



# QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA  
MAY, 2010

## Chair's Concept

Greetings all!

A funny thing happened to me the other day. I was wandering around the [www.agehr.org](http://www.agehr.org) site and located our Ringing on the Range festival, listed in the sponsored activities page. So I clicked on the page just out of curiosity...and it took me straight to another Area 8 HORSE BACKRIDING website! Who knew?! Did you think we were going to be dealing with hay and harnesses in Topeka? I can assure you that handbells are our only interest! So if you tried to get to our website and were sent on a wild goose chase, try again. I believe the path is clear now. Our Area website, ably handled by Burnell Hackman, is: [www.areaviii.org](http://www.areaviii.org). If you are interested in festival info (which changes almost daily), just click on the yellow festival logo.

Our topic for this issue of *Quavers* is the Care and Feeding of your Ringers. Well, that is just perfect! Because right about now everyone is in danger of getting rung out . . . we're all overloaded from Holy Week and Easter, we are headed into the month of graduations, Mother's Day, and let's not forget our Topeka Ringing on the Range Festival!

As a music educator I get to start every day saying, "We get to make music today!" Isn't that cool? But I would be remiss if I did not mention the fellowship aspect of all music groups, children, youth and adults. In fact, that may be why we come to bell practices in snow storms. Why we thrive on playing together as a group. And why we cheer when we ALL get ALL the notes on the SAME piece at the SAME time! Remember to also include your ringers' parents as well in the fellowship. They have nearly as much invested in your choirs as the ringers do!

Our national news publication, *Overtones*, includes a middle section (much like our Area VIII Music in the Middle), and I find those *Tips and Tools* to be invaluable in keeping my ringers happy and healthy. EVERYTHING in this section is not covered by copyrights – so print away! The content includes:

- Original music (1-2 pages long, usually level 1 or level 2, good for sight-reading)
- Processionals, hymn accompaniments, fanfares
- Rehearsal activities, games, exercises, ice breakers
- Worship and concert enhancements
- Things to build or make
- Lesson plans

Cont. on pg 8

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# Illinois Ideas

As directors, we usually select music with a theme in mind. It might be the holy day ahead, like Christmas and Easter. It might be a reflective piece because the previous month the choir worked on something fast and furious. But how often do you choose music just for the fun of it?

Sometimes we get so caught up in rehearsing what we need to learn for the next concert or church service that we don't take the time to pull out pieces to play just for the sake of playing. While I'm not suggesting we give up our precious rehearsal time, I am sure we all can find one or two times a year to test out music that is out of the ordinary. You never know, it could turn into a piece you can do at a future concert or as a postlude to a church service! Here are some examples to get you thinking.

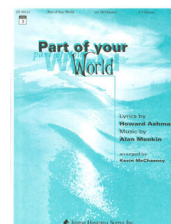
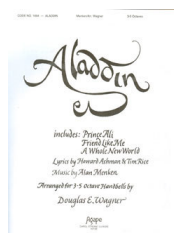
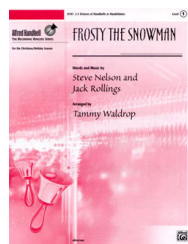
A few years ago, my youth choir really wanted to play "popular" music. I found *Pirates of the Caribbean* (arr. McChesney, JHS9402) and we worked on it little by little all year. By the end of the year concert, we had a rousing piece ready to go that I decided to put into the concert. Years later the older youth still talk about that piece. There are a number of arrangements available from movies, and while they are sometimes more challenging, ringers often like to ring things they know from somewhere else.

The adult choir at my church worked on *Plink, Plank, Plunk* (arr. Thompson, Hope 2367) in much the same way. The ringers really wanted to perform it for the congregation but knew it wouldn't work within a service. The happy medium was that they eventually got to play it as a postlude, introducing it as *Praise, Praise, Praise* to fit the setting.

Another idea is to purchase a piece that is actually a collection of fun songs. This format might save a little money in the budget and provide a couple of fun songs per year over time! For example, there is so much secular and sacred Christmas music that would be fun to play, who wouldn't enjoy a little *Jingle Bells* break in the midst of holiday preparations. *Easy Christmas Concert* (arr. Lorenz. Lorenz hb174) has *Jingle Bells*, *Up on the Housetop*, and more.

Remembering to toss in a piece that is just plain fun can improve your choir's sight-reading and smiles. You just never know when that something out of the ordinary could come in handy!

