

# FUNDAMENTAL TONE

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

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

Volume XXV, No. 3

August 2011

## Upcoming Events

September 24, 2011  
Vermont  
Skill Building Workshop  
So. Burlington, VT

October 15, 2011  
Vermont  
Skill Building Workshop  
Manchester, VT

October 22, 2011  
Massachusetts  
Skill Building Workshop  
Lynn, MA

November 12, 2011  
High School Ringout  
Souhegan High School  
Amherst, NH

**facebook**

Join Our Facebook Group

**AGEHR Area I**

See Sample  
On Page 5

## Notes From The Chair...



### Greetings Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America

It is my privilege to write to you for the first time as chair of Area 1. As of July 1, 2011, the officers of Area 1 have changed. On behalf of Area 1 we join together to thank out-going officer Sue Henderson for her valuable contribution to our organization. She has served Area 1 so faithfully and very well for many years as chair-elect, chair and past chair. Prior to that she also served as treasurer, putting her valuable accountant skills to work. And her contributions to so many festival conferences have been priceless. Thank you, Sue!

Griff Gall moves to past chair, I take over as chair, and Sue Wilber changes offices from treasurer to chair-elect. Sue Chamberlin begins her term as treasurer (this office changes hands on October 1) and Norah Piehl continues as secretary. You may contact any of us with your concerns or kudos, to volunteer or ask for help. We are here to serve and work with you, the membership.

This has been a very exciting summer for handbell ringers and directors. First, Area 1 Festival Conference '11 was a great success! About 650 people from Area 1 and beyond (all the way from France) came together to ring under the direction of Michael Kastner and Bill Alexander. Strikepoint not only performed our opening concert but stayed with us all week. They are a wonderful "family" and brought a positive influence to all of us, but especially to any choir that might consider touring. With nearly 40 people teaching classes at Festival, *(continued on page 2)*

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Visit the Area I website at [www.agehrarea1.org](http://www.agehrarea1.org)  
[www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org) for the National office website.

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

every aspect of handbells was covered. The most popular non-bell classes were the fun (but difficult) African and Taiko drumming classes. This is the best way to learn rhythm! Thanks to all who rang in the mini-concerts, entertained in the variety show, helped out at the Worship Service, volunteered in any way during the 4-day event, taught classes or served on the committee. Festival is a major undertaking and was successful because so many helped out. The planning has now begun for Festival Conference '13 with Bill Noss as chair. Be sure to watch the website for information as plans

unfold. We look forward to working under the direction of Hart Morris and Fred Gramann. Both of these conductors have many pieces published and are also great conductors whom I've worked under. You are in for a real treat in '13.

I have just returned from the National Seminar in Minneapolis, MN. Over 300 handbell musicians attended the four-day seminar. Many commented on the successful Area 1 Festival/Conference and were impressed with the number of attendees. Hopefully you receive AGEHR *E-Notes* and have been reading about the New Initiatives, including rebranding. Plans are in

place to convert to the new website address — [www.handbell-musicians.org](http://www.handbell-musicians.org) — on October 1. If you are interested in donating to the fundraising campaign, go to this new address for more information. So many other things are happening that we'll have to wait for the next *E-Notes*.

Continue reading all that is available to you in *Overtones* and *Fundamental Tone*. Watch for handbell events, workshops, concerts and support your fellow ringers. There is a lot of information on the website ([www.agehrarea1.org](http://www.agehrarea1.org)). Let us know what you're doing. We want to hear from you. ✍

*Jean Degan, Area I Chair*

## AGEHR Area I Officers

### Elected Officers

**Chair:** Jean Degan (860-543-3638)  
[chair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:chair@agehrarea1.org)  
**Chair-Elect:** Sue Wilber (203-288-5847)  
[chairelect@agehrarea1.org](mailto:chairelect@agehrarea1.org)  
**Past Chair:** Griff Gall (617-599-8656)  
[pastchair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:pastchair@agehrarea1.org)  
**Secretary:** Norah Piehl (617-688-5768)  
[secretary@agehrarea1.org](mailto:secretary@agehrarea1.org)  
**Treasurer:** Sue Chamberlin (203-288-5847)  
[treasurer@agehrarea1.org](mailto:treasurer@agehrarea1.org)

