

## THE TWELFTH TONE

Newsletter for the AGEHR, Area XII

October 2001 - November 2001

Published Bi-monthly

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NEXT DEADLINE: November 10, 2001

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### News from the Chair

by [Cheryl Baker](#)

IF YOU WEREN'T THERE, you really missed out! Palm Springs was the wonderful host this summer to the first ever AGEHR national event called "Handbell Spectacular," held July 25-28. Of the 400+ people who attended from all over the world, one third were from Area XII's three states of California, Nevada, and Hawaii! Those who wanted to sharpen their ringing skills learned under headline conductors David Davidson, Kevin McChesney, Hart Morris, Anna Laura Page, and Tim Waugh. Those who wanted to experience showcase choirs watched University of So. Mississippi's "Carillon" (Dr. Larry Smith), Becks Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, NC's "Rejoice Ringers" (Deborah Rice), Distinctly Bronze's "Preview Choir" (David Davidson), Kinjo Gakuin University's "Handbell Choir" (Toshikazu Yoshida), and Tualatin Valley Junior Academy's "Ring of Fire (Jason Wells). Those who wanted to take hands-on and discussion classes had 28 topics to choose from over 14 class sessions. And those who wanted mini-concerts interacted with solo ringer Ruben Mendoza, solo ringer Nancy Hascall, "Handbells Unlimited!" duo Beth Klein and David Jordon, and Concordia University Wisconsin's "Alleluia Ringers" (Dr. John Behnke). Of course, let's not forget the giant shopping spree at the vendor area, where we all browsed through the many wonderful handbell music and products. So many people went back to their home programs very energized and ready to start their fall seasons with enthusiasm!

On the local front, your Area XII Board has gone through several changes, but comes out stronger than ever. As you may know, every member of your board is a volunteer. When life becomes complicated, volunteer work is not a priority. The Area XII Board members have been very honest about their commitments and time, and therefore you can see several new faces and several openings serving you on your Board. Please welcome Nancy Stemmler-Durkee as your new LA Metro Regional Coordinator, who comes to us from another AGEHR Area with several years of experience. Also welcome Bill Waggener as your new Twelfth Tone newsletter editor, who has served Area XII in years past. At the same time, please thank David Irvine (Sonoma), Verdery Kassebaum (San Diego), and Dan Doggett (Newhall) for their past service on the Area XII Board. If you or someone you know is a "doer," please ecommend them to me ASAP to fill the recently vacated Area XII positions.

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## Notes From the Keyboard

by [William L. Waggener](#), Editor

With this issue, I am resuming Editorship of ***The Twelfth Tone***. It's been quite a hiatus - nearly fifteen (twenty?) years - and the mechanics have changed dramatically. In the "good ole days", we typed every submission individually and literally cut and pasted the master together from those scraps of paper - a rather time-consuming and creativity-challenging two dimensional

jigsaw puzzle to make everything fit together! Now, material can be submitted electronically and magically pasted into the growing document - and NO, I really DON'T have a longing for those "good ole days"! One aspect that hasn't changed, however, is that the Editor can't manufacture all the content that should appear in this newsletter - especially information about coming events and the like. Therefore, the ongoing plea: send in whatever you have that might be appropriate for publication. My email address is [waggwl@aol.com](mailto:waggwl@aol.com), and the snailmail address is 1631 N. Oxford, Claremont, CA 91711-3464. Please use either! The deadlines are the 10th of January, March, May, July, September, and November, and given human nature (especially mine), I suspect that emailed last-minute submissions will stand a much greater chance of getting in than handwritten matter. Let me hear from you.

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## **The Passing Bells**

*by Tamara L. Raetz*

The bells are tolling sorrow,  
The dead won't see tomorrow.  
A nation mourns:

A ring of grief to share  
For the martyrs who now wear  
A crown of thorns.

In echoes from a past  
We hear the first and last  
Of dampened lives.

