

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers
Uniting People Through A Musical Art

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

www.areas11.org

This month we are highlighting our new Chair-elect, Claudette Rothwell. Also be sure to read her article on “How I Spent My Summer Vacation” on page 3.



Music has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up in west Texas and as a young child I remember “playing” on the piano until finally at age 7 I began formal lessons. I loved listening to music on my record player. Like many girls my age I loved the Beatles and the Monkees. But I also loved listening to Van Cliburn play Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 and Dvorak’s New World Symphony. I would turn the volume up as high as I could get away with!!!

I continued piano lessons up through my college years. I attended the University of Northern Colorado and in 1974 I graduated with a degree in Music Education. I graduated one week and got married the next week. My husband, Bill was in the Air Force so for the next 23 years we lived in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Ohio, North Carolina, Utah, England, Germany, Korea, and had the chance to do a lot of traveling, an experience we wouldn’t trade for anything. In 1991 we were moved to Utah and decided to make it our permanent home after Bill retired from the Air Force in 1997. We have three grown sons, two beautiful daughter-in-laws, a 4 year old grandson, and an 18 month old granddaughter.

During all of those years I was a stay-at-home mom and for several years I gave private piano lessons. It wasn’t until 1985 while living in Dayton, Ohio and just after my second son was born that I discovered handbells. Like a lot of you, I fell in love with them!!!

I was able to ring in my church bell choir for a few months before the Air Force moved us once again. The director gave me a crash course in everything I needed to know about handbells so I could continue ringing or directing.

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When we moved to Utah I couldn't find a bell choir to ring with for several years. I had almost given up hopes of ever ringing again when one day at my oldest son's drum lesson,

the teacher said he had to leave early to go to bell choir. I jumped at the chance to find out more about this bell choir, and a week later I was ringing again!!! That next fall, I began directing the choir and after a year or so convinced my own church to purchase a 3-octave set of bells. I started a children's chime choir, a youth bell choir and an adult choir. I continued at both churches for a few more years until I realized that it was just too difficult to handle two churches at the same time. I have continued the programs at my church and have added another adult beginner's choir and more bells and chimes. We are now ready to start our 12th year of ringing!!!

"I had almost given up hopes of ever ringing again."

Since 1997 I have been on the staff at my church as the Director of Spiritual Growth Ministry where I plan, implement, recruit and train teachers for classes for all ages. I also oversee Children's Ministry activities. In my spare time I enjoy crafts, sewing, cooking, attending concerts, and most of all being a GRANDMA!!!

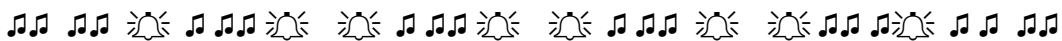
ARIZONA STATE FALL WORKSHOP

September. 20, 2008 - **Registration Deadline 9/15**
Classes for beginning and experienced ringers and directors. Details and registration at www.agehr.org/azevents.html

Note to other sub-areas: Please send info of any AGEHR sponsored or endorsed events in your area. We'd like to include them in the newsletter. Send to mrhontz@cox.net.

BELLS ON TEMPLE SQUARE will be on the broadcast of Music and the Spoken Word live **Sept. 28**. Many stations carry the broadcast live and some the following week and some even two weeks later. Check mormontabernaclechoir.com and follow the links to stations in your area that show the broadcast. Tom Waldron, who was honored with the Area XI Ring of Fame award in Albuquerque in June, is the founding director of BoTS.

SAD NEWS - George Cannon passed away in mid-July at his home in Casper, WY after a valiant fight with pancreatic cancer. George served as Area XI chair from 1988-1990 and coordinated the Area XI festival in Casper both in 1990 and 2000. He was a hard worker for Area XI and AGEHR. He and his wife Claranne had recently moved to a new home at 3281 E. 18th in Casper where he enjoyed sitting on the patio and visiting with friends when he was having a good day. Our sympathy to his wife and children Dean and Beth and their families.



Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble Performs at Camelback Bible Church, Phoenix, AZ



The Hong Kong Youth are an auditioned group aged 8 to 16, led by Artistic Director, Emily Li. They are part of the Hong Kong Handbell Academy whose mission is to share with people the beautiful sound of handbells and the energetic fascinating movements in

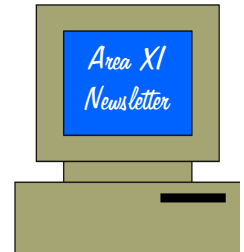
handbell ringing, developing and educating the next generation to be the Youth Professional Ringers in HK.

As part of their 2008 United States Concert Tour, the Ensemble stopped in Phoenix, AZ where they were hosted by Kay Cook and Bronzeworks. Side-trips were planned to Sedona and the Grand Canyon. In addition to the stop in Phoenix, the tour also took them to New York and the International Handbell Symposium in Orlando, FL

After the US tour, the Ensemble will represent HK at the 3rd Annual Asian Youth Arts Festival in Kagoshima, Japan in October.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

- by Claudette Rothwell



What a wonderful summer it has been!!! Besides two very special family celebrations, I had the exciting opportunity of attending three handbell events this summer. In June, I attended the **Area XI Festival/Conference** held in Albuquerque. Due to one of the family celebrations I arrived a day late. It was fun to walk in and see so much fun and excitement already happening. Your Area XI board had worked wonders to bring in David Weck at the last minute when they learned that Jason Wells would have to leave early to attend the funeral of a good friend. Everything was so organized!!!

