

S U M M E R 2 0 1 8



# The Peal

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers



## School's Out!

Well, kinda...not if you're one of the keeners headed to Cairns in August or closer to home to the International Peace Garden (MB) for more "schooling" on all things handbells. Travel safe, learn lots and tell us all about it in the fall!!!



## One final chance to go "down under"

No, it's not too late to reconsider your summer holidays to spend "winter" in Australia! Just over two months to go before the Opening Ceremonies...and to another round of unforgettable memories like the ones from the #TBT photo above – SPECIAL PRIZES to anyone who can find and identify at least 5 Canadians who attended this event and BONUS PRIZE if you know the year...e-mail your answers asap to [peal@algehr.org](mailto:peal@algehr.org)!!!

### Save the Date!

#### Spring Concerts

June 2018

Catch the last few performances near you! (p.15)

#### IMC

July 8 - 14, 2018

International Music Camp Handbell sessions  
[IMC Bells](#)

#### IHS Cairns

Aug 6 - 11, 2018

Cheer on Albertan-Canadian massed conductor, Camille Ream! (p.5)

## Presidential Ponderings

Hello ALGEHR members!

I do hope that this *Peal* finds you enjoying the spring weather and the Spring Music season!

It's not too early to tell you all about *Borealis Bell Ringing*. This is the name of this year's Handbell Discovery Event. It will take place on the October 13, 2018 weekend in *Fort McMurray!* **Please consider attending. ALGEHR is dedicated to encouraging the bell community in this city after the devastating fire they suffered through. Show your support!**

Organizer Cathy Larson and her team have been working hard to offer an interesting program for all types of participants; teachers, directors, beginning and advanced ringers, and students. Plan to register ([www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org)) in June to get the early bird prices. *IF enough participants are interested in going up together, we will coordinate that by booking a bus, or putting members in touch with others who are looking to share driving.*

We have already had many Alberta Bell Choirs/Teams share their talents and hard work in their Spring Concerts. I had the pleasure of attending *Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia* concert in April, and thoroughly enjoyed their program. I encourage you to make the effort to hear bell teams in your area, and where possible, use the concert as a reason for a road trip. It's ALWAYS worth it!

If you have concert dates that you want to share with ALGEHR, please let us know. Our Facebook page can be used for this news, as well as our website. AND, I'm proud to announce that we are now on Instagram!!! (And so is your President!) Follow us @albertaringers and be the first to know about everything!

Also, as you may have noticed, our website has been gradually brought up to date by our new website guru and ALGEHR member, Jim Winslett. We thank Jim for his hard work!

If you notice that the information about your choir/team needs correcting, or if your group is missing from the list, please let us know. We are looking to update our picture gallery as well. Send your information to [president@algehr.org](mailto:president@algehr.org). I'll be sure to get it to the right place!

Cheers All!

Anne

President, ALGEHR

P.S. This is me channeling my best Drew Barrymore as Joanne Wong and I re-enact a scene from "E.T."





## *Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia comes to Grande Prairie*

On Saturday, April 27, 2018, *Jubiloso!* came to perform their *Bells of the Silver Screen* to an enthusiastic crowd at St. Paul's United Church. It was a WOW performance as Conductor Debbie Rice led us through well known music from film classics to some new and unusual film pieces. In all, it was a musical treat for our ears! From the first opening notes, audience members described that they had shivers, the music was so delightful to both listen and watch. Awe-inspiring. Unique. Magnificent big bells and tall chimes. Magical in how it all came together.

We were also impressed with the fellowship and dedication of our guest musicians. The *Bells of St. Paul's* brought a pot luck supper which we shared with *Jubiloso!* and it was so wonderful to be able to chat and share aspects of bell ringing and performance. Our beginner bell group was as inspired as our Senior bell ensemble. The setting informal, yet the conversation rich and beautifully shared. The meal together was certainly a highlight. The church members billeted some of the choir and the billetees were the first to ask, "When are they coming back?"

