

# FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXX, No. 3

August 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3, 2015

**All Cape Handbell Workshop**  
West Parish of Barnstable  
West Barnstable, MA

October 23-25, 2015

**Coppers' Classic**  
Red Lion at the Quay  
Vancouver, WA

November 14, 2015

**High School Ringout**  
Wheeler School  
Providence, RI

January, 29-30 2016

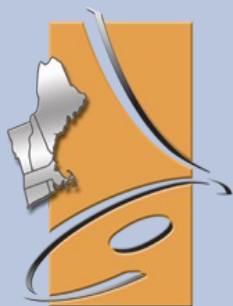
**Directors' Seminar**  
UMASS Amherst, MA

June 23-26, 2016

**Friends & Family Handbell Camp**  
Oceanwood Conference Center  
Ocean Park, ME

July 26-30, 2016

**17th Int'l Handbell Symposium**  
Vancouver, Canada



Area 1

Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...



It seems that the summer passes ever more quickly; one moment we are wrapping up the program year, and then, in the blink of an eye, September looms before us. I hope that you all have had some time for rest, recreation, and reflection, and that you are looking forward to the year to come.

This is my first message to you as Area 1's Chair, and I must admit that at the moment I feel rather like a duck: calm above the waterline, paddling madly underneath it! I look forward to building on the sturdy foundation laid by my predecessor, Sue Wilber, and to working with our excellent Area 1 Board, including new Board members Krishna Ersson (Chair Elect), Dan Moore (Secretary), and Cheryl Harger (Treasurer).

While we are entering into the "quiet" year of our two year cycle--that is, the year without a Festival/Conference--by no means does this mean a lack of activity. We begin on September 26 with a "Back to Bells" event, sponsored by our National office and hosted locally in every Area. This free workshop is designed specifically to help entities with unused or underused bell sets, whether current Guild members or not, put those sets back into service. You can help us by letting your state chair know of the churches, schools, community organizations, or individuals in your community with "bells in the closet." Whatever contact information you have will be helpful, and we will reach out to those organizations directly.

In October we have another round of Project Education workshops. The High School Ring Out returns in November, while this year Directors' Seminar will be held at the end of January. In the spring we will have Spring Rings and Project Education ensemble ringing workshops.

And then, at the end of June, we re-launch the Area 1 Family Handbell Camp at Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center on the shore in Ocean Park, Maine. This event is a great opportunity for your family's ring-a-holics to satisfy those urges, while the non-ringers can swim, sun, and generally kick back at one of Maine's best beach vacation locations. And all at an affordable price; what could be better? (Oh, and yes--singles and couples are as welcome as families!)

Although it's almost two years away, planning has already begun for Festival/Conference 2017. We are not yet ready to announce a location or

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

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clinicians--watch this space!--but I'm pleased to report that Sue Wilber has agreed to serve as the event Chair.

You may recall that this past spring you were invited to complete a survey on Area 1 events. Thank you for your responses to that survey! We are still evaluating the results and they will be a subject of discussion and a planning tool at the Area 1 Board meeting next month. Thereafter we will report on the results and describe the actions we plan to align our event planning more closely to your wants and needs.

Please don't forget to share your pictures and news of your events with us. Your fellow ringers and directors are interested and inspired by your activities, and having a dynamic website and social media presence also helps us to communicate important Area 1 information. Items for the website or for Facebook can be sent to our Webmaster, [Pete Larson](#).

All of your Area 1 Board members stand ready to assist you in all your ringing endeavors. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with any of us with your questions, comments, concerns or requests. But, before you jump back into the fray, we hope you will have some time to dip a toe in the water, putter in the garden, read a trashy novel, or whatever it is that refreshes you. And then, come September--

*Let's ring!*

*Martha Goodman, Area 1 Chair*

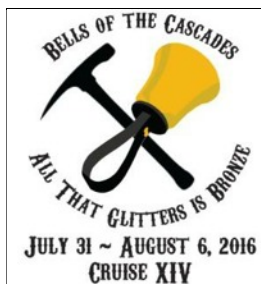
## Coppers' Classic

Do you LOVE playing handbells? Do you want to advance to the next level of ringing? Then Coppers' Classic is for you! Experience a week-end of ringing that will inspire, educate and motivate you to become all that you can be as a handbell musician.

