

# Notes from MASSACHUSETTS



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August - the time to finalize our plans for the new ringing season. For me, that means planning for a five octave ensemble, a small ensemble of four to six ringers, and a beginning chime choir for six and seven year olds. I found some great resources for these groups at the Area 1 Festival/Conference in Hartford CT in June, and exciting ideas to try that I picked up in classes. I feel recharged and eager to work with all my great ringers again.

I also attended the four day Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in St. Louis in July, with other Area 1 friends. There were fabulous clinicians, concerts, and an incredible Handbell Industry room, filled with dozens of booths with handbell resources and merchandise.

Every day, there were two concerts featuring outstanding handbell ensembles. It was exciting to chat or attend classes with so many handbell composers, Kevin McChesney, Cathy Moglebust, Kath Wissenger, Michael Joy, Sandra Eithun, Jason Krug, Emily Li, to name a few. If you want an incredible handbell experience, I would highly recommend attending a National Seminar. Next July it will be in Orlando FL, and in 2021 in Phoenix AZ. Check the [handbellmusicians.org](http://handbellmusicians.org) website for more information on the next Seminar, as well so other great resources.



Meanwhile, don't forget events in Area 1. There will be Skill Building and Holiday Rep. Reading Workshop, at St. Matthew's United Methodists Church, Acton MA on Saturday, September 28. This will be the 6th year that Diane Burke and her Lincoln Ringers, and Sue Lee and the Bells of St. Matthew's co-sponsor this event. The Skill Building classes and the Holiday Rep. Reading will be held simultaneously in the morning this year from 8:30 – 12:30, with two short breaks. During each of the three sessions, ringers and directors will have the opportunity to attend one of the two skill building classes or attend the repertoire reading session in the sanctuary. We are still working on the details, but Diane and Sue are excited about the new format for this year. Watch your email and frequently visit [area1.handbellmusicians.org](http://area1.handbellmusicians.org) for details for more details for this and other fall workshops sponsored by Area1.

I wish you all an exciting beginning to your fall rehearsals. Drop me an email ([ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org)) to let me know when your group will be ringing. I would love to visit your church, hear your handbell ensemble(s) and talk with you.

Happy ringing.

Sue 🎵