

# THE AGAPE RINGERS NEWSROOM

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER KIM AHLGRIM-HEINE

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		See you at the next concert! We look forward to chatting with you after each and every concert.		

Kim Ahlgrim-Heine

## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

#### LINDA LUNT

Christmas is in the air! We just finished playing a Christmas in July gig for an annual convention of people who collect Christmas antiques. So that put us in the mood to start planning our *Sounds of the Season* 2014! For many of our fans, this annual event is a must-see. Our guest artist is Rosewooden Carols – A Marimba Quartet. You can hear this wonderful group by searching on YouTube. It is always interesting to incorporate a guest artist and blend together the various sounds of their instrument and ours.

If you've never seen our *Sounds of the Season* show, this is a big production! We have lighting, professional narration, Christmas decorations, a guest artist, and of course lots and lots of handbells. David always does a fantastic job of choosing interesting and current, as well as traditional, arrangements of carols and other seasonal pieces. Remember to purchase tickets early and save! Tickets go on sale in mid-September. Check our website or Facebook for details.

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### TALES OF 2014 - SUMMER TOUR AND MORE!

SHARON SCHMIDT

2014 has been a busy year for The Agape Ringers, as usual. In January, we welcomed Ben Sizemore, son of ringer Carolyn Sizemore and her husband Danny. Ben was born right on schedule, and Carolyn was back with us for the March concert. The newlyweds, Andrew and Stephanie, purchased a new house in May after their apartment was damaged in a neighboring fire in late February. Linda traveled the country visiting colleges as her son graduated in May. Some of us lost loved ones, traveled, changed jobs, had health concerns, or ran their first half-marathon. And it is only August...

Our southern summer tour to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee was fun and rewarding. For the first time, we took a bus rather than our usual complement of mini-vans and truck. The opportunity to sleep rather than drive and for the entire group to be together certainly were pluses! Our four concert hosts were gracious and generous and the audiences were curious and appreciative - the question and answer time at our Little Rock concert was at least 15 minutes. We had plenty of time for sight–seeing in Little Rock and Memphis, and you can see more pictures on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/agaperingers).



The Agape Ringers standing by the tour bus



The Agape Ringers at Grand Falls

A mere four days after tour ended, five of us headed west to Davenport, Iowa, for the Handbell Musicians of America Area 8 Festival Conference. Serving as organizers and teachers, we enjoyed working with and meeting ringers from the five-state area, as well as hearing concerts from many ensembles.

Our final summer activity was a performance at the national convention of The Golden Glow of Christmas Past – a group of collectors who focus on pre-1966 holiday items. The Agape Ringers performed for a room full of Santas, Elves, Reindeer, and almost 600 Christmas enthusiasts at the opening of the their annual convention on July 23. Agape played a selection of Christmas favorites and at the end, we got a large contribution from one of the gentlemen with a long white beard.



After a brief August break, we'll be back making music in September. We look forward to seeing you at concerts in the fall and at *Sounds of the Season* in December!

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#### FRIENDS OF AGAPE sarah ward

As mentioned, this past summer The Agape Ringers received a generous donation through our Friends of Agape program. We were extremely grateful and excited about this donation as it allowed us the opportunity to rent a coach bus for our 2014 summer tour. In past years, we have rented three to four mini-vans in addition to a cargo truck for our equipment. The planning and navigating of four vehicles can be exhausting, so when given the opportunity for everyone be in the same vehicle, we jumped. We were able to enjoy each other's company, jokes (good and bad), and still get plenty of rest.

Our tour this summer was a wonderful opportunity that gave us all the chance to share our gifts with other people, and we are extremely grateful. However, as you know the planning never stops and we are already thinking about the future. We are already in

the midst of planning our 2016 tour (in addition, to the 2015 mini-tours already planned...see inset), we have new CDs to be released in 2015 AND 2016, ongoing equipment maintenance and now truck maintenance (including a new paint job), etc...and all this costs money.

As you are planning for your budget, we hope you consider helping support The Agape Ringers by making a small monetary contribution. We are looking to plan another Friends of Agape event in 2015 and hope to see you there. You can visit our website for more information on how to make a donation (www.AgapeRingers.org) or send an e-mail to <u>agapemarketing92@gmail.com</u> to request additional information.



The Agape Ringers and 2012 Friends of Agape

If you are unable to make a donation, please note that there are other ways to help support The Agape Ringers. First, as you may know, The Agape Ringers is

recognized as a Non-Profit organization. As such, it is possible to donate to The Agape Ringers through **The United Way**. Many employers have an annual drive for donations to The United Way. You are given the option to direct your donation to the organization of your choice. Should you wish your donation to come to The Agape Ringers, please include the following information with your donation:

The Agape Ringers 380 South Main Place Carol Stream, IL 60188

United Way of Illinois is a statewide association of 53 local organizations that create long-lasting community change by helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and family independence, and improving people's health.

The second way of support is through **GoodShop**. You may have received an e-mail previously from a member reminding you about GoodShop on "Black Friday / Cyber Monday," but maybe you do online purchases throughout the year. By going through the shopping portion of a website called GoodSearch, you can generate donations for The Agape Ringers. All you do is go to the site: http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx and type in "Agape Ringers" where it asks "Who Do You Support?". By accessing the

site you want to shop from through GoodSearch, Agape gets a donation! For example, ordering from Amazon donates 1.5% of your order to Agape.

So, please consider helping us out when you shop online (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, eBay, Nordstrom, Target, and TONS more). You have already helped us raise over \$300.

Remember, it is NO COST to you! Please forward this to other friends and family to get them in on it as well! As always, we thank you for your contributions and support!

Connect with us on Facebook and YouTube!

## 2015 Mini-Tours

2015 will be the year of mini-tours. The Agape Ringers is looking forward to taking a few long weekends this coming concert schedule. In March we are planning a one-day workshop and concert in Peoria, IL, and the following month we are heading to Lincoln, NE, for an Area 8 workshop/concert combo. In addition, we are still finalizing the details for a potential Area 1 concert next summer. You can visit our Facebook page or webpage (www.AgapeRingers.org) for more information. We are on the web! www.AgapeRingers.org

Like us on Facebook

## THE AGAPE RINGERS



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ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY

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
9/21/14	4:00 PM	Hanmee Presbyterian Church 1149 W Bloomingdale Road, Itasca, IL	Free to the public
10/5/14	3:30 PM	St John Brebeuf Church 8307 N Harlem Ave, Niles, IL	Free Will Offering *Note the earlier start time*
12/13/14	4:00 PM	Sounds of the Season Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W Brush Hill Rd, Elmhurst, Illinois	Tickets go on sale September www.AgapeRingers.org
2/22/15	4:00 PM	St. John UCC 308 N Evergreen Ave, Arlington Heights, Illinois	Free Will Offering
3/14/15	TBD	Workshop and Concert Host: FUMMWA / Illinois Great Rivers Conference Location: First United Methodist Church 116 NE Perry Ave - Peoria IL	<b>Workshop:</b> igrcfellowshipchapte.wix.com/ fummwa#!upcoming-events/c24jx <b>Concert:</b> www.fumcpeoria.org
4/11/15	TBD	Workshop and Concert St. Mark's UMC 8550 Pioneer Blvd, Lincoln NE	www.stmarks.org
5/17/15	4:00 PM	LaGrange Bible Church 850 7th Ave, La Grange, Illinois	www.lagrangebible.org