### National Liaisons

**Education:** Kimberlee Strepka  
[education@agehrarea1.org](mailto:education@agehrarea1.org)  
**Special Needs:** Jeanne Polcari  
[specialneeds@agehrarea1.org](mailto:specialneeds@agehrarea1.org)

### Appointed Officers

**Festival/Conference** Bill Noss (603-886-1512)  
**2013 Chair** [fcchair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:fcchair@agehrarea1.org)

**Membership** Jane Nolan (860-464-2873)  
[membership@agehrarea1.org](mailto:membership@agehrarea1.org)  
**Publications** Bill Noss (603-886-1512)  
[editor@agehrarea1.org](mailto:editor@agehrarea1.org)  
**Webmaster** Linda S. Noss (603-886-1512)  
[webmaster@agehrarea1.org](mailto:webmaster@agehrarea1.org)  
**Bradford Scholarship** Griff Gall (617-599-8656)  
[scholarship@agehrarea1.org](mailto:scholarship@agehrarea1.org)

### State/Provincial Chairs

**Atlantic Provinces (Canada)** To Be Announced  
**Connecticut** Mobby Larson (860-464-7593)  
[ctchair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:ctchair@agehrarea1.org)  
**Maine** Brian Wilson (207-781-5880)  
[mechair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:mechair@agehrarea1.org)  
**Massachusetts** Gail Granum (508-595-9011)  
[machair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:machair@agehrarea1.org)  
**New Hampshire** Joan Fossum (603-224-0866)  
[nhchair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:nhchair@agehrarea1.org)  
**Rhode Island** To Be Announced  
**Vermont** Pat Pranger (802-446-2066)  
[vtchair@agehrarea1.org](mailto:vtchair@agehrarea1.org)

# Report from MASSACHUSETTS



I'll mentor new directors and establish mentor contacts for members in need.

The chime-loaner program has its own coordinator, but I will follow up with providing or arranging mentorship as appropriate.

Together with the Area I Treasurer, it'll be my responsibility to oversee the state's financial account.

So, here's what I'd like from YOU ...

- Suggestions as to possible new members
- Ideas for statewide and local events
- Input regarding a budget for state operating expenses
- Statements which reflect your interests as they relate to our instrument and to our association
- Communications from you: write to me; tell me what's up in your corner of the state; share your dreams
- Contact me with your comments and questions

See you around; wherever there's good music! 

*Gail Granum, MA State Chair*  
17 Nottingham Rd.  
Worcester, MA 01609  
(508) 595-9011, res.  
machair@agehrarea1.org



## August Greetings from Your NEW Massachusetts State Chair ...

Please allow me to introduce myself, your newly-appointed MA State Chair. I'm Gail Granum of Worcester — a twenty-year enthusiastic, veteran ringer, a successful handbell concert booking manager, a proud mother of three, a busy homeowner, a former professional businesswoman, a tutor, a gardener, a knitter, and animal lover.

### MA State Chair

This Area I position is new to me, and, I trust, will be evolving as I come to understand my responsibilities.

I realize I'm part of the Area I Board now, and will attend regular Board meetings. I will communicate with current and prospective members regarding activities and benefits of membership. I will work with existing members, as well as recruiting new members all over the Commonwealth.

It will fall upon me to initiate, facilitate, and organize statewide and local events and to promote the organization of events by others.

*The Raleigh Ringers*

*David M. Harris, Director*

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: [rringer@rr.org](mailto:rringer@rr.org) • web: [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)

*A community handbell choir*



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## Note From The Area 1 Past Chair...



