Friday Morning MUSIC CLUB



130TH SEASON MARCH 2017 VOL. 51, NO. 7

President's Message

Olivia Adler

Tt is not too early to start planning to attend the May 12, 2017 Annual Membership meeting and luncheon at the Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland. We are pleased that Piotr Gajewski, conductor of the National Philharmonic, has agreed to be our luncheon speaker. You should be receiving luncheon reservation forms in early April - but please also plan to attend the membership meeting prior to the luncheon where we will have a number of important matters to discuss. Among other things, members will be asked to vote on nominees to fill positions with the Club and the FMMC Foundation that will be open at the end of this season. The job of our Nominating Committee has become increasingly challenging. More and more, we are being forced to ask incumbents to stay on beyond their terms. On the one hand, we all benefit from the experience and expertise these generous volunteers have

built in their positions. However, it is not a healthy sign for either the FMMC or the FMMC Foundation that they cannot regularly find enthusiastic new volunteers. We have initiated a policy of encouraging incumbent officers, directors, and trustees to recruit "assistants." These assistants can both help with the organization's ever-increasing workload and provide a new pool of experience from which future openings can be filled. There is a lot of demand for what the Club and Foundation offer to the public. As members, we ask that you give serious thought to whether there is a way in which you might help with the management of this marvelously longlived and quite fascinating organization.

Now for some news on what's happening. I am happy to report that the January 13, 2017 FMMC Chorale and Chorale Orchestra concert, including the *I Have a Dream* cantata by Stephen Douglas Burton, was very successful. Charlotte



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Announcing Two Piano Master Classes

Mary K Traver

Santiago Rodriguez and Ann Schein, internationally celebrated pianists and pedagogues, will present master classes this spring. Both artists are highly praised for their teaching. Both sessions will be held at the International Piano Archives (IPAM) located in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, from 10:00 AM until noon. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, April 10 with Mr. Rodriguez Friday, June 2 with Ms. Schein

Pianists from the Performance Pianist Membership who wish to perform should contact committee member Dina Fleming

Admission is free. Donations to the Piano Master Class Fund are welcome.



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Organized in 1886

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For address changes, please go to www.FMMC.org and update your member profile. If you do not have access, send changes to:

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of the Cultural Alliance of
Greater Washington, DC.
Please support our artistic
and educational programs
through the United Way by
designating #8624 or the
Combined Federal Campaign
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FMMC Nominating Committee Report

Yvonne Sabine, chair

The FMMC's Nominating Committee has put forth the following slate of candidates for the 2016–2017 Board of Governors. Members will vote on the slate at the annual meeting in May.

FMMC Board of Governors:

To serve first two year term:

President - Yvonne Sabine '19 - replacing Olivia Adler

Recording Secretary - Suzanne Richardson '19 - replacing Judith Block

To serve a second two year term:

Newsletter Editor - Carol Fromboluti '19

Member-At-Large - Sue Kelly '19

To serve a third two year term

(as recommended by Nominating Committee and approved by the Board)

Program Director - Jeongseon Choi '19

FMMC Club Foundation, Inc.

Officers:

To serve a third two year term:

Director - Leslie Luxemburg '19

To serve a second two year term:

Composition Competition Chair - Mark G. Simon '19

To serve a first two year term:

Johansen International Competition Chair – Judith Silverman '19 Secretary – to be chosen from among elected trustees

Trustees:

To serve a first three year term:

Christine Kharazian '20 - replacing Donna Smith

Lois Jones '20 – replacing Yvonne Sabine

Marta Howard '20

Connie Milner '20

Nominating Committee Member

Olivia Adler, ex officio

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Conlon; Lois Jones; Judith Silverman; Carol Wolfe-Ralph, ex officio; Yvonne Sabine, Chair

Obituary—Ruth Sickafus

Lexington, KY. Her husband, Charles Sickafus, a music educator in the Montgomery County Schools, died in 2010. While living in the Washington, DC area, Ruth was an Associate member of FMMC, a trustee of the FMMC Foundation, and served four years as Chairman of the Washington International Competition.

