

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXVII, No. 2

May 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21, 2013
Boston Handbell Festival
Old South Church
Boston, MA

June 27–30, 2013
Area 1 Festival/Conference
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH

**Members:
Don't Forget
To Vote!**
Ballots Due
By June 1



Area 1

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Notes From The Chair...



Greetings: The last time I wrote this column was just after the Newtown CT tragedy. The month of December in Connecticut and around the country was very difficult but music, and specifically handbell concerts, brought comfort to many.

Today I'm writing less than a week after the Boston Marathon tragedy. My prayers are for all who have been affected by the bombing, especially those who work and/or live in the area. Here in Area 1, we must now move ahead — again. I'm looking forward to attending the Boston Handbell Festival which will take place on Tuesday, May 21, at Old South Church, just down the road from the marathon finish line. Special thoughts and best wishes to all who are planning that event.

The Massachusetts Spring Ring was a great success. Thank you to Ed and Sue Henderson, who chaired the event, and to Martha Goodman, who was the director.

Vermont and Connecticut will have their spring rings on April 27 with Shosh Meyer and Rick Wood as directors.

Bill Noss and Dan Moore, Festival co-chairs, have been hard at work along with their impressive team to put the
(continued on page 2)



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA | Area 1

**FESTIVAL/
CONFERENCE
2013** June 27-30

UNIVERSITY
of NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THIS ISSUE

Handbell Festival in Israel.....4	Connecticut State Report10
Festival Conference 20136	Maine State Report.....11
Area 1's New Website9	Massachusetts State Report.....12

Visit the Area 1 website at area1.handbellmusicians.org
or handbellmusicians.org for the National office website.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

finishing touches on Festival Conference '13. Registrars Sue Wilber and Susan Schultz and Education Chair Martha Goodman have been especially busy taking care of over 640+ registrants! I hope you've gotten your registration in and will be joining us in New Hampshire.

You have hopefully read in *Overtone*s about the National Seminar that will be in Portland, OR, this summer. Two of our own Area 1 members will be teaching at this national event. Congratulations to Griff Gall and Krishna Errson, who were selected. I will be attending and encourage all of you to head West for what is always an enlightening and fun time. I recently attended the National Leadership Meeting, which was also held in Portland, and I can assure you that it is a beautiful city. You may wish to go early or stay later to take in many of the sights.

You will soon be receiving ballots to vote for the new Area 1 executive board. I hope you take the time you need to read about each candidate and reply with your vote. You will be voting for: 1) chair-elect, 2) treasurer, and 3) secretary. In July, we will say thank you to Griff Gall who has been Past-Chair and therefore leaving the board. I will move from Chair to the Past-Chair position and Sue Wilber will move from Chair-Elect to Chair. There are wonderful people running for the board positions and every vote is important. Please exercise your right as a member to vote. 🗳️

Jean Degan, Area 1 Chair

Note: You can read about these wonderful candidates on our website:

area1.handbellmusicians.org/elections

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

<i>Chair</i>	Jean Degan (860.543.3638) <i>chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Chair-Elect</i>	Sue Wilber (203.288.5847) <i>chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Past Chair</i>	Griff Gall (617.599.8656) <i>pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Norah Piehl (617.688.5768) <i>secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sue Chamberlin (603.942.7884) <i>treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

NATIONAL LIAISONS

<i>Education</i>	Kimberlee Strepka <i>education.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
------------------	--

APPOINTED OFFICERS

<i>Festival 2013</i>	Bill Noss (860.490.4188)
<i>Co-Chairs</i>	Dan Moore (401.528.2100) <i>fcchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

<i>Membership</i>	Jane Nolan (860.464.2873) <i>membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	Peter Larson <i>webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Bradford</i>	Griff Gall (617.599.8656)
<i>Scholarship</i>	<i>scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

STATE/PROVINCIAL CHAIRS

<i>Connecticut</i>	Mobby Larson (860.464.7593) <i>ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Maine</i>	Sue Evans (508.982.7992) <i>me.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Gail Granum (508.595.9011) <i>ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Joan Fossum (603.224.0866) <i>nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	Martha Goodman (508.928.2078) <i>ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Vermont</i>	Pat Pranger (802.446.2066) <i>vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

The New England Ringers

New England's Premier Handbell Ensemble

The New England Ringers invite you to come and get your feet wet and ring with us. If you are a high-level ringer with a desire to attain the highest level of musicianship, we are anxious to talk to you. We are excited about the upcoming move of our base of operations closer to Boston and look forward to bi-weekly rehearsals in our new space.