**October 23-25, 2015**

**Red Lion at the Quay, Vancouver WA**

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\*Departs the day after Int'l Symposium in Vancouver, BC

[www.ihs2016vancouver.ca](http://www.ihs2016vancouver.ca)

### Position open

Handbell director for Level 3-4 church choir.

Duties and responsibilities: Weekly rehearsals (September-May), ring during worship service 1-2 times per month, up to 10 concerts per year, attendance at Area 1 F/C, select and order music, coordinate music selections with Pastor and Director of Music, maintain 5 octaves of Schulmerich bells and 4 octaves of Melody Chimes. Salary depends upon experience. Audition required.

Send resume to: First Baptist Church of Westwood, 808 High St., **Westwood, MA 02090**.

Phone: 781-461-1730. Email:

[office@fbcwestwood.org](mailto:office@fbcwestwood.org) (Music Director /Organist/ Chancel Choir Director position also open.)

## Fundamental Tone

is a publication of the **Handbell Musicians of America Area 1**

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[Editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:Editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org)

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## HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

### ELECTED OFFICERS

<i>Chair</i>	<b>Martha Goodman</b> (508.928.2078) <i>chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Chair-Elect</i>	<b>Krishna Errson</b> <i>chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Past Chair</i>	<b>Sue Wilber</b> (202.288.5847) <i>pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Daniel Moore</b> <i>secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Cheryl Harger</b> <i>treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

<i>Festival 2017</i>	<b>Sue Wilber</b> (202.288.5847)
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<i>Membership</i>	<b>Jane Nolan</b> (860.464.2873) <i>membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<b>Peter Larson</b> <i>webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Bradford</i>	<b>Jean Degan</b> (860.543.3638)
<i>Scholarship</i>	<i>scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<b>Susan Schultz</b> <i>historian.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

<i>Chime Loaner</i>	<b>Holly Cerullo</b>
<i>Chair</i>	<i>chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<b>Lauré Mackey</b> <i>editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Education</i>	<b>Carlene Ruesenberg</b> <i>education.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

### STATE CHAIRS

<i>Connecticut</i>	<b>Mobby Larson</b> (860.464.7593) <i>ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Maine</i>	<b>Sue Evans</b> (508.982.7992) <i>me.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Massachusetts</i>	<b>Gail Granum</b> (508.595.9011) <i>ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>New Hampshire</i>	<b>Carol Seely</b> <i>nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Vermont</i>	<b>Pat Pranger</b> (802.446.2066) <i>vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>





Area 1 people at Pinnacle 2016

Kimberly Strepka, Jean Degan, Lisa Arnold, Susan Schultz,  
Karen Leonard, Jean Degan, Joan Fossum, Emlee Kohler,  
Sue Wilber, Krishna Ersson, Greg Urban, Chuck Arnold



Area 1  
Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

*The Raleigh Ringers*

*David M. Harris, Director*

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*A community handbell choir*

## High School Ring Out!

We are excited to announce that High School Ring Out will be returning to The Wheeler School in Providence RI on November 14, 2015.

Nationally acclaimed Ms. Kim Strepka will be the conductor for high school students plus!  
If you have a group of high school ringers, or a multi-generational group with high school ringers in it....if you have a few high school students that want to come and ring as a partial choir....mark down the date!

Repertoire for this event is —

Ring, Zing, Swing! by John Behnke, Choristers Guild L3

Celebration by Fred Gramann Lorenz Publishing 20/1397L L2+

Song of the Spirit (Play the Sunset) by Derek Hakes, Hope Publishing # 2523 L2+

More information to come. Watch the [website](#) for registration information.

Jean Degan  
[jeanmus2@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmus2@gmail.com)

Sue Chamberlin  
[suecham1585@hotmail.com](mailto:suecham1585@hotmail.com)

# REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



We've had two wonderful chances to be together this spring—at the CT Spring Ring in May and at Conference Festival in June. As you know, the combined experiences of workshops and massed ringing, as well as the fellowship of handbell musicians, helps all of us grow in skills, confidence and musicality!

The day after Festival, June 29, a concert was held at Carnegie Hall, which was a joint project of Yale and Cambridge Universities. The work by Julian Revie, resident composer at the St. Thomas More Chapel at Yale, was written for chorus, orchestra, children's chorus and handbells all conducted by Maestro Stephen Layton from Cambridge.

