

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXX, No. 1

February 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

[February 6-7, 2015](#)

Director's Seminar
UMASS Amherst, MA

[March 28, 2015](#)

Massachusetts Spring Ring
Tewksbury High School
Tewksbury, MA

[April 25, 2015](#)

Vermont Spring Ring
Bellows Falls High School
Bellows Falls, VT

[May 9, 2015](#)

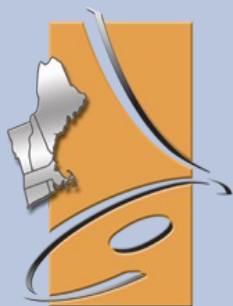
Connecticut Spring Ring
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Bristol, CT

[June 25-28, 2015](#)

Festival/Conference 2015
UMASS Amherst, MA

[June 23-26, 2016](#)

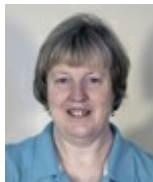
Friends & Family Handbell Camp
Oceanwood Conference Center
Ocean Park, ME



Area 1

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...



Happy New Year! I hope the holidays were full of good music and wonderful times with families and friends for all of you. It doesn't seem possible that the second decade of the new century has reached it's mid-point – it seems that the older we get the faster time flies. 2015 is shaping up to be a busy year in Area 1!

By the time you read this, the Area 1 2015 Director's Seminar will have concluded. Our guest clinician this year is Brian Childers – new to Area 1 but well-known throughout the handbell world, and in fact Brian is the composer of one of the massed pieces for this year's Festival/Conference. As we all know handbells are not just for church groups, and Brian, who hails from Mt. Holly, North Carolina, covers all bases – he is a church musician, he is the Director of a community group, and he is a prolific composer/arranger. Martha Goodman has worked hard on putting this event together and while the title is "Director's Seminar" we are striving to make it more of an education seminar not just for directors, but for those who aspire to be directors, and for those who are looking for more learning opportunities. If you were not able to come this year, please plan on joining us next year (date and location TBA) even if you're not a director – there is something for everyone at this two-day event, and it is a good time to network with others in Area 1.

Thanks to our Webmaster Pete Larson who has worked hard on keeping our website dynamic and up to date. But he can't do it without input from all of you!!! I hope you've noticed the new spotlight on various performing groups – church, community, and school. Think about the websites you visit frequently – what about them makes them the favorites you keep returning to? For me personally, my favorites are websites that are constantly updated and refreshed with new material. And I'm sure Pete would welcome as much information as you can send him – remember, what may not mean much to you may mean something to those who view our website. So the bottom line is we want to make our website exciting and dynamic – and we can only do it with input from all of you in Area 1. I promise you – Pete will post it if you send it! Our event calendar for this spring also looks pretty bare – here's your opportunity to get free publicity for your events and concerts by sending the information to Pete to post on the calendar! Please send your pictures, news items, etc. to him at

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

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webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org. The more the better!

Before we know it, spring will be here, and there will be no shortage of Spring Rings for you to bring your ringers to or just attend as a guest at the final concert – March 28 in Massachusetts, April 25 in Vermont, and May 9 in Connecticut. While these are sponsored by individual states, they are not just for people in those states – anyone can go. So choose one or more, shake off the winter doldrums, and welcome spring!! Details about each state's events can be found on our website at www.area1.handbellmusicians.org.

This being an odd-numbered year, it's time for Festival/Conference!! Our 2015 event will be at UMASS Amherst under the batons of Deb Rice and Tim Waugh. The opening concert will be Agape Ringers from Chicago, several members of which have ties to groups in Area 1. The Agape Ringers will also be teaching some classes. The Festival/Conference committee planning this event is hard at work preparing– as you can imagine, it is a huge undertaking! By the time you read this, registration will be open and the fun will begin! We hope to see many of you in Amherst at the end of June!

Festival/Conference is not the only event going on in Area 1. Our popular series of skill building workshops will continue throughout the year and throughout the Area, and High School Ring Out will return in the fall. And looking ahead to 2016, Family Handbell Camp returns after a long hiatus!!! This event will be held from June 23-26, 2016 at Oceanwood in Ocean Park, Maine. Your Area 1 Board has received many requests to bring this event back, so we hope many of you will be a part of its rebirth! A special word of thanks goes to Dan Moore and Ed Henderson for working so hard on planning and promoting this event.

There is a lot going on on the National Front also. Area 1 was well represented at Distinctly Bronze East in October of 2014, and will be represented again at Distinctly Bronze West in February. For those of you who have never experienced this event, it is a ringing event, one on each coast, for bronze-level ringers - a weekend of hard work, but the end product is all worth it. This year's big National event is the return of Pinnacle in Dallas from July 15-19, and in 2016 the International Handbell Symposium returns to North America in Vancouver, Canada. Scholarship opportunities are available for both National and Area events; if interested, please speak with a Board member or check the websites ([Area 1](#)) or ([National](#)).