We will be auditioning new ringers at an open rehearsal to be held in July. Please come up to any one of our members at Area 1's Festival Conference, visit us on Facebook, or call Ed at (978) 387-0004 to find out the date and place.



Upcoming Appearances and Concerts



*Musical Excellence
In Handbell Ringing*

978-851-3024

www.newenglandringers.org

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, May 21 | Boston Handbell Festival
Old South Church, Boston, MA |
| Thursday–Sunday
June 27–30 | Handbell Musicians of America Area 1
Festival/Conference 2013
University of New Hampshire, Durham |
| Saturday, Nov. 23 | Trinity United Methodist Church
Windsor, CT |
| Sunday, Nov. 24 | First Music and Arts Series
First Congregational Church
Old Greenwich, CT |
| Saturday, Nov. 30 | Franklin Federated Church
Franklin, MA |
| Sunday, Dec. 1 | Rogers Center for the Performing Arts
At Merrimack College
North Andover, MA |
| Saturday, Dec 7 | Berklee Performance Center
Boston, MA |
| Sunday, Dec 8 | United Church of Christ in Devon
Milford, CT |

First International Handbell Festival in Israel

It all started for

me last fall when I opened a packet of music that I had ordered from Jeffers, and there was a postcard about “The Holy Land: a Musical Journey of Faith,” conducted by Debbie Rice and hosted by Keith Cole of Witte Travel. I got a bit more information on line, and then told my husband “I want to go.” We found that he was welcome to come as a non-ringer, and our adventure began.

During the winter, Debbie sent the repertoire list, ringing notes, and bell assignments so that we could all learn our music. Then on Saturday, April 6, 2013, thirty ringers (plus a few friends and spouses) gathered in Tel Aviv, Israel for the start of a tour of Israel. Our group included 13 people from Alberta Canada, most of them from the Edmonton area, 4 from Hong Kong, 1 from Puerto Rico, and 20 from the United States. On Monday afternoon and evening we had rehearsals with Inbalim, the only handbell choir in Israel, and a handchime choir from a school near Tel Aviv. The full group, consisting of one 5-octave choir and three 3-octave choirs of bells, plus the chime choir, presented concerts at the Tel Aviv Art Museum and at the Jerusalem International YMCA. The tour group choirs also presented concerts at St Gregorious Greek Catholic church on the shore of the Mediterranean in Haifa, and at Jesus the



Rehearsal at the Tel Aviv Art Museum.

Adolescent Church, located on top of a hill in Nazareth. The concerts had enthusiastic audiences of about 100 to almost 500 people. The repertoire included some Hebrew songs, and the audience cheerfully sang along. They loved having a chance to ring the bells themselves, and Inbalim was able to collect information from people interested in starting more handbell choirs.

In addition to our ringing activities, we also got to tour Israel. Our travels included the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv, Jaffa (known as Joppa in the Bible), Ein Karem (birthplace of John the Baptist), Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Qumran (where Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered), Massada, Dead Sea (yes, we went

floating – you can't really call it swimming), Nazareth, Dan, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Sea of Galilee (including a boat ride), Meggido, Haifa, and Caesarea. We were busy every day, travelling by bus with a driver who managed to fit that bus in places I never imagined we could go, and led by Shadi, our very knowledgeable tour guide. Although we saw armed soldiers walking around, had to go through check points at various places in the West Bank, and through multiple security checks in the airport, we never felt that we were in danger. The only terrorism we experienced was learning out about the Marathon Bombers after we landed in Philadelphia very early Tuesday morning.

The whole trip was a wonderful experience, and I would do it again. If you are interested, look for announcements next year. Debbie and Keith are already talking about where they might go in 2015. ✍️

Sue Chamberlin, Area 1 Treasurer



HANDBELL CONCERT
كونسيرت أبراس موسيقي

عازف 30 Ringers

The Holy Land
 A Musical Journey of Faith 2013

السبت السبت
13.4.2013
 At 8:00 PM
 الساعة 8:00 مساءً

At The Church Of Jesus The Adolescent
 في كنيسة يسوع الشاب - السالزيان
 الدخول مجاني Free Entry



back bay ringers
 Boston's community handbell ensemble

THE ART OF RINGING



JUNE 8, 2:00 P.M.
 UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE, MA

JUNE 8, 7:30 P.M.
 CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER, LEXINGTON, MA

JUNE 9, 2:00 P.M.
 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BEVERLY, MA



BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Tuesday, May 21, 8:00 p.m.
 Old South Church, Boston, MA

Participating choirs in the seventh annual BHF include:

BEDMINSTER BELLS
 BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOL, NJ
 BACK BAY RINGERS
 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.



