



# WVMTA

Monthly Newsletter | *January 2020*

## Musings from the President

I hope that everyone is continuing to bask in the glow of Christmastime; I know that we have all been incredibly busy, whether playing for multiple services, baking, cooking, cleaning, hosting...the list goes on! I also hope that everyone has a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Our **January meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, January 8 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora. I am excited to announce that we are in for a real treat. Our guest speaker, **Dr. Daniel Paul Horn** will present lecture-recital built around a Beethoven program which will include the G Major Rondo, Op. 51, No. 2; the Sonata number 26 in E<sup>b</sup> Major, Op. 81a "Les Adieux"; and the "Diabelli Variations, Op. 120. This is a special occasion, so please, invite your friends.

Looking ahead, please remember that the **AIM Performance Exams** will be coming up before you know it! There are only 2 ½ months until March 14 and the weeks have a habit of just disappearing. Keep reminding your students that advance preparation = greater self-confidence = less nervousness. Remember to check those technique requirements each week to insure that the students don't try to learn it all at the last minute. Also, please remember that January 15 is the AIM repertoire approval deadline. Any music not listed in the AIM syllabus must be approved by Stephanie Meyers: [hisamimeyers@gmail.com](mailto:hisamimeyers@gmail.com).

Our **Advanced Level Master Class** will be held on Wednesday, February 12. If you have a student who would be ready to perform an advanced level (levels 8-12) work by this date, please contact Kristin Young.

Our **Winter Recital, "Beethoven and Friends"** is scheduled for Sunday, February 16 at 3:00 at the New England Congregational Church in Aurora. This is a great opportunity for students to try out that Classical selection for the upcoming AIM exams. In fact, since I'm sure that Beethoven would have had friends in many musical periods if his life could only have spanned that long, any AIM music is acceptable! If we have many students register for this recital, we will adjust the time and have two recitals.

Finally, it is not too early to think about entering your students in the Berkley/Pendell Competition which will be held on March 22. The deadline for registering is February 28. Curious? Go to the Berkley/Pendell website or give me a call! 630-303-4904.

I hope to see everyone on Wednesday, January 8. How about lunch afterwards?

## WVMTA Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2019

President Nancy Sen called the meeting to order at 9:43.

**Minutes:** Secretary Sharla Fritz read the minutes from the November meeting. Hope Grote moved to accept them as read. Kristin Young seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hope Grote reported the opening balance as \$1192.08. Receipts were \$1190.00 and expenses were \$132.21. Closing balance was \$2249.81.

**AIM:** Nancy gave a big thank you to Diann Livingston and Gwyn Downey for their work on AIM theory. Diann said that the students were well prepared. There were discrepancies in correcting written tests and she and Gwynn will work on finding ways to have more consistency in this area. St. Mark's Lutheran has been reserved for the AIM Honors Recital.

**Programs:** Nancy got a message from Daniel Horn who is scheduled to be the presenter for our January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. He will do a lecture/recital on Beethoven Sonatas Op. 51, No. 2; 81a, and 120.

**Masterclass:** Dr. William Koehler will be the clinician for the February 12 Advanced Level Master Class. Only one student has registered so far.

**Membership:** Marilyn Parolini talked about Marianne McGraw's memorial. Her family is planning on burying her at Memory Gardens in Arlington Heights. The November student recital was dedicated to Marianne.

Hope said that \$110.00 was collected from a music sale to be used as a memorial for Marianne. The group discussed different options for ways to use this money to honor Marianne. It was decided that because of her love of performing the money should somehow be used for a performance. Sharla Fritz moved that the money be used to partially fund the Daniel Horn lecture/recital. Hope Grote seconded and the motion passed. Advertising for this lecture/recital will indicate that the presentation is given in memory of Marianne McGraw.

Sharla mentioned that a useful program for creating flyers and other items with graphics is [canva.com](https://www.canva.com).

**Recitals:** The next student recital is February 16 at New England Congregational Church. The recital is titled "Beethoven and Friends." The emphasis will be on classical music, but any pieces suitable for AIM would be welcomed at the recital as well. Students should be encouraged to play one of their AIM pieces at this recital.