We were also gifted with *Jubiloso!'s* music during the Sunday morning Church Service at St. Paul's. There was a bell solo by Emmy and several pieces by *Jubiloso!*, reminding us again how lucky we were to have them in our midst, sharing their gifts of music. Our United Church Women (UCW) provided a lunch for them, to send them on their long way back to Edmonton, with some nourishment, and our thanks and good wishes.

"When will you be back?" asked the bell ringers of St. Paul's, echoed the congregation and the community of Grande Prairie. Please come again!



~ Jeannette Borstad, Director, St. Paul's



# RING IT ON

By Joanne Wang



## An interview with Camille Ream, Canadian Conductor for IHS 2018 in Cairns, Australia

**Could you tell us a bit about yourself and how you became involved in handbells?** The first time that I was rang handbells was in Josephburg with Alison Wood. My sister, Susan Galloway, had organized a “learn to ring” workshop there and invited me to join them. I had been involved with music all of my life and has no idea what handbells were but agreed to attend – Susan told me that I would love them! Alison taught us all about ringing and we were able to share in worship the next day Cynthia Dobrinski’s “Aria”. After that experience, I was hooked on handbells! I attended some sessions with Kay Cook in Olds and then joined Bronze Harmony under the direction of Fred Merrett. Soon after that, I directed the bells at St. Albert United and Handbells etc and JUBILOSO! Bells of Concordia started. I now direct Resounding Joy at First United Church in Fort Saskatchewan.

**You will be conducting the Canadian piece “Creator of Light (Aurora Borealis)” by Erwin Stroobach) in Cairns. What can ringers expect with this piece?** I am honored to direct this original Canadian handbell composition at the International Handbell Symposium in Cairnes, Australia. Original handbell compositions are my favourite to direct. The *Aurora Borealis* (also known as the Northern Lights in Canada) is one of the most beautiful, magical scenes that we can see in the sky in Canada. From my front step on a clear day, often in September, I can see this light display dancing across the sky. My hope is that both the audience and ringers can experience this light phenomena through the ethereal music of Erwin Stoochbach.

**What are you most looking forward to at the Symposium? Any advice for first-time Symposium attendees?** I am excited to experience another International Handbell Symposium. This event truly confirms that music is an international language that everyone understands. An added bonus is that I have never been to Australia and so will be able to experience it through handbell music! My advice for first-time attendees is to try to experience everything you can in the symposium no matter how tired you are! Come with the music well prepared so that you can focus with other ringers on making the music rather than learning the notes.

**What is your favourite colour?** My favourite colour has always been blue! I love all shades of it (you can tell from my home, wardrobe, scrapbooking and quilting).

**What is your biggest fear?** I have tried my best to get rid of my “fears” but have only been partly successful. I used to have a fear of public speaking but have conquered that out of necessity – I need to do some lecturing with my nursing role at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital. My husband thinks I am still quite fearful of heights but I have been working hard to overcome that and even went ziplining a few years ago. I still have a fear of cats that no matter what I do, it doesn’t go away – if a cat is near me, I say I am allergic (which is not true) and then stand up and walk away. I generally don’t go to people’s homes if they have cats.

**What was your favourite hobby in high school?** Making music was my favourite thing to do in high school – it really kept me out of trouble! I played the organ/piano for worship – we had a “band” complete with drums and guitars that I loved to play with! I played bass clarinet in the high school band as well as in a clarinet choir. I played piano for stage band. I taught piano lessons to young children.

~ Anke Kelker, ALGEHR Director

## Ring & Sing 2018 ~ Calgary

The fourth annual Ring and Sing Youth Festival took place in Calgary in March, 2018. This event was Co-Sponsored by ALGEHR and the Calgary Catholic School District, and was organized by ALGEHR President Anne Hergott and CCSD Fine Arts Consultants Andreas Berko and Holly Schile.