Nearly 200 handbell ringers from around New England and New York City played from the highest balcony. Many of the ringers were from Connecticut. This world-premiere concert was the launch event for a major Yale-led initiative to provide sheet music and music education software online, all free to the world. Thanks to Rick Wood and Chime In! Music With a Mission for organizing the ringers who participated.

Connecticut had good representation at Conference Festival. Some of you dropped in at the State Chair breakfast on Saturday morning; and I enjoyed many casual conversations with others over the long weekend. A couple of issues came up in discussions:

\*There appear to be churches/schools around with bells "in closets"—not being used at this time. We are trying to find out where these sad bells are and want to see if we can help get them ringing again. If you know of any places like this, please let us know

\*I have talked with several fairly new directors, who are basically ringers drafted to lead a bell choir. They know how to ring, and obviously have leadership capabilities, but are feeling a bit uncertain about what is involved in planning a music program, and are perhaps looking for tips on conducting a bell choir. We have many experienced leaders around, and I will try to be helpful in connecting resources.

As always, I am updating my email list for better communications among handbell musicians in Connecticut. If you have not been getting emails periodically from me and would like to (or have been and would rather not), please let me know.

We have several community handbell groups in Connecticut, besides all the church handbell choirs. This fall I will be sending out information about concerts and events with handbells in our area, so PLEASE let me know anything of interest! One current note (!) of interest is that the Hockanum Valley Ringers are offering auditions for experienced ringers who might like to join them. They rehearse on Monday evenings in Vernon. Contact Director Lawrence Berdensen at 860-375-0333 by August 24 for more information.

Meanwhile, enjoy the rest of the summer. I can think of a lot of summer activities to keep those ringing muscles in shape!

Mobby Larson, CT Chair  
[ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org)



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**Click "Education", scroll down "Chime Loaner Program"**

**Questions contact Holly Cerullo at**

**[chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org)**

## REPORT FROM MAINE



Hello to Maine Bell Ringers and Directors. It was just a few weeks ago that I, along with over 500 ringers, attended the Festival/Conference at UMASS Amherst. It was a joy to sit and watch the massed ring rehearsals. I had chosen not to ring at this conference so I could pack in more workshops and play with the Festival Coppers. It certainly brought back a nostalgic nod to the days of Gene Kelly, as we rehearsed and then performed "Singin' In The Rain." One of the highlights for this attendee was the opportunity to take a workshop on the basics of "steel drumming." Always a mystery to me, I now know how to play a scale and actually be part of an ensemble. What fun.

Altogether, there were 22 ringers in attendance from Maine and there were five ringers who were willing to get up for a 7:00 am meeting to attend the state breakfasts. Although there were but a few of us, those of us who met in that early time slot, including: Sally Adair, Ray Cornils, Amy Rollins, Gail Kelly and myself, had a productive opportunity to talk about ringing in Maine.

This conference is sponsored every other year by the Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1. Its success is the result of the generous time and talent of many volunteers who lined up a gifted team of directors and instructors for this event. Your membership in the Handbell Musicians of America provides an opportunity for participation at this conference and all other HMA events and workshops at a reasonable price. It is this organization that supports our Maine Spring Ring financially with national publicity, leadership, communication, and insurance coverage including \$1,000,000 in liability.

Please consider joining the Guild as soon as possible so that your choir can participate in the 2016 Maine Spring Ring which will be held on April 9, 2016, at Winthrop High School, Winthrop Maine. It is hoped that many Maine bell choirs will attend. We have worked hard to lower the price and to choose music that is both fun to play and of excellent quality that you can reuse in your home church or community. If you need any help in joining or rejoining the Guild, just contact me. Just one member of your bell choir needs to join, and that membership number will allow you to register all ringers in your choir to attend the Maine Spring Ring. The registration process for the Maine Spring Ring will be implemented by "Constant Contact" and will enable us to more efficiently organize the Ring.

The selection of pieces will be sent out in September, with the goal that you will have ample time to purchase and prepare the music. Please let me know if you have any ideas for workshops or vendors that you would like to see in attendance.

More news from Maine –Amy Rollins reports that after a five-week hiatus, Penobscot Bay Ringers reconvened on July 9 to prepare music for two fall concerts which will be held in Camden and Belfast on Saturday, October 3, 2015. Our community handbell choir currently has 11 ringers wrangling 5 octaves. We are always in search of ringers, especially in the bass bells! If interested, contact Amy Rollins at [penobscotbayringers@gmail.com](mailto:penobscotbayringers@gmail.com).