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal, Illinois State Chair



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# Iowa Interests

**What do you do with your ringers?** That definitely is a loaded question! Are you talking about during rehearsals or outside of the rehearsal time and the answer is yes!

Having your handbell choir think as a group instead of just individual ringers helps everyone to get along, rehearse better and ultimately play better. But the big question is how to accomplish that goal. I have a children's choir but almost all ideas can be used with adults because, after all, we are just big kids, right?

Every year my choir gets together to **tie dyes gloves**. This is a great bonding experience for my choir and my kids really have a great time. I have quite a few tie dyed gloves myself.

I also try to **go on the road**. I'm not talking across the state but just around town. At Christmas we visited a nursing home and gave a small concert just for fun. We will also be doing this again after Easter. This also gives us a chance to play "non-church" songs.

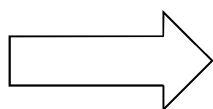
Have a **Pizza Polish Party!** Invite the choir to joint you for pizza and while doing that give the bells a good polish. If you have ever tried to do it yourself you know it goes much faster with help and this also gives everyone time to just socialize.

**Attending a workshop** is a great way to increase everyone's knowledge of bells. This gives your group a chance to ring with a different director and also make other friends in the handbell world.

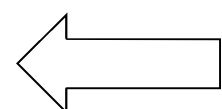
Now, back to the rehearsals. **Having a routine** that you follow every rehearsal is important. My ringers know if you are not there to set up, you get to help tear down. Also giving every ringer a chance to share **highs and lows** helps to keep some of the chatter down (not all, but some). Beginning and ending your practices with **stretches** can help our ringers' bodies as well as give us a time to talk about bells or other items.

Every director does things their own way and not everything will work for your group. I do think that the best recruitment for new ringers comes from the ringers themselves and if they are having fun playing bells they are sure to invite their friends.

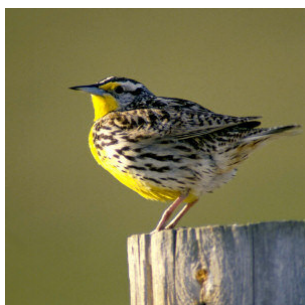
*Kathryn Jaeger, Iowa State Chair*



Join us on **Facebook**.  
Search for group **AGEHR-IA**.



**www.agehr-ia.org**



# Kansas Korner

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**How do you “feed and care” for your ringers?** Feeding them (literally) is always a good thing! Food and fellowship do so much to bring a group together—whether it involves handbells or any other common thread. Take time to enjoy your choir and get to know them on a personal level. If you are a church group, pray together.

Another way is to make sure they are given music that will challenge them. Do know the limits of your group. You don't want to throw a Level 5 or 6 piece at your Level 2-3 group to play in two weeks. If you need to take all semester or all year to learn it, do that. Teach new techniques; have the ringers teach new ringers how to play or demonstrate new techniques; assign different bells; allow the ringers to work out difficult passages (but be there ready to offer your support and knowledge); find opportunities to play in the community; and creatively work on building and reinforcing basic ringing skills. Be aware of your ringers; observe when and where problems are occurring and how you can get corrections across without belittling your ringers. Maybe you should even tape yourself occasionally to hear how you sound?

One of the best ways to care for your ringers is to make sure they attend handbell events. Not only does it give them a chance to get acquainted with other ringers, but they can refresh and/or learn new skills. Just like your own kids, ringers often can “take it” better if it's someone other than the “parent” teaching them. If your schedule doesn't allow you to attend events, make sure your ringers know about upcoming events, and work with them to come up with the money and transportation to attend. Take advantage of Area Festivals (they're in your state at least once every 10 years). If you can't come for the whole conference, come to the final concert. If events are “too far away” or “too expensive,” host a local event. You don't have to bring in a “big” name to have a quality event. (Your State Committee and Area Officers are here to help!)

Last but not least, continue to make sure YOU are cared for and fed as a director. Make sure you keep up on new techniques and new music. Listen to those sample CDs (or files on the vendors' websites). Play recordings for your groups. Don't be afraid to try new music or old favorites. Attend as many events as you possibly can.

As always, your mileage may vary, but perhaps this has given you a bit of food for thought.

Hope to see you in Topeka—please come up and introduce yourself. We've planned a great conference!