And speaking of National there are some new membership initiatives underway that I encourage all of you to share with ringers and take part in yourselves. Beginning in 2015, National debuts Member Notes and Member Chats in alternating months. For example, in

January, the Member Chat initiative began with an electronic "chat" with Barbara Bocker, one of the foremost leaders in bell trees in the handbell world. In February, look for Member Notes, a topical newsletter sent by National that offers detailed information on specific topics. These Member-Notes will also feature an article by a handbell expert and links to additional resources that will assist you in your quest to perfect your knowledge and skills. For additional information, click on <http://handbellmusicians.org/news/e-notes-december-2014/>. And did you know that as a member, you could earn rewards for referring a new member to Handbell Musicians? These rewards can be applied to membership dues and event registrations. More information can be found at <http://handbellmusicians.org/bucks/>. Remember the Member Chats and Member Notes are for paid members of Handbell Musicians of America only – all the more reason to join!!

2015 is not only a Festival/Conference year, but it is also an Area 1 election year! Look for information in this edition of Fundamental Tone for candidates for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, and please make sure to cast your vote when you receive your ballot in the next several weeks! Every vote is important and remember your vote can and does make a difference.

Have you ever thought about becoming more involved "behind-the-scenes" in Area 1? We have two open appointed positions on the Board – Rhode Island State Chair, coordinating handbell efforts in that state, and Glove Tree Coordinator, which entails maintaining our supply of gloves that you see for sale at various Area 1 events. If you are interested in learning more about one of these positions, please contact me at chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org.

Your Area 1 Board met in January and made plans for 2015 and beyond. But your Board is here for you as Area 1 members and we exist to serve you and Area 1. We want to know what YOU want and need from us and how we can help or mentor you. To that end, we will be putting a survey on our website sometime in the next several weeks to determine what events and activities, you, the members of Area 1, are interested in. Please make sure that when that survey is available, you take a few moments to complete it – it will be very helpful to us in planning future events so that we can make sure we are meeting the needs of our members. And please know that our board meetings are not closed – anyone is welcome to attend or contact any board member with questions, comments, or concerns. We are here for YOU! Contact information for all of us can be found at <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/about-us/>. No question or concern is unimportant – let us hear from you! Area 1, "where it all began," is all about all of you – so let's work together to set the gold standard in the handbell community!

Sue Wilber, Area 1 Chair



Handbell World

www.HandbellWorld.com

Everything to do with handbells and handchimes is right here! Besides shopping, you can create custom music

lists, browse articles, see what music is hot, check out new releases from publishers, search for handbell events in your



1-800-JHS-BELL (1-800-547-2355) •



Instruments



Music



Equipment & Supplies



Music Education



Gifts & Apparel



Handbell Service

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Chair **Sue Wilber** (202.288.5847)
chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect **Martha Goodman** (508.392.2078)
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Past Chair **Jean Degan** (860.543.3638)
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secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org
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APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Bradford **Jean Degan** (860.543.3638)
Scholarship *scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org*
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Chime Loaner **Holly Cerullo**
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nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org
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Vermont **Pat Pranger** (802.446.2066)
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REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



CONNECTICUT SPRING RING

The CT Spring Ring will be held on Saturday, May 9, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. The link for will be posted on the Area 1 website and emailed to those whose e-addresses we have. Each person must register him/herself. If you have not received a heads-up about this by the beginning of February, please contact me to update your address or to request a "snail mail" mailing.

Spring Ring will have two workshop slots during the day, two massed ring rehearsals, and a concert in the afternoon. Participants will need to bring their own lunches, but coffee and snacks will be available for those who arrive early!

The workshops are not finalized as of this writing, but we are considering responses from past years and suggestions for this year. In particular, we are trying to offer a couple of workshops for more advanced ringers. The cost will be \$15 per participant, payable at the time of registration, either with a credit card (through the secure link) or by check.

As always, we will be looking for loaner equipment (bells, chimes, tables, and foam) to use in the workshops. We will also have some space for vendors and displays. Please let me know if you would like to have a vendor/display space, or if you can help in any way.

Lawrence Berdensemeyer will be our clinician for the Massed Ring. He is currently the Band Director at West Side Middle School, Groton, CT. He has taught band for the Groton Public School system since 1985, where he has served as an elementary school band director before being appointed to Fitch Middle School in 1991. Larry began ringing handbells with Jane Nolan in 2002 and currently rings with the Shoreline Ringers, a community based handbell ensemble in southeastern Connecticut. He has been directing handbells since 2004 and has been the handbell director at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, in Gales Ferry, Ct. His music ministry has included two youth ensembles, an adult choir, as well as an adult and teen quartet.

In January 2012, Lawrence became the director of the Hockanum Valley Ringers, a five octave community handbell ensemble based in Vernon, CT. Larry has been a clinician throughout Area 1 at Festival Conferences, Director's Seminar, the CT Spring Rings, and the Fall Skill Building Workshops. Larry holds a B.S. in music education from the University of Connecticut (Storrs) and an M.S. in education from Southern Connecticut State University.

Two of the three selections for the Massed Ring, as well as the piece for the Copper level workshop are selections from Festival Conference music. We are hoping to help keep expenses for bell choirs limited as much as possible.

