

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. 1

February 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26, 2011
Maine Spring Ring
Cumberland Center, ME

Saturday, April 2, 2011
Mass Spring Ring
Tewksbury, MA

April 29, 2011
Vermont Directors' Workshop
Walpole, NH

April 30, 2011
Vermont Spring Ring
Bellows Falls, VT
Monica McGowan, clinician

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

**Early Bird Deadline
for Festival
Registration is:**

March 15, 2011

**Registration
Ends On:**

April 15, 2011

Notes From The Festival Chair...



UMASS here we come!

In a few months, all the snow will be gone and we will be heading to Amherst for Festival Conference '11. Many have already registered and the University has given us some interesting news! The dorm that we were supposed to occupy during festival is no longer available to us so we have been upgraded to air-conditioned dorms! Please notice the announcement from our registrars Sue Henderson and Sue Wilber in this *Fundamental Tone*. We actually will really appreciate the air-conditioning. Hopefully we'll be looking back at the past winter and thinking it wasn't so bad!



There are rehearsal notes from Bill Alexander for the bronze and copper divisions in this issue (available online also) and we hope to have the massed and tins notes up soon. Keep checking the web-site for the latest updates as you prepare all of your music. The opening concert by **Strikepoint** will be exciting and fun.

I hope you have had time to read through the registration materials. There are so many wonderful classes being offered. Take the time to review all of the options available. Ask questions about the classes and teachers.

While at Festival, be sure to take time to relax and talk to other ringers. Attend all the mini-concerts to support other choirs as they bravely present their solo piece. The variety show has always been great fun for both the serious musician and fun-loving entertainer.

(continued on page 2)

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Visit the Area I website at www.agehrarea1.org
and www.handbellmusicians.org for the National office website.

NOTES FROM
THE FESTIVAL CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

The vendors always display a wonderful variety of things for us. There will be a great deal of music to look through, jewelry, clothing, etc. Be sure to visit the community choirs' tables and check their schedules so that you can attend a concert in the future.

Festival Conference is a full three days of ringing, classes, socializing and just plain fun. I can't wait to see you there! 🖊️

Jean Degan, Festival Chair and Area I Chair-Elect

Festival '11 Housing Important Announcement

We are pleased to announce a change in the housing arrangements for FC '11 at the University of MA, Amherst. We have been able to secure air-conditioned housing for the first 600 attendees. This housing is in the north residential section of the campus and nearby the Worcester dining facility. The room configuration is different than we normally have available. Each five-story building will house approximately 200 attendees in fully air-conditioned apartments. Apartments include four single bedrooms, two full bathrooms, and shared living room/kitchen area including stove, microwave and refriger-



AGEHR Area I Officers

Elected Officers

Chair: **Griff Gall** (617-599-8656)
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Chair-Elect: **Jean Degan** (860-543-3638)
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New Hampshire **Joan Fossum** (603-224-0866)
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Rhode Island **To Be Announced**
Vermont **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org



**Above photos:
The air-conditioned common area,
kitchen area and bedroom
of our newly assigned
4-single-room apartments
at UMass. You may see
them online at:
[www.housing.umass.edu/reshalls/
north_apartments.html](http://www.housing.umass.edu/reshalls/north_apartments.html)**

erator. You may go to the UMass website to view the housing location and view the actual apartments.

Therefore, there is no additional charge for single rooms—all rooms will be priced at the double room rate. You will still be able to request housing with another individual and we will honor these requests if at all possible. Please keep in mind that we will need to house 4 attendees in each apartment due to the fact that we have only 600 beds available. As always, we will do our utmost to keep choirs together but there may be apartments that will have mixed groups in them. For instance, if there is a choir that wishes to house 10 attendees, then one of the apartments will have 2 attendees that are not a part of that choir. Keep in mind that you always have the flexibility once you are checked in to your apartment(s) to move around within your own choir.

As many of you know, FC has the tradition of occurring during the hottest 4 days of the entire summer and we are sure that you will all enjoy the opportunity to stay in air-conditioned quarters.

If you have already registered and requested “single” housing and submitted payment, we will refund your over-payment.


Please contact us at (registrar@agehrarea1.org), if you have any questions or concerns. 🖋️

*Sue Henderson and Sue Wilber,
Festival/Conference Co-Registrars*


Save the date for the 4th annual

BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL


TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010 AT 8:00 PM
OLD SOUTH CHURCH, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



Event co-sponsored by:



back bay ringers
www.backbayringers.org



Old South Church
www.oldsouth.org

Notes From The Chair...