The Ring and Sing took place over two days, at two different host schools. We thank teacher Carol Kriwokon and staff at Our Lady of Fatima School, and teacher Karen Schweighardt and staff at St. Philip's Fine Art School for agreeing to host these two successful events. The massed music "Walk the Walk" (by Kathleen Wissinger) was a terrific musical vehicle to showcase both bells and singing.

This year's adjudicators, Deb Finkleman (Handbells) and Andrea Ciona (Voice), were excellent. They both shared their expertise and joy of music through their thorough adjudications, in the workshop settings and during the massed ringing rehearsal and performance.

(The photo shows only the first day of the Ring and Sing, and adjudicators Andrea Ciona and Deb Finkleman sitting)



## Stan Morris Excellence in Teaching Award

Stan Morris was committed to developing handbell artistry and instilling the joy of music making in his students. In its first year, the *Stan Morrow Excellence in Teaching Award* has been presented to music teacher, Glenda Pickering of École Campbelltown in Sherwood Park. Glenda continues to be one of Alberta's most faithful supporters of handbells in schools and presented a workshop on the topic at the *17<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium in Vancouver* in 2016. She strives to provide meaningful interactions and significant exposure to handbells for her students through the hosting of [Youth Festivals](#) and arranging for special guests, such as *Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia* to do community outreach with them. Glenda epitomizes the excellence that Stan Morris worked so hard to achieve himself and we are confident he would have approved of the ALGEHR Board's decision. Glenda will receive a \$150 award, a free one-year ALGEHR membership, and the opportunity to lead a workshop at our next Discovery in Fort McMurray on October 13, 2018! Congratulations, Glenda and thank you for all you do for your students!!



## *Exploring Handbells ~ a new teachers' resource!*

Are you, a director or teacher, new to ringing and leading handbells? In addition to being familiar with the music world, there are many things to consider. An ensemble of handbells is considered to be one instrument, not a group of instruments although there are several handbells in an ensemble, just as there are many strings in a piano. The best way to learn about this instrument is to check out resources and/or join a handbell group and become acquainted with a handbell guild in your area. There are always many handbell ringers and directors who would be happy to help you out.

There are several very good resources available, the newest being *Exploring Handbells* which is hot off the press. It contains a wealth of information about handbells and handchimes. *Exploring Handbells* will give directors, teachers and ringers an opportunity to experience several techniques for handbells and handchimes. The original compositions in this book were written specifically as a way to practice and explore each technique before combining them with other handbell techniques. Each piece is playable on handchimes, although some techniques do not apply to handchimes.

The music in this collection, all at level 1 - 2, is written for two and three octave ringing ensembles as this is where most ringers begin. Two and three octaves are most frequently found in schools and some community and church groups. Four and five octave ensembles are often used in intermediate to more advanced ensembles such as high schools, universities, and community and faith-based groups, while six and seven octave ensembles are used by advanced groups.

The music in this book has no tempo marking so that the director can choose a tempo that best works for him/her. These pieces were created as partner pieces, e.g. *Popcorn* and *Salty Popcorn*. They are based on the same music, but written in different keys to enable the best result for an individual two octave and three octave ensemble.

The handbell/handchime techniques that are addressed in *Exploring Handbells* are Ring/Damp, Vibrato, Let Vibrate, Shakes, Staccato (3 techniques), Martellato, and Tower Swing. There is also music that combines these techniques.

A handbell ensemble will develop an incredible sense of teamwork. Since each ringer contributes his/her individual notes, there are no "stars". All have equal roles and strive for the common goal of producing music to the best of their ability. In a handbell ensemble, every individual is an integral part of the team. As well, it has been widely documented that learning and expressing music has a profound affect on all aspects of learning and personal growth. Learning, studying and participating in music reinforces literacy, numerical, problem solving and social skills. For this reason, handbell ensembles are particularly beneficial for students and in fact all ages.

Enjoy making music and learning together. This is the beauty of ringing handbells and handchimes.



