

# Nine Bands for Nine Buddies

## Solution

First, answer the clues. You may notice that there is a lot of overlap between the letters in different answers, and that the parts that don't overlap remind you of the names of the members of the Fellowship of the Ring. In fact, the words in a given set of answers plus the name of the appropriate Fellowship member form a ring such that each letter in the ring is shared by two words, except one letter. Here are the answers to the clues, with the unshared letter in **red** and the Fellowship member in **bold** (note that the original order is alphabetical by Fellowship member):

**GORNS**

SUBURB  
BURBANK  
ANKARA

**MIRAGE**

AGES  
SEATTLE  
ATTLEBORO

**DOWEL**

ELLA  
LATIN  
TINA  
AFRO

**ALFRED**

REDIAL  
ALGOL  
GOLDA  
DALI  
LIGAND

**LIVE**

VESSEL  
SELMA  
MAIN  
INCUR  
CURSOR  
SORBET  
BETCHA  
CHAGIM

**LASER**

ERODE  
DECA  
CARE  
REGAL  
GALLEGO

**RYE**

EGO  
GONG  
GRAM  
RAMROD  
RODHAM  
HAMMER

**PINESOL**

SOLDO  
DOE  
ETC  
TCP/IP

**AMBER**

BERET  
ETHNIC  
NICKEL  
KELPIE  
PIES

To fill these answers into the rings at the top of the puzzle, you must realize that the grey cells in the rings are where you should put the Fellowship members' names. Thus, the first ring needs an answer set with a total of 14 letters and a Fellowship member with a 5-letter name; the only possibility is Frodo's set. These constraints uniquely determine where to write which set. The unique letters then spell the answer: **WINEHOUSE**.