

Connections
Membership Meeting-Zoom
Attendance: 56
Recorder: Linda Bakian

2022 Budget

Lee Atieh presented the official 2022 budget. The increase in spending for speaker's fees was needed because of the difficulty of finding presenters who are free or charge less than \$150.

Upcoming Speakers

Margie Battaglia announced the upcoming speakers:

- February 15: History of Governors Island. Speaker: Mario Medici. No decision has been made whether to hold the meeting at the Church or on Zoom.
- March 15: History of Movie Musicals. Speaker: Brian Rose. He will speak on Zoom, but no decision has been made on whether to hold the meeting at the Church or on Zoom.

Membership

Deb Reale reported there are 160 paid members. As of now, 13 members have not renewed. A final email will be sent to them, and if a check is not received by February 1, they will be removed from the roster.

Deb introduced the new members. They are Nancy DeVries, Carol Donnelly, Mary Anne Drew-Evans, Mary Kamba, Dorothy Martino, and Barbara McCaffrey.

Activities

Donna Singer will facilitate the first meeting for unattached women on January 28, at 11am, on Zoom. She sent an email to the entire membership. Anyone who is interested and has not received it, should email her. Donna has a list of the women who cannot attend the meeting but who would like information about the group.

A second virtual "Cook in Puglia" cooking class will be held in February. If someone is not a member of the cooking group but would like to attend, she should contact Donna Singer.

Book Club 4 will begin in April, the day and time to be announced. Lisa Banta and Patricia Neil will be the co-chairs; interested members should contact her.

Sheila Weber has offered to host a trivia group. She will send an announcement to the membership.

Treasurer's Report

Lee Atieh informed the group there is \$12,627 in the FPC Connections' bank account. Last year we had minimal payments. Most of our expense was \$4,000 to the First Presbyterian Church. Some of the advantages are we have nontaxable status, we used Church ID to open a bank account, we've held five meetings a month there and hope to increase the number to ten. The facilities are available but masks must be worn. If a group is interested in meeting at the Church, the leader should contact Janet Daly or Brenda Brunelle.

Activity Leader's Announcements

- Pickle Ball will start on Thursday, February 3, at 10am, at the Barn in Midland Park
- Susan Steele announced the movie group will discuss The Ricardos on Friday, January 21, at 1:30, on Zoom. New members will be contacted.
- Carolyn Seibel said the Tea has been postponed until April 29. There are 12 people on the waiting list but so far no one has cancelled. Carolyn explained the difficulty in planning future trips because of covid. The Culinary Institute is scheduled for May, but the mansions in the area are closed because of the virus. However, despite the problems, Carolyn is planning a pizza tour in Brooklyn, and a July 15 trip to the Buck's County Playhouse with lunch at the Lambertville Inn.
- Margie Battaglia announced the next meeting of the Masterpiece Theater Chat group will take place once Around the World in 80 Days and All Creatures Great and Small, the two programs to be discussed, have ended.

Speaker: Joseph Lorino, Vice President Facilities Management at Valley Health System

- Mr. Lorino spoke about the new Valley Hospital under construction in Paramus, NJ. The facility is designed to improve the patient's healing environment.