Dear Handbell Musicians,

If you are reading this letter, then I am assuming that you have received an e-mail from Area I, visited our website, and will continue to read this newsletter to learn more about what is happening in AGEHR Area I. You've seen three examples of how your Area I board communicates with you, our membership. Communication has been an important topic at our board meetings as we have seen events occur with lower than expected attendance, and then have heard from some members that they were unaware that the events were taking place.

Communication is one of our top priorities in Area I and on the national level. If you have not had an opportunity to explore the National website recently, I would strongly encourage to take a few minutes and head over there. You no longer need to have your AGEHR membership number to log in and you can create and maintain your own website password. Once you have logged into the new system, you can then update your membership information. Keeping your membership information current is the most important way to help us maintain effective communication.

We have heard from several members that going on the internet is not their preferred method

of communication. First, I must say I sympathize with you! I have three e-mail addresses that I have to check on a daily basis, and often feel overwhelmed by all of the electronic communications flying around. A few years ago, the Area I board made a decision to move towards "going green" with our *Fundamental Tone* in an effort to improve the visual aspect of the newsletter (we can "print" a .pdf file online in color, but we could not afford to print hardcopies in color) to be more environmentally friendly and as a cost savings. Mailing over four-hundred newsletters was a very large expense that was difficult for the board to justify. We know that many of you miss direct mailings, and in response to this, you will receive a post card in the fall, listing all of the fall events; another post-card will be sent in January, listing all of our spring sponsored events.

We need your help in improving our communications. First, take five minutes to update your profile on the national website to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you. Second, we need you to help reach all of our members. Each of the handbell musicians in your ensemble

are members of this organization. You have the opportunity to see their dedication to this art each week. Ringing brings them joy, a chance to relax, fellowship and an opportunity to make music. AGEHR wants to support all of the handbell musicians here in New England, and if you are reading this letter, you can help your ringers become more informed about the handbell events taking place in our area. When you receive the e-mail announcing the *Fundamental Tone* has been published, please forward that e-mail to the ringers you work with. If you are a ringer yourself, send the link to other ringers in your ensemble.

Let us all work together to strengthen the communication regarding the exciting events AGEHR Area I, and our national organization present for every handbell musician in America. 🎵

Thank you,
Griff Gall, Chair, AGEHR Area I



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***** Contact me for handbell parts and repairs. *****

Rehearsal Notes For Copper and Bronze Ringers *from Director Bill Alexander*



I am delighted to be one of your conductors for the Area I Festival Conference. A lot of preparation has gone into making this a memorable and musical experience. Your efforts to prepare the music before the festival will benefit everyone. I believe that I am an extremely easy conductor to follow, but that means nothing unless you are able to look up and see what I'm doing.

Massed ringing is unlike any other musical event. No matter how well your group plays together, massed ringing will be a challenge. Identify all tempo changes and musically rough areas and work them until you feel comfortable looking away from the page. Because of the limited time for rehearsal, it is even more important that the pieces are well prepared. For those of

you who have never met or worked with me, I can assure you that my goals for this and any festival, concert, service, rehearsal or workshop, are to make music sound like music and to have fun in the process. We WILL have fun! See you in June. *Bill Alexander*

Coppers

Reverie

Judy Phillips

This is one of the three pieces in Judy Phillip's "Triptych", all of which will be played during the festival's final concert. The most difficult section will be the beginning 12 measures. It's going to take a lot of watching to have the entire massed group lock up together and still allow me to move the tempo around. Practice playing that section as many different ways as you can. Place a decrescendo in the bass on measure 107. You will need to brush this down to make way for the pickups to 108 in the treble.

For The Beauty of the Earth

J.D. Frizzell

J.D. has put together a very nice setting of these two pieces. As I studied the score, I kept thinking that this wasn't going to be very difficult. I still believe that, but only from a technical and note-reading standpoint. I think this is going to be much more of a challenge to get a massed group mentally linked than we think. Imagine all we will be able to do with dynamics and expression. I can't find anything to tell you about this piece that isn't already on the page. I intend, if anything, to over-do the dynamics and try to get all of you to breathe together. Search for the phrases.