A new mold has been struck,  
In bravery and pluck  
Against the knives.

This debt will not be paid.  
The casting has been made  
From heroes' mettle.

Our bells now ring in hope  
With heroes' strength to cope  
As ashes settle.

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## Area XII 2001 Fundraiser

The Area XII Board is sponsoring a fundraising campaign for 2001 to purchase a second set of handchimes for our Handbell/Handchime School Loan Program. A 3-octave set of handchimes costs \$1,330, and we need your help to meet our goal. Help us bring more handchimes into the classroom by supporting this fundraising effort. Your donation is tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to **AGEHR AREA XII** and mailed to **Debbie Davis, Treasurer, 6427 Fordham Way, Sacramento, CA 95831**.

For more information regarding the Handbell/ Handchime School Loan Program, contact Ron Theile at (310) 450-9914 or [rgt5552@aol.com](mailto:rgt5552@aol.com).

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## Handbell Spectacular in Palm Springs

The first Handbell Spectacular was held at the Palm Springs Convention Center July 25 - 28, 2001. Sponsored by the AGEHR National Office, this event is designed to replace of the older "Festival" format with a different style of educational event that is open to directors, individual ringers, and full choirs alike. The younger ringers in the Youth Track presented the results of their rehearsals as part of the scheduled performances of the event, and the Kinjo Gakuin University Handbell Choir was one of the showcase choirs.

One component of the Handbell Spectacular was the opportunity to rehearse intensively with a well-known conductor. The conductors for this year were David Davidson, Hart Morris, Kevin McChesney, Anna Laura Page, and Tim Waugh.

### Quotable quotes:

*"A cool breeze of musical refreshment in the warmth of a Palm Springs welcome."* - David Leigh Shearer, Escondido, CA

*"Even after ringing and directing handbells for 16 years, I still learned something new which I will soon inflict on my choir. This was a very good event for a new format."* - Rudy Rodriquez, Garden Grove, CA



"Trek C with Hart Morris was a blast! And with all those octave 2 bells in the room, what a sound! Can hardly wait to do it again." - Dale Fisk, La Mesa, CA

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## Repertoire List For the Area XII Ringers' Conference in Reno, June 28-30, 2002




### Division A:

-  Ring Around A Rainbow, Barbara Kinyon, Alfred 17549 (2-3 oct), 17550 (4-5 oct)
-  Glory To God In The Highest, Pergolesi, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson, Agape 1971 (Ringers), 1972 (Full Score)




### Division B:

-  Sierra, Sondra K. Tucker, AGEHR AG35172
-  Celebratio!, Valerie Stephenson, Jeffers JH S9274 (Ringers), JH S9274FS (Full Score)

### Division C:

-  Papillon, Grieg/arr. Valerie Stephenson, Laurendale HB 1057
-  Cascades, Arnold Sherman, Alfred 18573
-  Dance Of The Reed Flutes, Tchaikovsky/arr. J. Hall, Alfred 16464

### Massed:

-  Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen, Bill Ingram, Ringing Word Publications RW 8096
-  I'll Fly Away, Brumley, *et al.*/arr. Tammy Waldrop, Ring Out! Press RO 3231
-  Music For Royal Fireworks, G. F. Handel/arr. William H. Mathis, Agape 2128 (Ringers), 2129 (Full Score)

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## Seed Money For Local Events

The AGEHR Area XII Board is committed to the support of local handbell and chime events and

is offering seed money grants to any Area XII member church, school, or other organization sponsoring a handbell event for the first time in that area. This grant is not intended to be a fundraising device for the sponsoring organization; rather, it is intended to make the event more successful by assisting with some of the start-up and planning expenses. If you are planning to host a new event, contact your Regional Representative for assistance.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Performance Opportunity**

The Ebell Society of the Santa Ana Valley is looking for a handbell choir or ensemble to perform ~15 minutes of music for a Victorian Christmas Eve Caroling Program. An honorarium is available. Contact Karen Reese at (714) 91-9623 or Kreese7228@juno.com. This is the first time that the Ebell Society has opened its building for a Christmas celebration.