When I was asked to run for Chair, I began to think about what I would want to bring to this organization. Increased communication and marketing were two areas I wanted to develop while I was Chair. As a

board we have discussed many options for increasing the visibility of Handbell Musician's of America Area 1. One of our primary concerns is the lack of opportunities for us to reach the membership at large.

We need to be able to reach all of the handbell ringers who are in member choirs. We tried to launch the return of Friends and Family Handbell Camp and we had to cancel that event because of a lack of registrations. We then heard from many ringers that they had not even heard that we were

trying to re-launch this event. In order to increase our outreach to the ringers in Area 1, we launched a Facebook group, which currently has over two-hundred members. We will be using the e-mail addresses captured from Festival/

Conference registrations to build a ringer database that will allow Area 1 to send a monthly news update. Finally we will be sending Area 1 members postcards in the fall and the spring to promote Area 1 events. We hope that our members will share this information with other ringers so we can continue to build a strong handbell community here in New England.

This time has also been an exciting time in the AGEHR National history as we begin to re-brand our organization as Handbell Musicians of America. This re-branding will be fully launched this October. What is important to remember is that we

Reprinted from *The Report of The Chair* from the Biennial Meeting held at 2011 Festival/Conference.



*Musical Excellence  
In Handbell Ringing*

978-851-3024

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

## Upcoming Concerts

**Sunday, Nov. 27**  
4:00 p.m.

**The Rogers Center for the Arts  
At Merrimack College**

315 Turnpike Street • North Andover, MA  
Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$10 over 65 or under 13;  
\$15 at the door, \$12 over 65 or under 13

**Saturday, Dec. 3**  
7:00 p.m.

**Orange Congregational Church**  
205 Meeting House Lane • Orange, CT

**Sunday, Dec. 4**  
3:00 p.m.

**Ste. Anne Church**  
290 Jefferson Avenue • Salem, MA

**Saturday, Dec. 10**  
7:30 p.m.

**Franklin Federated Church**  
171 Main Street • Franklin, MA

**Sunday, Dec. 11**  
4:30 p.m.

**First Congregational Church of Newfane**  
11 Church Street • Newfane, VT

**Saturday, Dec. 17**  
7:30 p.m.

**HumanArts Series • Assumption College  
Chapel of the Holy Spirit**  
500 Salisbury Street • Worcester, MA

Would your organization like to present an NER concert or host and NER-led Skill Building Workshop? Contact us at [info@newenglandringers.org](mailto:info@newenglandringers.org) or call 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently being sought for the 2011 Holiday and 2012 Spring and Holiday seasons.



are not losing our rich heritage, begun here in Boston so many years ago. We are retaining the name American Guild of English Handbell Ringers as our official name, we will just be using a “nickname” as we brand our organization for another 50 years of promoting our musical art. The national office has worked very hard to create some wonderful new programs, and many of these new benefits are clearly explained on the redesigned AGEHR.org website.

Moving forward, I would encourage you to get involved with your organization. Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1 needs your support, thoughts and talents to become the most success-

ful, professional non-profit arts organization we can be. We are currently looking to fill several board positions including state chairs for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. For more information, please see Jean Degan or myself.

Finally, I want to thank everyone on the Area 1 board for their support. I stepped into this position without the benefit of having two years as Chair Elect. I greatly appreciate the support I received from everyone on our dedicated board. Thank you! 🖍️

*Griff Gall, AGEHR Area 1, Past Chair*

## You Didn't Have To Attend Festival To Like Us!

Join us on Facebook to keep up with the happenings and the people in Area 1. Just Search for “AGEHR Area 1.”

And, whether you attended Festival or didn't, you'll enjoy the videos, pictures and comments. Some things you'll see on our Facebook page:

- Video and Audio from the Opening Concert by Strikepoint
- Time-Lapse Video of 600+ Ringers Breaking Down the Ringing Floor
- Video and Audio of Selected Repertoire Performed by The Festival Ringers

**facebook**





# Announcing: AGEHR, Area I, Inc.

## High School Ring-Out 2011

FEATURING: Nationally recognized clinician/composer Michael Joy  
and your high school ringers !!

