

Twice Tolloed Tales

AGEHR AREA II

June 2008

Message from the Chair

Chris Braden

Spring is a busy time for most of us. There are special days like Mother's Day and Father's Day, and special activities such as confirmations, graduations, and weddings to name a few. It is also the time of year when many handbell programs have their final concert prior to taking a "break" during the summer. In addition to these many individual concerts, our area is blessed to have many local festivals in the spring. Some have been in existence for 30 years or more. You can read about some of this year's festivals in this issue.

For me, spring also meant two important meetings - our Area II Board and the National Area Advisory Board meeting. Here are some of the important highlights of those meetings.

Area Meeting

- Final plans for the summer's Read & Ring were made. If you haven't registered yet, there may still be time. You don't want to miss out on this wonderful combination of ringing and relaxation. Contact Kathie Bittenbender for more information and space availability.
- Plans for our 2009 Festival Conference and Young Ringers' Festival are proceeding. David Harris will be our Festival Conductor, Fred Gramann will be conducting the Master Class and Kathleen Wissinger will be working with our Young Ringers. We are excited about our new Genesis Track for first time choirs. The conductor for that track will be announced in our fall issue.
- We read through and accepted six applications for our Handchime Lending Program for the next school year. (Read more about that elsewhere in this issue). The area has 9 sets of chimes to lend, so we still have 3 sets available. Applications are accepted as long as sets are available.
- We rang through 17 new handbell compositions that were entered in our composition contest for the 2009 Festivals. It was not an easy decision but two winners (one for Young Ringers and one for Festival Conference) were selected. Winners and titles will be announced on the website as soon as publication details are worked out.
- Winners of the CHiME drawing in New York and New Jersey were drawn. More about that is in the CHiME report.

Applications for Betty Garee scholarships for this summer's events were received. Look for reports from those recipients in the fall issue.

National Area Advisory Meeting – these meetings are held twice a year and include members of the National office and representatives (usually chairs) from all twelve areas. This last meeting also included members of the National Executive Board. Some highlights from that meeting:

- The new director of Membership & Administration, Katie Schlegel was introduced.
- JR Smith, publications director, announced that future issues of "Overtones" will have a pull-out section called "tips 'n' tools" which will contain tips for new directors, rehearsal planning ideas, resources for music educators, processions to copy and many other helpful ideas
- A Music Educators Training Seminar will be held in Sept. All attendees will be provided with resources for music educators that will be brought back to the area. (Area II will be sending two people to this seminar) Look for more information in future issues of TTT.

Continued on page 2

Message from Chair continued from page 1

- An extensive public relations campaign will be conducted in conjunction with this summer's International Symposium. Plans are for interesting human interest features from all across the country to appear on local and national television.

Lengthy discussions on how to reverse the downward trend of membership and attendance at events were held. Membership rates are in line with all other professional membership fees and ours are the only ones in which one paid membership may include multiple numbers of people. (Members of choirs are considered members under their director's membership number.) This will be an important focus of National in the upcoming months.

It has been a busy spring! I hope to see many of you this summer at Split Rock for our Read & Ring. As you plan for the "new" year, don't forget to check the website for the Festival music repertoire. You'll find some wonderful titles there and it's never too soon to prepare for the summer of 2009!