Massed Ring selections:

- § Steal Away—Sandra Eithun: MCGB775, 3-6 oct., L2+
- § An Expression of Joy—John Behnke MAG35300, 3-5 oct., L2+
- § Great is the Lord—arr. By Douglas E. Wagner, MLC201356L, 3-5 oct., L2+

Copper Level workshop selection:

- § Allegro con Moto—Jason Krug MGIG8073, 3-5 oct., L3+

Spring Ring is a good opportunity for individual ringers to brush up on their skills, to learn new ones, or for a group to get the feel of participating in a massed ring. Ringers of all skill levels are invited to attend!

As with any event sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America, participants are required to be members of the Guild. Individual ringers are covered by the blanket membership of their director whether or not they come as a group. If your whole ensemble is not able to come, individual ringers may be placed as "orphans" with another group for that day; or your group can adopt an orphan or two, if possible. Please let me know if you belong to either category.

See you soon!

Mobby Larson, CT Chair
ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org

REPORT FROM MAINE



As I write this article for the next issue of *Fundamental Tone*, I note that we are already approaching the half way mark of winter and I hope you have all had a wonderful holiday season. Bell ringing has been heard throughout the state, especially in December, one of the busiest months for church musicians, and so I have included two examples of bell ringing events in Maine. In addition, I have featured a short story about a youth bell choir. It is inspiring to learn where bells are being rung and especially where handbell ringing may garner future support from the younger generations.

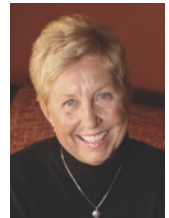
The Kennebunkport Bell Ringers, directed by Jura Litchfield, prepared a seasonal program last December, "A Garland of Carols," for two Prelude events: one at the Kennebunkport Inn and the other at Graves Library. The event at Graves Library was standing-room-only thanks to outstanding publicity generated by the Library to its patrons. During December, the Ringers also visited three communities for senior citizens: The Meeting-house Village in Kittery, Seal Rock in Saco, and Atria in Kennebunk where they presented their "Garland of Carols." In addition, several ringers, members of the Beachwood Recorder Consort, played a few pieces for recorder quartet including a movement from the Christmas Pastorate by Vivaldi.

On December 7, the Camden region was treated to a handbell concert by four area handbell choirs. This annual event, "Ringing In The Season," raises money for a local charity and is a popular Christmas event for the community. This year, I was honored to be asked to conduct the massed ring. All choirs were beautifully prepared by their directors for this part of the program, and each choir also performed a couple of pieces as solo rings. One of the choirs, the Penobscot Bay Ringers, performed a handbell piece with dulcimer played by one of their own ringers, a truly unique and wonderful sound.

It is exciting to share an update on another youth program in Maine. The Lincoln Middle School in Portland is perhaps one of the few middle schools in Maine that can boast a handbell choir celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. The bell choir initially began in 1985, organized by the general music and chorus teacher, Alice Bredenberg. It began with a

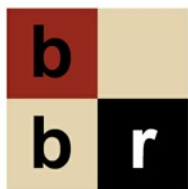
sparse array of diatonic bells, C5 through C6. Alice wrote pieces in C major with no accidentals and over the years purchased one or two additional bells as the choir grew. Today, the complete 3 octave choir consists of 13 – 16 students depending on their audition and skill level. The current director, Audrey Cabral, describes her work as follows. "I have had more fun with these students! I like to challenge them and I think they like that. We laugh and tease each other, but when it comes down to ringing, they take it very seriously. I know that Lincoln Middle School is very fortunate to have a bell choir and to have an administration that supports us. Alice laid the foundation... and I am sure she never knew that we would still be ringing 30 years later!" Thank you Audrey for sharing that story.

And once again I would ask you to stay tuned for future information about our 2016 Maine Spring Ring. Perhaps you might volunteer to help with the task of organizing this event or offering a workshop. You can take on a small project or be part of a larger team project. You can use your skills to teach others about handbell techniques in a workshop, or just assist someone who is running a workshop. In any case, send me your name and describe what you might like to do and I will keep in touch as tasks become timely. Or you can wait until the next Spring Ring to lend a hand. But above all, of course, be sure to bring your handbell choir to the Maine Spring Ring.



And finally, I am looking forward to learning more about the future Maine family handbell camp and will let you know as soon as the details are released. As previously reported, this program will be held in Ocean Park (Old Orchard Beach) in June of 2016. Enjoy the rest of the winter months and please encourage others to join Handbell Musicians of America. It is the only organization in the world devoted to handbell ringing.

*Sue Evans
Maine State Chair*



back bay ringers

Boston's community handbell ensemble



BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Tuesday, May 19, 8:00 p.m.

Old South Church, Boston, MA

Participating choirs in the ninth annual BHF include:

BACK BAY RINGERS

HANCOCK CARILLON

MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS

NEW ENGLAND RINGERS

OLD SOUTH RINGERS

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

MASSACHUSETTS SPRING RING 2015

This year's MA Spring Ring is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at Tewksbury High School. The event is open to all handbell groups regardless of skill level or age. For additional information contact Lynn Masson, (978) 486-8816, wmasson@verizon.net.