FESTIVAL/ CONFERENCE 2013 June 27-30

UNIVERSITY
of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Festival: It's All About YOU!

I had suspected it, but it came to me clearly when I recently saw the Festival co-registrars, the dean of education, and my co-chair look over **each one of your course requests** and assign your choices. It's a long, grueling process—they all will attest to that. But that first day it occurred to me: this is what the Festival is all about. It's the education of our members — YOU — and the beauty of our instrument that we work so hard for.

Two long days together and we had assigned every attendee three or four courses—virtually each of them your “first” choices. But, as we planned, we have course positions left over, and it took more long hours the following weekend for another run-through to assign each person one or two more classes. But don't think we're done yet...the dean of education will go through each person's choices again and assign almost every class position we have available. Each time we go through, the goal is to get you the classes you have listed.

But there's more to the process. Even before assigning, class requests have to be counted—if a class has not been requested enough times (there weren't too many of those), the class has to be cancelled before we can start assigning. Then there are classes that it seems that everyone wants—can we add an identical class in another location?

As you can see, the work starts early after registration ends and we'll work very hard right up to Festival. This week dorm rooms will be assigned. Other work is ongoing: ordering T-shirts; setting up the mini-concert schedule; arranging for “orphan” ringers and “host” groups to get together to meet and rehearse; beginning the floor layout at Whittemore Center where we'll all set up our equipment and ring for three days.


And What About YOU?

Before I go further, I want you to give yourself a pat on the back. Why else would you come to Festival except to learn and get a chance to ring this instrument with others?

My late good friend and music director Bruce Porter once told me that very few adults learn anything after graduation. They may learn more about their chosen field because they work and learn there every day, but few people will go outside that familiar area to learn a new skill. You have chosen to learn a new skill and to keep improving it by attending Festival and other educational (and fun) events. For handbell ringing to continue to grow, we need people just like you.

And Who are YOU?

Each one of you are teachers. Even if you are a beginning ringer, I bet you've given helpful advice to someone else just learning. That's my first recollection at my first learning event (Family Handbell Camp, where I met my wife Linda): everyone there was willing to offer advice if I wanted help. Notice that I said “wanted.” I certainly needed help. And, handbell ringers remember exactly what it was like when they first learned, so it's certainly not forced upon you.

Area 1 is blessed to have so many knowledgeable teachers in this small area known as New England. This is where handbell ringing began in America! And with events such as Festival and with people such as you and the other teachers here, this is where it will remain the strongest. 

Bill Noss, Festival/Conference 2013 Co-Chair

Thanks to Some Very Special People...

Without these special people who continue to put your Festival together it might not seem so easy once you get there. Many hands make light work! That doesn't mean it's not hard work, it's just lighter and more fun! Some of these names you've heard mentioned before in *Fundamental Tone*. Some have been working behind the scenes and now is their time for recognition.

Dan Moore, Co-Chair

Susan Schultz & Sue Wilber, Registrars

Martha Goodman, Dean of Education

Sue Chamberlin As equipment manager, Sue has the job of finding unused bell sets around Area 1 and securing them for our use at Festival classes. Take a look at what we need: (18) 3-octave, (5) 4-octave and (11) 5-octave sets, plus (12) 3-octave chime sets and 894 feet of foam. You can easily see how many phone calls might be needed for this endeavor.

Jane Nolan / Michael Steele Jane and Michael are teaming up to get the loaned bells and foam scheduled and picked up if needed, brought to Festival, and delivered back home safely following Festival. It's a mammoth undertaking, filling an entire 24-ft. moving truck!

Ed Henderson Designing, measuring and marking up, and setting up the tables at The Whittemore Center hockey rink is a "large" job, for sure. Ed takes the information you give about tables that you're bringing and tables that you're renting and make sure that space is waiting for you when you arrive.

Paul Contrastano Paul has contacted prospective exhibitors and our regional community groups to offer specialty items and exhibit space. Paul will be the exhibitor liaison at Festival and is responsible for having the exhibitor space ready when they arrive and set up.