Chris Braden

Marvelous Martins Educate While Entertaining



The Marvelous Musical Martins, Doug & Martha, from Hopewell Junction, NY will be the featured guest performers for the National Seminar and International Festival in Orlando this summer. Their program, *A Celebration Of Bells, Their History, Mystery and Musical Magic* features this special singing/instrumental (handbells, violin, concertina & piano) duo, through unique vignettes, presenting the contribution of various countries and cultures to the world of bells. Besides performing in Beacon, NY with Pete Seeger at the monthly Sloop Clearwater meeting and the Howland Cultural Center this May they will also present a Mother's Day *"Ring In The Spring"* show at a Independent Living Village in, NJ. Their Arts-N-Ed, *"Let Freedom Ring"* program uses the sight, sound and symbol of the bell to share with students the idea that they soon will become the citizens leaders of our country and the world in the next generation. The Martins will be presenting these programs on Long Island and in Maine and New Hampshire this May & June. These programs feature a workshop in which they train 20 student to ring handbells and hand chimes during the presentation. The student's brief performance underscores the fact that "freedom is not a spectator sport" but something we all need to be involved in. The students also join in the closing vignette with flags from countries around the world as Doug & Martha conclude their programs with their original composition, *One World*, showing how we more than ever need to work together to bring about world peace. The Martins invite you to visit their web site www.FreedomBellsConnection.com where you will find their Resource/Activity/Study Guide for schools and various other links. They also invite you to visit Doug's blog www.BillionBellsForPeace.org and tell him if you think any of these postings Ring-A-Bell.

AGEHR AREA II BOARD MEMBERS 2007-2009

ELECTED OFFICERS:

Christine Braden
328 Queens Court
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Home: (201) 447-2751
Work: (201)447-6232
Fax: (201-251-9171
Email: bradenc@aol.com

CHAIR-ELECT

Jim Rossetti
104 Woodberry Rd.
Baden, PA 15005
Cell : (412)913-5728 call after 9:00pm
Email: jdrmaestro@comcast.net

PAST CHAIR

Kathie Bittenbender
465 Rich Valley Road
Carlisle, PA 17015
Home: (717) 697-6257
Email: rbittenben@comcast.net

TREASURER

Christina Lenti
762 Hightower Way
Webster, NY 14580
Home: (585) 671-4363
Email: clenti@thirdpresbyterian.org

SECRETARY

AnnaCarol Buffington
1142 Smithfield Circle
State College, PA 16801
Home: (814) 234-9069
Email: ACBuffington@adelphia.net

APPOINTED OFFICERS:**NJ STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Shelley Giaier
22 Parsonage Lot Rd.
Lebanon, NJ 08833
Home:(908)832-7957
Email: belshell66@embarqmail.com

NY STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Susan Guse
53 Marges Way
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Home: (845) 227-7696
Email: sguse@frontiernet.net

PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Eileen McIntyre
2 Gerald Dr.
Ashton, PA 19014
Home: (610) 494-3697
Email: ehandbell@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Judy Dinkler
1300 Salem Rd.
Burlington, NJ 08016
Home: (609)386-5770
Email: jdinkler@verizon.net

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Margaret Zabo
615 N. Meadowcroft Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Home: (412) 341-1356
Email: mزابو@yahoo.com

AREA II HISTORIAN

Lee Morgan
200 Shady Lane
Marlton, NJ, 08053
Home: (856) 983-9217
Email: mmarlton@juno.com

WEBMASTER

John Braden
328 Queens Court,
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Home: (201) 447-2751
Email: jbraden@worldnet.att.net

CHIME CHAIR

Jeremy Peters
171 Meigs Street, Apt 1
Rochester, NY 14607
Home: (585) 233-1451
Email: psbfan@rochester.rr.com

NJ CHIME REPRESENTATIVE

Jon Hinkson
64 Catesville Rd.
Pemberton, NJ 08068
Home: (609)894-0682
Email: tubateacher@gmail.com

NY CHIME REPRESENTATIVE

Bob Ward
99 Sunny Brook Circle
Highland, NY 12528
Home: (845) 691-2124
rjwardny@optonline.net

**PA CHIME REPRESENTATIVE
VACANT****MENTORING COORDINATOR**

Bobbi Schmid
213 Kings Cross Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543
Home: (717)627-0196
Email: thezoo213@dejazzd.com

WORKSHOPS COODINATOR

Jackie Anderson
337 Allenboro Dr.
Webster, NY 14580
Home: (585)265-9054
Email: Anderson@pa.net

ENDOWMENT FUND CHAIR

Peggy McNamee
5 Highland Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
Home: (412)761-8910
Email: peggymc@malachy.com