Our Clinician is Andy Wallace, Music Director at the Dunn's Corners Community Church, Presbyterian, in Westerly, RI.

The repertoire for the massed pieces is from the 2015 Area 1 Festival Conference selections. Choirs are invited to participate in whichever piece they want, but since the Finale is a massed piece it is hoped that everyone can participate.

Opening: "We Gather Together" – Joel Raney MHP2656, L3 (Coppers)
Coppers: "Allegro con Moto" – Jason Krug MGIG8073, L3+ (Coppers)
Tins: "Celebrate With Gladness" – Susan Geschke MHP 2668, L2 (Tins)
Finale: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" – Sondra Tucker MBEHB418, L3- (Massed)

Schedule : 2:00 p.m. arrive/set up
3:00 p.m. massed rehearsal
3:30 – 6:00 p.m. group rehearsals and supper (bring your own)
6:00 p.m. final massed rehearsal
7:00 p.m. concert
Reception following the concert

Individual choirs are invited to present a solo piece. These slots are available on a first come, first served basis. Register on line through the Area 1 website: area1.handbellmusicians.org (\$8.50 per participant – same price as last year). Follow the link under "events". Registration deadline is March 21, 2015.



REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



Brisk winter greetings to you all in Massachusetts. Chatting with and writing to many of you, I'm finding that we are blessed with so many unique handbell choirs around the Commonwealth. I think you'll agree with me that the contributions below are very

interesting, that some of them are reaching out to you, and that most of them would welcome comments from you, the readers of the Fundamental Tone.

Karen McCue, First Congregational Church, Holliston

Our senior handbell choir, Handbell Harmonies, has just begun our 25th year of 'Ringing to the Glory of God.' We ring 5 octaves of Malmark handbells and we use 3 to 4 octave sets of choirchimes.

We are a 13 member group with 2 permanent subs. Also, I am a ringing director! We have a 10 member Youth Chiming group and an intergenerational choir of 7 adults/mentors and 6 teens called "Kabanass" (Greek for bells). We ring the second Sunday of each month and of course Easter and Christmas!

We had a very busy fall starting on November 9. We were invited to do a concert at a local Assisted Living complex and did a concert of secular and seasonal music. This was our second concert for the group and we had a wonderful time ringing for an extremely enthusiastic audience. Next year they want a sing-along! On November 29 we participated once again in the Holliston Holiday Stroll sponsored for the area/local business men and women. We were joined by members of Christ the King Lutheran church and this has become quite a tradition. Kathy Murcko, director, and I ring in each other's choirs, sharing members, bells etc. What a great way to ring more and expand individual repertoires!

December was our bi-annual Holiday Handbell Concert. All three choirs participated with added percussion and vocal solos. We enjoyed being pirates for the "Pirates of the Caribbean" number and played seasonal as well as secular music for the audience. Naturally the music from Festival Conference, repertoire reading session and Directors Seminar provide us with plenty of music for these occasions.

William Ness, First Baptist Church, Worcester

When First Handbells plays at worship at First Baptist of Worcester I do not include any singing choir in the worship service. Instead I expect First Handbells to play two works plus accompany one or two hymns and play what would be a choral response in the service. They are happier and feel comfortable with the warm-up time being given to them even though they have more responsibilities in worship. It may strike some as unusual to remove a choral group, but the bell choir has

the same function in leading worship as does a choral organization. The bells do that by being incorporated into the hymns and responses plus their own instrumental music which is quite often hymn-based. It means more work arranging music but that is a good price to pay for the effectiveness they have in worship.

Tonight I am writing a hymn accompaniment for the opening hymn this Sunday. I write them in such a way that the style is readable so it doesn't complicate the other music we are performing. I am also arranging a spiritual based Call to Prayer for MLK Sunday. I print them from my Sibelius copy with a cover page and it works quite well for the bell choir. It also keeps them reading better than if they never had to learn an easy piece quickly. Our other "anthems" aren't terribly difficult this Sunday because of coming off of all the Christmas music. I add the difficult stuff toward the end of the year so they work up to a higher level.

Cheryl Kralej, Hancock United Church of Christ, Lexington

It may be a little early, but Hancock United Church of Christ is getting ready for our annual Patriot's Day concert Monday, April 20 at 11:15 a.m. It is a fun concert of American and patriotic music played on 5 octaves of handbells and 6 octaves of hand chimes by our four handbell choirs. Music will include marches, a Star Wars medley, spirituals, and much more. The concert is family-friendly and handicapped accessible. There is a suggested donation of \$3 per person to benefit our handbell scholarship fund to help defray the cost of attending Area 1 Handbell Festival/Conference. Because of road closures for the parades and road race, the closest parking is on Worthen Road, two blocks from the church. Come join us for a fun concert and stay to see Paul Revere arrive at the Minuteman Statue, and for the afternoon parade! Questions, call the church office at 781-862-4220 9-3 pm.

