Several directors got together during lunch at the Spring Ring and discussed several promising ideas. One, generated by Steve Mazeau and Nina Spacek involves putting together a young ringers workshop. Only, what does one offer at a Young Ringers Workshop? Steve and Nina want to know, so HERE IS YOUR CHANCE. Poll your young choirs and send ideas to Greg Fisher at ctchair@agehrarea1.org. I will pass on the information to Steve and Nina for planning use. They are looking for some ideas as to who would attend and what subjects to cover. They tentatively would like to hold the workshop this fall.

Another idea is to have a Repertoire Ring in September to get the year started off right. Perhaps a skills building workshop hosted in the eastern or western part of the state. And we might even offer another Spring Ring in April next year, geared toward preparation for the Area I Festival/Conference. However, none of these can happen without your support. Please let us know which ones you want to help with.

My goodness, is it really time to think about the Area I Festival/Conference already? You bet it is, because this time it's closer than ever to CT ringers. The Festival/Conference will be held in Amherst, Massachusetts in 2011, a mere 20 miles or so from the state line. Start getting your choirs thinking and planning now to join the rest of New England in a massive mass ring at UMass.

As always, if you have any ideas for future events, please let me know. 

Greg Fisher, Connecticut State Chair

REPORT FROM MAINE

The past several months have been busy ones for handbells in Maine.

A very successful **Maine Spring Ring** was held on March 20th at Greely Middle School. We were blessed with 2 wonderful directors, Ed Henderson and Bill Buzza, who led us through an exciting day of rehearsals culminating in a wonderful concert for the public. Although it was a “summer” day outdoors, we still managed to draw a fairly good crowd! It was truly a wonderful day with much positive feedback. Next year’s spring ring will be held on March 26th—our directors will be Karen Leonard and Kim Visbaras—it should prove to be equally as great a day as this year.

We are also planning to do another **Fall Repertoire Reading**—stay tuned for time and place.



I plan to hold a **Maine Handbell Director’s Meeting** this year—this has not happened in a long time, if ever, in Maine.

Penobscot Bay Ringers has a busy schedule lined up for the spring—their performances are:

- May 1 – Let the Bells Ring – Federated Church in Thomaston
- May 18 – Boston Handbell Festival – Old South Church
- May 31 – Combined Concert with Downeast Singers at Rockland Congregational Church
- June 13 – Combined Concert with Downeast Singers at Blue Hill Congregational Church

Casco Bay ringers is currently looking for new ringers—please contact me at bwilson@maine.rr.com if interested or contact me from the Area I website. We are trying to go totally on-line in Maine—a long overdue need—stay tuned for details. Happy Spring! 🖋️

Brian E. Wilson, Maine State Chair

REPORT FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE

The excitement is mounting in the State of New Hampshire. The big news is that it is time to **Save the Dates**. We are very please to have two events scheduled already for this fall:

- **NH Repertoire Reading Session** (other states are invited to participate) October 2, 2010 in Nashua, NH from 9 a.m to 12 noon. Location in Nashua TBA. Open to individuals and choirs. Contact Pam Sturdevant: Pammie37@comcast.net
- **New Hampshire Handbell Festival** The First Annual New Hampshire Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 13, 2010, at Laconia High School 345 Union Avenue, Laconia, NH. Conductors for Festival Divisional choirs will be Andy Wallace for Coppers and Massed, and Joan Fossum for Tins choirs. Each division will perform one Christmas and one general selection in the 4:00 pm Sharing Concert. Individual choirs



wanting to share one piece of its own choosing are welcome.

During the day, classes will be offered in various aspects of handbell ringing techniques and for those of you that missed Kim Strepka at Festival/Conference '09, you will have the opportunity to attend one of her classes in “Musicality through Motion Language.”

Come to Laconia on November 13th for a day of performing, organizing, educating, mentoring and socializing. A website with further information including registration will be in place by June 1st through a link at the Granite State Ringers website: www.granitestateringers.org. If you have questions, please contact Mary Divers, Festival Organizer at mary13150@metrocast.net.

If you have questions or comments about help that you may need for you or your choir please be in touch. 🖋️

Joan Fossum, New Hampshire State Chair

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



by attending a Massachusetts concert nearby. You can get info at www.back-bayringers.org, www.mvringers.com and www.newenglandringers.org.

Massachusetts Spring Ring was held on March 20 with directors Michèle Sharik and Karen Leonard and 208 ringers. It was a very successful event with many new groups joining! Planning is underway for Mass Spring Ring 2011. If you would like to voice your opinions or suggestions, please email me and be part of next year's event. A committee by email will start in the early summer.