~ Betty Radford, Composer & Author "Enjoying Handbells"

## Ten Things You Didn't Know About Betty Radford...

We may all know or have heard of Betty Radford, the not-so-retired music teacher, who continues to make her mark and keep busy in the handbell world through ringing with *Robertson-Wesley Ringers* and *Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia*, composing all kinds of different handbell repertoire from simple teaching pieces to quartets to full ensembles, and even writing the Canadian Massed Ringing composition, "So Glorious and Free" for the 2016 International Handbell Symposium in Vancouver!

But here's betting (sorry for the pun) there might be a few things you don't know about her. Take a few minutes to read on and to get to know Betty a little better....(ok I will shut up!)

1. What is your favourite colour?

Red, Yellow, Turquoise, any bright colour.

2. Other than music, what hobbies do you have?

In the summer I like to go biking almost everyday.

3. Do you have any favourite pets?

I've always liked dogs, but I've also had canaries and budgies.

4. Where do you like to travel the most?

I've travelled a lot, but I think Holland and Belgium are my favourite places, probably because that's where my family's roots are. My Mom is from Holland and my Dad is from Belgium.

5. What is your favourite food?

That would have to be either Italian or Greek with lots of cheese! (But notice she didn't say Dutch!?) And my least favourite food would be anything mushy (ie. don't feed Betty porridge!)

6. What was your first job?

Besides giving piano lessons, I worked at a summer camp in Fort Qu'Appelle.

7. What was your worst job?

I once sold pantyhose at Sears. I guess I didn't get along with my boss. I lasted one month!

8. What was your favourite subject at school?

Math. (What? It wasn't music?)

9. What book have you read recently?

"Bishop's Man" by Linden MacIntyre.

10. What would be your dream holiday?

Maybe Amsterdam for the Rikjismuseum, the Smithsonian or the NY Museum of Art.



## *Jubellation ~ Three Hills*

JUBELLATION concluded the 2017-18 season by presenting two concerts on Sunday, May 6. We complimented the programs with two packages of piano music and opened and closed the program with 2 vocal solos by a gifted soprano soloist. The first concert was at the Extended Care Centre in the Drumheller Medical Centre. A wonderful group of about 35 residents was brought to the Chapel. The second performance was Sunday afternoon at the CHATEAU in Three Hills. The audience included friends from the community along with Chateau residents. It was rewarding to hear the many appreciative comments for having a musical program presented to them. And, of course, listeners were intrigued by the varied techniques of handbell ringing than were used in the arrangements. A beautiful day for travel gave the perfect benediction to a day of music making and bringing joy to others.

~ Rhoda Murray, ALGEHR Director



## **Symposium Endowment Fund (SEF) Grant**

This year, the ALGEHR Board awarded \$500 to each of the following applicants chosen to receive a SEF grant:

- Bell Époque* (Calgary) ~ To help start new adult group ringing out of the Anglican Good Shepherd Church in Calgary
- Chi-Rho Ringers* (Lethbridge)~ To help with the cost of 4 members attending the International Music Camp handbell workshop in the summer in North Dakota
- Jubellation Choir* (Three Hills)~ To help with their 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Huntington Hills Pioneers Bells Angels* (Calgary) ~ To purchase Malmark Chimes

***Congratulations to all ensembles and all the best in your endeavours!***

## **Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions**

The ALGEHR Board is pleased to announce the following winners of the Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions:

- Category A (2-3 oct, Level 1-2+) ~ “Holiday Jingle” by Betty Radford
- Category B (3-5 oct, Level 1-2+) ~ No award
- Category C (any # of oct, Level 3-6) ~ “Beyond the Horizon” by Betty Radford

***Congratulations to all composers who submitted their work and thank you for contributing to the growth and development of handbell repertoire in Alberta!***