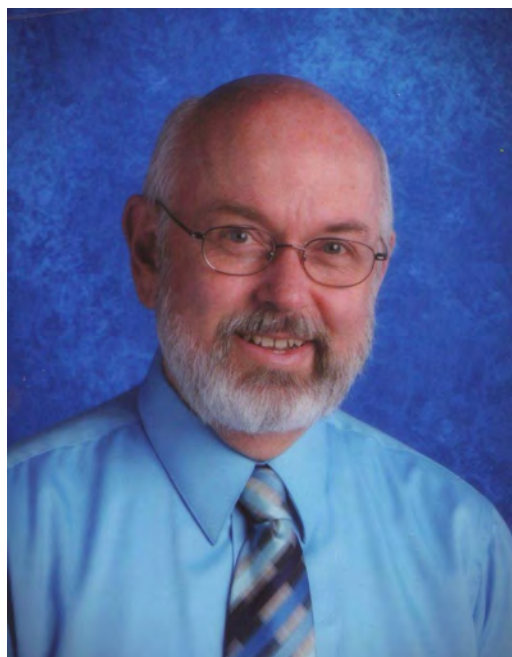
WHEN: Saturday, **November 12**, 2011

WHERE: Souhegan High School, Amherst, NH

COST: \$20 per ringing participant

DETAILS: See repertoire, schedule, Registration Form and other details on the following pages. You may also download the file at [www.agehrarea1.org/HS](http://www.agehrarea1.org/HS). To be added to our mailing list, e-mail Phil Brown, HSRO registrar at [stjmusic@sover.net](mailto:stjmusic@sover.net).

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



**Michael Joy** lives in Philadelphia, PA. He has been directing handbell choirs in churches since 1978 and in schools since 1983. He studied handbells with Donald Allured and handbell composition with Arnold Sherman. Michael is currently the middle school music teacher at The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA where he conducts several different handbell groups. For the last 35 years he has also been the Music Director at First Presbyterian Church in Ambler, PA. Michael is a published composer and has taught at AGEHR Area festivals, PMEA district and state conferences, AGEHR National Seminars and the 2008 International Handbell Symposium. He was named Composer of the Year for 2004 by Jeffers Publishing Company for his composition *Dorian Dance*. Michael received the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award for 2011. Michael is Composer Laureate for the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble.

*Do your program and your youth ringers a favor and put the  
2011 High School Ring-Out on their calendars now!*

## AGEHR, Area 1, Inc. High School Ring Out 2011



AGEHR, Area 1, Inc. is proud to announce the 12th annual Area 1, High School Ring Out. We will be returning to Souhegan High School on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 9:30 am to 4:00 p.m. Pat McMullen and the ringers at Souhegan High School invite all Area 1 youth ringers and choirs to participate in this exciting and growing event. The day will include rehearsals with an exciting guest director, BYO lunch, a closing concert with an opportunity for individual choirs to present solo pieces and plenty of time to get to know other ringers.

**Date:** Saturday, November 12, 2011

**Location:** Souhegan High School -- The school is located at 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH 03031. It's centrally located, just outside of Nashua, and easy to find. Specific directions will be sent in a confirmation letter and may be found at <http://www.sprise.com/shs/visitor.aspx?id=2720>. We guarantee it will be worth the trip. There are several motel options available in the area if you want to make an overnight of it.

**Cost:** \$20.00 per ringer covers building use fees, administrative costs and the clinician honorarium. Our clinician for Ring-Out '11 is Michael Joy from Philadelphia, PA. All ringers, including directors and chaperons who want to ring, are asked to pay the registration fee. Non-ringing directors/chaperons attend free of charge. You must provide one adult chaperon for each 6 youth ringers.