The next issue of Fundamental Tone will be out in November, so please feel free to submit articles in the coming months about your bell choir activities or a featured ringer in your group.

*My best,*

*Sue Evans  
Maine State Chair*

## 2016 DIRECTOR'S SEMINAR

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us at UMASS Amherst on January 29 & 30, 2016 for our annual Director's Seminar. We're excited to announce our clinician will be Jason Krug! This event is open to EVERYONE – not just directors. More information will follow in the November Fundamental Tone – but mark your calendars now and plan to join us in Amherst!!



Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA | Area 1



# REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



Just as these late summer flowers bask in the warm sun, so do I smile with all the handbell news coming in from around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts! We are so fortunate to have positive momentum building in our musical world. Read on with excitement and anticipation of a glorious fall. These contributors have taken the time and effort to share news of general information with you. Feel free to contact any of these groups with your comments or questions!

## **FROM ABBY SCHOPPE, FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ANDOVER, MA**

As we gear up for the fall season, it's exciting to see how the bell and chime programs at Faith Lutheran Church in Andover, MA have grown! Faith started its bell choir about 10 years ago with 2 octaves of bells. We currently have 4 octaves and are in the midst of raising money for a fifth. We're also in the unusual and enviable position of having more congregation members who would like to ring than we have room for in a typical 4-octave setup, so we cycle through interested people, using different ringers for different portions of the year. The bell choir typically plays music at Levels 2 and 3; we play in worship once a month, we participate in the Massachusetts Spring Ring each year, and this year, two of us attended Festival Conference. Four years ago, Faith also started a children's handchime group for Grades 2-8. Because that group has grown so much, this year we will have TWO children's groups! Children's Chimes will be open to kids in Grades 1-5; no musical experience is necessary for participation in this group, and in addition to preparing to play in church once a month, these kids will learn the fundamentals of reading music and of healthy ringing. Meanwhile, the new Junior Bell Choir will be for kids in Grades 6-8 who have at least minimal experience playing chimes, bells, or any other instrument. Because dividing into two groups means we will have room for a few more ringers, I want to encourage any interested kids in the Merrimack Valley (or beyond) to come ring with us, regardless of religious background or affiliation. If you know of an interested child, please contact me ([Abby Schoppe](#), the director).

I have to say that both the blessing and the curse of the program at Faith is that I try to get everyone involved even if they have zero musical background. So the fact that we are constantly adding new ringers who don't really read music is tough because it really holds the bell choir back; there are a few quite experienced ringers in the group who could easily be performing at a much higher level if we weren't being slowed down by all the newbies. But in the very long term, having all these interested ringers will be great for the future of the bell program at Faith and for the future of the handbell world in general! Anyway, with the second

kids' ensemble starting, we are definitely going to need to pick up a few more kids to keep both ensembles reasonably full, so hopefully this paragraph will accomplish my goal of flushing out some more interested kids in the area!

## **FROM LYNN MASSON, THIRD ANNUAL HOLIDAY REP READING / FALL WORKSHOPS**

Yes, we're doing it again. And this year will be better than ever. Last year our workshops were very popular so we've expanded our classrooms and opportunities. The rep reading will review many new holiday selections as well as some oldies but goodies. Music will be available for purchase at a discount.

Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in October, 10/3, and plan to join us at the beautiful St. Matthews United Methodist Church of Acton. It's handy to find right off rte. 2 with plenty of parking. Come for the morning workshops or the afternoon rep reading or both. If you're coming for the day, bring a bag lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Watch for our postcard notification when the on-line registration is open. It's easy to get to, it's instructional and informative, and it's fun! See you there! [Lynn Masson](#).

## **FROM DIANE ENNIS, SECOND HALF LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE, FALL RIVER, MA**

The Southcoast Ringers from The Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute, Fall River are continuing to ring during the summer. We are working on our weaving skills and learning solo and small ensemble ringing. We will entertain a local assisted living facility at the end of the summer with a concert of tunes from our summer program. [Diane Ennis](#).