Carlene Ruesenberg Carlene is local liaison for Festival 2013, fulfilling a lot of local activities: generating press releases and advertising for opening and final concerts; finding and hiring instru-

mentalists for final concert; identifying/procuring local donations of gifts, flowers, etc. Most importantly, Carlene is acting as concert manager for The Raleigh Ringers, making sure their sound/light needs are all set up at UNH's Johnson Theatre before their arrival.

Karen Leonard Along with the directors, Karen is responsible for the Festival repertoire. It's not as easy a job as it might seem. There are so many great selections to choose from and the experience levels of Festival attendees vary greatly. The directors have their favorite selections too, which may or may not work well with others!

Peter Coulombe Peter has taken your group's mini-concert information and scheduled it for Friday or Saturday evening, taking into account your special requests and needs, and, oh yes, the song's tempo, beginning and ending key signatures. You'll see his smiling face as emcee too.

Lynn Masson You may have heard from Lynn if you were an orphan ringer or were hosting orphans in your group. Lynn took our registration list and put these groups together for a chance to rehearse as one group before Festival.

Sue Henderson Sue is in charge of finding materials and vendors to deliver our T-shirts, pins and other handouts. We are lucky to have her talents and experience in all Festival matters.

Jean Degan Jean is in charge of setting up and the worship service on Sunday morning.

Other Festival Numbers...

Total **674** Attendees

Includes 19 Raleigh Ringers and Staff,
Our Two Conductors, 35 Ringers from
Other Areas of the Country and
Another 13 from Bermuda!

Loaning Your Handbells, Chimes and Foam



Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA | Area 1

**FESTIVAL/
CONFERENCE
2013** June 27-30

UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

We need 3-, 4-, 5-octave sets of bells with mallets, 3-octave sets of chimes, and lots of foam. Stipends are available – more if you deliver it yourself, but pick-up and delivery can be arranged. All equipment is protected by a Handbell Musicians of America insurance policy while it is in our possession. We'll give you tags to mark your bell cases.

YOU BRING IT

Bells: \$30 for 3 octaves; \$45 for 4 octaves; \$60 for 5 octaves
Chimes: \$20 for 3 octaves; \$30 for 4 octaves; \$40 for 5 octaves
Foam: \$2 per foot

WE PICK-UP AND RETURN

Take \$10 off bell and chime prices above. **Foam:** \$1 per foot

Contact Sue Chamberlin at suecham@metrocast.net

You've Never Had Gloves Like This Before!

UltimaGlove 3. This fabulous new glove takes the UltimaGlove family a step further, with its comfortable 1" wide elastic band (with Velcro® fastener) and reinforcement between fingers. UltimaGlove 3 is made of synthetic materials and has a "gripper" style palm, complete with padding in the thumb area. Polyurethane/nylon combination means a long-lasting glove you'll be sure to love!

UltimaGlove Leather. Finally- leather handbell gloves! Soft, supple sheepskin offers your hands the ultimate in comfort and protection, with reinforced padding on the thumb, palm of hand and base of index finger. The areas between the fingers and over the knuckle area are made of stretchable, breathable nylon, and the wrist features a flexible 1" wide Velcro® fastener. These fabulous gloves are destined to be your favorite!



glove style	color						price per pair	
		SM	MED	LG	XLG	XXLG	1-11	12+
UltimaGlove 3 (Polyurethane, Nylon)	white	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	\$14.95	n/a
	black	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556		
UltimaGlove Leather	white	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	\$29.95	n/a
	black	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656		

Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.

1-800-JHS-BELL (1-800-547-2355)

www.HandbellWorld.com

Area 1's New Website is Now Active!