*Kathy Leonard ~ Kansas State Chair*





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# Missouri Musings

## **Spiritual Care of the Church Ringer**

For many years at each rehearsal of church choral groups, children, youth, and/or adults, I have provided a devotional time. Many times I used a pre-written devotion from several devotional books especially written for rehearsals. With children, I frequently used the Choristers Guild devotions that are contained in each issue of the Chorister. I have been in church handbell choirs where the director did a devotional each week. So why had it taken me so long to lead a devotional time with my church handbell choirs!

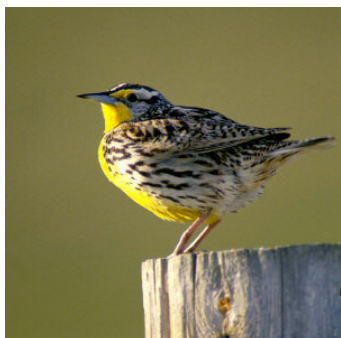
I guess the simplest answer is that during weekly rehearsals, the focus is so often on the correct notes, played at the proper time, with the dynamics and articulations that I find no time to lead the devotion as we have such a short time to "rehearse."

Handbell ringers in the church are servant leaders who minister through their handbell music to the congregation during worship. They also minister beyond the walls of the church as outreach into the community when playing for nursing homes or special programs. It is not enough to teach and direct towards musical excellence in church handbell ringing! We must nurture the soul and the spirit of those same ringers. In a similar way to the teaching of healthy ringing habits, we should share our concerns, joys, sorrows, and a time of scripture devotion so that the whole person is edified and fed.

Recently I have tried to find devotions on the *Upper Room* website that use as scriptural basis the same scripture that was used in the previous week's sermon or find a devotion that uses the upcoming scripture. My hope is that when the handbell ensemble rings for worship, our rehearsal will have had an element of worship and the ringer will be better prepared to serve in a worship leadership role. Handbell ringing for worship IS performance; but it is a different kind of performance. The spiritual is the goal of worship performance so that both the handbell choir and the congregation can be inspired.

As we have come through Lent and Easter and now look toward Pentecost, my hope is that church handbell directors will take good spiritual care of their ringers by nurturing their souls through a time of devotion and witness, joy and concern, during rehearsal. Just maybe our ringing will be more inspired!

*Dolan Bayless, Missouri State Chair*



# Nebraska Notes

The topic for this issue of *Quavers* centers around the **care and feeding of ringers**. This includes how to retain and gain ringers, what to do about summer and how to establish relationships. With the current church ringing year nearly over, most directors should have some good insight on several of these topics. I thought I might focus on relationships within the church.

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I am very fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with all of my ringers which makes each week's rehearsal fun and productive. Within my choir I have several levels of ringing ability which means some extra planning to help those needing a little help to feel comfortable ringing the music. I also have great mentors in the choir that work with a ringer which helps in a big way. During the year I select varying levels of music difficulty so ringers can grow in their ringing skills. We work on snippets of the more difficult music so that ringers do not get discouraged and feel they cannot ring the music. This requires that I understand my ringers and know what they can handle within each week's rehearsal. Keeping a balance of humor, fun and planned rehearsals keeps everyone happy. As I have extra bells available to ringers, those bells sometimes go home so they can practice the tricky spots in the music. Coming in a little early to work out measures is also something we do as I want every ringer to feel they can do each piece and not be stressed over making mistakes. Do mistakes still happen on Sunday morning? Yes, but we just go on and often the congregation never heard the mistake.

As a director, one needs to understand every ringer in the choir which means knowing their strengths and weaknesses. You work to improve their weak points and stretch their strong points. Having happy and unstressed ringers makes for a musical ringing choir. Keep a smile on your face; laugh at their wrong notes and give them praise for a job well done.

*Joyce Miller ~ Nebraska State Chair*

## A Quick Reminder!

In the interest of our Area going **green**, anyone who is currently receiving their *Quavers* by regular mail and would like to receive it by email, please send your address to Debbie Llewellyn at [dal60525@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dal60525@sbcglobal.net).

Also, please notify her and the National office ([www.agehr.org](http://www.agehr.org)) of any email address changes. Thanks for helping our Area to go **green**!