## **FROM MALCOM HALLIDAY AND LINDA CHADWICK, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SHREWSBURY, MA**

The First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (FCC) has purchased a fourth octave of choir chimes, made possible by contributions from the church's handbell choirs. The chimes are given in memory of Marianne L. McVoy, who died nearly three years ago of cancer at the age of 62. Marianne was a much beloved member of the church, as well as an outstanding musician, who not only played in one of the FCC handbell choirs but also rang with the Merrimack Valley Ringers. In celebration of the fourth octave, a work for two choirs, specifically 5 octaves of handbells

*(continued on page 7)*

## MA STATE NEWS...

(continued from page 6)

and 4 octaves of choir chimes, has been commissioned by the FCC Music Ministry from Stephan Barnicle, a composer, conductor, ringer and singer who lives in Worcester, MA and also rings with the New England Ringers. The work will be a melding of two tunes, DIX (For the Beauty of the Earth) and AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL. The work will be performed in the fall by the church's two adult handbell choirs, at which time the new chimes will be dedicated in a Sunday morning worship service.

[Malcom Halliday](#), Minister of Music

[Linda Chadwick](#), Assistant Bell Director

### **FROM PATTI P. WOOD, DIRECTOR OF THE GOLDEN DOME RINGERS, SOUTHWICK, MA**

A special thank you to Area I Festival Conference Team

The Southwick Gold Ringers would like to extend our gratitude for all your countless hours of work on this year's Festival !!!! This is just such a special bonding/growing/learning event for our group. This year we have 2 new members that were able to attend, and in their words, they are "hooked"...Thank you for helping me with that special feeling for bell ringers. WE ALL HAD AN AWESOME TIME !!!! THANK YOU , THANK YOU TO ALL !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! [Patti Wood](#)..

### **FROM GRIFF GALL, BACK BAY RINGERS, BOSTON, MA**

Summer always seems quiet on the handbell front, however behind the scenes things are quite busy! Back Bay Ringers has been busy planning for our 2015-2016 season, including preparations for our upcoming Spring workshop, the tenth annual Boston Handbell Festival, and our exciting holiday season. We would like invite any local handbell musician who is interested to attend our Summer Ring being held at First Church Boston on Monday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. This evening is always a fun, relaxed evening of making music, socializing, and enjoying some delicious snacks. If you are interested in joining Back Bay Ringers, our auditions will take place on Monday, August 31. For more information on either of those events, or to learn about our upcoming holiday concerts, please visit our [website](#). [Griff Gall](#).

### **FROM NORMA ATWOOD, DIRECTOR, SOUTH YARMOUTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA**

South Yarmouth United Methodist Church Sanctuary Bell Choir is on summer break until September. We resume rehearsals after Labor Day on Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and play the 4th Sunday of every month thru June. Enjoy your summer!

[Norma Atwood](#), Director

### **FROM JOANNE PARSONS, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GREENFIELD, MA**

Just a picture of my group at Conference/Festival 2015 just prior to concert. We had a great time.



#### **Rich Blessings Handbell Choir**

Front: Shirley Holmes, Diane Santaniello

Back: Cheryl Kieffer, Bobbi Weaver, Marilyn White, [Joanne Parsons](#), Sharlene Cormie

### **FROM DAWN BENNETT, ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WRENTHAM, WRENTHAM, MA**

The Wrentham Ringers have just a few things to report. We are playing for a wedding in September and have our Christmas Concert on December 5. I'm in the process of planning our fall program. Marjorie Kellner and I went to the Area I Festival and had a great time.

Dawn Bennett, [dcben1@verizon.net](mailto:dcben1@verizon.net).

### **FROM MARILYN SINK, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CHATHAM, MA**

Handbells of Chatham, July 2015

This Summer I decided to start a Community Handbell group at the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Harwichport. I thought I would get some of my ringers to join with others over the summer for more relaxed and secular repertoire. I discovered that most wanted the summer off and so I ended up with a smaller group of about seven.

We did open the church doors during one of the Harwichport Strolls and had one person come in to try playing a handbell. We have beginners mixed in with a director and so music is a challenge. But we have fun and that's what counts!