### Repertoire:

- *Ein Kleines Kindelein*, arranged by Michael Joy; From the Top 20186; 3-5 octaves handbells/3-5 octaves chimes; Level 2. Although this piece is based on 2 Christmas piece by Praetorius, the alternate secular title is *A Praetorius Celebration*.
- *Rhapsody* by Judy Phillips; Red River Music BL 5048; 3-6 octaves handbells; optional 3 octave chimes; Level 3, Optional violin solo.
- *Pirates of the Caribbean* by Klaus Badelt/arranged by Kevin McChesney; Jeffers, JHS9402; 3-5 octaves handbells; Level 3+

All music must be original purchased copies. NO PHOTOCOPIES CAN BE ALLOWED. Music should be sufficiently rehearsed ahead of time so we can spend our day preparing for performance, not note learning. Our massed rehearsal time is at a premium. Recordings of all selections can be reviewed at [HandbellWorld.com](http://HandbellWorld.com)

**Bring:** Each Ringer should bring gloves and comfortable shoes. If your choir has a uniform or concert dress you are encouraged to wear it for the day or the performance. Each choir should bring bells, mallets, foam, table covers, music stands and tables. Unfortunately, rental tables are not available at this location.

**Lunch:** Snacks and lunch are not provided in the registration Choirs coming for the day may wish to have each ringer bring their own bag lunch. A list of local fast food / take-out establishments will be provided for choirs that need to send someone out to pick up lunch.

**Schedule:** 9:00 - Early arrival

- 9:30 - Registration;
- 10:00 - Opening bell, announcements, stretches. (All choirs set up and prepared to ring.)
- 10:15 - Rehearsal I
- 11:15 - Break / BYO snacks
- 11:30 - Rehearsal II / Director's meeting
- 12:30 - Lunch - BYO / Solo Rehearsals
- 1:15 - Rehearsal III
- 2:15 - Dress Rehearsal
- 3:00 - **Concert** - Open to the public. Invite everyone you know !!
- 4:15 - Pack up and depart for a safe trip home

**Sharing:** We invite your choir to share a “solo” selection during the concert. Please fill out the appropriate information on the registration form. This must be done in advance for planning and programming. We reserve the right to limit the number of solo selections. You will be assigned ten minutes during lunch to run through your piece once in the performance area. Please be prompt and courteous to other groups.

**Partial Choirs:** If you are planning to ring only the massed selections then it's perfectly acceptable to attend with a partial choir of any size. Even if you only have one or two high school aged ringers, you are encouraged to bring them so they can experience this event. We know that school choirs may lose some ringers to sporting events and that many inter-generational church choirs may not have a full compliment of high-school ringers. Please be encouraged to fill out your choir with chaperons or other adult ringers - especially if you want to offer a solo selection - but remember that all ringers must pay the \$20.00 registration fee.

**Registration:** Complete both pages of the enclosed Registration Form and make a copy for your records. Enclose the original Registration Form together with a check for the full registration amount made out to “AGEHR, Area 1, Inc.” and mail to:

*Phil Brown, Registrar - High School Ring Out  
P.O. Box 53  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819*

Deadline for registrations is **October 12, 2011**. Registrations postmarked after October 12, 2011 will be honored on a “space available” basis. Individual registrations will be accepted at the door if you add ringers after you submit your registration. If you lose ringers, you are encouraged to fill in with substitutes. If you require a refund you must let the registrar know prior to the registration deadline. Due to budgeting and planning constraints, no refunds can be issued after October 12, 2011.

**Questions:** For registration questions contact Phil Brown by e-mail at [stjmusic@sover.net](mailto:stjmusic@sover.net); or by Phone: 802-748-3894 (h), 802-274-5240 (cell)

For questions regarding overnight accommodations or specific facility questions contact Pat McMullen at [pmcmullen@sprise.com](mailto:pmcmullen@sprise.com); Phone: 603-683-9940 ext.167

We hope you will join us in supporting and encouraging Area 1's high-school ringers at Ring-Out '11!

Phil Brown, registrar  
Patricia McMullen, host





# AGEHR, Area 1, Inc. High School Ring Out 2011

## REGISTRATION

Deadline: **October 12, 2011** !