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Lynn Rapp
39 Honeysuckle Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 795-0627
Email: klsrapp@msn.com



www.area2agehr.org

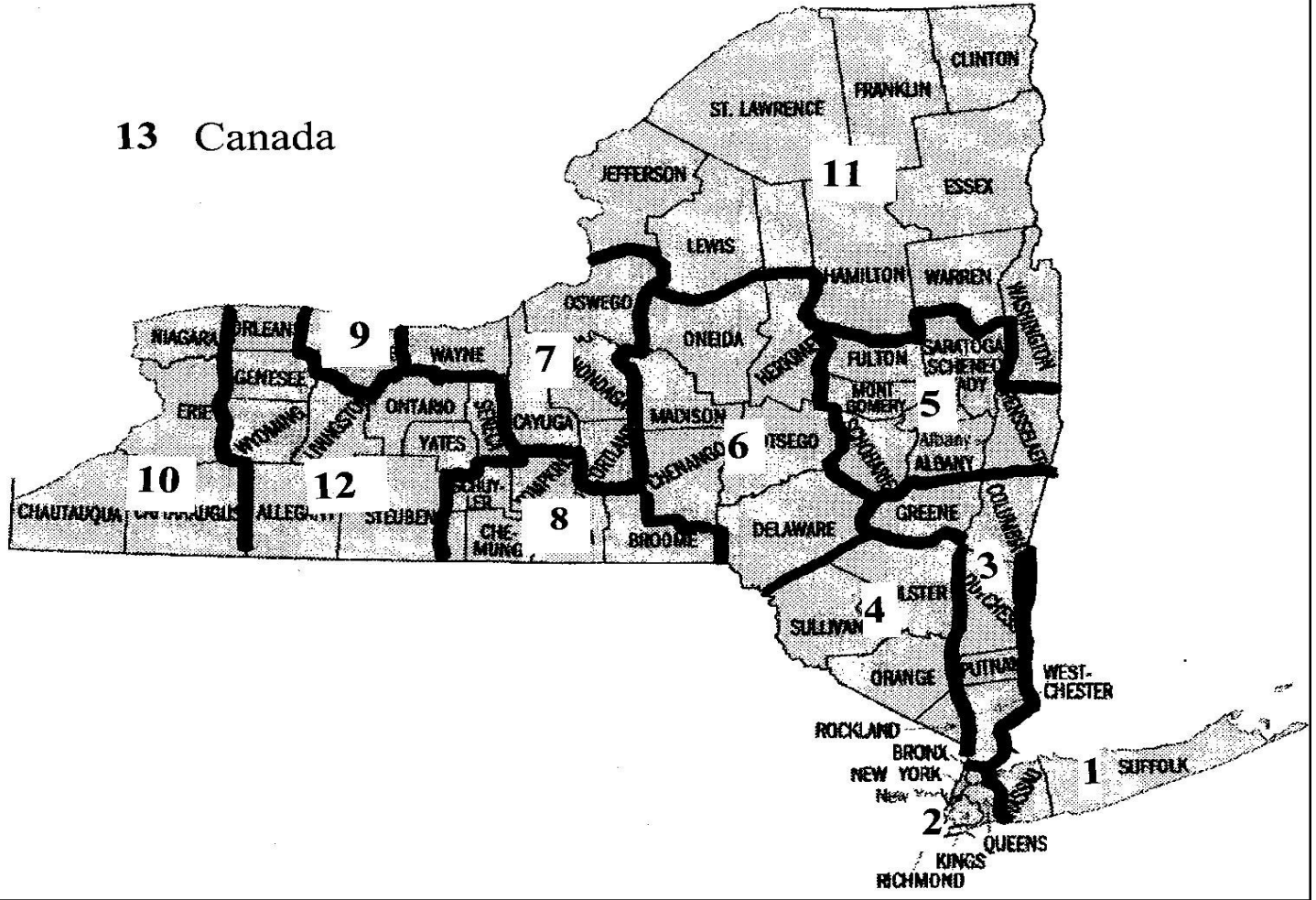
www.agehr.org

TWICE TOLLED TALES is published four times per year for the membership of AGEHR Area II. Publication dates are March, June, September, and December. The deadline for articles and photos is the first day of the month prior to the publication date; these will be included as space permits.