(continued on page 9)

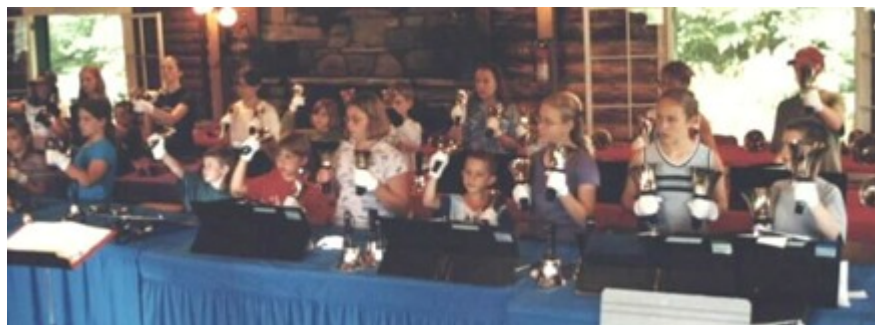


JUN

23- 26

2016

# Area 1's Friends and Family HANDBELL CAMP



- \* Bells, Bathing suits and Flip-Flops
- \* Basking on the BEACH or by the POOL
- \* Massed Ring, Classes for ALL (including beginners & non-ringers!)
- \* Caring and Knowledgeable workshop leaders
- \* Great Food, Comfortable accommodations
- \* All-Inclusive fees, Daycare for the younger set
- \* Saturday Night Talent (?) Show!!&Final Sharing Concert on Sunday

## Camp Oceanwood

Ocean Park, Maine

<http://www.oceanwood.org/>

### Tentative Fees (all inclusive)

Adult Ringer	\$240
Adult NON-Ringer	\$175
6-12 Ringer	\$165
6-12 NON-ringer	\$110 (includes session daycare)
under 6	\$ 60 (includes session day care)

On-line Registration opens in January. Mark your calendars!

## Area 1 Project Education Presents ....

### Fall Handbell Bootcamp Workshops for Ringers and Directors

**October 3 and October 17 – 8:30am – 2pm at a location near you**

Join our clinicians, Jane Nolan and Sue Chamberlin, who will help you and your choir improve your playing and musicianship. Choose the date or location that is best for you.

Topics being covered:

**Basic Ringing Techniques** – review the basics—improve your sound

**Weaving** – a great skill for all kinds of ringers

**Rhythm, Counting and Time Signatures** – work on taming those impossible rhythmic passages

**Looking Good, Sounding Better** – Steps to improve the musicality of your choir

**Stuff Every Director Wants to Know** – Take the mystery out of conducting, repertoire selection and bell assignments

At the end of the workshop, we'll read a piece that incorporates everything you just learned.

You'll get all this for the low price of \$20 per person, plus bringing a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Watch the website <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/> for locations and registration info.

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#### MA STATE NEWS...

*(continued from page 7)*

The Handbell Choir at the First Congregational Church of Chatham continues to practice this summer and we played Sunday July 19, 2015. We plan to play once in August and just finding a Sunday when everyone is in town is difficult. I did gain two new ringers for the summer but they fly south in October. Sometimes the challenges are having everyone present or plenty of substitutes.

So I continue to direct and hope for a community handbell group that would like to play throughout the year here on the lower Cape. Scheduling a Fall workshop for late September and a Spring Ring in April 2016 should bring out some new ringers!

Contact [Marilyn Sink](#) at if interested! Thanks!

#### FROM WENDY LEWIS, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WESTWOOD, MA

The Westwood Ringers of First Baptist Church in Westwood, Mass. Have had a difficult year. Our director, Marilyn Downes, was diagnosed in September with leukemia and passed away in March. She had been the Director of Music and Handbell Director for over 50 years. Martha Goodman and Dan Moore stepped in to help us through the year. We performed two concerts at our own church (December and May), had our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual performance at the Dedham Savings Bank at Christmas time, played at least once a month during

worship services, and played for Marilyn's memorial service. We also performed at the Museum of Fine Arts for the second year. The search for a new Director is on-going. [Wendy Lewis](#).



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#### FROM RACHEL CERULLO, MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS, NORTH CHELMSFORD, MA

Greetings from Merrimack Valley Ringers!

Oh, what a season it has been. MVR's spring tour "Tempest: From Basics to Bronze" was an educational experience for both the audience AND our members! The tour included original works for handbells, with ringers speaking between each piece, highlighting bell techniques and sharing stories from previous tours. Audiences loved the interaction, knowledge, and humor peppered throughout the concerts. What many

*(continued on page 10)*



## All Cape Handbell Workshop

**Saturday, October 3, 2015  
West Parish of Barnstable  
2049 Meetinghouse Way PO Box 219  
West Barnstable, Massachusetts**

**Cost \$10.00**

**8:30-9:00 Set up and Registration**

**9:00-10:00 Session 1**

### A. Beginning to Ring

This workshop for non-or novice ringers will focus on the basic mechanics of grip, stroke, and damping of the handbell, and basic music reading.