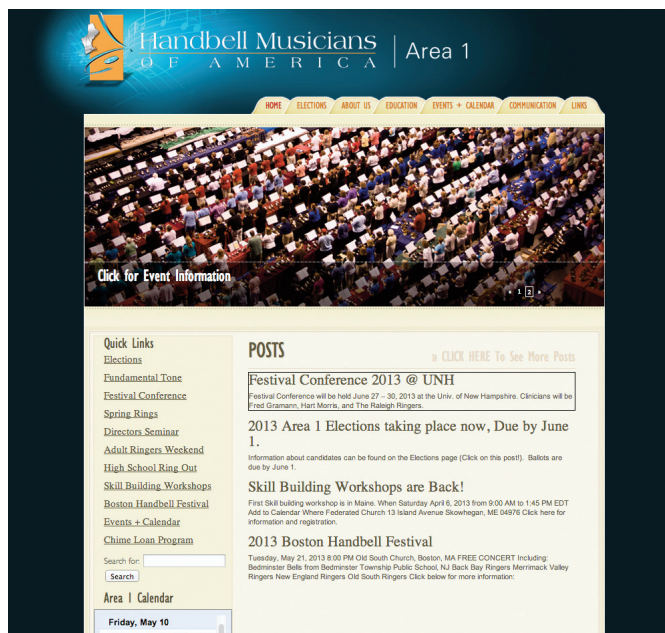
Also New Email Addresses for Board and Committee Members

You may have noticed. Peter Larson has updated Area 1's website according to the national association's template design (and is working with national to improve the entire template). We think he's done a bang-up job making things much easier to find.

area1.handbellmusicians.org

Also associated with national's movement to standardize communications, Area 1's board and committee email addresses have changed. The new format is: "(title).area1@handbellmusicians.org". An example: *chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org*. See the website at the URL below for all addresses.

area1.handbellmusicians.org/about-us



Merrimack Valley Ringers presents **CARNIVALE**

Inspired by the concept of a traveling amusement show, MVR has assembled a diverse assortment of music for their Spring 2013 tour, featuring many high-energy original handbell pieces, as well as a variety of recognizable favorites - all of which celebrate the ensemble's humor and love of entertaining. So step right up, grab some cotton candy, and join MVR for some pure fun!



Sun, 5/5, 3:00pm – Worcester, MA
 Sat, 5/11, 7:30pm – Westborough, MA
 Sun, 5/19, 3:30pm – Tolland, CT
 Tues, 5/21, 8:00pm – Boston, MA

Sat, 6/1, 7:30pm – N. Chelmsford, MA
 Sun, 6/2, 4:00pm – Manchester, NH
 Fri, 6/14, 7:30pm – West Tisbury, MA
 Sat, 6/15, 1:00pm – Oak Bluffs, MA

Also appearing at Area 1 Festival Conference – UNH, June 27-30

WWW.MVRRINGERS.ORG

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



There were ten other workshops available for ringers to attend: basic ringing, weaving, 4-in-hand, bass ringing, rhythm, score study, small percussion instruments, Maori sticks, small ensemble ringing, bell maintenance. The directors also had a chance for discussion with Rick during lunch.

The **Connecticut Spring Ring** was held on April 27 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. We had well over 100 people in attendance—the first time for many of them to attend a massed ringing experience. We are hoping they will be interested in future events—including Festival Conferences.

Rick Wood was the clinician for the massed ring, leading the ringers through two rehearsals and an afternoon concert. The concert included the three pieces by massed ringers: “thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior” (Moklebust), “Fantasy on Terra Beata” and “Song of Gladness” (Sherman). One of the workshops groups also presented “Change Ring Prelude on ‘Divinum Mysterium’” (Gramann). Also performing two pieces were the Hockanum Valley Ringers, under their director, Lawrence Berdensen: “Marche Triumjphale” (Helman) and “Spanish Dance” (McChesney).

This year we not only had a new location, but a new registration system, using the constantcontact account set up for Area 1. It was a bit of a challenge setting it up for workshop choices and getting people used to registering themselves; but was easier for many people in the end.

Many thanks to Todd Helming at Gloria Dei, to Rick Wood and all the workshop leaders, Brian Hager, the registrar, and all those who loaned and/or lugged equipment, served coffee, rang bells, and enjoyed the day! Now on to Festival Conference! 🗡️

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



The winner of the Grand Prize at the VT Spring Ring on April 27:

Lois Smith

The drawing was sponsored by Area 1 and Pat Pranger, Vermont State Chair. The prize is a one-year membership in Handbell Musicians of America worth \$85.

REPORT FROM MAINE



Some Other Newsy Items from Maine

Penobscot Bay Ringers to Perform at The Maine State Prison

On Sunday, May 19, 2013, members of Midcoast Maine's first community handbell choir, Penobscot Bay Ringers, will perform for an audience of inmates in the chapel of the Maine State Prison in Warren. The visit is possible through the coordinated efforts of Maine State Prison Chaplain, Pastor Walter Foster; prison bible-study leader, Pastor Robin Honaker; and Leigh Smith co-founder of Penobscot Bay Ringers. The handbell music will be paired with a homily given by Pastor Honaker, himself a former ringer with the group.

