

Connections
Membership Meeting
March 21, 2023
Attendance: 52
Zoom Attendance: 8
Recorder: Linda Bakian

Parking

The group was reminded to park only in spaces marked CH. The towing policy is now being enforced.

Welcome

President Brenda Brunelle began the meeting by wishing everyone a belated Happy St. Patrick's Day and sharing the Irish blessing, "May you have a song in your heart, a smile on your lips, and nothing but joy at your fingertips."

Treasurer's Report

Lee Atieh reported the beginning balance was \$16,881.81. \$300 in dues was received and expenses included the cost for next month's Fellowship Brunch and security for the Connection's website. The balance at the beginning of next month will be \$17,375.77.

Constant Contact

Donna Singer explained why it is helpful for activity leaders to use Constant Contact. It allows them to connect with new group members and eliminate emails to those who have left. She asked activity leaders who would like to use it to contact her.

Fellowship Brunch

The first Fellowship Brunch will be held at the church on April 4. Up to 110 members can be accommodated, and it will give them a chance to get to know each other. The cost is \$16.

New Activity

Brenda told the group a new surprise activity will be announced soon.

Activity Leaders

Denise Santora Mosher reminded the members the next luncheon will be on March 29, at Houlihan's, in Ramsey. There was still room for members if they want to attend. The restaurant's policy is to have the exact number of attendees three days in advance. April's luncheon will be at Limincello Ristaurante, in Waldwick, on April 27. The cost is \$25.

Carolyn Seibel spoke about the successful tea at the Harmony Tea Room. All had an enjoyable time. The next trip will be a chocolate tour of Brooklyn, on May 11. The group will visit four chocolatiers and an ice cream parlor, and lunch will be pizza. The cost is \$115. This is the final trip of the first part of the year.

Sue Robertson said what a great group of hikers there is. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Next Tuesday's hike will be at the Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve, and next month's hike will be at Ramapo Lake. The hike on the second Tuesday is a preview to prepare for the second one.

Janet Daly invited members to join the Monday walking group that meets at 10am, at the Ridgewood Duck Pond. She suggested other walking groups could be created and to contact her if anyone was interested in starting one.

Donna Singer reported the virtual cooking class with an Italian chef was a success. Seven women cooked at her home and ate afterwards. The group needs to select a cuisine for April, and Donna will hold a Zoom meeting to talk about what the group wants to do in May and June.

Donna, also, reminded the membership that canasta is held on Thursdays, from 1-3, at the Ridgewood Village Hall, and invited anyone who was interested to join the group.

Membership

Susan Steele reviewed the sponsorship system. At present, there are 196 Connections members. Five women joined this month, five will join in April, and there are three on the list for May. There is a need for sponsors for outside potential members who do not know anyone in Connections. A sponsor is responsible for welcoming the new woman and explaining how Connections is organized.

Susan introduced the five new members and their sponsors:

- Beldeen Fortunato - Donna Singer, sponsor
- Virginia Chase - Denise Potter, sponsor
- Michele Summa – Mary Weinstein, sponsor
- Vicki Lefkowitz – Lorraine Augustine, sponsor
- Carol Schragger – Cathy Boyle, sponsor

Next Month's Speaker

Jacquie Hinrichs announced Danuta Kuc, a Connections member, will be the speaker at the April meeting. She will discuss her trip to mines in Kenya and Tanzania in search of raw rocks whose stones are made into jewelry.

Bingo

Following the business meeting, Marianne Siccardi and Jacquie Hinrichs led the group in bingo.