Ms. Sickafus enjoyed an extensive career as an arts administrator. In 1956 she became Executive Director of the People-to-People Music Committee through Sigma Alpha Iota and directed its activities for over 30 years. She was on the staff of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at the time of its opening in 1971 and later served 12 years as administrator of the National Opera Institute. In recent years, she was active with the Bravo Opera Guild and served on the board of the Kentucky Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters.

A memorial service was held January 14th at Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

The Chorale Plans a Trip to Lithuania and Germany for October 2017

Peter Baum

Paul Leavitt is collaborating with the conductor of the National Symphony in Vilnius, Lithuania to perform his *Requiem* with a chorus from Washington DC and a German choir from Hamburg. While plans are still in flux, the parties are looking at a trip from October 13 to 23, 2017.

To augment the performance in Vilnius, Paul has arranged with a Lutheran-based church choir in Hamburg to join forces with the US chorus. The joint chorus will present the *Requiem* in Hamburg at the beginning of the trip and the German choir would accompany the US

choir for the Vilnius performance that will culminate the tour. There may be a third concert on a date between the two major concerts.

Paul plans to use the FMMC Chorale and his choir from the Church of the Reformation as the core of this chorus. He will offer the opportunity to singers throughout the Washington area and expects to draw a solid response. Soloists could come from the FMMC ranks, but it will be an open competition.

Paul has tentatively blocked August and September for rehearsals and a farewell concert in early October to be done at the Church of the Reformation. Each person who travels should be prepared to pay for hotel, food, and transportation for the trip as arranged by a professional tour company. Details will be provided to those interested later this spring.

Singers in the Club should consider joining this effort. Even if you haven't sung with the Chorale before, or haven't done so in some time, this is an opportunity to be part of something very special in the history of the club. Please contact Peter Baum at choralechair@fmmc.org to be placed on the mailing list.

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Holloman's daughter spoke movingly about her mother, whose memory was honored by the concert thanks to the Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation. All participants – including the Chorale, the very large Chorale Orchestra, the Chorale soloists, and the remarkable 2015 WIC prize winner, Jessica Lynn -- gave splendid performances. Members can be pleased with the high quality of the concert under the leadership of Paul Leavitt. Substantial credit is due also to the enormous support provided by the Chorale Committee, ably led by Peter Baum. See Peter's articles in this newsletter for more detail about the Chorale and its exciting plans.

As some of you may know, we received a bequest several years ago from Frances Kaplan to be used to support a student chamber music coaching program. After considering a variety of options, we are now starting very promising discussions with Levine Music about a possible collaborative effort to put such a program in place. We are optimistic that this will happen. Young music students may be easily exposed to large ensemble playing through school bands and orchestras. Many receive solo training. But the special joys of chamber music are not always apparent or open to them. It was Ms. Kaplan's inspiration to help the Club provide such opportunities.

Special Notice to Jazz Perform-

ers! In the February newsletter, I reported that the Club's Board of Governors had approved introducing jazz offerings in Club programs. Performance members who are interested in presenting jazz pieces are urged to start submitting these for our next season's programs. Our Auditions Chair, Michael Casassa, has begun considering possible modifications to the Club's audition requirements to accommodate Club performance applicants who would like to focus on jazz performance. So, jazz players, we'd like to start hearing from you.

Finally, regarding the "name change" project, the Board's Name Change Committee recently met with an attorney from a major DC law firm who volunteered, through Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA), to advise us on various matters, including process, implications, costs, effects on grants or bequests that reference the current name, possible trademark conflicts and any other issues of which we should be aware. We have received information on some of our questions and are awaiting a report on the remaining questions before proceeding. I hope to report more in the next newsletter. • Plivia

Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion

Encourage Your Students to Apply!

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017 Ross-Roberts High School Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. The competition will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, from 9 AM to 3 PM at the National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The application deadline is February 20, 2017.

For additional information and application forms visit www.fmmc.org or contact highschoolwind@fmmc.org.