## In Memoriam ~ Remembering Rufus Aug 24, 1924 – March 26, 2018

Our dear friend, faithful champion of handbells, and ALGEHR Life Member, Rufus Schellenberg, passed away March 26, 2018 at the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton. A teacher from the age of 16, he was dedicated to this profession for 46 years, first in Manitoba and then in Alberta. Although not technically a “music teacher”, he was always interested in music and bought his own bells in 1979 as he was curious about what one could do with this fascinating instrument. As a junior high school teacher at the time, he recruited his own kids (including Carol Schellenberg Bergum), friends and kids from his school to play. He formed *Bellmount Bronze*, a community choir that practised in his basement. As the years passed, this choir evolved into different forms, an intergenerational group and finally a seniors’ ensemble. They performed throughout the Olds community, at weddings, churches, local events including the annual Old’s Fashioned Christmas (often outdoors in -25°C!) with flashlights to light up the scores!

Rufus attended the first handbell workshop where the possibility of a provincial Guild was discussed along with fellow “fathers” John Nelson Sr and Stan Morris. Rufus served on the first ALGEHR Board and was responsible for pushing through all the paperwork to get the Guild officially in place and registered. As well, he helped coordinate the Guild’s handbell festival in Olds. A life-long musician, he continued to play solos for his own enjoyment into he was in his 90s.

His daughter, Carol Bergum inherited her love of bells from Rufus, going on to become ALGEHR’s third President and long-time *Peal* Editor, and currently directs *Highlands United Church Choir* in Edmonton.

Rufus worked tirelessly for the Guild and for his ringers, but always did so in his quiet and unassuming way. Anyone who knew him would remember him as a kind, gentle soul, with a solid reputation as a great teacher, but someone who was just happy being at home in Olds with his family. He is no doubt now discussing the best ways to maintain bells in pristine shape with John Nelson Sr.

We will miss you, Rufus.



## Handbell Music Reviews

### **Trinity Fanfare**

By Guebert  
345 octaves  
Level 2-

This beginner handbell piece is exciting and grand! All ringers are busy throughout with full chords and some wonderful places for dynamics and musicality. I would recommend this piece be considered for one of the youth festivals in your area.

### **How Great Thou Art with Majesty**

Arr Raney  
345 octaves with piano  
Level 2

Joel Raney always does a wonderful handbells arrangements with piano. This brings two tunes together that help us to know how great our God is. The addition of the piano adds texture and depth to the arrangement. We have a new accompanist at our church who is very eager to play piano with the bells so I know she would love to play this arrangement with the handbells. As it is level 2 piece, we can likely have it ready for the last Sunday in September!

### **Festival Celebration**

By Helman  
3456 octaves opt Choirchimes®  
Level 2+

Are you looking for something exciting for start a concert or worship service? This original composition has something for everyone! The energetic beginning gets the audience listening, then the expressive section let them listen to the beautiful flowing melody, then we add some Choirchimes®, then mallets and energy and a fortissimo finale!

### **Danse Festiva**

By McKlveen  
345 octaves  
Level 3-

Another exciting piece! It is written at 132 but could work really well a little faster...It is filled with lots of techniques and variety to keep both the ringer and listener engaged.

### **Mixolydian Madness (Predominant Praise)**

By Mallory  
2345 octaves opt Choirchimes® and percussion  
Level 3-

This piece is written using a slightly different scale than we are used to hearing – sounding almost minor, but not quite ☺! It is written in the mixolydian modes of A, F, D. There is all kinds of energy and wonderful harmonies to listen to. Add some percussion, and you have an amazing piece!

### **Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella**

Arr. lamb

23 or 345 octaves

Level 3

I am always looking for slightly different Christmas Carol arrangement to ring – especially one that is not included in the hymnary or one that you don't hear on the radio all the time. This one is one of those ones – and it also gives ringers a chance to ring in a 3/8 time signature and for directors a chance to direct in 3/8!

### **Glad Adoration**

By Guebert

34567 octaves

Level 4

The energetic pealing of bells is the start to this piece just before the Lobe De Herron tune comes in. This is the perfect piece to stretch your level 3 ringers!