# Members We've Gained

St Peter's Lutheran—Deshler, NE

Northminster Presbyterian—  
Ames, IA

William Howard Taft HS—  
Chicago, IL

Linda—Omaha, NE

# Members We've Lost

St Andrews Presbyterian— Stephanie—Lincoln, NE  
Iowa City, IA

1st Unity Church—  
St Louis, MO

Bette—Rockford, IL

Angela—Naperville, IL

Grace Lutheran—  
Norfolk, NE

Messiah Lutheran—  
Johnston, IA



## WANTED!

3-octave set of Schulmerich bells.  
Would consider foam / covers /  
mallets / binders /  
risers, if you have them. Willing to  
negotiate. We are located in  
Centralia, MO.  
Contact:  
Sheryl Willier at  
[aandw@missvalley.com](mailto:aandw@missvalley.com) or  
660-327-5282



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## Continued from pg 1

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If you have something to add to either our Area VIII newsletter or the *Overtones*, I know your talents would be richly rewarded with fame, maybe not so much fortune, though! Don't be shy. We know you have some ideas out there to share—think of it as keeping bell ringers from playing in the street..

Look for new additions to the Ringing on the Range Festival page on our website: [www.areaviii.org](http://www.areaviii.org).

*Marilyn Lake, Area VIII Chair*

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## Ad Astra Ensemble

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YOU have the opportunity to ring in an ensemble with David Harris, conductor of the Raleigh Ringers. YOU can look at the Festival schedule or Ad Astra Ensemble info at [www.areaviii.org](http://www.areaviii.org) and attend classes, ring at your Bronze or Gold level and learn four pieces of music in five hours of rehearsal with David Harris. Again, see the information on the website and if YOU are interested in participating in the Ad Astra Ensemble ringing track, please fill out all information and send it through snail mail or email to: Kipp Willnauer 117 W Main St, Gardner, KS 66030 [willnauk@hotmail.com](mailto:willnauk@hotmail.com)

*Kipp Willnauer, Ad Astra Organizer*

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## Topeka Concerts

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There is still time to register for the Showcase Concert or the Promenade Concerts at the Area VIII Conference in Topeka. Below you will find a description of the concerts if you are not familiar with them.

The Showcase Concert is for those soloists, ensembles or choirs who wish to perform but do not wish to prepare an entire concert. The concert "showcases" the soloist, ensemble or choir as they perform one selection for the conference attendees.

The Promenade Concerts, or Breakout Concerts as they are sometimes referred to, are for those soloists, ensembles or choirs who wish to perform an entire concert. The concerts are broken into one hour slots during the class periods. To accommodate all who wish to perform, all aspects of the performance must be contained in the one hour: set up, take down and the performance.

All members of the performing ensemble must be registered for the conference in order to perform. If you are interested, you may e-mail Natalie Radcliffe at [natalie\\_radcliffe@hotmail.com](mailto:natalie_radcliffe@hotmail.com).





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# Summer Classes

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When you are at Ringing on the Range in Topeka, KS this summer you will have a plethora of opportunities to attend a class of interest. You will have over 160 classes to attend, but have so little time. Choose carefully.

**Beginners** or those that are fairly new to handbell and handchime ringing might attend:

1. First Timer's Session;
2. Treble Bell Techniques;
3. Basic Techniques A-Z;
4. Stopped Sounds;
5. Middle Bell Techniques or Basic Bass Bell Techniques.
6. Change Ringing

**Coppers** or ringers with some good experiences might attend:

1. Any of the above classes as you continue to learn the variety of techniques of playing each type of bell: treble, middle, bass;
2. Sight-reading;
3. Healthy Ringing;
4. Solo and/or Ensemble Ringing;
5. Bells with Few Ringers;
6. Adding Pizzazz to your ringing.

**Gold** or ringers with a few or more years of ringing experience might wish to attend:

1. All of those classes above mentioned in Beginners or Coppers;
2. Treble Bell Techniques: including 4-in-hand and/or Shelley Techniques;
3. Sight-reading;
4. Rehearsal Techniques;
5. Basic Conducting;
6. Advanced Bass Technique;

**Bronze** ringers who have attended many festivals and workshops might attend:

1. Healthy Ringing;
2. Solo and/or Ensemble Ringing;
3. Working with Children;
4. Costuming;
5. Bell Maintenance;
6. Touring Ins and Outs by the Raleigh Ringers;
7. Choose from the many choices mentioned above as well as participate in the Ad Astra Ensemble directed by David Harris of Raleigh Ringers.