David Lussier, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford

Ballerklängen from Trinity Lutheran Church in Chelmsford is gearing up for the Spring Ring. We are working on a solo song for Spring Ring which we think will be a big surprise. We welcome Cate L. to the choir. She has been a musician much of her life, singer and string player, she is quickly learning our ringing tricks!

Marge Ghilarducci, Berkley Congregational Church, Berkley

In 2006, the members of the Berkley Congregational Church decided to honor Diane Ennis, a dedicated pillar of the Berkley Community Church, with a 2-octave set of Schulmerich handbells for the church. Although expressing an interest in bringing handbells into the church, Diane had absolutely no experience with handbells and no musical background. In the past 8 years, Diane joined Second Half Lifelong Learning and took

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MA STATE NEWS...

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private music lessons to learn as much about music and handbells as she could (she is now the director of that choir) and has nurtured the Berkley Church choir (named the *Chapel Ringers*).

Over the past 8 years, members of the church joined and left the bell choir. Diane started a children's handbell choir to nurture young ringers. Again, with the demand this day on children's and parent's time, hard to sustain a separate children's choir in a small church. So Diane combined both choirs. The newest *Chapel Ringers* members are brothers: Aidan (age 11) and Nathaniel (age 9), and they are both terrific ringers!

The *Chapel Ringers* now span more than 3 generations with Nathaniel (age 9) on one end, and Cris (age 80) on the other. Sprinkled in between are Allison (16) and the rest from 40+ to 70+. In this regard, I believe that the Berkley Congregational Church *Chapel Ringers* is one of the most unique bell choirs in the area – possibly in all of New England.

Griff Gall, Back Bay Ringers, Boston

After a wonderful winter season celebrating *Christmas Memories*, Back Bay Ringers is looking forward to our spring season with our theme of *Childhood Memories*. This season includes two unique outreach programs for BBR starting in April with our appearance at the Cambridge Science Festival. Back Bay Ringers member Cade Murray, will lead a lecture on the physics of handbells accompanied by BBR. The program will be given twice, once focusing on elementary aged children, and the second geared towards middle and high school students. For more details visit the [festival page](#). The annual Boston Handbell Festival returns on Tuesday, May 19, at the Old South Church. Ed Henderson will join us to lead the massed ringing, featuring local handbell ensembles, including our invited guest choir,

Hancock Carillon. This Boston tradition promotes the art of handbell ringing in New England through the wonderful music performed, and through the Back Bay Ringers Choirchime donation program where we place a two-octave set of Choirchimes in a local public school.

In June, we will share our "Childhood Memories" concert featuring selections from "The Carnival of the Animals," "The Sound of Music," "The Muppets," and other lighthearted favorites as well as original compositions for our instrument. We are also excited to be making an appearance at [Hubbub](#), a new children's festival in Boston, on June 20, sponsored by the Boston Book Festival.

Finally, we look forward to joining hundreds of other handbell musicians for this year's Festival/Conference in Amherst! We are especially excited to see two former BBR members ringing with the fabulous guest choir, Agape Ringers.

Nancy Cappel, St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA

The Carol & Celebration Ringers from St. Matthew's UMC will be touring in Massachusetts before attending the Festival Conference at UMass.

Tour dates:

June 21, Sunday, 7:00 p.m.,
Mattapoisett Congregational Church, Mattapoisett, MA
Michelle Gordon, mgordonpiano@comcast.net

June 22, Monday, 7:00 p.m.
UCC in Norwell, MA
Karen Harvey, kmhjag@gmail.com

June 23, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Acton UMC, Acton, MA
Susan Lee, handbells@saint-matthews.org

"Bells in closets"

Every now and then we hear rumors of lonely sets of handbells gathering dust in church closets. How sad! Not much is worse than a bell that is not being rung. Sometimes a handbell choir cannot recruit or train sufficient ringers, or has lost a director. There are people who would love to be ringing those bells, but are temporarily missing out.

What can we do to help? Do you need a mentor to help the group get restarted? Do you need help finding a new director, or training one of the ringers to take over? Or, perhaps, if this is not the right time to get ringing again, would you be willing to loan the equipment for use at an educational event for ringers? Then they wouldn't be so lonely.

If you know of any churches or schools hiding bells away in closets, please contact your State Chair, and see how we can help each other out! The State Chair names and their contact information are:

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Vermont

Mobby Larson
Sue Evans
Gail Granum
Carol Seely
Pat Pranger

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me.area1@handbellmusicians.org
ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org
nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org
vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 1 ELECTIONS

It is time to elect new officers for Area 1. You will soon receive a ballot in the mail asking you to check the box of the people that you would like to elect for the offices of Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary of the executive board.