It is preferred that articles be sent in the format of Microsoft Office 2000 Publisher as an email attachment. Articles may also be sent in hard copy form, typewritten. Photos should be in black and white and be labeled on the back. A SASE should be included for those wishing to have their photos returned.

All information for publication and advertisements should be sent to the editor: Lynn Rapp 39 Honeysuckle Dr. Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 klsrapp@msn.com

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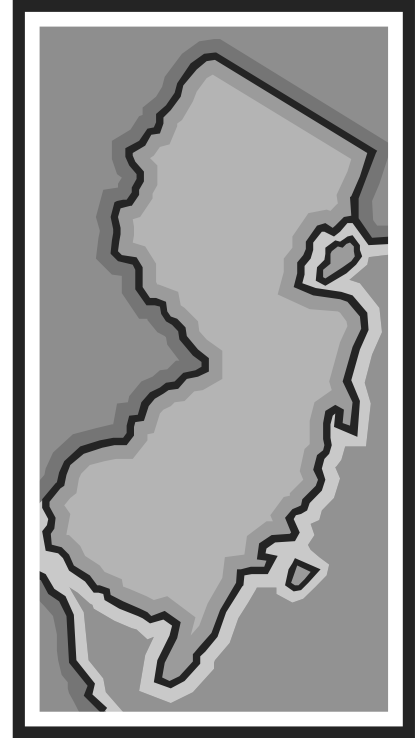


New York State District Coordinators – Susan Guse, State Representative

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1. Bernard Garrett | (516) 507-2545 | music@stroseoflimaparish.org |
| 2. Daniel Denver | (212) 288-1919 x 308 | DDenver@HewittSchool.org |
| 3. Abigail Gray | (914) 737-3184 | grayaa7776@yahoo.com |
| 4. Susan Guse (845) 227-7696 | | sguse@frontiernet.net |
| 5. Beverly Buddle | (518) 234-7578 | bbuddle@midtel.net |
| 6. Harriet Haines | (315) 894-3713 | bahah@msn.com |
| 7. Rene Hebert | (315) 682-6786 | rhebert694@earthlink.net |
| 8. Dorothy Preston | (607) 539-6293 | bdalepres@aol.com |
| 9. Ruth Hugenbruch | (716) 388-7365 | rhugenbruch@hotmail.com |
| 10. Jane Kubacki | (716) 854-2800 | janekubacki@aol.com |
| 11. Karen Robards | (518) 523-9381 | handbells@adelphia.net |
| 12. Erin Ellis | (585) 727-3666 | qtoast@rochester.rr.com |
| 13. J.-C. Coolen(Canada – not shown) | | icoolen@sympatico.ca |

NJ District Coordinators

District Coordinator	Phone number	Area
Ann Davis	609-877-0498	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester
Susan Gieser		Mercer
Shelley Giaier	908-328-8818	Hunterdon, Somerset
OPEN		Monmouth, Middlesex
Carl Loutzenheiser	973-267-1258	Morris, Sussex, Warren
OPEN		Essex, Union, Hudson
Joyce Aitken	973-742-3277	Bergen, Passaic
Barbara D'Ippolito	732-240-7868	Ocean
Chris Neff		Cumberland, Atlantic



PA District Coordinators

District Coordinator	E-Mail	Phone Number	Zip Codes
Sally Bowie	undksa@comcast.net	(215)576-7746	190,191
Carolyn Biles	crbiles@comcast.net	(484)320-8511	193,194
OPEN			189
OPEN			180,181,183,184, 185,188
Bobbi Schmid	thezoo213@dejazzd.com	(717)627-0196	173,174,175,176
Dottie Brown	f5g5@aol.com	(610)582-8878	179,182,186, 187,195,196
Shawn Gingrich	gingrich6@comcast.net	(717)583-1922	170,171,172,178
Ellen Davis	stjnmusicdir@verizon.net	(570)326-5569	169,177
Patty Coldiron	patcoldiron@adelphia.net	(814)342-5675	166,168
Kathy Hayes	Kathy@laurelhill.net	(724)235-0202	155,157,159
Ron Hann	ministermusic@hotmail.com	(724)1788	150,151,152,153, 154,156
OPEN			158,167
Sue Garton	bgarton@pathway.net	(724)794-4081	160,161,162
Leslie Weber	bachfan@adelphia.net	(814)833-9437	163,164,165