**Of course** there are:

1. Many rhythm activities that assist in your thinking while you are ringing: Maori Stick Games, Rhythm Games, Hillbilly Band & Dalcroze;
2. Learn to teach the very young ringers (age 4-9) by attending Rainbow to Gold or an Education Class;
3. Learn the skills to become a Handbell Director;
4. Begin to organize a Community Choir or Ensemble;
5. Learn how to utilize more bells in worship;
6. Learn more about our AGEHR.

Please visit the Area VIII website with a new, updated list of classes being offered by your National, Area, State Officers and the Raleigh Ringers. See: [www.areaviii.org](http://www.areaviii.org).

*Kipp Willnauer, Topeka Education Chair*





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# Nominees for Chair-Elect

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**For the office of Chair Elect**—a 6-year term, including Chair-Elect, Chair, Past-Chair. Article III, C.3. These are members who have demonstrated participation in Guild events, including workshop and conference attendance, and have demonstrated participation in Area VIII affairs by attending at least one (1) recent Area VIII conference and/or having served a term on their respective state committee.

**Dolan Bayless**, a native of Topeka, Kansas, holds the B.M.—Music Education degree from Washburn University, and the M.M.—Choral Conducting degree from University of Kansas. Since 2006, Dolan has been Director of Traditional Music Ministries and Worship at Kirkwood United Methodist Church. A long standing member of AGEHR, Dolan has served Area IX in various offices, including Chair for two years. He also served as chair of Pinnacle 2002, an AGEHR event, on the Board of Directors for the Greater Houston Handbell Association (GHHA), and as FebFest co-chair.

As a handbell conductor he has led local festivals in Oklahoma and Texas. He has been clinician for workshops at the Texas Conference Choir Clinic, sponsored by the GHHA and Area IX, and in churches throughout Arkansas, Texas, Illinois and Oklahoma. In summer 1999, Dolan was a faculty member for the National Handbell Festival in Tulsa. Dolan was musical director/conductor for Houston Bronze Ensemble, a professional auditioned handbell ensemble, for over five years, taking them on their first tour, recording their first compact disc and performing for Pinnacle. Prior to being named conductor, Dolan was a ringing member.

In the St. Louis area, Dolan rung as a substitute with Gateway Ringers (a community ensemble) and guest conducted a concert with them. Currently he is president of the Choristers Guild St. Louis Chapter, treasurer for the Missouri State AGEHR., and a teacher of handbells in the continuing education department of Meramec Community College. In mid 2009, Dolan organized a group of handbell directors to form the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis, promoting educational and festival handbell events. Also in fall 2009, he formed ReBELLion Ensemble, an auditioned community ensemble.

**Kevin Stewart**, currently serves as the Music and Senior Adult Minister at the First Baptist Church in Lamar, Missouri, where he has served for the past 8 years. Presently, they have four handbell choirs: a 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade choir, a 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grade choir, a high school choir, and an adult choir. First Baptist has just under 50 involved in the bell program. Before serving in Lamar, Kevin was involved with bells in Tonkawa, Oklahoma—his first contact with handbells.

Kevin's music education began in high school and on into college. He has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. His first church position included work with handbells. Kevin turned to Mary Kay Parrish, his theory teacher from OBU for some insights. She took him through handbells 101, 102, 103 and then some! Thus, his involvement with handbells began.

The thing he enjoys most about handbells is that you don't have to have a great deal of talent to make the bells sound great! In Tonkawa, he had a lady from the church ask if she could play bells with us. She said, "I really like music, but I can't sing." Through handbells, she discovered an outlet for her musical desires.

Further involvement with handbells made him realize that some areas of music were not available for his younger choirs. Like many others, he began to arrange and write music for handbells to use with his choirs. Since then, Kevin has been blessed to have several arrangements and songs published! What a joy to contribute to the joy of others in worship and in music through handbells. His hope is that he will be allowed to be involved with handbells for many years to come.



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## Nominees for Secretary

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**For the office of Secretary**—a 2-year term, renewable one (1) term:

**Karen Cadmus** has been ringing for over 30 years (as long as her church has had bells)! She is the only remaining charter member of the group. She also rings in a quintet at church and in the community. She is a retired RN that mostly worked in Doctors' offices. She has two adult kids and four grandchildren, one in Illinois and three in California. She has been married for 45 years to the same man! She has been wanting to get more involved in AGEHR, so is happy to run for Area VIII secretary.