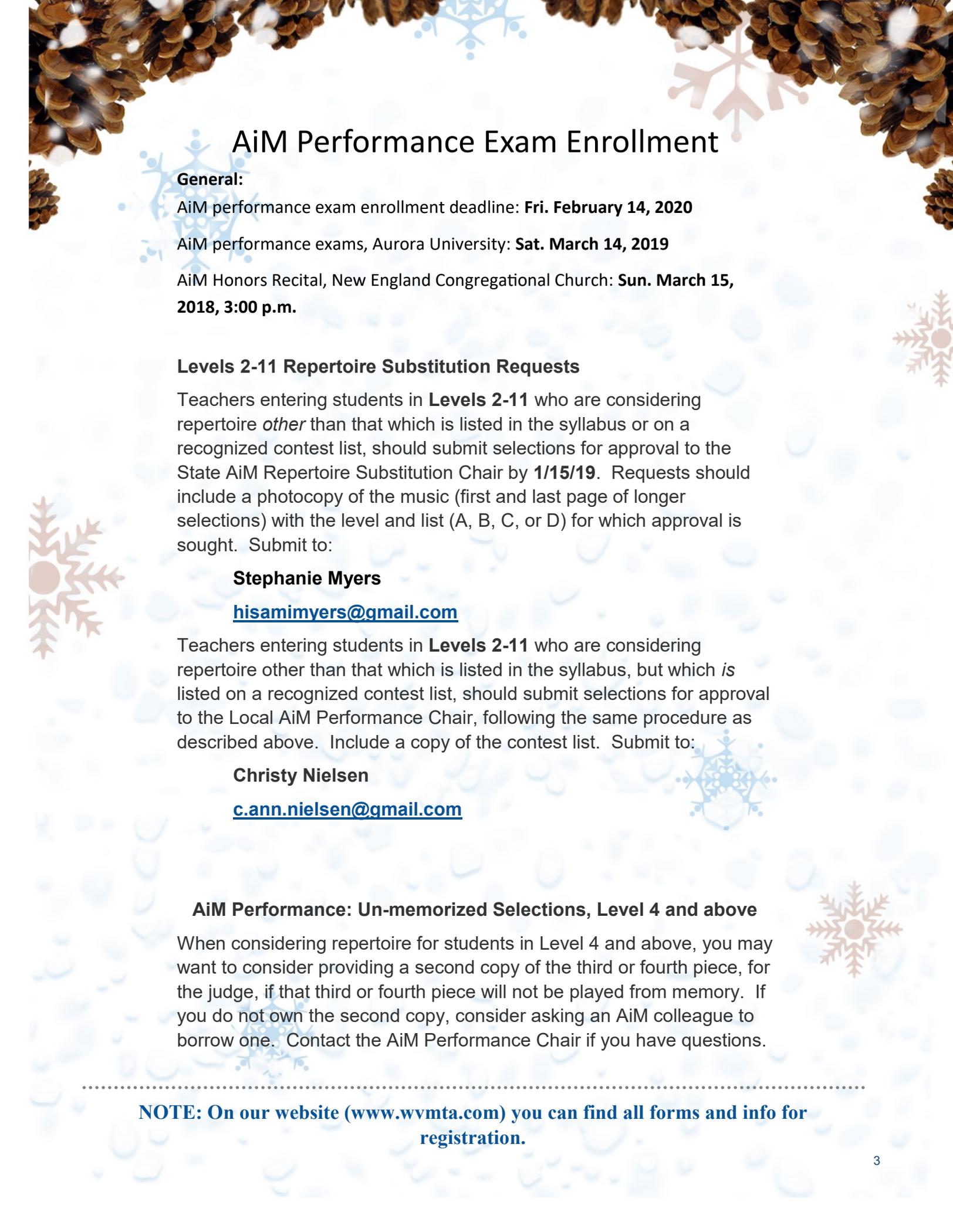
Parental permission for posting student pictures on social media was also discussed. Options include 1) have an online form that teachers would print, have parent's sign, and then bring to the recital, 2) have permission forms available at the recital, or 3) obtain verbal permission by asking at the beginning of the recital if anyone has objections to posting their child's picture.

**Joint Workshop:** Dr. Christos Tsitsaros will present "A Path to Artistic Fulfillment" at the Joint Chapters Workshop on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 9:30 am at Trinity Episcopal Church, 130 N West Street, Wheaton, IL. Sharla asked for help to set up seating and refreshments that day. Christy Nielsen volunteered.