### **The Handbell-L**

For those who are unaware, there is an extremely active site on the internet for the exchange of thoughts, ideas, opinions, and information related to the art of handbell ringing. Digests of the exchanges are sent to subscribers on a frequent and regular basis, so those who subscribe receive daily updates of the interactions that have taken place in the immediate past.

Join the Handbell-L mailing list if you want more information about handbells. To join, just send mail to: listproc@ringem.org. Use a message body (no subject needed) of: subscribe Handbell-L Firstname Lastname, where Firstname is your first name and Lastname is your last name. If you want to receive each article as it is posted (as opposed to getting one (or more) digests a day of all the messages), include the line: set Handbell-L mail ack after the subscribe line.

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### **Area XII 2001 Video Library**

The Area XII video library is available for loan to AGEHR members. You may borrow any of the following videos for the current postal shipping fee and return. Contact: David Ruder, video

librarian for more details at 423 Palo Verde Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6762; email: DaveRuder@aol.com or phone: (408) 732-0760.

## Tempo Setters Series - AGEHR



Donald Allured  
Mary Bradford  
David Davidson  
Lawrence Fink  
Andrew Flanagan  
Daniel Hermany  
Everett Jay Hilty  
Jacques Kearns  
Mary Kettelhut  
Robert Ivey  
Richard Litterst  
Mary McCleary  
Jake Malta  
Willard Markey  
Scott Parry  
Ellen Jane Lorenz Porter  
Marvin Reecher  
James Salzwedel  
Nancy Poore Tufts  
Doris Watson

## Others:



1986 Closing Concert Visalia Festival Area XII  
1988 Closing Concert Pasadena Festival Area XII  
Sound Advice from Malmark, guide to caring for Malmark Handbells.  
Handbell Workshop with Kermit Junkert, care and maintenance of Schulmerich Handbells and Melody chime instruments

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## What You Can Be Doing Now To Prepare For Reno

The first of a series by **William L. Waggener**

### 1. **Commitment**

2. Fund Raising
3. Music Preparation
4. Travel Plans
5. Last Minute

You've decided that going to Reno for the Area XII Ringers' Conference 2001 would be good for your ringers. Perhaps the most difficult aspect of the entire preparation process is extracting a firm **commitment** to go out of your people - most especially if none have ever attended a large event such as this. However, without a strong level of ringer **commitment** to the endeavor, your well-meant and enthusiastic plans may quickly fall apart. So how does one convince a group of ringers of the benefits of attending an event such as this? After all, it's going to require time, undoubtedly some money, and probably a whole lot of work...

If you have any ringer(s) who have been to an Area XII Ringers' Conference before (and, one would hope, had a positive experience), by all means solicit their assistance and enthusiasm. When Lee and I were just beginning our Guild involvement many years ago, only four of us went to our first Area XII Festival (at San Luis Obispo in 1976) - and our one, lone, rather novice ringer went with another nearby choir. (Our ringer's father was our other attendee.) However, their passion was obvious as we planned two years later to attend our second big event, and the **commitment** of those first participants rubbed off on most of our other ringers. Once we established a communal expectation that, of course, everyone should go to learn as much as possible about the art of bellringing as well as to enjoy the experience of making music with a group of similarly **committed** people, maintaining a high level of **commitment** certainly became much easier.

The central task seems to be to convince your ringers that they would benefit in multiple ways by going: exposure to new techniques, elevated reading and ringing skills derived from intense rehearsal (both at home and during the event), and the intrinsic satisfaction of performing to the best of one's ability. In essence, they need to know what to expect. Even before the registration materials arrive, just talking about the various classes they are likely to attend and the unique experience of rehearsing with multiple choirs is likely to expand their interest and curiosity. Giving them a good idea of what to look forward to will only enhance their ability to make the **commitment** to participate.