FMMC members are cordially invited to help as host/usher the day of the competition. Please reply to the chair [contact: highschoolwind@fmmc.org]

Concert Review

Robin Friedman

The Friday Morning Music Club Chamber Concert on January 27, 2017 at Calvary Baptist Church featured a variety of duos from 20th and 21st century composers. The works were performed beautifully along with short insightful introductions on the background of the selections.

The concert opened with two contrasting works for violin performed by Christine Kharazian. A graduate of the Komitas State Conservatory and the Tchaikovsky Advanced School of Music in Yerevan, Armenia, Christine serves as Student Activities Chair on the FMMC Board of Governors. She gave a passionate reading of the opening "Allemande" of Eugene Ysaye's (1858–1931) virtuosic Sonata no. 4 for violin solo, op. 27, "Fritz Kreisler." She followed Ysaye with Arvo Pärt's (1935) minimalist composition *Fratres*, in which Pärt provided scorings for several instruments. Jeongseon Choi,

who works tirelessly as the Program Director for the Club and its Chamber Series, collaborated with Christine as the pianist in this difficult, mystical score.

The Bethesda-based Lori Laitman's (b. 1955) song-cycle Within These Spaces received an intimate performance from soprano Katie Katinas and pianist Ruth Locker. This work sets to music five poems by three Nebraska women, Marjorie Saiser, Janet Coleman, and Judith Sonenberger, which examine different aspects of the mother-daughter, mother-granddaughter relationship on the American plains. Katie Katinas, a member of the FMMC Foundation Board, performs for the Washington National Opera and teaches privately. Ruth Locker has been a frequent collaborative pianist in our Chamber Series and is a much sought after pianist and teacher.

The final work on the program was the rarely heard Clarinet Sonata in B-flat major by Paul Hindemith (1895-1963) composed in 1938, and the only clarinet work among the composer's many sonatas. Clarinetist Kenneth Latchis and pianist Irina Koulikova obviously enjoyed this tart, four- movement sonata. Kenneth had a career as a physician before returning to the clarinet following his retirement in 2007. Irina has enjoyed a distinguished career as a pianist and teacher. She was Professor of Piano at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory from 1977-2014 and served as the Head of the Conservatory's International Department from 1996 to 2008. Irina currently teaches at the International School of Music in Rethesda

The audience braved a chilly and windy day and was rewarded with memorable performances of modern music. We hope that more Friday Morning Music Club members and guests will enjoy the concerts in our Friday Chamber Series.



\$67,000 in prizes

Equal awards for violin, viola, and cello

Performance opportunities including

Winners' Recital in Washington, DC; concerto appearances; and more



Sponsored by the Friday Morning Music Club Foundation, Inc.

Contact: johansencomp@gmail.com 301-825-5515

http://www.fmmc.org/competitions/ johansen-international-competition/2018-jic/

From the Foundation Director

Leslie Luxembura

t was a very proud moment for the entire Friday Morning Music Club when the winner of the 2014 WIC for Piano, So-Mang Jeagal, presented a solo recital at the Phillips Collection on Thursday, January 19th. Despite the timing of the program on the evening before the inauguration, So-Mang played to a large and very enthusiastic audience including several members of the FMMC. His presentation of the Rachmaninoff Piano Sonata #2 and four Chopin Scherzos could not have been better. We extend special thanks to Mira Yang for hosting So-Mang while he was here.

Our outstanding panel of preliminary judges is currently hard at work selecting the group of semifinalists for the 2017 WIC for Piano. Now would be the

perfect time to make a commitment to house one of them when they come here to participate in the competition that runs from Saturday, June 3rd to Sunday, June 4th. This year's location at the University of the District of Columbia in Northwest DC should be convenient for anyone who lives in or near that part of the city. Former hosts have all had positive experiences interacting with these amazing young musicians and having them practice in their homes. Essentially all participants will be between 20-30 years old so quite self-sufficient. The only absolute requirement this year is that your home have an excellent, well-kept piano.