HUDSON VALLEY HANDBELL FESTIVAL – APRIL 26, 2008

The 33rd annual Hudson Valley Handbell Festival Conference was held this year on Saturday, April 26th at Nyack College in Nyack, New York. One hundred and ninety-eight ringers from twenty-two choirs attended the all day event under the direction of guest conductor Kathy Ebling-Thorne from Westminster Choir College. Ringers attended the event from as far away as Edison, NJ; Sparta, NJ; Kingston, NY; and Sayville (Long Island), NY. Local conductor, Eileen Laurence, directed her composition "Lament and Dance." An evening performance was presented, with an offering collected to benefit the Area II Endowment Fund. In previous years, offerings collected have provided replacement bell sets to churches affected by Hurricane Katrina. The chair of this year's event was Dot Abelman from Harrington Park, NJ. Co-chair Abi Gray will head up the event next year with guest director Tim Waugh.

Also honored at the evening performance was RoseMarie Wildman who will retire from the Riverside Church, New York, NY this year. RoseMarie has been involved with HVHFC since its beginning in 1976 as a director of participating choirs, as chair of the event and as a music director of the event. She spent much of her career as children's choir director and handbell choir director at Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in

Pleasantville where she established 4 handbell choirs. She also served at a church in Chappaqua and at Riverside Church. She has been active in AGEHR both in Area II and on the National level.



For more information on the Hudson Valley Festival, you can visit the website at www.hudsonvalleyhandbells.org.

Submitted by Susan Guse

Scenes from Western PA Handbell Festival



Clinician was Tracey McDuffie

Hosting an Event

Area II is a rather large geographical area and in trying to bring our workshops to your local area, we are always looking for sites for these events. Have you thought about offering to host but were afraid it would be too much work? If you were asked to host one of our workshops would the thought send you running the other way? Would your response be "I'm too busy" or "I don't think my church would let me do that"? It's really not that scary and if you involve members of your choir, it is a lot easier than you might think.

So, what is involved? First, we are here to help. Our workshop chair, Jackie Anderson, will lead you through the process step by step.

What kind of facility is needed? It depends on the format of the event, but in general, we need one or two large rooms that can hold a couple choirs and one or two smaller rooms that can be used for classes. (For a spring reading session workshop, only one large room is needed.)

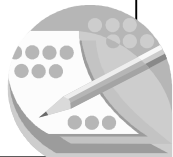
What's expected of the host? Once the number of rooms has been determined, the date and time set, the host needs to "spread the word" to churches in the area. Labels of all members in your immediate area are available and emails can be used to advertise among members. Hosts are also encouraged to send information about the workshop to churches in the area that have bells but may not be members of AGEHR.

In addition to the labels, Area II will send you a list of participants and those who are willing to bring bells and pads (if needed). The Area will supply the clinician(s) and all necessary materials.

The host provides a registration table/area and snacks during registrations and beverages for lunch (will be reimbursed). Some choirs/church groups choose to provide lunch (for a fee) as a small fundraiser for their group. That's about all there is to it.

We are currently planning our workshops for the fall. Won't you think about hosting one in your local area? Do you still have questions? Contact Jackie Anderson, Workshop Chair.

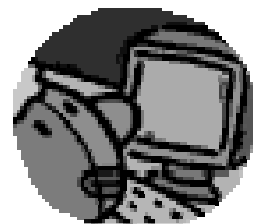
Please Note: In order to get news of our fall workshops and other activities to you in a timely manner, the deadline for our next issue is **August 10th , 2008**. Please send all articles and ads to our editor (klsrapp@msn.com) by Aug. 10.