Developing the **commitment** to go is only the first step. Other issues that must also be addressed are how to finance the trip, which part of the repertoire is appropriate for those **committed** to go, how the group is going to travel to the site, how to prepare the music (at least this one can wait until the Christmas rush is over), what the performing attire will be (and who gets to decide), whether the group feels ready to prepare a solo, how to deal with the inevitable last-minute changes, and on, and on... However, the greater the **commitment** level of your ringers, the more readily they will take on these issues, contribute to their solution, and (most importantly to the matter of **commitment**) feel like an integral and important part of the group. Not only will your ringers become better for the experience, so will their ability to contribute to



the overall musical goals of the choir - whether it is a church-related organization dedicated to enhancing the musical aspect of worship or a school or community group whose primary interest is to perform for the musical entertainment of others. In fact, inspiring your ringers to go should be a manifestation of your **commitment** to them.

A final thought: although you can nearly always take a **committed** person and turn him/her into a bellringer, you can't necessarily take a bellringer and turn him/her into a **committed** person. Which would you rather have in your bell choir?

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## Central California News

by [Paulette McFarlin](#)

Some of the choirs in this central Region are getting together with other choirs to put on concerts. Last spring, Shirley Werner of Atascadero got together with two other church handbell choirs to present their "First Annual Handbell Concert of North County". Participating were The Redeemer's Ringers of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, The Glory Bells and Joyful Noise Choirs of the United Methodist church, and Shirley's group, Ringer's of Hope, Hope Lutheran Church. They had five massed numbers, and each choir did a couple of pieces. Next year they plan on having another church attend.

Here in Porterville, we had our concert with two choirs from our UMC church, and Mel Tully's Bronze Ministries choir from Visalia along with Porterville College's handbell choir. We only had one massed number, but we are hoping to increase the number of choirs and the number of massed pieces.

I talked to Mary Balkow of the Sacramento area's Spring Ring, and she said that they also started out their program with just a few choirs. So to all of you out there in your local area, check with choirs in your town or neighboring towns and combine to give a concert. You can use any music that you've worked on during the year and maybe have one combined number. Advertise with the e-newsletter for the central region, and you may have a crowd attending from out of town. Be sure to advertise in the area towns and churches. There are a lot of churches with bells stowed away, and sometimes all they need is to have some of their church members attend a concert like this to jump-start their bell program.

There were also concerts by OPUS of Modesto and the Pacific College Spring concerts, and many more in this large area. If your choir is giving a concert, let me know, and I'll try to advertise it in the e-newsletter.

Karla Wall's youth group from Selma, "Heavenly Metal", is really getting into the swing of bells. They played for the United Methodist Fresno District's Worship Service in Visalia welcoming Bishop Shamana to the Cal-Nevada Conference. They also received a grant for 2 octaves of chimes and mallets, and Karla has started a K-4 group with the chimes.

The central region will be having a Director's Workshop in Porterville on Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. so put this on your schedule. More information will be coming in the near future. If you live in the central region, be sure to email your address to me so I can send you an e-newsletter. Keep on ringing!

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## **Nevada State Report**

by [Barbara Walsh](#)

Howdy!

Lots going on here in Nevada and the Eastern Sierra! There are some workshops coming up: the first one is on Sept. 29 at 9:30-11:30 for beginning ringers and those who work with beginners. The second one is on October 6th at 8:30-4:00 with Cheryl Baker as the clinician. Cheryl will be preparing us for the Reno conference by taking us through 2 of the massed pieces. Both workshops will be in the Reno/Sparks area. A reading session/workshop will be held in Las Vegas on October 13. Also in Las Vegas will be The 12th Night with Karen Buckwalter as the director on January 12-13, 2002. The Reno Directors' Seminar date has been changed to March 23. The Washoe County Young Ringers' Festival is tentatively set for May 28. And last, but not least, is the Area XII Conference in Reno on June 28-30. Please contact Barb Walsh at (775) 677-8119 for more information on any of these events. We hope to see you at one or more of them!