~ Camille Ream

## **ApPEALs from your Board ~ Can you Help?**

### **ALGEHR ARCHIVES**

*Are you a hoarder?* Do you have a box of "stuff" that you are hoping to go through one day?

ALGEHR is trying to gather materials that we can collate and store as our archives.

We are looking for past meeting minutes, AGM reports, Discovery Concert programs and past copies of the PEAL. If you have anything that you think might be helpful please get in touch with Fiona at: [pastpres@algehr.org](mailto:pastpres@algehr.org)

Also if you have any contacts with facilities that host archives please pass the information on so that we can investigate setting up an official ALGEHR archive.

### **PHOTOS FOR WEBSITE GALLERY**

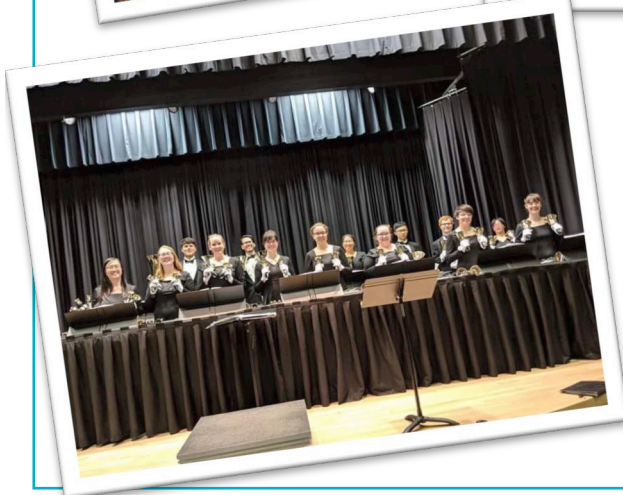
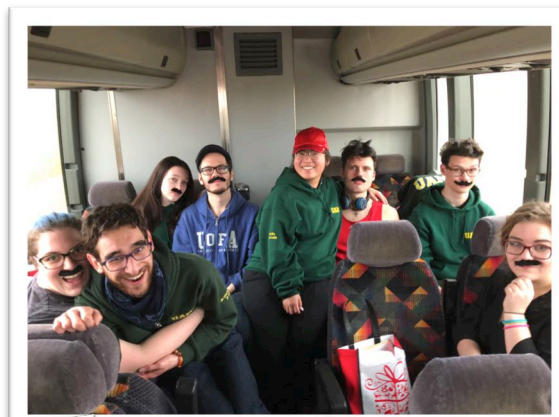
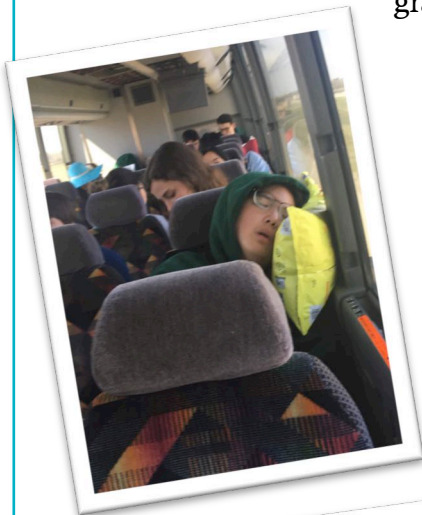
*Are you a shutterbug?* We are desperately looking for photos from various ALGEHR/ALGEHR-sponsored events where you might have snapped some great shots of folks enjoying themselves. If this sounds like you, please send them to [president@algehr.org](mailto:president@algehr.org) as we continue the revamp of our website. It was be wonderful to fill the gallery pages of our website with memories captured from all times in ALGEHR's history.