Chair-elect serves for 2 years and then moves to Chair for 2 years and ends as Past-Chair for another 2 years. This is a 6-year commitment. Our present Chair, Sue Wilber, will move to Past-Chair and Martha Goodman, who is presently Chair-Elect, will move to Chair. Jean Degan, past-chair, will leave the board. You will be voting for a new Chair-Elect choosing between Krishna Ersson and Kimberlee Strepka. The elections for Treasurer of Area 1 who takes care of all financial transactions and reports to the board regularly include candidates Cheryl Harger and Pat Pranger. The secretary takes notes at board meetings and keeps all information filed and stored electronically, and Dan Moore and Carlene Ruesenberg are running. Please read all biographies and mission statements below and on our [website](#).

TREASURER CANDIDATES

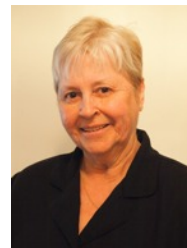


CHERYL HARGER: I began ringing when we moved to Essex, CT 16 years ago. I joined the church choir in the spring and over the summer our director got ill and I was asked to step in. I had a background in piano and high school band, but I needed more than that. AGEHR was a great resource to me in the early days and I attended many workshops and ringing sessions, trying to figure out what I was supposed to do with my choir. I even convinced my husband to come to family handbell camp with me, which we did for several years. At first our daughters participated in the arts and crafts program, but as they grew older, they learned to ring, as did my husband. It was there that I made many friends and contacts; relationships that have continued to this day. With their help and support, I organized a CT Spring Ring, after many years of little activity in the state and we ran it successfully for three consecutive years. I continue to direct my church choir and a few years ago led a fundraising drive to purchase our third octave. I've also started a children's chime choir and a junior bell choir for tweens, which serve as "feeder choirs" for the original group. Several years ago, I was asked to join Shoreline Ringers and I realized I was never going to grow as a ringer if all I did was direct, so I joined and have enjoyed that experience immensely.

My college degree is in Accounting and I am currently a financial analyst for an on-site wastewater company, where I am in charge of budgeting, forecasting and long-range planning. I have two college age daughters and was their high school Volleyball Booster Club President/Treasurer for 4 years. In my spare time I foster kittens for a local cat shelter. I also love to travel and read.

Vision & Mission Statement:

I would like to continue the fine work of the recent and current Boards by offering many different types of events in all corners of Area 1. I'd like to work to make them as affordable as possible, to make sure every ringer and director has an opportunity to participate. My daughters' summer camp has two levels of discounts that they offer off the actual cost, leaving it up to the family to choose the level that works best for them. I'd love to explore a similar approach for Area 1 events and I look forward to working with the Board to expand course offerings to provide new learning opportunities for ringers of all levels.



PATRICIA PRANGER of Wallingford, VT attended her first Festival Conference in 2005 while she was only a sometimes sub for a local church choir. But she was hooked! Since that time she has not only attended every Area 1 Festival and Vermont Spring Ring, she has also attended Area Director's seminars, Pinnacle in 2010 and National Conference in 2012. Pat was honored to travel and ring with The New England Ringers for 4 years. She currently rings with the Bells of Joy and Tinnabula, both in Rutland, VT. Pat is also an enthusiastic choral singer and sings with two community choruses as well as singing in local community musical theater productions. She is looking forward to a choral exchange to Cuba in May with Castleton State College Collegiate Chorale and a choral tour of Austria in July with Grace Church. When not ringing, or singing, Pat can be found serving as a volunteer with many local arts organizations and non-profits. Pat is currently serving on the Area 1 board as the Vermont state chair and as president of the Vermont Handbell Association.

Pat is a self employed CPA. She has an MBA, Magna Cum Laude, from Wright State University in Ohio.

Vision & Mission Statement

As a financial professional, I realize the utmost importance of clear and concise record keeping and communication in any business. And a non-profit, or for that matter, any organization cannot function well if not run in a business like manner. As a practicing Certified Public Accountant for almost 30 years, I can bring knowledge and experience to the financial controls of Area 1, as well as the implementation of prudent fiscal policies. And my having an MBA, with a concentration in Financial Management will serve the Area 1 board well in planning realistic and attainable budgets as well as devising solid investment goals. If elected, I promise to do my best to safeguard the financial assets necessary to forward the organizations mission: to further the musical art of handbell ringing.



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA | Area 1

CHAIR-ELECT CANDIDATES

KRISHNA ERSSON: Krishna Ersson discovered handbells while studying engineering and math at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. His diverse interests in music, dance, science, and technology and his belief that growth comes through constant challenge fueled a passion for exploring the unique artistic expression made through modern handbell ringing. Before moving away from the Boston area, Krishna performed for six years with



the Back Bay Ringers and was principal percussionist with the Metropolitan Wind Symphony. He enjoys attending high-level national ringing events, such as Distinctly Bronze, and was a member of the nationally auditioned Handbell Musicians of America All-Stars ensemble that performed at the 15th International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool, England. Recently, Krishna can be found teaching handbell and

auxiliary percussion techniques at workshops and seminars throughout New England and nationally. He was the massed ringing clinician at the 15th annual Area I High School Ring Out and has taught at many Area I Festival Conferences, Directors' Seminars, and local skill-building workshops. He currently works as a software systems engineer at a medical device startup company in Guilford, Connecticut and is a member of the Shoreline Ringers and serves on their board as Vice President.