### B. Tracking and Velocity Exercises

Velocity and tracking drill and will improve a ringer's confidence to sight reading rhythms and techniques accurately and musically.

**10:40- 12:00 Session 2**

### C. Technique

The focus of this session will be on weaving (3, 4, or more handbells), and multiple bell techniques (shelly and four in hand).

### D. Handbell Musicianship

How to execute changes in dynamics and tempo changes.

**CONTACT:** [Donna Murphy](#), Host [tiggerdsm@hotmail.com](mailto:tiggerdsm@hotmail.com)

### CLINICIANS:

**Edward G. Henderson, Jr.** of Tewksbury, MA, started ringing handbells in 1962 and has been directing youth and adult handbell choirs for the last 30+ years. He has served on the Board of Directors of Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1, in many positions including Member at Large, Area Chair, Area Representative to the National Board of Directors. He has served Area and National handbell events as organizer, clinician and massed and division conductor. For 20 years he was responsible for the youth and adult handbell program at the Tewksbury Congregational Church, Tewksbury, MA, and for the last 13 years has been directing New England Ringers, a bronze level community handbell choir. Ed is a retired electrical engineer who spent his entire career managing customer support operations for various companies supporting the high tech industries.

**Daniel K. Moore** retired from teaching and directing the Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School (Providence, RI) after 37 years. His auditioned ensembles appeared frequently on television, performed opening concerts at national and regional handbell festivals, recorded with the Empire Brass, Ed Sweeney, and on several solo CD's!! Dan was a charter member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringer's committee to promote handbells in education and subsequently served regional and national AGEHR boards in many capacities, most recently as Chair of AGEHR's Certification Program. Dan continues to be a frequent clinician, organizer and conductor at handbell ringing events and his comprehensive handbell textbook, *Ringing RIGHT! From the Beginning*, a resource for ringers and directors alike, is published by HMA/AGEHR! Dan is the regional representative for MalmarkBellcraftsmen, and serves the Area 1 Board as Secretary.

## MA STATE NEWS...

*(continued from page 9)*

audiences DIDN'T know: due to a perfect storm of ill-timed and unpredictable injuries, all but one of our concerts had one or two ringers SIGHT-READING, to fill in for a ringer unable to play at the last minute! It was both terrifying and exhilarating...which ultimately played right into our tour title! We took on each concert



as a challenge, and refused to shake our positive attitude. As a result, our audiences were none the wiser...unless our director decided to fill them in just before the final piece.

MVR had two weeks off "to recover" before trekking out to Festival Conference 2015 at UMass Amherst. Despite two still-recuperating ringers (and one whose injury developed right before the final concert), the group tackled the long weekend with flying colors – attending rehearsals and classes, teaching and performing, and making sure the mood was merry. It was a fabulous end for a noteworthy season. And we've jokingly decided the next CD we record will be called "The Show Must Go On."

Rehearsals pick back up in September, and we've already got sizeable Winter AND Spring tours in the works! Many exciting prospects. MVR will be busy...but until then, we're taking some much deserved R&R and putting our feet up. Happy Summer!!!

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In Massachusetts, A **Spring Ring** is being planned for **April 2, 2016**. The place TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail Granum*  
*Massachusetts State Chair*







17TH INTERNATIONAL  
HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM  
JULY 26–30, 2016  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

AN INVITATION FROM CANADA TO THE WORLD!

***In July 2016, hundreds of handbell musicians from around the world will travel to beautiful Vancouver, Canada for the 17th International Handbell Symposium. We want you to be among them!***

**OUR LOCATION** Vancouver is one of the world's most beautiful cities and a prime tourist destination for people the world over. It is superbly situated for travel from Pacific Rim countries as well as easily accessible to all North American ringers. British Columbia also has strong ties to its British and European forebears. We look forward to welcoming handbell musicians from all around the world to this "Jewel on the Pacific" that has so much to offer.