All of our community groups are very busy in the spring. There are many chances to support OUR art

If your group is taking the summer off and you don't want to quit for that long, please contact me as we are starting a Summer Bells group. This group will be similar to a pick-up game on your local playground. This should be a LOW to NO STRESS group, meeting on Monday nights, for FUN. And, as any group should have, there will ALWAYS be SNACK time too! 🍌

David Wurth, Massachusetts State Chair

REPORT FROM VERMONT



On May 1st, over 200 ringers representing twenty-three choirs will experience "**Champlain Valley Rings**" the official name for the 29th Annual Vermont Spring Ring to be held at the Essex Alliance Church in Essex Jct., Vermont. The committee worked hard for nearly a year to plan the event, but as we all know, not all plans work as expected. Just a little over a month ago, we were forced to move the event to a new venue, a difficult decision and transition, but we did it and are ready for the ringers in the new location. Our clinician this year is Bill Mathis from Fridley, MN. The repertoire for massed ringing includes; "Pie Jesu" Mathis, "Fantasy on Trust and Obey" McMichael, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Moklebust and "Song of Assurance" Sherman. We have changed the class schedule from noontime classes to a schedule of four classes held in mid-morning and three additional classes held in mid-afternoon. Classes include a Reading Session, Musicality, Stopped Techniques, Bell Trees, Malmark Maintenance, and Taiko Drumming. Friday night, Apr. 30, seventeen directors will gather for the annual Directors' Workshop to be held at St. James Episcopal Church, also in Essex Jct., VT. The evening will begin with a dinner and then Bill

Mathis will lead a class on handbells in worship.

Two **Think Spring Ring Mini-Rings** were held recently, one in St. Johnsbury, VT, hosted by Phil Brown, and the other in Essex Jct., VT, hosted by Northern Bronze community ensemble, and attracted over 70 ringers. These events give ringers the chance to learn **Spring Ring** repertoire in an informal learning environment and a chance to learn repertoire with another director. These half-day events continue to draw more and more interest.

On July 14, Vermont directors will gather to plan another year at the annual summer meeting at the Summer Directors' Meeting to be held at Karen James' home in Pittsford, VT. 🍌

Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair

The **Fundamental Tone** is a publication of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Area I (AGEHR Area I, Inc.). It is published four times per year at 3 Sarasota Av., Nashua, NH, Bill Noss, Editor (<editor@agehrarea1.org> or call 603-886-1512). Publication date is the first Monday in February, May, August, and November. Editorial copy and advertising is due on the 18th of the month preceding publication. Advertising Rates: Full page: (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.) \$80.00; Half page: (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.) \$50.00; Quarter page: (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.) \$30.00; Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20.00. Payment is due before publication. Discounts are available for prepayment of two issues (-5%) and four issues (-10%). Preferred formats for ads is a .pdf or .jpg file.

Photos from Area I Directors Seminar



Photo courtesy of Rachel Cerullo-Romano



Photo courtesy of Rachel Cerullo-Romano

Framingham, MA — On February 5–6, Area I held its annual Directors Seminar at the Framingham Sheraton. Director and Clinician was Arnold Sherman of Tyler, Texas. Most handbell ringers know of Mr. Sherman as one of the premier composers for handbells in our time. He is also co-founder of Red River Music and founder/director of the East Texas Handbell Ensemble. Guest handbell ensemble was the Merrimack Valley Ringers, shown above just before performing a couple of Sherman compositions for Mr. Sherman and some Directors Seminar attendees.

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_	3143_	\$6.50
1 1/2" Notebook Cover	3142_	3144_	\$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

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Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.

www.HandbellWorld.com

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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. \$45.95

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.

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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

AGEHR, Area I, Inc.

High School Ring-Out 2010



FEATURING: Nationally recognized clinician/composer **Donna Kinsey**
and your high school ringers !!

WHEN: Saturday, **November 13**, 2010

WHERE: Wheeler School, Providence, RI

COST: \$20 per ringing participant

DETAILS: Repertoire, schedule and other details will be published in the August Fundamental Tone and at www.agehrarea1.org If you would like details as soon as they are available in mid-May, e-mail Phil Brown, HSRO registrar at stjmusic@sover.net and ask to be added to the HSRO e-mail list.

AGEHR Area I Board sponsors this event so we can bring in a nationally known director and offer our high school ringers an exceptional learning experience.



Donna Kinsey: serves as Pastoral Musician for St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown, WV where she has directed the music ministry for 37 years. Now retired after 35 years of music education she continues to serve as an active clinician and director for AGEHR and ACDA festivals on a regional and national level. Donna was recently recognized with the 2009 West Virginia ACDA Jean Singer Award for Choral Excellence and has served on the the AGEHR, Area V Board. In addition to High School Ring-Out, Donna is directing the Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival in April 2010.

Do your program and your youth ringers a favor and put the 2010 High School Ring-Out on their calendars now!