**Emily Worthington** is currently a music director and organist at a church in Iowa where she directs four handbell choirs: two adult groups and two groups for children and youth. She is currently attending Iowa State University as a full-time Ph.D. student in Human Development and Family Studies. She plans on graduating spring 2011 and probably relocating to the West Coast to be closer to family.

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## Nominees for Treasurer

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**For the office of Treasurer**—a 2-year term, renewable one (1) term:

**Kathy Leonard** is currently serving Area VIII as Kansas Chair and is a member of the Topeka 2010 Festival planning team, posts she's held since July 2007. She is director of three bell groups at 1st United Methodist Church, Manhattan, Kansas, where she also rings with the Allegro Ringers, sings with Morning Glory choir, and has served as accompanist for the children/youth vocal choirs for nearly 20 years. Days are spent as an IT Licensing Specialist for Information Technology Services at Kansas State University, where she has worked since 1981. When she is not ringing bells or otherwise at church, she's active in P.E.O., works Kansas State football and basketball games, and loves spending time with her family (husband Evan and daughter Amanda—both ringers, as well), attending the Broadway series at Starlight Theater, and is busy learning to do hand-quilting.

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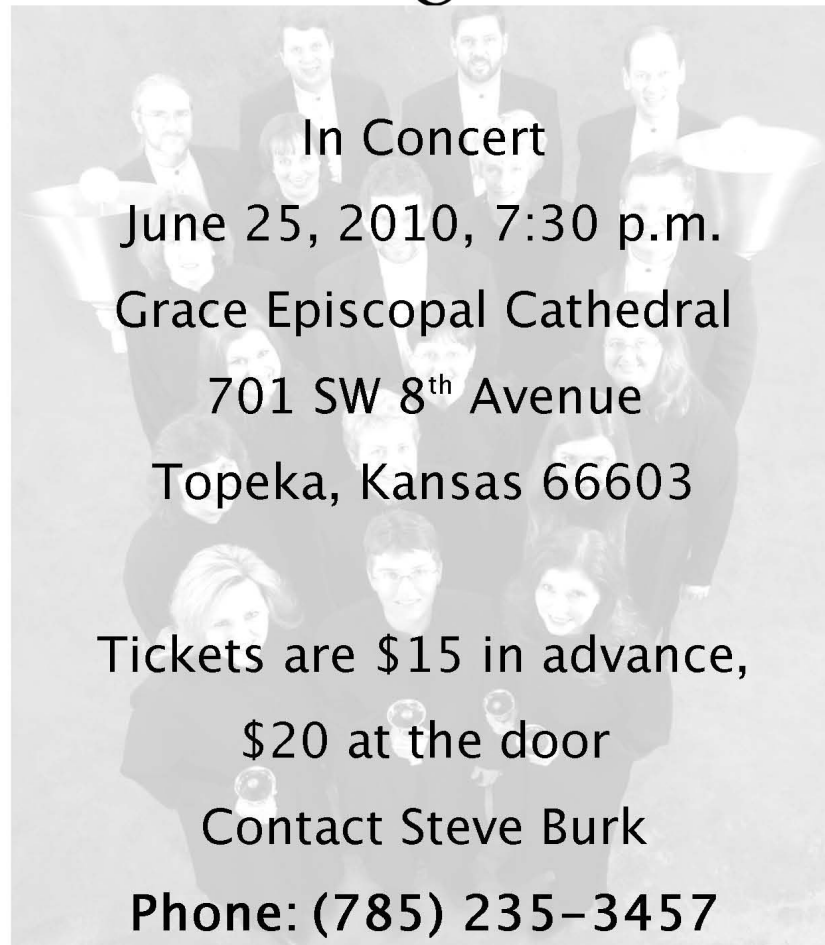
## Topeka Needs

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- Bell and chime sets are needed for classes at "Ringing on the Range", June 24-26, 2010, in Topeka, Kansas.
- Bells will be picked up June 21 or 22, 2010, and returned June 27 or 28, 2010.
- Payment is a one-year membership in AGEHR (or a one-year extension if you are a current member).

If your group is unable to attend the Festival but willing to loan your bells and/or chimes, or know of a choir that is hiding their light under a bushel (or their bells in a closet) and may be willing to loan their bells, PLEASE contact me: Kathy Leonard (785) 313-0598  
[kleonard@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:kleonard@fumcmanhattan.com) See you in Topeka!