Spanish Dance

Kevin McChesney

In order to have the energy this style of piece demands, the tempo will most like be very close to what's notated. Don't place a break between the shakes measures 87-89. If you are one of the people malleting the final note, make sure that it's held no longer than the ring touch in the treble bells.

Bronze

Pat-A-Pan

arr. Fred Gramann

The biggest question I get is “How fast are you actually going to take this”? I intend to hit 92. It’s a pretty short piece, so once we get it down, repetition to polish it won’t be a problem. Not everyone can afford all those low “2” bells. I found that a capped Boomwacker™ bounced off a carpet square does indeed sound like that malletted F2 in measure 16 and saves a few thousand dollars. This piece can be a lot of work, but I sure hope you enjoy it.

Wizards in Winter

arr. Rima Greer and Tim Waugh

I’ve put off writing this one until the very last. There are so many options, and so many people who know this piece by the Trans Siberian Orchestra, and so many of you who have found what works best for your situation, that it’s a little stressful to come up with a single way where everyone will be happy. So I’ve decided to find a combination that we’re all sure to hate. No, no, no, we will all love it...repeat after me: “We will all love it.”

Now that I have you all glassy-eyed, here we go. First, you have to get this up to at least 144 beats/minute, maybe even faster. Next, we’re going to have nearly 100 ringers working very hard on this and I don’t see any reason why they should be covered up by an electric bass or keyboard. Our goal as Bronze level ringers is to play the seemingly impossible. I would like you to figure out how to play all of the notes on all of the staves. My group has started work on this and we’re going to make it work somehow with 11 ringers. It’s been fun to watch all the negotiations to take and get bells.

We WILL play chimes in 36-43 and 62-77. Measure 2-15: all mallets. As marked in 16-19. Ring measure 20-22 (damping in the upper line will be impossible for many of you, but don’t worry about it). The E5 on beat 1, measure 42 should be a chime. I think the option of mallets in the bass at 52 is good. No matter what Tim thinks, TD the notes as marked in Measure 57. Ring starting beat 2 measure 58. Mart the bass clef chord in measure 58. I like the sound of combining the chimes in the upper staff and the “ossia” bells at 62, so play both. Ring all the bass bells at 82.

There are some conflicts starting at measure 92 where the upper staff B5 plays while also marting in the next staff down. Just ring it and don’t worry about us missing the mart. I believe there are many others like that. The final note does indeed have the bass notes as a mart-lift. Make sure it’s damped on beat 2.

The follow are possible solutions to some of the problems, but it depends on your setup and bell assignments. These come directly from Strikepoint ringers:

B4C5 player can play E5 chime (L hand) and A5/B5 chimes (R hand-4-in-hand), C4D4 player can play D5 chime.

I’ve heard that at least one group added percussion. I may be very interested in including it. Good luck to all of you and be creative. I can hardly wait to see what we come up with.

Bronze (continued)

Te Deum

H. Dean Wagner

I love this piece! It's big, it's loud, it has tons of bass bells, and did I mention that it's big? The introduction will take some time to get together. We'll all be arriving with completely different ideas on how fast (and slow) this should go. Once that's done, no problems. At 33 make the dynamic marking "mp" starting on beat 4. Same with measure 111. I am assuming we will have a 7th octave available. Please double down as notated in 44-52 and 120-123. Pay no attention to the "***" on the bottom of page 12, except for perhaps playing the G2, Bb2 and C3 on chimes if you wish. At measures 125 and 126 release the shake just before beat 4. I'll give you each of the final 2 eighth notes in 126.

Roundelay

Judy Phillips

This is one of the three pieces in Judy Phillip's "Triptych", all of which will be played during the festival's final concert. This one won't be overly difficult for us, but it does have its challenging parts. The changing meter feel will be easy after a few times through. Measure 46 will probably be an issue. The marts on beats 5 and 6 usually are late. Just don't let it happen. Once we get to measure 61 the meter will continue in "6", but we need to hear and feel the pulses reminding us that "3" is still around somewhere. Bring out that 3-feel each time it comes up. It will happen in all the registers eventually. On the last note, start practicing to have all bells (and hands) down. Nobody should be left holding up a bell.



*Musical Excellence
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978-851-3024
www.newenglandringers.org

Upcoming Concerts

Tuesday, May 17

8:00 p.m.