AGEHR member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Choir name: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Floor space needed for tables: \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

\_\_\_\_\_ We would like to share a “solo” selection during the afternoon concert

Title: \_\_\_\_\_, Comp/Arr: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_, Publication #: \_\_\_\_\_

Soloists/Instrumentalists/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration deadline is October 12, 2011.

Groups will be assigned floor position and concert rehearsal time according to postmark on the envelope containing their completed registration form and payment in full. Any registrations postmarked after October 12, 2011 will be honored on a “space available” basis only. Registration questions should be directed to Phil Brown at the address on next page.

Registration confirmation letters will be mailed October 30.

**Please complete reverse / 2<sup>nd</sup> page**

If you are bringing individual ringer(s) and are interested in having them participate in an “orphan choir”, please complete the “Acceptable Bell Assignment(s)” column. If there is enough interest we will try to “create” a choir for you. You will be contacted to finalize these arrangements.

	Ringer, Director or Chaperon name. Please print clearly.	R(inger), D(irector), C(haperon)	Non - ringing Adult	Acceptable Bell Assignment(s)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
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12				
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17				
18				
19				
20				

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Ringers @ \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Ringers @ \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Non-ringers @ \$0.00 = 0.00

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks payable to  
AGEHR, Area 1, Inc.**

**Send completed registration and payment to:**

*Phil Brown - High School Ring Out  
P.O. Box 53, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819*

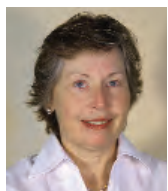
For questions or information:

[stjmusic@sover.net](mailto:stjmusic@sover.net)

802-748-3894 (h); 802-274-5240 (cell)

**Registration Deadline:  
October 12, 2011**

## REPORT FROM VERMONT



The 2009–2011 biennium period continued to produce the growth and interest in Vermont's ringing opportunities that have been typical of the State organization throughout the years.

Special interest is being generated by the growing interest in Skill Building Workshops, by the introduction of smaller gatherings of neighboring ensembles, and by the growing presence of hand-bells in the greater musical community.

Most communication with Vermont directors is done with email and web communication. The streamlined communication means that more directors are able to easily contact the State Chair, which has resulted in numerous re-connections with directors. The difficulty in email communication is the time necessary to continually update lists, which change frequently. Directors will be polled to find out if there is a need to add other means of communication, such as a Face book page, that could produce better communication throughout the community. Directors will also be briefed on the communication possibilities offered on the web by the National organization when they gather in July for the summer planning meeting.

The number of AGEHR memberships for the State remains steady. Continued communication with the church or organization, even though an AGEHR membership has lapsed, is essential.

The 29th and 30th annual **Vermont Spring Rings and Directors' Workshops**, held in conjunction with the Spring Rings, were held during the biennium. The 2010 Spring Ring "Champlain Valley Rings" was held April 30 & May 1 in Essex Jct., VT, with Bill Mathis as clinician. After lower-than-expected numbers in 2009 and 2010, when just over 200 ringers attended, attendance in 2011 rebounded to 263 ringers, representing 23 ensembles from Vermont, eight ensembles from New Hampshire, and one ensemble from Massachusetts. No specific problem could be found to explain the decrease in



prior years' attendance, but several choirs withdrew at the very last minute due to illness and conflicting events. The committee for the 2010 Spring Ring had great difficulties when the original venue dramatically increased their charges, due to a clerical error on their part, and a new venue and

arrangements had to be found within six weeks of the event. The 2011 Spring Ring "Gather-ring at the River" was held April 29 & 30 in Bellows Falls, VT, with Monica McGowan as clinician. In order to promote ringer education, the schedule for the spring ring was changed to offer classes during mid-morning and mid-afternoon, instead of the previous schedule, which offered two class periods during the noon-time break. In 2010 we offered four classes mid-morning and three classes mid-afternoon, which were enthusiastically attended. In 2011 we increased the number of classes to four for each session and will consider increasing the number to five for 2012. Ringers' enthusiasm remains high for the quality of the repertoire, clinician, classes, organization and flow of the day, and exceptional facilities and food provided by the committee for the Spring Rings. The Directors' Workshops, held on Friday evening before Spring Ring continue to attract directors because of the applicable workshops conducted by Spring Ring clinicians. These events happen each year because a committee of dedicated directors and ringers work hard all year to make them happen.