**Berkley-Pendell Competition:** Nancy Sen will not be present for the competition, but will be able to complete her duties before she leaves.

Diann Livingston moved to close the meeting at 10:25. Hope Grote seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Everyone enjoyed a delightful brunch at Colonial Café.



# AiM Performance Exam Enrollment

## General:

AiM performance exam enrollment deadline: **Fri. February 14, 2020**

AiM performance exams, Aurora University: **Sat. March 14, 2019**

AiM Honors Recital, New England Congregational Church: **Sun. March 15, 2018, 3:00 p.m.**

## Levels 2-11 Repertoire Substitution Requests

Teachers entering students in **Levels 2-11** who are considering repertoire *other* than that which is listed in the syllabus or on a recognized contest list, should submit selections for approval to the State AiM Repertoire Substitution Chair by **1/15/19**. Requests should include a photocopy of the music (first and last page of longer selections) with the level and list (A, B, C, or D) for which approval is sought. Submit to:

**Stephanie Myers**

[hisamimyers@gmail.com](mailto:hisamimyers@gmail.com)

Teachers entering students in **Levels 2-11** who are considering repertoire other than that which is listed in the syllabus, but which *is* listed on a recognized contest list, should submit selections for approval to the Local AiM Performance Chair, following the same procedure as described above. Include a copy of the contest list. Submit to:

**Christy Nielsen**

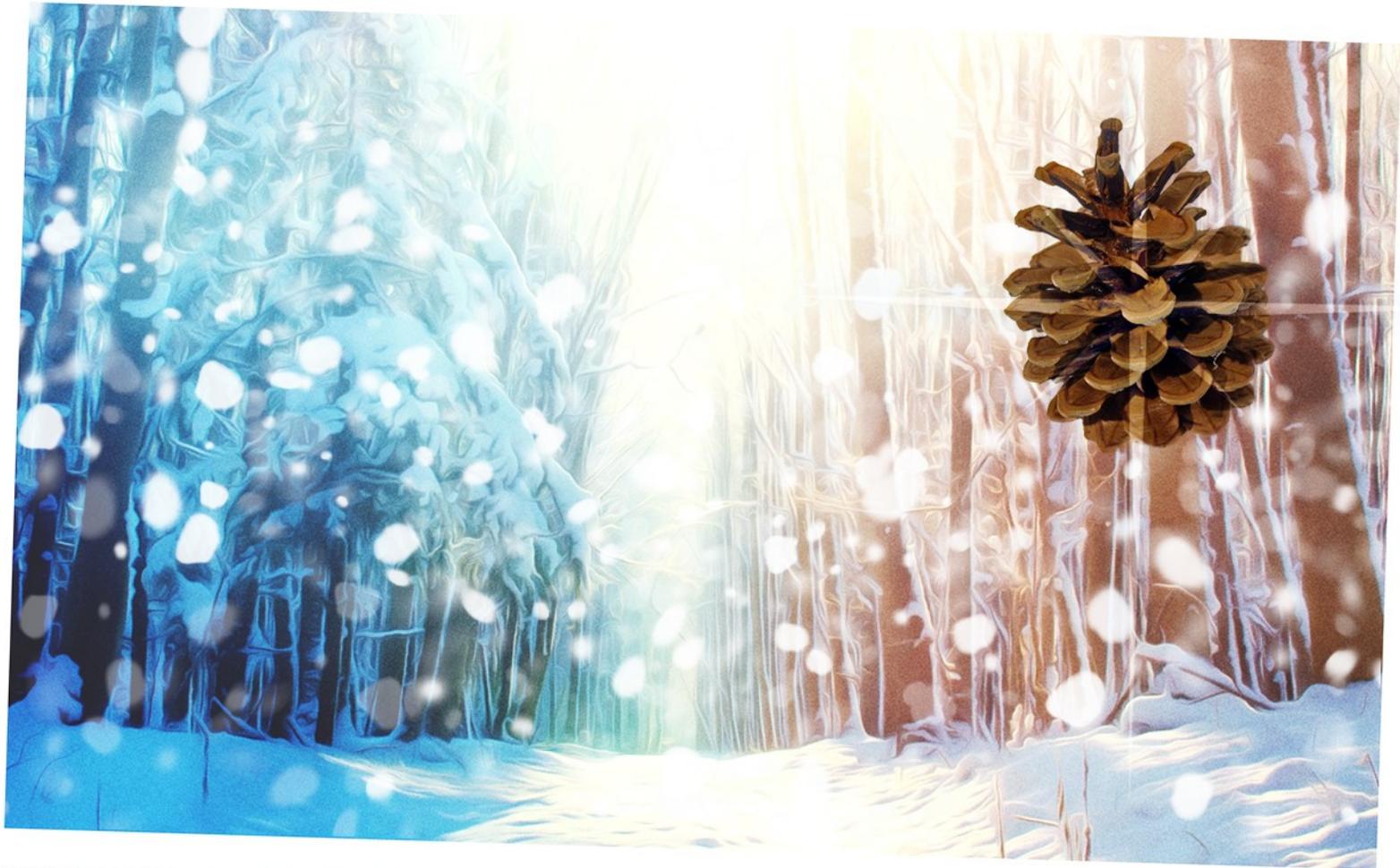
[c.ann.nielsen@gmail.com](mailto:c.ann.nielsen@gmail.com)