Boston Handbell Festival

Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street • Boston, MA

Sunday, May 22

Time TBD

Union Congregational Church

218 Main Street • Groton, MA

Saturday, July 30

Times TBD

The Temple at Ocean Park

Workshop and Concert

Temple Avenue • Ocean Park, Maine

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

Photos from Area I Adult Ringing Weekend

Photos courtesy of Karen James



Bretton Woods, New Hampshire — The fun and the food—and the handbells, of course—were a huge hit at the beautiful Mt. Washington Hotel, Adult Ringing Weekend, November 5-6, 2010. In the photo at right, guest clinician Nancy Cappel of Annandale, VA (center) takes a photo opportunity with the event chair, Nancy Reynolds, (at left) and registrar Karen James.



Photo from Area I 2010 High School Ring-Out

Photo courtesy of Phil Brown



Seekonk, Massachusetts — Nine choirs from five states participated in the 20th Ring-Out. There were 89 youth ringers, 10 adult ringers, and 9 non-ringing directors & chaperones registered. The event was held Saturday, November 13, at the Van Norman Field House at Wheeler School Farm.



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: 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 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 34 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*. From 2003-2007 Michael was a ringer and Composer-in-Residence 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!*

For Sale 3 Octaves of Schulmerich Handbells

Private party is selling three-octave set of Schulmerich handbells. It's our second set and we no longer need it. Bells are voiced, polished, adjusted and ready to ring. The set includes three long cases (each with three handles); polishing cloths; tools. Perfect as a starter set or for a group that needs a second set of three octaves. Don't let the bell toll for you by missing this opportunity! It's a bargain at any price, but we are asking \$6200, which includes shipping. Negotiable. Call 763-553-0058 or email anneneiljeddeloh@comcast.net.

Photos are available for interested parties.

Fundamental Tone

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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.



Happy Valentine's Day!

You or someone you love definitely would enjoy this tasty treat on Valentine's Day. This recipe is taken from Area I's *Cookbook*, published in 1995.

Marble Brownies

Karen McCue

1 pkg. (8-oz.) **cream cheese**
2-1/3 cups **sugar**
1/2 cup **margarine**
3/4 cup **water**
2 squares **baking chocolate**
2 cups **flour**
1/2 cup **sour cream**
1 tsp. **baking soda**
1/2 tsp. **salt**
1 pkg. (8-oz.) **chocolate chips**

Soften cream cheese, blend in
1/3 cup sugar and 1 egg. Set
aside. In saucepan, combine
margarine, water and choco-

late squares. heat until melted
and set aside. Stir together
flour and remaining 2 cups
sugar. Set aside. Combine
melted chocolate mixture
from saucepan with flour,
sugar, and stir in 2 eggs, sour
cream, soda and salt. Mix
well. Spread this chocolate
mixture in greased and floured
jelly roll pan. Spoon cream
cheese, sugar and egg mixture
over this and marbelize with
spatula. Sprinkle with choco-
late chips. Bake at 375° for 25
to 30 minutes.

Do not overbake! 

REPORT FROM VERMONT

RECENT EVENTS:

Two Vermont Skill Building Workshops: The Vermont Skill Building Workshops were held at the First Congregational Church of Walpole, NH, Oct. 2, 2010, and at the Tinmouth Community Center, Tinmouth, VT on October 23, 2010. Directed by Karen James and Phil Brown, the events were very well-received and self-supporting, with a \$5/person registration fee. Participants enthusiastically endorsed the positive nature of the events in the evaluations. Mary Jane Bosworth, a Vermont AGEHR member, directs the choir at Walpole.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Vermont Directors Roundtable: The Directors Roundtable will once again be held in West Lebanon, NH on Jan. 29, 2011. Averill Tinker will host the event. West Lebanon has proved to be a central location and we continue to be able to hold the Roundtable there. Directors will review Spring Ring 2011 repertoire in the morning and discuss concerns and celebrations over lunch. Area I Festival/Conference Massed repertoire will be reviewed in the afternoon session. The sessions will be led by Karen James, Phil Brown and Jerilyn Bergdahl.