This will be the second time that Penobscot Bay Ringers has performed for the Maine State Prison inmates, having first visited on May 20, 2012. Reflecting upon that day, Leigh Smith said, "I have been ringing handbells for 36 years, and I know our concert at the Maine State Prison was an afternoon that our entire group will always treasure. To bring handbell music to this audience has been a long time goal of mine, and the experience surpassed my expectations. We have been told that the prisoners are looking forward to our return, and we are honored to have been asked back."

Penobscot Bay Ringers was founded in 2008. The group plays on five octaves of Malmark handbells and choir chimes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Penobscot Bay Ringers' mission includes handbell education and outreach. The members of the group particularly love to share their music with people who might otherwise not have the opportunity to see and hear the unique orchestral sound that these instruments produce.

The handbell choir is always looking for more ringers to join its ranks. Ringers rehearse weekly in Camden. For more information, call Leigh Smith at 207.230.6628 or contact the group via email at: penobscotbayringers@gmail.com. — Article submitted by Amy Rollins, the new conductor of Penobscot Bay Ringers.

Kudos to Gail Kelly who offered one of the Area 1 Skills Building Workshops earlier this month. Gail's focus was on the Skowegan area of handbell ringing. Thanks, Gail, for this great effort.

The Wheeler School of Providence, Rhode Island was scheduled to perform in Yarmouth and Bangor in March, but were snowed out for those dates. Although a few of us did show up for the concert, the storm was much worse in RI. Dan Moore is the conductor of this wonderful group of students and the plan is to go forward with a future date.

Preparations are being made for the Raleigh Ringers' performance in Ocean Park, ME, on June 25th. Housing is being organized for 20 members of the ensemble as well as a special meal to be served, preconcert. For tickets, please call 1.207.934.9068 or you may purchase at the door.

The Area 1 Board met this past Saturday, May 4th, in Bristol, Connecticut. I attended and was happy to bring your thoughts, questions and suggestions to that meeting.

"The Festival" is just around the corner and I am hoping that I will have the opportunity to meet all the folks from Maine who will be attending. Kindly make yourself known to me. I will be the one walking around in awe of this wonderful event. See you in June. 🗡️

Sue Evans, ME State Chair
me.area1@handbellmusicians.org



SCHULMERICH
est. 1935

Celebrating 50 years of Handbells!

Save \$790 on a set of Handbells.
Save \$100 on 2 octaves of MelodyChimes.

Contact Sue Chamberlin
603-491-8358 • SChamberlin@SchulmerichBells.com

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



He is the Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy. They are looking forward to UNH Festival 2013.

SPRINGTIME IN NEW ENGLAND...

The birds are singing every morning, the sun is stronger, and the days are getting longer: welcome signs of springtime in New England! Church-based, school-based, and community-based handbell ensembles reflect this renewed spirit. Music is a strong bond among us all.

SEARCHING FOR A MASSACHUSETTS SPRING RING PLANNING COMMITTEE...

Save the date, Sat., Apr. 5, 2014, for our next annual Massachusetts Spring Ring at Tewksbury Memorial High School. If anyone is interested in helping to plan the next Spring Ring event, letters of intent may be sent to Gail Granum <machair@agehrarea1.org>. A committee will be selected by July 1, '13, and planning will begin.

CLIPS FROM CORNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH...

Pioneer Valley Christian Bronze Handbell Ensemble, of Springfield, MA

Kimberlee Strepka, Director, reported the successful Florida Tour, April 17–22, 2013 with guest handbell artist Meredith Gaines.

Performance Venues:

- FL Hospital for Children, Orlando
- The Sidney Lanier School for Children with Disabilities, Gainesville
- Alachua Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Gainesville
- Compassion Corner Breakfast for the Homeless, Orlando
- Calvary Assembly, Winter Park
- First Presbyterian Church, Lake Placid

Oxford First Congregational Church of Oxford, MA

Barbara Day announced that Oxford First Congregational Church Handbell Choir rang for their new settled Pastor's installation on April 21.

UCC Faith Ringers of Groton, MA

Cheryl Townsend reports that they had their first concert on 3/10 for the church community, friends and family and it went well. They were very nervous, but it was a bonus for them to do it. They plan to be at Festival.

