



THE AGAPE RINGERS NEWSROOM

SPRING 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

KIM AHLGRIM-HEINE

TABLE OF CONTENTS		2015 – resolutions, new music, winter activities, hot chocolate. For us, besides holidays with family and friends, this winter means:
President's Corner	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The joy of another wonderful <i>Sounds of the Season</i> show. We hope you were able to join us on December 13, where we welcomed Rosewooden Carols. Such a fun time!
Tour, Teach, and Perform—2015	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our annual Ring-In/Retreat – January 9-10 – our first chance to see the music David has carefully chosen for our concert repertoire for the coming season.
<i>Sounds of the Season</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping our beloved fellow ringer, Debbie Perisho, in our hearts and minds. We have established a memorial fund in Debbie's name. We will use those funds to commission a new piece of handbell music in Debbie's name, and perhaps to fund some of our ongoing projects that Debbie was passionate about. To donate, you may visit our website and click on her memorial page, or contact any of us.
Remembering Debbie	3	
Upcoming Concerts	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Linda onto our Executive Committee. She has stepped into the role of interim treasurer very graciously and capably. • Anticipating some wonderful opportunities to share with audiences further afield, with concerts and workshops planned for downstate Illinois, Nebraska, and Massachusetts, besides “here in our own backyard.” • And, how can three years go by so quickly? It was fall of 2012 when we held our last audition cycle. Unbelievably, this means ringer auditions will be held in ten short months! If you, or someone you know is an advanced ringer who would be interested in auditioning for our dynamic, enthusiastic group, be sure to contact us for more information.

As always, none of this would be possible without **you**. Your support in ways big and little – through attending our concerts, our workshops, and supporting us financially through our Friends of Agape program – leads us to continually strive for the best we can be. 2015 blessings to you.

Kim Ahlgrim-Heine

TOUR, TEACH, AND PERFORM—2015

SHARON SCHMIDT

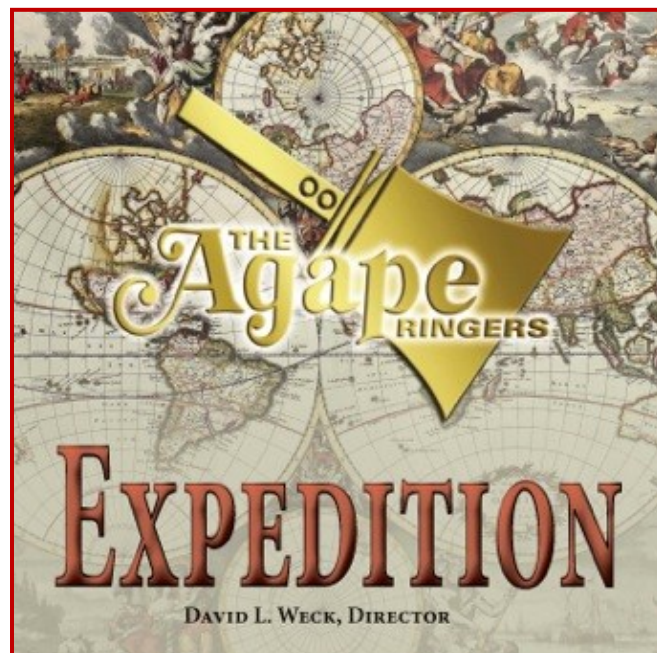
The teaching component of our mission is highlighted in 2015. In February, we're pleased to team up with Illinois Handbell Musicians of America for the 30th time – offering a workshop in Cary, IL. You can register at <https://2015hhhworkshop.eventbrite.com>.

Three of our teaching engagements take us beyond Chicagoland. In March, we'll be heading to Peoria, IL, to perform and teach at the Illinois Great Rivers Conference chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. April takes us to Lincoln, NE, for a workshop and concert for the Nebraska State Committee of Handbell Musicians of America. And in June, we're traveling to Amherst, MA, to perform at the Area 1 Festival Conference, where David will be conducting and several of us will teach.

While it's not far from home, we're also excited to be performing with Joel Raney and Jane Holstein at the United Church of Christ Musicians Association Conference in Elmhurst in July. One of our board members, Michael Surratt, is a conference organizer, David will be leading the conference bell choir with Joel Raney, and Sharon and KC will be teaching. These appearances at denominational conferences are a wonderful way for us to introduce our music and mission to new audiences.

Of these concerts, only the Lincoln, NE, performance is open to the public, so if you know anyone in Lincoln, let them know we'll be performing on April 11, 2015, at 7pm at St Mark's UMC, 8550 Pioneer Blvd.