Mission and Vision Statement

My vision for Area I is to fully utilize the extraordinarily talented and passionate directors, educators, and musicians in New England to make us the premier Area in the country for educational and recreational handbell events. We already have an incredible set of seminars, workshops, and festivals at local and regional levels. However, I believe there are still areas to improve and needs that go unmet. I want to seek out and nurture new and existing initiatives that will get bells and chimes into the hands of more people, especially those in schools, and give more focused opportunities for current ringers to hone their skills and attain their own personal handbell goals.

To achieve these objectives I believe I can bring interesting, innovative ideas and a fresh perspective to Area I. Using my professional experience leading teams to tackle complex problems, I am no stranger to identifying areas for growth, putting together actionable plans, and getting things done. And as a technology enthusiast, I understand not only the significance of the role that technology plays in connecting people today, but also the speed at which technology evolves. This is important because our art form is also evolving rapidly and there are many opportunities to leverage modern web services, social networks, and mobile platforms to allow us (the board) to better serve you (our constituency) and to better connect and unite all of the membership with each other.

Change and improvement takes time, but I'm in it for the long haul (at least the next six years as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair!). If you want more of what makes handbells one of the most inspirational, engaging, and rewarding aspects of your life, then I ask for your vote. I look forward to working together towards an even stronger Area!

KIMBERLEE STREPKA: has been teaching music for more than twenty-five years, and has been pioneering Laban-based handbell instruction since 2000. She is the author of *Handbell Artistry from the Inside Out: Laban Movement Theory for the Handbell Musician* (Chicago: GIA Publications, 2012), a text that has been praised by college professors as a long-missing resource for handbells in academia. She is a published handbell arranger, and serves as an artistic associate of Dan Goeller Music.

Kim received a Bachelor of Music in choral music education from the Hartt School of Music, West Hartford, CT, a Master of Music in music education (research) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is currently a DMA Candidate in music education at Boston University.

Kim's youth handbell ensembles have toured extensively throughout the country, and have performed on a number of television networks. She was the guest conductor at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar's Distinctly Teen event in 2014. She is an associate member of the New England Ringers, and served on the Area I Board as the Education Liaison from 2012-2014.

Mission and Vision Statement

In 1988 I was an aspiring, young choral director attending a "Church Music Explosion" conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL where one of the featured concerts was the Dallas Handbell Ensemble under the direction of David Davidson. It was my first exposure to handbells and the sound of the instrument was unlike anything I had ever heard. I was so impressed that I can even remember taking notes on the program, although I was never planning on becoming a handbell musician. For the next ten years I taught choral music and private voice, and became increasingly dissatisfied with my career choice for a number of reasons. Just when I was about to give up on teaching music altogether, I met the incredibly generous Phil Brown who formally introduced me to the wonderful world of handbells. What has followed for me since has been an extraordinary adventure of music making and forming significant relationships with others who share a passion for the advancement of this exceptional art form.



Through our instrument, people from diverse backgrounds make meaningful human connections, people with a variety of disabilities are given a musical voice, and people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to have a musical experience become handbell musicians. I have never been more convinced of our instrument's unique power, not only to create beautiful music but, to create a beautiful life. I am dedicated to Area I and its commitment to providing exceptional learning events for handbell musicians, as well as finding new ways to introduce handbells to those who have not yet found their way into our special community.

SECRETARY CANDIDATES

DANIEL MOORE: Active in handbells and music education for over forty-five years, Mr. Moore has recently retired after 37 years as teacher and Performing Arts Department Chair at the Wheeler School in Providence, RI, where he established a graded handbell program culminating with the Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School. Under his guidance, this auditioned student ensemble toured annually, appeared frequently on television, performed opening concerts at National and Area handbell festivals, and recorded with the Empire Brass Quintet, and Ed Sweeney in addition to their own solo CDs.

Mr. Moore was a charter member of and served as Chair of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers/HMA's committee to promote handbells in education and has since served Area 1 and National AGEHR/HMA boards in many capacities including Chair of AGEHR's first Certification Program. Mr. Moore has served Area 1 as Chair, Newsletter Editor, Historian, Membership Chair and Chair/co-Chair of two major Area 1 Festivals, and numerous other Area 1 events including Family Handbell Camp. He is a frequent clinician and guest conductor at handbell events and currently directs 'Copious Notes,' a community handbell choir based in Wellesley Hills, MA. Mr. Moore's comprehensive handbell textbook, *Ringin' RIGHT! From the Beginning*, is published by AGEHR as a resource for ringers and directors alike. Mr. Moore is also an Area 1 representative for Malmark, Inc.

Vision and Mission Statement

When I retired from classroom teaching last June, many friends thought I would hang up my handbell gloves, move south, and put my feet up. Just the opposite has happened. I find myself more involved than ever in handbell teaching, conducting, and mentoring. In addition to numerous other activities, the joys of attending more handbell concerts than I conduct has brought a new level of excitement to my involvement with this unique instrument.