Spring Ring 2011: 'Gather-ring at the River' and **Vermont Directors' Workshop**, Bellows Falls, VT, April 29–30th, Monica McGowan, clinician. Registration ends Feb. 15. The Vermont Spring Ring was at this site just five years ago and chose it again because of the huge gym and ideal classroom space. The



committee met at the school for a site visit in November to measure spaces for the floor plan preparation, assign classrooms, plan for coffee and snack placement, and talk with staff. The committee will meet again in early March. We changed the schedule for the day last year to include four classes in mid-morn-

ing and four different classes in mid-afternoon instead of classes at noontime. This new schedule, which allowed ringers and directors to attend two classes, was very well-received. Classes this year include: Reading Session, Bass Bell Technique, Weaving, Beginning and Advanced Four-in-Hand, Beginning Solo Ringing, Schulmerich Maintenance, and Relaxation Techniques. Committee members: Jerilyn Bergdahl, chair; Mary Jane Bosworth, Facilities; Judy Spinella, Directors' Workshop; Averill Tinker, Hospitality; Dolf Wirsing, Registrar, and Alice McClellan, publicity.

Spring Ring 2012: David Weck has agreed to be the clinician for Spring Ring 2012.

Think Spring Mini-Rings: Two mini-rings will be held this year; one Feb. 12 in St. Johnsbury, VT hosted and directed by Phil Brown, and the other Mar. 12 in Essex Jct., VT, hosted by Northern Bronze, a community handbell choir, and directed by Northern Bronze members. The mini-rings are free of charge, half-day sponsored events that focus on rehearsing Spring Ring 2011 repertoire in a large group and provide an excellent chance for choir members from the different groups to get to know one another. New choirs join the mini-rings each year and enthusiasm grows, as well. 🪔

Jerilyn Bergdahl, Vermont State Chair



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](mailto:belltreesandmore@aol.com)



David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613
phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir

Report from CONNECTICUT



We are planning a **Spring Ring** for the state on April 9, 2011. The event will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor, and the mass ring clinician will be Daniel Moore. The massed ring selections will be a combination of Level 1, 2, and 3 pieces, accessible to all ringers. We have planned several classes for the day and the event

will culminate in a mass ring Sharing Concert directed by Mr. Moore. Individual groups will also be invited to play a piece during the Sharing Concert open to the community at the end of the day. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. The registrar is Sara Enger. We hope to get between 100 and 200 ringers at the event. This past year we had 200 ringers on a beautiful spring day and hope for the same this year. 🖋️

Greg Fisher, Connecticut State Chair

Report from NEW HAMPSHIRE



The **Fall Repertoire Reading** session was held at St. Christopher's Church, Nashua on Saturday, October 2, 2010. There were about 25 participants. We had a great time ringing through the F/C 2011 music in addition to several other songs. We were also saddened to have to say goodbye to **Debra LeBrun**. She left at the end of October for her new position as Director of Music at a church in Roanoke, VA. We will miss her in Area I.

The 1st AGEHR endorsed New Hampshire Fall Ring is now history. Mary Divers organized the

event with the help of the Granite State Ringers. Andy Wallace directed the Coppers and Massed Choirs and Joan Fossum directed the Tins. Kimberly Strepka presented her music and movement classes and members of the Granite State Ringers lead other classes. We had a total of 50 participants at Laconia High School in Laconia, NH on Saturday, November 13, 2010.

Based on the feedback we have received we are looking at moving the event a little earlier in the fall. There will be a meeting next month to discuss our options. 🖋️

Joan Fossum, New Hampshire State Chair

Penobscot Bay Ringers seeks Artistic Director

This five-octave community handbell choir, based in beautiful Midcoast Maine, was founded in 2008 by Ella Saltonstall and Leigh Smith. Working with the Board of Directors' collaborative support, the Artistic Director will lead the choir in preparation, performance, handbell education and community outreach. The group rehearses weekly March through December and usually takes a summer hiatus. Penobscot Bay Ringers has been fortunate to fill the role of Artistic Director on a volunteer basis in the past; however, a director's stipend may be possible in the future.

Directing experience is necessary; handbell experience strongly preferred. We seek an individual who is both a leader and a team player, and someone who can help us reach higher levels of musicality while having fun.

Please contact Amy Rollins, President of Penobscot Bay Ringers, at penobscotbayringers@gmail.com or call Leigh Smith, co-founder and board member, at 207-230-6628. Applications may also be mailed to Penobscot Bay Ringers, P.O. Box 82, Rockport, ME 04856. Application deadline is March 31, 2011.