# *The Raleigh Ringers*



In Concert

June 25, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Cathedral

701 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Topeka, Kansas 66603

Tickets are \$15 in advance,

\$20 at the door

Contact Steve Burk

Phone: (785) 235-3457

[smburk@gracecathedraltopeka.org](mailto:smburk@gracecathedraltopeka.org)





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# Mary Virginia Magnuson Kettelhut

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Mary Virginia Magnuson Kettelhut was born in Pasadena, California on Friday, June 18, 1915 to Torston A. and Anna M. (Felker) Magnuson. She left this earthly life on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Mary was a member of Bennet Community Church, joining in 1949 and was active in the church Lamplighters Circle. She was the Past President and a lifetime member of the American Guild of Handbell Ringers, and a member of the Bennet American Legion. Mary was also active in the music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota, and played cello with the Lincoln Civic Orchestra. She was a retired teacher and a Navy Veteran.

Family members to cherish and remember her life are:

*Husband:* Harry Kettelhut of Lincoln; *Son and daughter-in-law:* Rodney and Jeri Kettelhut, of El Paso, Texas; *Daughter:* Peggy Jensen of Bennet; *Five grandchildren:* Thane Jensen, Brandi Morton, Valeri Grayson, Christian Kettelhut, Kelly Kettelhut; *Six great-grandchildren:* Rowdy, Yancey, Wyatt, Jacob, Tommy, and Jamie-Lee; *Preceded in death by: parents; brother,* Robert T. Magnuson; *son-in-law,* Alfred "Dewey" Jensen, *grandson,* Ethan Jensen, *great-granddaughter* DeAnne Groves.

Today we have gathered to remember, honor, and celebrate the wonderful life of Mary Kettelhut. In all honesty, there are so many points at which to start when trying to illustrate and accurately describe her long, full life. Mary enjoyed her life and always enjoyed her family. Mary was the older of two children and while she was only three years older than her brother Robert, she felt like she was somewhat responsible for him. In 1936 Mary received her first of many teaching positions and her first salary was \$1700. Then seven years later Mary met Harry Kettelhut at a dance and "it was almost love at first sight,".

Music was a huge, significant part of her entire life. She directed the choir for 17 years. She was most certainly blessed by God with the gift of music.

In 1962 she chose to start something that would become her legacy. The title she chose for chapter 21 in her hand-typed memoirs is "I Became a Ding Dong Director." Well, Mary became much more than that. This was just the beginning of a lifetime of dedication and determination. The first set of handbells was purchased by the church for \$300 and she wrote the music on a big piece of paper. She joined and was quite active in the AGEHR. She started to attend festivals near and far and then took her bell choirs from this congregation and in 1986 she began directing bell choirs at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Lincoln and would take ringers from both churches to festivals. Prior to her additional choirs from St. Paul, she served as the AGEHR president in 1984. She was quite invested in the Area VIII activities, where up to her passing last week was still historian. She and Harry made many trips with many, many youth and adults to ring handbells. She had touched more lives through handbells than through any other way. The handbell tradition that we have here at Bennet Community Church isn't necessarily the congregation's tradition, it's Mary's. She started it all and I recently heard a title for Mary that I think fits her best, "The Mother of Handbells." I only got to see Mary perform handbells once, at the church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but her influence through handbells continues today and will continue throughout the church, the region, and the nation.

Mary was a teacher her whole entire life, whether or not she really wanted to be a 'structure setting' teacher or not. She has taught more people through her experiences and life stories. Mary had a strong faith in God and in the church as a whole. Her faith was deep and true and that goes for any aspect of her life, for Mary Kettelhut would not have done something half-way, it was a full commitment from her, every time. She touched so many lives and a lot



## M. Kettlehut continued

of it through music, from teaching lessons on strings to her great-grandsons to singing in the Lancaster County Chorus; she was always surrounded by music. All of us are called or inspired by God in some way or another; Mary's calling was music and she embraced it and made it her life.

And now hear this quote from Mary herself "Many thanks to all who have helped make my life meaningful and productive, and to the God who has guided me through every day of my life." Well, Mary, today we celebrate and thank you!



Handbell festivals that Mary loved to attend.