Check out the
"NEW" national
website at
AGEHR.ORG.



Does your *Twice Told Tales* get lost in a pile of papers before you can read it? Do you prefer your incoming information to come electronically versus the written page? Or perhaps, you're interested in helping to "save a tree". If so, you may prefer to read your issue of *TTT* on-line instead of receiving a hard copy. If you save your issues into a file on your computer, it will be easily found compared to if it's filed away somewhere. If you would prefer not to receive a hard copy of *TTT*, please let us know. You will receive notification by email when the current issue is available to you on the website. Please send an email to bradenc1@aol.com indicating that you would prefer to have electronic notification of each issue of *Twice Told Tales*. Regardless of how you receive your newsletter, we hope you are sharing it with all your ringers. They are considered members under your membership number (if you are a director) and it is our hope that you are keeping them informed, too.



Westminster Ringers

a Maryland Community Ensemble

presents

Open Ring - Come ring along with the Westminster Ringers. Auditions

Thurs., June 19, 2008 * 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Thursday, June 26, 2008

Westminster COB - 5 Park Place, Westminster, MD

Ringer's Workshop

Saturday, September 20, 2008 * 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Calvary UMC - 405 Main St., Mt. Airy, MD

Clinicians: Michael Joy & Larry Henning

Full or partial choirs may attend

Fee: \$35 before Aug. 23, 2008; \$40 before Sept. 6, 2008; \$45 after Sept. 6, 2008

Synergy – for advanced handbell choirs & community handbell ensembles

Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29, 2009

Clinician: William A. Payn

Full or partial choirs, observers and roadies may attend

Fee: \$45 ringers/directors, \$30 observers, \$20 roadies before Jan. 27, 2009

Fee: \$50 ringers/directors, \$35 observers, \$25 roadies before Feb. 27, 2009

Fee: \$55 ringers/directors, \$40 observers, \$30 roadies after Feb. 27, 2009

For more information about any of the above, please contact: Debbie Henning

410-848-5482 * director@thewestminsterringers.org



CHiME Report

In the future, we would like to plan workshops, conferences and festivals for school-aged children and their teachers. To do this effectively, we felt that it was necessary to ask every school in our Area whether or not they had bells or chimes. This way, we would know where the need was to have these types of events. We recently sent out a mailing to schools in New York and New Jersey. Teachers were asked to send back a small postcard to us answering a few questions. They then would be entered in a contest to win a gift certificate for J.W. Pepper. We are happy to congratulate Susan Horn from PS 96 in Bronx, NY and Denise DeVone from Holy Cross Elementary School in Harrison, NJ. Although the return was less than we expected, we are encouraged by the information that was gathered.

If you have received one of these postcards and have not yet sent it back, please do. If you work in a school in NY or NJ, please let your State CHiME representative know about your handbell and handchime situation. We will be doing the same information gathering in Pennsylvania in the fall.

Not Too Late to Register!!!

There are still openings for every track for the Read & Ring at Split Rock Lodge so don't hesitate to sign up for some summer ringing fun. Fee for registration is \$190.00. You may register online at our website www.area2agehr.org or contact Kathie Bittenbender at rbittenbend@comcast.net



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A community handbell choir



Fall Workshops 2008

It is time to think about fall workshops. Anyone wishing to host a workshop or with questions should contact Jackie Anderson at anderson@rpa.net.

Workshops will be on a Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The format for these technique workshops is to be determined. The cost per person will be \$25 and will include one piece of music.

Workshops already scheduled are:

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Holy Child Academy

Old Westbury, New York 11568

Hostess: Paula Rogers-Carlton

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Bethlehem Church

Randolph, New Jersey

Hostess: Barbara Cook

Saturday, October 4, 2008

St. Stephens/Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Amherst, New York

Hostess: Millie Fischle

Saturday, September 28, 2008

First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, New York

Hostess: Lynn Morgan



Chris Lenti and Jackie Anderson of the Rochester New York area are working on organizing a young ringers workshop. We would like to hear from anyone in that area about their interest and possible dates. There are plans for a fall workshop in Schoharie or Cobleskill NY and also one in Abington PA. The dates are yet to be determined.