As always, we look forward to our next *Sounds of the Season*. Mark your calendars for Dec. 12, 2015, watch for updates on our guest artists, and consider who you can invite to share the afternoon with you – your invitation can open up a new musical experience to someone who's never heard us before!



NOW On Sale—Expedition. Get your copy at our next concert or visit www.AgapeRingers.org

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

LINDA LUNT

Thank you to everyone who came out for *Sounds of the Season* 2014. It was great to collaborate on so many pieces with our guest artist, **Rosewooden Carols**. They brought with them so many instruments that for the first time ever, we had our equipment packed away BEFORE our guest did! One of our most fun pieces to play was *Wizards in Winter*. If you missed it, you can find it on our youtube channel (www.youtube.com/user/agaperingers).

Be sure to save the date for *Sounds of the Season* 2015! December 12, 2015!

REMEMBERING DEBBIE PERISHO

SARAH WARD



For those who joined us at this year's *Sounds of the Season*, you heard David speak about Debbie Perisho. Debbie was a member of The Agape Ringers for 13 years and was planning on performing on the concert this past December. Debbie unexpectedly passed away on December 6.

If you never had a chance to meet Debbie, let us tell you a little about Debbie. Debbie was a wife, a teacher, a friend, an accompanist, and seamstress. As a member of Agape, Debbie served as Treasurer, Secretary, and on the wardrobe committee. Most recently, Debbie worked with a company and helped design the current Agape wardrobe. I think everyone in Agape will agree that these are our BEST outfits to-date. Debbie also had the challenging situation of making sure our two pregnant ringers could fit into their concert jackets and still look wonderful while ringing!

Within Agape, Debbie was known for her extreme organizational skills. Debbie coded all our cases to help make our loading more efficient, and streamlined the process. For each tour, she made sure every member had color-coded luggage tags (white = concert attire; purples/yellow = personal luggage). And, she could also always tell you how many cases we had and the value!

The last few years, Debbie served as Kurt's accompanist. In her humble demeanor, she would continually ask Kurt if he wouldn't rather have someone else accompany him. She was always working to make sure she was the best musician she could be.

I know all of us will miss Debbie's smile the most. For those who didn't know, Debbie received her "smiling training" as the head majorette at Purdue University. At a recent Agape concert on our tour in Arkansas, a guest came up to David and wanted to make sure he knew that Debbie has the most beautiful smile...and we couldn't agree more.

Debbie will be greatly missed by her Agape family but we will always remember her. For most of us, the last time we saw Debbie was on her birthday. As she was about ready to leave, we all sang happy birthday to her. It is a memory we will all cherish.

Connect with us on Facebook and YouTube!

2015 Auditions

As Kim mentioned, Agape will be holding auditions in November for the 2016—2018 concert seasons. If you are interested in joining The Agape Ringers or know someone that is interested in joining, please visit our website (www.AgapeRingers.org) for more information. In addition, please join us at one of our concerts and speak to one of the ringers for more information.

We are on the web! www.AgapeRingers.org

Like us on Facebook

THE AGAPE RINGERS



c/o Hope Publishing
380 S Main Place
Carol Stream, IL 60188
David L. Weck
800-323-1049 x120
dweck@AgapeRingers.org



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Go **GREEN!** If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically in the future, please send an e-mail to kurt.mockenhaupt@AgapeRingers.org with your name and e-mail address, or visit our website www.AgapeRingers.org. Thank you for doing your part to save our natural resources!

UPCOMING CONCERTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION/ADDRESS	TICKET INFORMATION
2/21/15	9: 00AM	Holy Cross Lutheran Cross 2107 3 Oaks Road, Cary IL	Workshop Visit Area 8 website for more info http://www.il-agehr.org/
2/22/15	4:00 PM	St John United Church of Christ 308 N Evergreen Ave, Arlington Heights, IL	Free Will Offering
3/14/15		First United Methodist Church 116 NE Perry Ave, Peoria, IL	Registration is REQUIRED. http://igrcfellowshipchapte.wix.com/fummwa#!upcoming-events/c24jx
4/11/15	9:00 AM	St Mark's UMC 8550 Pioneer Blvd, Lincoln, NE	Workshop Registration required—visit www.agehr-ne.org
4/11/15	7:00 PM	St Mark's UMC 8550 Pioneer Blvd, Lincoln, NE	Concert Open to the public
5/17/15	4:00 PM	LaGrange Bible Church 850 S 7th Ave, LaGrange, Illinois	www.lagrangebible.org
6/25/15	7:00 PM	Handbell Musicians of America Area I Festival Concert open to festival participants ONLY	Register at http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference/
7/13/15	7:30 PM	UCC Musicians Association Conference Concert open to festival participants ONLY	Register at http://www.uccma.org/