# Upcoming Events

2010	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 1 1:00p	Ringer Director Workshop w/ Chicago Bronze 7:00p concert by Chicago Bronze	Barrington UMC 98 Algonquin Rd Barrington, IL	<a href="http://www.chicagobronze.com">www.chicagobronze.com</a> Martha Swanson Martha@chicagobronze.com
Jun 24-26	Area VIII Festival 2010 <i>Ringin' on the Range</i>	Kansas Expocentre Capitol Plaza Hotel Topeka, KS	<a href="http://www.areaviii.org">www.areaviii.org</a> Marilyn Lake 913-302-1010
Jul 18-21	Pinnacle / National Seminar	Gaylord Opryland Nashville, TN	<a href="http://www.agehr.org/events/pinnacle10.asp">www.agehr.org/events/pinnacle10.asp</a> 800-878-5459
Aug 2-7	14th International Symposium	Osaka, Japan	<a href="http://www.agehr.org/events/2010japanSym.asp">www.agehr.org/events/2010japanSym.asp</a> 800-878-5459
Oct 23 9-4	Handbells! Handbells! Handbells! A Ringer's Workshop w/ The Agape Ringers	TBD	Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal <a href="http://www.il-agehr.org">www.il-agehr.org</a>



You have missed the early bird registration deadlines. After April 15th, all registration is now at full price for the *Ringin' on the Range Festival*.

Choir Directors—

Please make sure to submit your festival attendees names with the correct spelling so that we can have name badges made up prior to your arrival. Send names to Cheryl Abney at [cheryl.abney@att.net](mailto:cheryl.abney@att.net)



# Festival Shopping

National and regional vendors are scheduled for the Area Festival. In addition to classes and rehearsals, ringers and directors can choose repertoire, select gifts and souvenirs, consult with representatives of the bell manufacturers, and pick up equipment and supplies for their handbell and handchime choirs. The exhibit hall is open daily, providing ample time for shopping.

Limited booth space is still available for HIC members.

Ad space is also available in the conference book.

Contact Kathy Harrison, exhibit coordinator, at [kathy917@aol.com](mailto:kathy917@aol.com) or 417.888.0089 for more information.



# Upcoming Concerts

2010	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
5/2 3:00p	Concordia Handbell Choirs In Concert	Music Center Recital Hall Concordia University 800 N Columbia Ave Seward, NE	Jessica Kite Jessica.kite@cune.edu 800.535.5494 x 7282
5/2 3:00p	Spring Ring	Manchester UMC 129 Woods Mill Rd Manchester, MO	Sherry Boland 636.200.4733
5/2 7:00p	Benefit Concert for LCC Food Pantry By <i>Chicago Bronze</i>	Lutheran Church of the Cross 2025 Goebbert Rd Arlington Heights, IL	TICKETS REQUIRED www.chicagobronze.com
5/2 7:00p	1st UMC Bell Choirs Spring Concert	1st UMC 612 Poyntz Ave Manhattan, KS	Jody Caldwell motley_jodi@hotmail.com Kathy Leonard 785.776.8821
5/8 7:30p	Rhapsody Ringers At the MAC	Manhattan Arts Center 1520 Poyntz Ave Manhattan, KS	TICKETS REQUIRED Jody Caldwell director@manhattanarts.org 785.537.4420
5/14 7:30p	ReBELLion	Kirkwood UMC 201 W Adams St Louis, MO	Dolan Bayless 314.966.8167 Dolan@kirkwoodumc.org
5/15 7:30p	ReBELLion w/ The Festival Ringers of Church of the Master	Church of the Master UCC 1325 Paddock Dr Florissant, MO	Dolan Bayless 314.966.8167 Dolan@kirkwoodumc.org
5/16 7:00p	The Agape Ringers	Westminster Presbyterian 2821 N Bell School Rd Rockford, IL	Jean Anderson ConcertSeries@ WestminsterRockford.org 815.282.1500
5/23 7:00p	Spring Ring Concert Ringers of 1st UMC	1st UMC Downers Grove, IL	Pattie Barnes 630.953.0146 bellhot@juno.com
6/21 7:30p	The Agape Ringers w/ Jane Holstein & Joel Raney	1st Presbyterian 7551 Quick River Forest, IL	www.agaperingers.org
6/23 7:30p	Raleigh Ringers	Orpheum Theater 200 N Broadway Wichita, KS	TICKETS REQUIRED www.selectaseat.com
7/19 8:30p	Premier Performance at Pinnacle <i>The Agape Ringers</i>	1st Baptist Church 108 7th Ave South Nashville, TN	TICKETS REQUIRED http://agehr.org/pinnacle/ concerts.asp