## AiM Performance: Un-memorized Selections, Level 4 and above

When considering repertoire for students in Level 4 and above, you may want to consider providing a second copy of the third or fourth piece, for the judge, if that third or fourth piece will not be played from memory. If you do not own the second copy, consider asking an AiM colleague to borrow one. Contact the AiM Performance Chair if you have questions.

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**NOTE: On our website ([www.wvmta.com](http://www.wvmta.com)) you can find all forms and info for registration.**



### January Program

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Daniel Horn of Wheaton College will present, “On Teaching Beethoven,” which will include both lecture and recital. The presentation is scheduled from 10 – 11:30 a.m. We are excited to have Dr. Horn join us to present this program!

Dr. Horn joined the Wheaton Conservatory faculty in 1984 and currently serves as professor of piano and chair of keyboard studies. He is an active solo recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician. Please join us for this event!





# A PATH TO ARTISTIC FULFILLMENT:

INNOVATIVE AND INTEGRAL WAYS OF APPROACHING, UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICING THE MUSIC WE TEACH AND PERFORM

by Dr. Christos Tsitsaros

Thursday, February 27, 2020

9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Registration begins 8:45 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church  
130 N West Street, Wheaton, IL  
At West and Wesley Streets

Sponsored by:  
Joint West Suburban ISMTA  
Local Associations  
  
Proceeds from this workshop  
benefit Berkeley - Pendell Piano  
Competition Fund

*In this workshop, Dr. Tsitsaros will discuss creative and integrated ways of working with young students in order to develop a healthy physical and musical connection. The ideas of alignment, hand position, and motion will be revisited under the light of Chopin’s ideas of support and flexibility, as outlined in his Sketches of a Method. Departing on those, and using his “Symmetrical Warm-ups” as basis, Dr. Tsitsaros will suggest simple physical principles that can be easily applied with students of all ages and levels.*

This workshop will help you with:

- Strategies to promote true musical understanding and aural imagination
- Ideas to take students from mere reading to a convincing and artistically satisfying performance
- Ways to lead students to reach their full potential on their musical journey
- Creative approaches to practicing that will trigger students’ internal motivation and love of music

Dr. Tsitsaros will include excerpts from the traditional teaching literature and his original piano compositions.

*Dr. Christos Tsitsaros has established a notable career as a teacher, composer and pedagogue. Currently he is Professor of Piano Pedagogy at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He regularly appears at workshops and conferences as a performer and lecturer in Europe the United States, Russia and Canada.*

**Register by Mail or Online:** Register by mail using form below. Or pay online by visiting the Joint West Suburban Chapter Workshop Website: <https://jointwestsuburbanchapter.wordpress.com/>

**PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

Yes, I will attend the workshop on **Thursday, February 27, 2020**. Make checks payable to the WS ISMTA Joint Pre Registration (by Feb. 20, 2020)—Adults \$25 ..... Registration at the door—Adults \$30.00; Students \$5.00

Mail this form and your check (postmarked by Feb. 20, 2020) to address below.

Or email your RSVP and contact information to **rvalanciute@yahoo.com** and mail your check (by Feb. 20) to address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Your ISMTA Local Chapter (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
**Rasa Valancius**  
**2312 Modaff Road**  
**Naperville, IL 60565**