Our venue is the Vancouver Convention Centre. Surrounded by the mountains and located on the waterfront at Canada Place in the heart of beautiful downtown Vancouver, the VCC ([www.vancouverconventioncentre.com](http://www.vancouverconventioncentre.com)) is an award-winning facility. It opened in July 1987 after originally serving as the Canada Pavilion at Expo '86. Since its inception, the facility has demonstrated a constant commitment to service excellence, technical capabilities, and creative, high-quality banqueting.



**OUR THEME** Canada's rich aboriginal history and culture, combined with Vancouver's reputation for leadership in sustainability and environmentalism, has provided the ideal focus for this event. Honouring the ancestors of this land, including the aboriginal ways of knowing and being within an environment, has encouraged us to explore the many complementary ways that First Peoples cultures and environmental sustainability intertwine and connect within

community. We plan on a high level of involvement of Canada's First Peoples and integration of Canadian aboriginal history and culture throughout the event. We look forward to other nations sharing the sounds of their lands and lives of their peoples at IHS2016.

Our title, "Soundings," has many faceted, rich associations. The musical association is clear, but the word also evokes thoughts of depth, fullness, resonance (all of which relate nicely to the handbell idiom), as well as observations of the environment and/or water. It evokes the Aboriginal peoples' connection to the natural world, as well as connecting to meaningful ideas in terms of musical depth and the fullness of musical sound of many ringers playing together—a sense of world community. Its relevance to both music and envi-



ronment gives a great deal of scope for composition and will come into play in many other ways during the event as well.

**OUR LOGO** Coast Salish artist Chris Paul designed the SOUNDINGS logo. It is rich in imagery and captures so well the many facets of our theme: music, community, the environment. Blue for water and sky, the bell and its reflection representing earth and sea, musical sound and echo (reverberation), the present and our history. The eagle — a symbol of grace,

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOURISM VANCOUVER





power and great intellect (all important for handbell ringers!) — enwraps the bell, as the handbell community reaches around the globe. And in one further image emphasizing “community”, the upper eagle shares the ‘clapper’ of the bell with its reflection.

Chris Paul is gaining international acclaim for his limited edition giclee prints, cedar panels, and glass sculptures, and has also gained exposure through the hit television series “Grey’s Anatomy,” in which a number of his prints have been featured. Learn more about him at [www.chrispaul.ca](http://www.chrispaul.ca).

### THE IHS ROTATION

Since 1984, the location of the International Handbell Symposium has rotated among the six members of the International Handbell Committee (America, Japan, Great Britain, Korea, Canada, Australasia). In 2010, Hong Kong was admitted to membership in the IHC; its place in the rotation will be added at the end of the current cycle. Other countries are requesting admission to the IHC so it may be at least 2022 before the IHS is again on North American soil and so easy to get to. You don’t want to miss this opportunity! For 2016 we extend a particular invitation to handbell musicians from many other countries not represented by a national guild—all are welcome!

**ON-LINE** In keeping with the focus on environmental stewardship, our aim is to make this event as “Green” as possible. Wherever possible, communication will be by electronic means rather than by mailed hard copy. Our website, [www.ihs2016vancouver.ca](http://www.ihs2016vancouver.ca), is now live. Check out our promotional video on the front page! We also have an active Facebook presence: [www.facebook.com/IHS2016Vancouver](https://www.facebook.com/IHS2016Vancouver). Please “Like” and “Share” our page!

**REGISTRATION** Registration will open on our website in the spring of 2015, and you will be able to book accommodations at that point, as well. We will offer a good selection of hotels at a variety of price points. Registration will be handled on-line (subject to the instructions of your national guild), and if you so choose, you will be able to pay with your credit card. A big advantage if you have a card with a loyalty program!

Early-Bird registration is \$1085 CDN. The Canadian dollar is low right now in comparison to many other major currencies. At the time of writing, the USD equivalent is approx. \$950.

**We all agree** that handbell events are fantastic opportunities to meet with old and new musical friends and share our passion for ringing. An international symposium takes that connection to new heights. How exciting to make friends from around the world, and know that you can meet them again in two years in another corner of the world! Canadian handbell musicians are so excited to host these world-travelling musicians and to share our beautiful country with them.



“Haven’t you just been waiting for an invitation to come here?” Consider yourself invited — See you in 2016!



[www.ihs2016vancouver.ca](http://www.ihs2016vancouver.ca)  
[ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com](mailto:ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com)



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