New England Ringers of Greenfield, MA

The New England Ringers is pleased to announce that we are moving our epicenter east. Breaking with its tradition of rehearsing in the center of New England, NER is listening to many of you who have told us we are too far west. We are currently pursuing several new leads for renting rehearsal space along the Rte. 495 corridor, focusing on the Worcester area. If you know of suitable space, please contact us! NER is also excited to announce its debut at the Berklee Performance Center in Boston, and that it will be returning to the Rogers Center at Merrimack College in Andover this holiday season. We are excited and committed to bringing this wonderful instrument to professional venues and expanding audiences. NER is also actively recruiting for our 2013-14 seasons. If you share our excitement in bringing musical excellence to the art of handbell ringing, please contact Ed Henderson <info@newenglandringers.org> and attend our open rehearsal. We look forward to seeing you at Festival Conference in June.

Merrimack Valley Ringers of West Chelmsford, MA

MVR has been busy this spring with a concert and workshop with Nancy Hascall and then a Celebration of Life concert for Marianne McVoy.

The MVR Ringing Skills Workshop on 5/11/13 will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Westborough, MA from 12-5pm. Registration forms are available on the MVR web site – mvringers.org.

The 27th Annual Massachusetts Spring Ring

MSR planners, Ed and Sue Henderson, said “a good time was had by all” referring to the Saturday, March 16th, annual event. The location was the

gymnasium at the brand new Tewksbury Memorial High School – an excellent facility. In attendance were 170 ringers; 18 choirs; a larger-than-ever attendance at final concert. Martha Goodman, Massed Director, expertly presided over the assembled group. Save the date, Sat., April 5, 2014, for the next Massachusetts Spring Ring.

Rebellion of Boston, MA

Founded in August 2012, Rebellion is an exciting new community based handbell organization located in the heart of Boston. Rebellion consists of handbell enthusiasts who are committed to bettering their community through music and friendship, and, above all — having fun! We believe that any person can enjoy the benefits of ringing, and we invite those interested to come give it a try. We welcome all levels of ability, and pride ourselves on being an open, accessible, and friendly choir. We look forward to seeing you soon — at a performance, or perhaps a rehearsal! We rehearse weekly at the Old South Church in Copley Square. For more information, please visit us at www.rebellionringers.org, or email us at [<inquiries@rebellionringers.org>](mailto:inquiries@rebellionringers.org).

The 7th Annual Boston Handbell Festival

The Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church are pleased to announce the seventh annual Boston Handbell Festival, May 21, 2013, 8:00pm, at Old South Church, Boston. The festival features area handbell choirs including Back Bay Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, New England Ringers, Old South Ringers, as well as the Bedminster Bells of Bedminster, NJ. Back Bay Ringers will donate its portion of a freewill offering collected at the festival for the purchase of a two-octave set of chimes for a Boston area school. For more information, please visit www.backbayringers.org.

Copious Notes of Wellesley, MA

Copious Notes is a vibrant, new community handbell ensemble based Wellesley, MA at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church. Organized this past fall by the director of the church's handbell program, Martha Stowell, the group has ringers from Hingham, Providence, Medfield, Roslindale,

Newton and Wellesley. We have welcomed a high school exchange student from Germany as well. Copious Notes is one of this year's proud recipients of the Bradford Scholarship. We will be attending our first Festival Conference together this June, where we will ring in the Coppers division. We are grateful to the church for generously sharing their Schulmerich handbells and Malmark choircimes and providing us space to rehearse. And we have benefited greatly from the musical leadership of conductor Dan Moore. If you love to ring, please consider joining us in the fall!
<cnhandbells@gmail.com>

Invitation to Revive MA Youth Ring

Your Area 1 Board is wondering whether there is interest in reviving the Massachusetts Youth Ring for 2014. It was highly successful in the past, on a Saturday, as a fun daytime event for elementary school-age ringers. If you have any interest in this project, please send your thoughts/ideas to Gail Granum <ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org>.

IN CLOSING...

I am left thoughtful and in prayer for those who have suffered and lost love ones during the Boston Marathon tragedy. We also need to support our great city of Boston. We will get our marathon spirit back. We will continue to cherish our Massachusetts neighbors. We will rally and cheer in the face of terror. As Leonard Bernstein so beautifully stated: "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." This man of peace was known to say that if enough hearts would open themselves to the beauty of great music, there would be no room left in them for evil, greed or hate. 🗡️

Gail Granum, Massachusetts State Chair
<ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org>