(continued on page 12)

Reprinted from *Report of the Vermont State Chair* from the Biennial Meeting held at 2011 Festival/Conference.



*Bell Trees and More*

Visit **BelltreesAndMore.com** on a regular basis to **see** and **hear** our entire list of published pieces. The latest releases and other website information will be featured on the HOME page.

Please register on the website.

Louise Frier Composer/Arranger  
813 293-5855 Belltreesandmore@aol.com

## REPORT FROM VERMONT...

(continued from page 11)

Two summer directors meetings were held in Pittsford, VT, at the home of Karen James; the next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2011. This annual meeting, held in July, and which includes a pot luck luncheon, allows directors and interested ringers to plan state-wide events for the ensuing ringing year. The meeting also allows time for directors to catch up on each other's individual and regional programs, to brainstorm, and to share ideas with one another.

**Skill Building Workshops** are flourishing in Vermont. Three workshops were scheduled for 2009, but one was cancelled at the last minute due to an unavoidable problem at one of the sites. The two workshops held were Sept. 19, 2009 at the First Baptist Church in Burlington, VT, and Oct. 31, 2009 in Middlebury, VT. In 2010 the Workshops were held Oct. 2 in Walpole, NH, and Oct. 23 in Tinmouth, VT. Approximately 120 ringers participated in these four workshops. Lead by State mentors, Phil Brown, Karen James and

Jerilyn Bergdahl, the participants received instructions in developing an accurate ringing stroke and note values, stopped techniques, bell changing, and multiple bell techniques. Evaluations were extremely positive and the events well received.

Plans are underway to host two Skill Building Workshops this coming fall on Sept. 24 in So. Burlington and a date yet to be determined in Manchester, VT.

Two **Vermont Directors' Roundtables** were held in late January of 2010 and 2011. These events brought directors together to ring and review the massed music for upcoming events including the '10 & '11 Spring Rings and the Area 1 Festival/Conference in Amherst, MA. Phil Brown, Karen James and Jerilyn Bergdahl led the ringing, offered teaching suggestions and techniques, and helped to provide a baseline for preparation of the music.

**Think Spring Mini-Rings** were held in St. Johnsbury, VT, and Essex Jct., VT in both February and March of 2010 and 2011, respectively. Mini-rings are set-up with these goals: to help ringers

*For All of Your Handbell and Handchime Needs...*

# HANDBELL WORLD

[www.HandbellWorld.com](http://www.HandbellWorld.com)



*Featuring the Music Selection Assistant,  
where you can browse over 9000 titles to find  
the perfect music for your choir!*

{ Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc. }



prepare Spring Ring music in a more intimate setting; to allow ringers from different choirs get to know one another; and to allow the ringers to experience different directors. The mini-rings have proven to be very popular and continue to accomplish the goals set out for them. The mini-rings held in St. Johnsbury are hosted and directed by Phil Brown. The mini-rings held in Essex Jct., VT are hosted by Northern Bronze community handbell ensemble, were directed by Jerilyn Bergdahl, Carolyn Harris, and Mary Jane Wirsing and were attended by approximately 50–60 ringers each year.

Handbell ensembles are gaining a presence in the greater musical community. Groups commonly ring in parades, at family gatherings such as weddings and funerals and at community events. But recently, Northern Bronze community handbell ensemble has been asked to ring with prominent musical groups for large audiences, was asked to be a part of the opening ceremonies for the Vermont Special

Olympics and ‘ring’ the athletes into the stadium with “Olympic Fanfare,” and was asked to present a program in a highlighted spot at the Northfield Labor Day Celebration. Our hope is to increase that ‘presence’ and acknowledgment of the art of handbell musicianship.