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## **Metropolitan Los Angeles News**

by [Nancy Stemmler-Durkee](#)

Hello to everyone in the LA Metro area,

My name is Nancy Durkee, and I'm your new Regional Coordinator. I'm four years new to the LA area but a longtime handbell enthusiast. A little background: I've been ringing since 1972 and directing various choirs from Syracuse, New York since 1979 to St. Paul, Minnesota, and now in Burbank at The First United Methodist Church. Over the years, I've given several seminars on 4-in-hand and solo ringing. Perhaps I met some of you in Duluth, MN at the national festival a few years back? If not, I am looking forward to meeting you in the coming year. I'm eager to begin serving you, so the first thing I'll do is send out an online newsletter for the LA Metro area. But other than introducing myself, I won't have news to pass along without your input....or anyone to send it to without your email address. Please email me at [WongoBunny@AOL.com](mailto:WongoBunny@AOL.com) (it's a long story), and let me know your news or interest in receiving news via email. If you were hearing from Cheryl Baker, I already have your address.

Here's how to get in touch with me:

Nancy Stemmler-Durkee  
1214 N. California Street  
Burbank, CA 91505  
(818) 842-5163

I'm currently an at-home mom...you can call me anytime. Happy ringing--Nancy

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## Bay Area Notes

by [David Ruder](#)

The last bell season was a blast, as Bay Area directors and ringers are finding out that lots of things are happening in the five-county area:

If you live in the Bay Area, be sure to get on the area's handbell e-newsletter mailing list for the latest up-to-date news and more complete information about what is happening or will happen in the S.F. Bay Area bell world! Directors, send your address to: [DaveRuder@aol.com](mailto:DaveRuder@aol.com) but also have your ringers signup for this service. It's free, and they'll keep informed of the things you forget to tell them about!

## Bell Auditions

During August and September, the various community groups held their auditions for new members...Bay Bells, Canto Bello, Golden Gate Ringers, Velocity. Some groups hold individual auditions throughout the year for new members or for substitutes. Sonos is one of those groups in addition to those mentioned earlier. Email me if you need contact information.

## **Workshops**

Members of the Bay Bells Ensemble, as part of its education mission, conduct handbell workshops throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Workshops include all of the handbell techniques and can be designed to meet the specific needs of a handbell ensemble. Costs are kept very low to help churches meet their needs. Contact: Elaine at fishr342@aol.com

Recently Dave Ruder, BB artistic director, conducted a workshop in Menlo Park where the director's request involved help with the group's rhythm difficulties. David brought his rhythm flash cards and a bag full of tricks to share with the ringers. Each flash card contained one measure of a rhythm pattern ranging from easy to difficult. Ringers were asked to play the various measures in a variety of manners. These included ringing at a variety of tempi, without looking after a brief flash of the card, dividing the group in two so that two rhythm cards could be rung at the same time, with cards shown and laid down before the ringers were finished ringing, etc. Ringers could ring the card's patterns with either or both bells or in any pattern of ringing or technique desired. Try it; it's fun!

In addition there are a number of fine clinicians in the Bay Area who regularly give workshops. I have a contact list. Many directors encourage workshops early in the year to improve the skills of their ringers.

## **Bay Area Events**

Be sure to check the events calendar in this newsletter for Bay Area activities. The email updates will give you further information including up-to-date additions, changes, and reviews. Individual Bay Area groups may wish to list their church or community concerts to Bay Area audiences as well.

## **Handbell Schools for Students**

If you are a handbell teacher/director and would be interested in teaching handbells/handchimes once or more each week in various handbell training schools throughout the Bay Area, please contact me, Dave Ruder at (DaveRuder@aol.com). These are paid positions, working in late afternoons or early evenings in schools, community centers, or churches. The students would be at the beginning to intermediate level.

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