Please contact me for further information about what would be required

for serving as a host or to put your name

Suzanne Richardson, Leslie Luxemburg, So-Mang Jeagal, Grace McFarlane, Frank Conlon, Mira Yang



on the list. We would also love to hear from those interested in helping with the competition itself. Most tasks require only a few hours commitment and would provide the opportunity to hear and interact with these up-and-coming artists. Please email me at: WICstrings@ gmail.com and let me know of your interest in either option.

In some ways the Johansen International Competition committee flies under the radar during the years the JIC is not taking place. Rest assured, the organizers keep up a steady stream of activity and never leave anything until the last minute. The competition dates have been set for March 14-17, 2018 at the Calvary Baptist Church and all the judges and pianists are confirmed. A recent update to their list of concerto opportunities for the winners is the addition of a performance with the Apollo Orchestra, an excellent and relatively new group in the D.C. area. This is sure to be an outstanding addition to what is an impressive list of opportunities already in place. •



FMMC Concert Calendar

MARCH and EARLY APRIL 2017

Thursday, March 2, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- Dominick Argento: Six Elizabethan Songs. Marjorie Coombs Wellman, soprano; Ruth Locker (guest), piano.
- RAVEL: Valses nobles et sentimentales. Charles Timbrell, piano.
- Chopin: Sonata in B minor, op. 58. Victoria Bragin, piano.

Friday, March 3, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- Brahms: Liebeslieder Walzer. Katie Katinas, soprano; Grace Gori (guest), mezzo-soprano; Jonathan Hoffman (guest), tenor; Aurelius Gori (guest), baritone; Frank Conlon and Jeongseon Choi, piano four hands.
- SCHUMANN: Four Vocal Duets. Katie Katinas, soprano; Grace Gori (guest), mezzo-soprano; Jonathan Hoffman (guest), tenor; Aurelius Gori (guest), baritone; Frank Conlon, piano.
- Schubert: Fantasy in F minor, D. 940. Frank Conlon and Jeongseon Choi, piano four hands.

Saturday, March 4, 1:00 pm at National Presbyterian Church

Student Composition Competition Finals

Wednesday, March 8, 12:00 noon at the Steinway Gallery. **Piano Duo/Duet Concert**

- · Brahms: Variations on a Theme by Haydn, op. 56b. Barbara Wing and Elizabeth Lane, piano duo.
- RACHMANINOFF: Six Pieces, op. 11. Julian Trail and Sophia Pallas, piano four hands.
- SELECTION TBA: Bonnie Kellert and Junko Takahashi (guest), piano duo.

Friday, March 10, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- Debussy: Ariettes Oubliées. Nancy MacArthur Smith, soprano; Ruth Locker (guest), piano.
- · CANFIELD: Concerto after Glière. Ava Oaxaca, saxphone; Bora Lee (guest), piano.

Saturday, March 11, 9:00 am at Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Competition for Voice

Thursday, March 16, 12:00 noon at the Old Town Hall, City of Fairfax

- Jules Demersseman: Grand Fantaisie de Concert sur 'Oberon' de Weber, op. 52. TELEMANN: Sonata in G major. Miyamae Takeaki, flute; piano TBA
- YSAYE: Sonata No. 4 in E minor. Susan Yeh. violin.
- Brahms: Sonata in F minor, op. 120, no. 1. Albert Hunt, clarinet; Barbara Peterson Cackler, piano.

Friday, March 17, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

- Selection TBA: Laurien Laufman, cello; Chen-Li Tzeng, piano.
- · Selected French Songs: Debora Madsen, soprano; Gillian Cookson, piano.
- GLUCK, RACHMANINOFF AND KREISLER: Selected works. Barbara Peterson Cackler and Rosanne Conway, piano four hands.