Vermont continues to provide exemplary ringing activities and services for directors, choirs and ringers, despite its relatively small size. The directors and ringers in this state continue to work together and reflect the general ‘good will’ that’s been associated with ringing activities throughout this organization.

It has been my privilege to serve as Vermont Chair these past eight years. I will be leaving my position as State Chair as of the Summer Directors’ Planning Meeting in July. 🖋️

*Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair*

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## Report from SPECIAL NEEDS

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Working through the vehicle of a local handbell group of special needs adults, *Special Friends Handbell Choir*, based in Nashua, NH, several articles about special needs handbell ringing have been published both locally and nationally. It has helped to create an awareness of the opportunity that exists for participation in the art of ringing and served to acknowledge its significance.

As we continue, we also hope to raise visibility by continuing church, hospital and local town concerts. Performances and the media seem to provide

the best way to interest and attract others to the purpose of making ringing more available and achievable.

Local organizations that employ, train, and place special needs adults into job opportunities are also supportive and, again, help get the word out about sharing the experience of music through handbell ringing. They also help to recommend individuals that may benefit from participation.

Anyone interested in more information on how to offer handbell ringing to special needs people in their community can reach us for more information at [specialgroups@agehrarea1.org](mailto:specialgroups@agehrarea1.org). 🖋️

*Jeanne Polcari, Special Needs Liaison*

## Fundamental Tone

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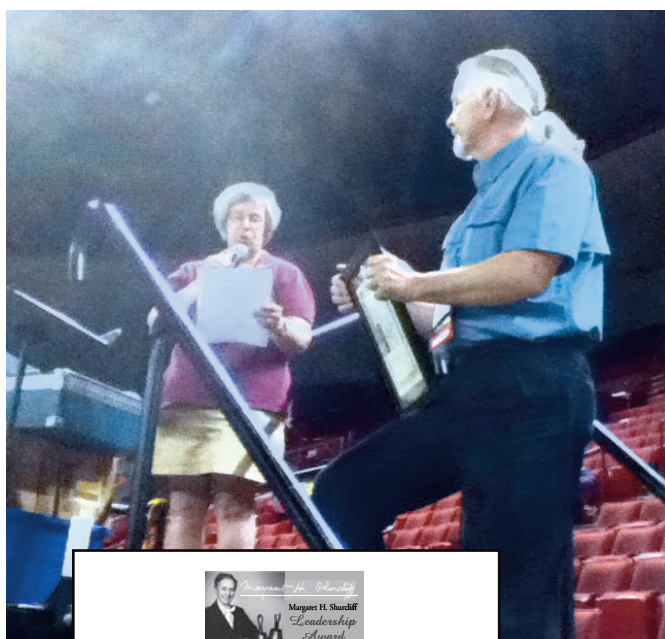
# The First-Ever Shurcliff Leadership Award Presented To PHIL BROWN

At Festival/Conference 2011 this June, the very first Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award was given to Phil Brown of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Pictured with him, reading only a brief list of his many contributions to handbell ringing is good friend Nancy Reynolds. In

almost thirty years as an AGEHR member, Phil was Vermont state chair for eight years, served as bell captain for Festival/Conference, began and continues to organize High School Ring-Out for our youth ringers.

Phil also began and continues with Adult Ringing Weekend and Vermont Directors' Roundtable. His teaching accomplishments are too numerous to mention here but include Festivals, youth and adult skill workshops, elementary, middle school and college courses. He also leads two vocal and three handbell choirs, organizes and directs various big band and jazz ensembles.

Congratulations and thank you, Phil. 🍷



## I'm pretty sure everyone had a wonderful time...I know I did.



### T-Shirt Day at Festival.

As Festival Chair (and now Area 1 chair) Jean Degan described her picture: "Over 600 of my best ringing friends..."