Our beloved Area 1 friend and teacher, Elizabeth Bradford, once said to me, "Your (Area 1) ringers don't seem to be having fun any more." Zabeth was emphatic and her words have stayed with me for thirty-five years. It has always been my mission to combine 'fun' with learning, excitement with proper technique, and to be involved in events and programs which promote both the social and musical goals of handbell ringing.

In Area 1 we are blessed with many of our art's most dedicated and knowledgeable ringers and directors. Area events continue to attract ringers from across the country and we have an historical imperative to encourage and motivate current and future ringers, to keep Area 1 at the forefront of innovation; Area 1 is where this all started and your Area 1 Board must continue that mission. One critical key is education. Without providing and support ringing opportunities for young people, our mission will eventually become one of survival, rather than one of expanding our resources, leadership, membership, and events.

My vision of the role of Secretary to the Area 1 Board is more than just record keeping. While that is important in and of itself, I believe the Secretary should be personally involved in coordinating and empowering Board members as they do the important work of Area 1. I would be honored to serve the Area 1 membership and Board of Directors as Secretary.

CARLENE RUESENBERG, of Concord, NH, started playing handbells in 2004 when she joined the Memorial Bell Choir at South Congregational Church in Concord, NH. After playing for one year, she filled in as interim director for 6 months. A year later, she became a founding member of the Granite State Ringers, and played in that ensemble for six years. She served the GSR as Board President for three years, which included overseeing the process for the group to become a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

Between 2010 and 2013, she served as the director of the Senior and Junior Handbell Choirs at the Lee Congregational Church, and is now back at South Church, directing the Memorial Bell Choir. She is currently in her first year as a member of the Merrimack Valley Ringers.



In 2013, she served Area 1 as the Local Liaison for the Festival/Conference at UNH, which included assisting the Raleigh Ringers and the guest conductors with logistics during the festival. She is currently serving on the Area 1 Board as Education Liaison, which includes communicating with local music teachers and helping to implement the newly-developed Project Education Skill Builders workshops, and supervising the Chime Loaner program.

Administratively, Carlene has extensive experience with managing many details and logistics. She was the Operations Director for the Portland (ME) Symphony for six years, and then for seven years she was the Office Assistant for a theatrical lighting and sound company, which handled live events for a variety of corporate and non-profit arts clients. After moving to New Hampshire in 2003, she was the database manager for the development department at New Hampshire Public Radio, and then was the Administrative Assistant to the President and CEO of the Concord Community Music School. While working at the Music School, she completed an M.Ed. degree in Education at Plymouth State University. After graduating, she taught music at the Deerfield Community School for two years. Currently, she is the Executive Assistant to Gary Hirshberg, founder and Chairman of Stonyfield Farm. In her free time, she likes to cook, ride her bicycle long distances, and hang out with her partner, Chris, his two teenagers, and their dog, Ava.

Vision and Mission Statement

I see the role of the Area 1 Board is to be the vehicle within which ways for everyone to reach their full potential as a handbell musician can get shared, not only to the membership, but to the handbell community as a whole. We currently do that with the many events that we offer, but we have a way to go in finding new ways to engage our membership so that the enthusiasm for handbells can expand beyond our local churches, but in the wider world.

The role of the secretary, I believe, is to not only keep up the minutes of the business of the Board, but to work with the Executive Committee to make sure that the organization is run in a responsible and professional manner. I have experience with managing an organization on different levels, and have implemented the best practices of maintaining accurate records and disseminating information to many different constituencies. I see the role of secretary as not only the record-keeper, but also the catalyst for communication to all of the membership.

I am very excited that HMA and Area 1 have been working hard to make handbells more accessible to more people. We play such a relatively new instrument people are always finding new ways to play them and to share that with everyone else. The biggest thing I enjoy about the handbell community is how helpful everyone is and how eager we are to let everyone in on the secret that playing handbells is fun!

Festival /Conference 2015



JUNE
25-28



2015



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 1

Why You Want To Be There...

- The Directors
- The Agape Ringers
- The Instructors
- The People



We are excited to welcome Chicago's premier handbell ensemble, the Agape Ringers, as the guest ensemble for our Festival's opening concert. In addition to offering a dazzling performance, the ringers will share their handbell expertise with you in our Conference offerings.

Agape Ringers
Director David
Weck will lead our
own Coppers and
Bronze Festival
Choirs



Save The Dates

June 23 - 26, 2016

AREA 1's Friends and Family

Handbell Camp is BACK!

Oceanwood Camp & Conference Center

Ocean Park, Maine

Check it out on [Facebook](#) and watch the next issues of Fundamental Tone!

VERMONT SPRING RING & DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

Director's Workshop Date: Friday, April 24, 2015 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Director's Workshop Location: First Congregational Church, 3470 US 5, Westminster, VT 05158

Spring Ring Date: April 25, 2015, 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Clinician: Beth Judd

Location: Bellows Falls High School, 406 Union High School Road, Westminster, VT 05158

Registration is by paper only. You can download the registration document here: [Vermont Spring Ring](#)

Fundamental Tone

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Editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

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Half page: (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.) \$50.00;

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