

Connections
Membership Meeting – Zoom
May 18, 2021
Attendees: 42

A vote was taken to approve the Board **recommended change in fiscal year** for the organization from December to January 1. A vote by show of hands resulted in **all yes**, none opposed. **The By-Laws** will be changed.

There will be **no membership meetings in July or August.**

Donna explained the **elections process**, noting that the officers are installed in December. Before that a nominating committee must be formed to recommend a slate of candidates. There are two offices open, 1st and 2nd vice presidents. Donna will be contacting people personally to request that they serve on the nominating committee or consider volunteering to be on the Board.

An **auditor** is needed for a yearly Connections financial review. If any members are qualified to do that or know someone that is, contact Donna.

Margie Battaglia **introduced new and returning members:** Jane Albanese, Janet Capotele, Dale Cohen, Jenny Hill, Bonnie Molnar, and Adrienne Reilly.

The Board is considering an **outdoor picnic for September** to have members meet face to face again. More information will be forthcoming.

Several activities have continued to meet during the pandemic, and some are now meeting face to face. Mah jongg players are meeting in person on Wednesday and online on Fridays. Bridge continues to meet, and the walkers have started weekly get togethers to walk the PSEG right of way. The Stitch and Chat group has been meeting regularly on Zoom. The cooking group is meeting and considering an Italian cooking class led by an Italian chef. Golf players can begin to play on Wednesday mornings.

The **Church still has in place a 25-person** limit on meetings and social distancing is in place. There **are no plans to open the Senior Center soon.**

Donna reminded members of the **upcoming social events** including a tea for this afternoon and a happy hour on June 27.

The **guest speaker was Janet Mandel**. She taught in New Jersey's public schools for 32 years, the last eighteen of which were at Columbia High School in Maplewood, where she taught English, art history, and World Languages and Cultures. Now retired, Janet presents illustrated talks on a variety of art history topics at adult schools, libraries, museums, senior centers, community centers, and similar venues. The topic of her presentation was the French painter, Claude Monet, the founder of French Impressionist painting. Ms Mandel illustrated her talk with many examples of Monet's works.