When It's Time To Talk About Bells...

...Give Us A Ring.

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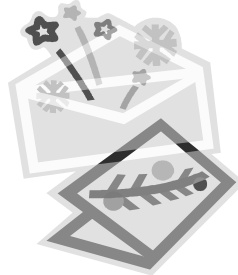
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AGEHR President Debbie Rice underwent major breast cancer surgery in early May. The prognosis for her complete recovery is excellent because of early detection. Debbie not only covets your prayers but reminds all that mammograms save lives. Here is her home address if you'd like to send her a greeting:

Debbie Rice

930 Forest Grove Dr.

Winston-Salem, NC 27104



Oswego Handbell Festival July 2007

Area II Announces Unpublished Manuscripts Reading Session for Read & Ring Seminar

A new class for Area II summer's Read and Ring will be a session of reading through unpublished manuscripts submitted by composers, arrangers and hopefully from some new composers.

Many composers have pieces they have not heard rung by choirs - for many reasons- or just have a piece they'd like to share with others. Many ringers have never played from manuscript if they don't have a composer in their midst - and have never played a piece that was not already published. Composers will find out what works (and not) in their pieces, and ringers will see fresh new music - some which doesn't fit the mold of what is generally available from publishers.

Area II invites all composers - whether published or not - to submit an unpublished piece for ringers to play. You might have a piece that you haven't heard yet on bells, or maybe your score is too challenging for your own ringers or too big for the bell set on hand, or you don't have time to rehearse it. whatever the reason - submit your piece for all to ring! Hand written or computer engraved - it matters not. You may submit more than one piece.

Please consider the following when submitting manuscripts:

1. Level 3 and below are best for sight reading.
2. Don't expect too much from a Level 4+ or 5 piece.
3. Time may be limited per piece, depending on the number of score entries.
4. Any sized ensemble is acceptable - 2 oct., 2-3 oct., 3-5 oct., etc.
5. Provide a bells used chart for each submission.
6. Chimes may be available but cannot be guaranteed.
7. Submit enough score copies for a full choirs plus a director (i.e. for a 3-5 oct. piece, 15 scores; for a 2 octave piece 11 copies)
8. Print on 8 1/2 x 11 sheets in regular score format.
9. Hole punch all scores for ease of page turns. Ideally, all pages are printed front to back.
10. Scores will be destroyed or returned to you after the session if you provide self addressed stamped envelope.

Each piece should be original, public domain, arrangement, or written with "express permission from copyright holder to arrange" (please send the permission statement.)

Between the time of submission and the actual event (July 12-15), pieces may not be currently submitted to any contest or to any publisher for consideration.

If you are present at the Read & Ring, you may direct your own piece - or a capable director will be glad to direct it for you.

Please include the following in your submission letter:

Name, description of each composition - title, range, level, (opt. chimes?), performance time, comments desired, any special notes. If you desire constructive comments on your piece, so indicate.

Deadline for receiving scores is June 30.

There is no provision for making copies at the event. All entries must be received prior to Area II Read & Ring.


Mail Submissions to: RJ Ward 99 Sunny Brook Circle Highland NY. 12528-1324



NEW MEMBERS



We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our new members to Area II.