Saturday, March 18, 9:00 am at the National Presbyterian Church

Ross-Roberts Student Competition for Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion

Saturday, March 18, 3:00pm at Greenspring

- · HAYDN: Sonata in C major, H. XVI: 50. Steven Schwarz, piano.
- Debussy, Saint Saëns: Selected Songs. Debora Madsen, soprano; Gillian Cookson, piano.
- PIAZZOLLA: Tango. TROFIMENKO: Ragtime. Igor Zubkovsky, cello; Irina Koulikova,

Sunday, March 19, 3:00 pm at The Lyceum

- Mertz: Barcarole, op. 41. Castelnuovo-Tedesco: Fantasia, op. 145. Ben Altman, guitar; Joan Mizrahi, piano.
- ARENO: Collage of Clicking Clichés. Liana Valente, soprano; Yuri Chayama, piano.
- DANKWORTH: Suite for clarinet and piano. Phyllis Crossen-Richardson, clarinet; Janet Crossen, piano.

Tuesday, March 21, 12:00 noon at the Woman's Club of **Chevy Chase**

- TANSMAN: Five pieces. Albéniz: Mallorca. Charles Mokotoff, guitar.
- Françaix: Trio. **Albert Hunt**, clarinet; Marion Richter, violin; Lana Em, piano.
- BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 32 in C minor, op. 111. Tzu-Li Chen, piano.

Friday, March 24, 12:00 noon at Calvary Baptist Church

• Brahms: Piano Quartet in A major, op. 26. Enoch Gordis, piano; Jean Provine, violin; Caroline Brethauer, viola; Jan Timbers, cello.

Friday, Mar 24, 8:00 pm at the Church of the Epiphany

Avanti Orchestra of the FMMC, Pablo Saelzer, conductor; Javier Arrey, of the Metropolitan Opera, baritone soloist.

- Dvorak: Moderato, quasi marcia from Serenade for Winds, op. 44.
- DVORAK: Biblical Songs.
- Mozart: Symphony No. 38 in D major ("Prague").

Wednesday, March 29, 7:30 pm at the Friendship Heights **Community Center**

Student Recital

Friday, March 31, 12:00 noon at **Calvary Baptist Church**

- Weinberg: Clarinet Sonata. Henry Vergilio, clarinet; Jeongseon Choi, piano.
- SELECTIONS TBA: Tae Kwak, baritone; Jeongseon Choi, piano.
- Schwarz: Sonata. Steven Schwarz, piano.

Sunday, April 2, 7:30 pm at Riderwood

- Bruch: Violin Concerto in G minor, op. 26, 3rd movement. Bartók: Selections for violin and piano. Kelly Hsu (guest), violin; Li-Ly Chang, piano.
- SCRIABIN: Sonata No. 2 in G-sharp minor, op. 19. Schumann/Liszt: Widmung. Richard Foo, piano.
- SELECTIONS FOR CLASSICAL GUITAR: Charles Mokotoff, guitar.

Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 pm at Goodwin House

- WEINBERG: Clarinet Sonata: Henry Vergilio, clarinet; Jeongseon Choi, piano.
- Schubert: Ellens Gesang. Leslie Bennett, soprano; Rosanne Conway, piano.
- FERGUSON: Octet. Mark Simon, clarinet; Jeff Ward (guest), bassoon; Jay Chadwick, French horn; Sheyna Burt and J. David Brown, violins; Caroline Brethauer, viola; Joanna Taylor, cello; Peter Ostle, bass.

Thursday, April 6, 11:00 am in The Mansion at Strathmore

- JEAN-BAPTISTE LOEILLET DE GANT: Sonata in B minor. Ruth Albright, violin; Brigitta Czernik Gruenther (guest), cello; Lois Smith Jones, piano.
- Brahms: Three Quartets, op. 31; Two Quartets, op. 112a. Marjorie Coombs Wellman, soprano; Miriam Radakovich (guest), alto; Brian Lee (guest), tenor; Ben Wallace, baritone;
- Ruth Locker (guest), piano.

 Gluck: Dance of the Blessed
 Spirits. Kreisler: Tambourin Chinois.
 RACHMANINOFF: Vocalise. Barbara
 Peterson Cackler and Rosanne
 Conway, piano four hands.