## UAMC Tour 2018

On April 28, 2018, 47 members of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus piled into two tour buses and hit the road for the 74th Annual Spring Tour. Amongst the 47 were fourteen handbell ringers of the University of Alberta Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers. The nine day tour brought them to Cardston, AB; Cranbrook, BC; Nelson, BC; Oliver, BC; Vancouver, BC; Kamloops, BC; Banff, AB; and Drayton Valley, AB.

The handbell ringers performed "Variations on Madrid" (arr. Michael Helman), "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba" (arr. William Griffin), "What a Wonderful World" (arr. Sandra Eithun), "Chatanooga Choo Choo" (arr. Valerie Stephenson) and "" (arr. Robert de Frece). The last song was performed together with the choir and was a very appropriate choice for this year's repertoire since it is the 30th anniversary of these wild bells.

"Going on tour with the Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers is so different from any other handbell tour I've been on," said Joanne Wong, a fourth year student. "We bring all our bells and tables with us and we're in a different town or city every night. It's exhausting! We only get one night in a hotel, so we bring air mattresses and sleeping bags with us for when we spend the night in community halls. It's almost like urban camping!" On her favourite part of going on tour, "definitely getting to know the choristers and ringers much better since we're spending 9 full days together, instead of the hour and a half that we see each other every week." She says the hardest part of going on tour is the final concert, "we sing *God Be With You Til We Meet Again* at the end of the final concert and a lot of us start tearing up because this is the last time we'll see each other until next school year, and for those who are graduating, we never know when we might see them again."



# Bell Époque

*in concert*

*Bell Époque* is a new Community Handbell Team formed this past January. This adult bell choir will present varied and fun repertoire featuring music both traditional and modern, from classical to rock, and will showcase the many opportunities and techniques this glorious instrument offers.



**The Church of the Good Shepherd**

408 38th Street SW, Calgary AB

Monday, June 11, 7:30 pm

*Admission by donation.*

**BE**

*Directed by*

Anne Hergott  
Jim Winslett

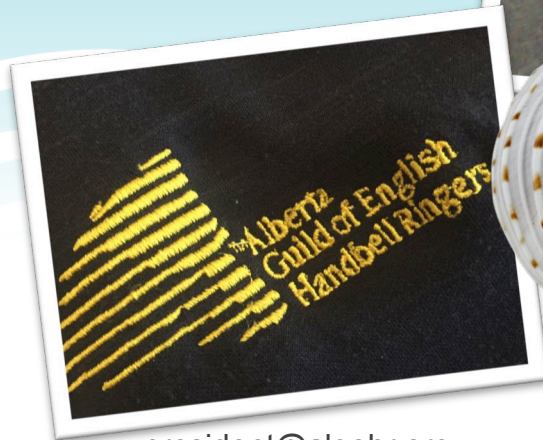
## Editor's Encore

Wow – so much is happening across AB! Hope you enjoy all the wonderful stories in this edition and many thanks to all who contributed. It is exciting to hear about all the brand new AB schools that have purchased bells/chimes for their programs – here's to the next generation of youth ringers! And if you're interested in scooping up a snazzy Guild jacket like your Board members, check out the beautiful logo that is part of it! Get yours at Discovery 2018 in Fort Mac!

*Photo credits: Jeannette Borstad, Anne Hergott, Rhoda Murray, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin*



**Happy  
Summer!**



## Contact your Board!

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Susan Galloway	Education	<a href="mailto:education@algehr.org">education@algehr.org</a>
Anke Kelker	SEF Grant	<a href="mailto:sefgrant@algehr.org">sefgrant@algehr.org</a>
Jim Winslett	Website	<a href="mailto:web@algehr.org">web@algehr.org</a>
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Peal/Social	<a href="mailto:peal@algehr.org">peal@algehr.org</a> / <a href="mailto:social@algehr.org">social@algehr.org</a>
Fiona Miller	Past-president	<a href="mailto:pastpres@algehr.org">pastpres@algehr.org</a>
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**Next Peal deadline!! August 15, 2018 ~ Please send me your submissions by this date!!!**