<p>Marian Nakada Malvern, PA</p> <p>Galen Powers Trinity Episcopal Church Chambersburg, PA</p> <p>Rev. John Binde Chestnut Hill Church Coopersburg, PA</p> <p>St. Luke Evangelical Church Devon, PA</p>	<p>Glenn E. Devitt Our Lady of Sorrows South Orange, NJ</p> <p>Kent Boyce G.C. Huston Public School Southampton, ONT</p> <p>Abigail Gray The Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco Mount Kisco, NY</p>	<p>Bruce Smith Grace Church Utica, NY</p> <p>Robyn Hosley Crane Handbell Choir Potsdam, NY</p> <p>Susan Stiller Etters, PA</p>	<p>Welcome</p> 
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Bulletin Board

Date	Event	Place	Contact Person	Details
July, 2-5 2008	Ringin Link Canada's 5th National Handbell Festival	London, Ontario	Heather Keith 905-686-5676	
July 12-15, 2008	2008 Area II Read & Ring	Lake Harmony, PA	Kathie Bittenbender 717-697-6257	David Harris, Hart Morris, Greig Ashurst, Donna Kinsey, Nancy Lutz, Bell A Deux
August 4-8, 2008	AGEHR International Symposium	Orlando, FL	AGEHR office 800-878-5459	Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL
August 6-8, 2008	Distinctly Teen Symposium	Orlando, FL	AGEHR office 800-878-5459	Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL
August 8-11 2008	National Seminar 2008	Orlando, PL	AGEHR office 800-878-5459	Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL
Oct. 4, 2008	Oil Region Handbell Festival	Titusville Middle School Titusville, PA	Rosemary Winton withbellson@kinzau.net 814-827-2047	Howard Moser Sherri Stoffer MarilynHines



AGEHR Area II
TWICE TOLLED TALES

Twice Tolloed Tales Editor
328 Queens Court
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

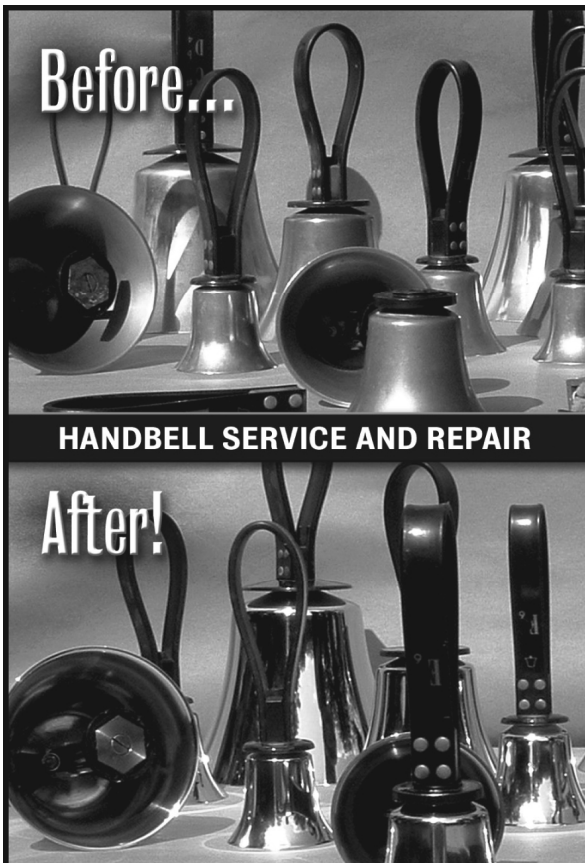
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The first name in handbell music, supplies and equipment should be your first choice for handbell service and repairs!

Why Your Handbells Need Servicing...

Just like any musical instrument, handbells play and sound better when they are properly maintained. Part of this maintenance should include regular servicing by trained professional technicians. Your handbells could need servicing if you answer yes to any of the following:

- Are your bells growing progressively harder to play?
- Are your bells more than five years old and have never been serviced?
- Do they produce sounds that could be described as squeaks, clicks, thuds or clangs?
- Do their clappers seem to stick or not move freely?
- Are handles and handguards worn or difficult to read?
- Are their castings tarnished?

Why Choose Jeffers Handbell Supply...

You trust Jeffers Handbell Supply to provide you with quality handbell equipment and supplies. We have built our reputation on providing these in a timely, professional and friendly manner at a reasonable cost. You can expect no less when you choose Jeffers to service your handbells.

We fully stand behind our work and are not finished until you are completely satisfied!

For All of Your Handbell and Handchime Needs, call us at

1-800-JHS-BELL or visit us at www.HandbellWorld.com

Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.