

NJRO - Report of December 18, 2011

A dozen folks joined our pre-holiday music fest: first violins Jennifer Seligman (welcome back! Haven't seen you in a while) and Herb Steiner; second violin: Noriko Kubo, viola: yours truly, and on cello we welcomed a newcomer, Jody Sumner. Woodwinds were covered by Laura Papparatto and Kent Weisert on flutes, Alice Marcus and Doris Danielson on oboes. Our bass section was held down by Bob Whiteley. Evan Schwartzman's piano covered any missing parts, and Steve Culbertson led us. My husband Al Klase was there too, taking pictures and bringing the count up to 13.

Steve's music selections started with a Hanukkah potpourri called "*Feast of Light*" by Sam Adler. Among the tunes were Nir Y'mallel and Rock of Ages (a different one from the hymnal). We then played Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Fantasia on Greensleeves*, adapted the opera *Sir John in Love*. New Year's was celebrated with our playing of the Overture to *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss. Wanna eat now? Folks were ready to play more so we pulled out Jules Massenet's *Meditation from Thais* in which our concert master Herb Steiner just glowed on that famous violin solo. We concluded with a collection of mostly familiar Christmas carols, which ended with a tuneful, but unfamiliar French carol "Master of the House" (no, not the song from *Les Miserables*). Then we dived into a holiday feast of pumpkin walnut bread, home-made cookies, chocolate covered almonds, Holiday wine and cheeses and of course, Bob's famous cold sesame noodles. Merry and Happy to all!



Welcome to a new cellist, Jody Sumner.



Pause for consultation between music directors. Thanks to my husband, I got into the picture this time (see plaid jacket).



Jennifer ponders a passage; Herb and Noriko look on.



The group on 12/18, before we started partying. Thanks for coming — we had a great time!