I always look forward to hearing the special concerts at the festivals and I was disappointed I had to miss the opening concert by Enchantment. Kathie Fink was amazing as she played her solos in The Legacy Concert. Area XI has so many outstanding bell choirs and we heard many of them at the Showcase Concert. Because I arrived late I missed attending the classes, but again it was fun to hear what new things everyone had learned. This was the first Festival for one of my roommates and she was amazed at how much she was learning and how much fun it was. I am sure she will be back in two years when we are in Tucson!!!

I really enjoyed getting to ring as an orphan in Ron Swim's group. As a director I don't get to ring as much as I would like. It helps me to once again experience what it is like for my ringers!!! And I took away many ideas and hints from watching David Weck direct.

The Ring of Fame Luncheon was very special. I am so glad we have this special award in Area XI. Gail Downey and Tom Waldron have given so much to the world of handbell ringing and are so deserving of this award. Of course coming from Utah, I am well aware of all that Tom has contributed over the years and was so proud and happy for him!!!

I just returned a few days ago from the **International Handbell Symposium** and the **National Seminar** held in Orlando, Florida. For over a year I have been anticipating attending my first International Symposium. All I can say is **WOW!!!** It was an incredible event and I have never heard handbells played more beautifully or with such musicianship. Approximately 12 countries were represented with over 850 participants. The Symposium was held in a beautiful resort hotel, the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. The massed ringing room was the size of 3-4 basketball courts. Four big screens hung from the ceiling so everyone could "see" the director. As a massed group of 850 ringers, we rang eight pieces that had been picked by the six handbell guilds around the world. It was fun to experience the different styles of music and directors. Interpreters were present to help us understand what the directors were saying to us as we rehearsed. Over the five days we totaled 22 hours of rehearsal!!! The excitement grew through the week and culminated in an outstanding closing concert for an audience of over 600 people!!!

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During the symposium we also had time to attend 5 pre-selected classes from a wide variety. My classes were Speed Stacking, Small Ensemble Ringing, B4U Ring, and The Bell Tree Solo – A New Idea in Handbell Ringing. Each day we were treated to one or two International Solo Concerts. We heard 40 different performing groups from all over the world. What a treat!!! We also had ½ day as "free time" to do as we pleased. Some went on excursions to Sea World, Universal Studios, or the Prime Outlets. Others just hung out by one of the many swimming pools at the hotel.

As soon as the International Symposium was over the National Seminar was beginning. There were 17 different class sessions worked into the schedule. Many were part of a concentrated Ringing Track which accounted for five of the class sessions. And yes, there were more concerts – six in all. Again they were outstanding, especially the Pike's Peak Ringers that are from our own Area XI!!! And I can't forget to mention another special moment for Area XI - Jenny Cauhorn, the AGEHR Executive Director announced at the closing banquet for the International Symposium that a Utah high school in Heber City was the recipient of the AGEHR Endowment Grant for this year. Hooray!!! One day we were fed and entertained at a RenFaire Lunch and Concert which was a true renaissance experience for all of us. The closing concert for National Seminar was the Kinjo Gakuin University Handbell Choir from Japan. (If you Google their name you can hear what they sound like on YouTube.) Again, an amazing concert!!!

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(Vacation - Continued from page 3)

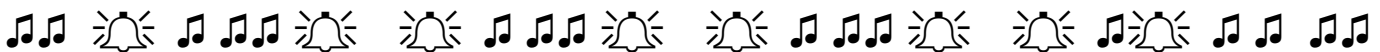


"I was hooked and try to go every two years.

I always learn something new!"

I attended my first National Seminar a few years ago in Des Moines, Iowa. I went by myself and didn't really know what to expect. I had read about the seminars in the Overtones and was curious. I was hooked and now I try to go at least every two years. I always learn something NEW and come away with ideas and excitement for this musical art. It is so much fun to meet new people – ding-a-lings are so friendly!!! You never know who you are going to meet. At one seminar in Dallas a couple of years ago I was amazed to run into an old friend from elementary school who I haven't had any contact with for over 40 years!!!

I would encourage everyone in Area XI to attend one of our Area XI Festivals or a National Seminar. You won't be disappointed!!! Next year's National Seminar will be held in July in Tucson. And it just so happens that in June of 2010, the Area XI Festival will also be in Tucson. I hope you can all come and experience some of what I have experienced this summer. Be sure to check out the scholarships that are available through Area XI or AGEHR. I can guarantee that you will hear wonderful music, make new friends and learn so much. AGEHR is all about uniting people through a musical art and what FUN it is!!!



A Scholarship Recipient Reports

- by Barbara Hartman (new Utah Sub-Area Chair)

I was so pleased to receive the scholarship assistance to attend National Seminar 2008. It was an action packed 4 days! Activities ran from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

It began with the closing concert of the International Symposium. The choice of music was most interesting, extremely varied, effective, with huge differences in conducting styles. But-it worked - with 850 ringers from North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

Much emphasis this year was on performance enhancements. I attended sessions on Rehearsal techniques, Movement within the group, Looking good in performance, Programming ideas and techniques, Rhythm drills, New special bell effects not yet notated, and a class in event planning. My brain is filled with things I want to do with bells!

Scholarships are available to help others attend National Events. Keep watching www.area11.org and www.agehr.org to know what is happening! Attending a National Seminar is an experience I hope all of you will be able to take advantage of. And...next year it will be in Tucson July 15 to 18, 2009

AGEHR NATIONAL EVENTS (from Overtones Magazine)

Sept. 13, 2008

Music Educator Training Seminar
Chicago, IL

Oct. 2-5, 2008

Distinctly Bronze
New Bern, NC

July 15-18, 2009

National Seminar 2009
Tucson, AZ

Oct. 8-11, 2009

Distinctly Bronze
New Bern, NC

For information about these events check the AGEHR website at www.agehr.org or call the National office at 800-878-5459.