Friday, April 7, 7:00 pm at Jordan Kitts

- SELECTED WORKS FOR TWO PIANOS: Alice Ji and Irina Koulikova.
- GLUCK: Dance of the Blessed Spirits. Kreisler: Tambourin Chinois. RACHMANINOFF: Vocalise. Barbara Peterson Cackler and Rosanne Conway, piano four hands.

Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am at the National Presbyterian Church

Stubbs-Henbest-Davis Student Competition for Piano

VENUES

Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 7611 Clarendon Rd.

Bethesda, MD

Calvary Baptist Church, 755

Eighth Street NW Washington DC (Metro: Gallery Place)

Church of the Epiphany

1317 G St. NW Washington, DC (Metro: Metro Center)

Friendship Heights Community

Ctr., 4433 S. Park Ave. Chevy Chase, MD (Metro: Friendship Heights)

Goodwin House

4800 Fillmore Ave. Alexandria, VA

Greenspring

7410 Spring Village Drive Springfield, VA

Jordan Kitt's Music

11726 Parklawn Dr. North Bethesda, MD 20852

The Lyceum

201 S Washington St. Alexandria, VA

The Mansion at Strathmore

10701 Rockville Pike, N. Bethesda, MD (Metro: Grosvenor)

National Presbyterian Church

4101 Nebraska Avenue NW Washington, D.C.

Old Town Hall, City of Fairfax

Corner of Main St. (Rt. 236) & University Drive Fairfax, VA

Riderwood Village Chapel

3110 Gracefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD

Steinway Piano Gallery

11611 Old Georgetown Rd. N. Bethesda, MD (Metro: White Flint)

Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

7931 Connecticut Avenue Chevy Chase, MD

Chorale Begins Rehearsals for its April 28 and April 29, 2017 Concerts

Peter Baum

The Chorale began preparation for its April concerts on February 12. Rehearsals are each Sunday from 1:30-4:00 PM at the Church of the Reformation (212 E. Capitol St, NE). This concert's program will be:

- Paul Leavitt: Cantata Emanuel
- Francis Poulenc: Gloria

Singers interested in joining the Chorale for this concert should contact Peter Baum at choralechair@fmmc.org for further details.

The *Cantata Emanuel* calls for a full quartet of soloists while the Gloria features a soprano soloist. Interested soloists should contact Paul Leavitt at chorale@fmmc.org to arrange for an audition.

L'Exchange

4/4 cello of German origin labeled Anton Schroetter, cello bow stamped by W. E. Dorfler, silver mounted on ebony frog. The cello was a gift in 1995. My teacher said that it plays easily and that it deserved a better bow which cost \$900. All work done by Potter, including installation of mechanical pegs. Asking \$2,500.

Work receipts available. Barbara Goff





Chorale Performs its First Concert of 2017

Peter Baum

The Chorale presented its first concert of the 2016–2017 season on January 13 with an all-American composer program before a large and enthusiastic audience. The compositions were by Burton, Barber, Bernstein, and Leavitt. The Chorale had approximately 40 singers on stage and was supported by an orchestra comprising 40 players. Both the Burton and the Bernstein were scored for significant percussion, giving the performance a very different sound and feel. The concert included the following works:

Paul Leavitt: *In the Beginning* Stephen Douglas Burton: Cantata *I* Have a Dream. Soloist: Jessica Lynn Samuel Barber: Agnus Dei (based on the Adagio for Strings)

Leonard Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*. Soloists: Alexandra Desaulniers, Gabrielle Levy, Leanne Repko, Tom Meier, and J.P. Barringer

The performance was well received by an audience of approximately 110 that included Stephen Douglas Burton and several of his guests. Mr. Burton was pleased to hear his piece performed by the Club that had commissioned the work over 30 years ago for its 100th anniversary celebration.

The concert was supported by a grant from the Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation in memory of Charlotte Holloman. Charlotte Holloman's daughter, Charlotte, opened the evening with warm and insightful remarks about her mother's career as a singer and music instructor in the Washington, DC area.

Unfortunately, the second performance, scheduled for Saturday, January 14, was cancelled due to bad weather. The decision was made on Friday and posted to the Web site as well as a notification sent out through the club's list serve.