

## Connections Membership Meeting

May 16, 2023

Attendance: 42

Zoom Attendance: 7

Recorder: Linda Bakian

Brenda Brunelle welcomed the attendees.

Dana Feeney, the FPC liaison, spoke about an upcoming church event, an afternoon with Ali Stroker and Jim Stroker, on Sunday, June 25, 2023, from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Ali has written two books and in addition to singing and speaking will sign copies. A free-will offering will be donated to charities. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Brenda Brunelle informed the group the church will be closed in July and August no activities regularly held there will take place. All other sites are open, and she will send a list of what will not be available.

Twelve players signed up for Ping Pong which will start on Thursday, May 18, at the Barn. However, it will not be available in the summer.

Brenda Brunelle shared an article on the benefits of walking. She reiterated Connections signs must be placed in the windows of the cars parked in the church lot. This is to ensure Ch spots are used only by members.

### Financial Report

Lee Athieh stated the balance in Connections checking account at the beginning of April was \$16,500. After expenses for Adobe, the Fellowship luncheon, and the deposit for the bus trip, the remaining balance is \$16,175. Connections yearly budgeted expenses are \$9,900. The approximately \$6,000 left over is used as seed money for expenses such as trips and luncheons. Lee asked anyone who has a question to contact her.

### Activity Leaders.

Carolyn Seibel thanked the forty-nine women who went on the chocolate tour. A problem with the boarding process occurred because some members arrived too early causing confusion. In the future, the bus will not be available for boarding unless Carolyn or a helper is present. She thanked those who assisted with the trip. At present, there is no firm information about future trips.

Denise Santora Mosher announced the Tuesday, May 23 luncheon, at Justin's, is sold out. Although the date for the June luncheon hasn't been confirmed, her goal is to hold it on Wednesday, June 28. Denise Santora Mosher will contact members when the date, place, and time are set.

Janet Daly said the Monday, May 22, walking group will be in Radburn, NJ. Members are meeting at the clock tower, at 10am.

Donna Singer spoke about the Cooking Club's successful Greek luncheon. She will send information about possible events and encouraged women to continue to participate even if they can't attend all the events.

Donna Singer announced Canasta will continue in the summer.

Pat McDonagh stated the June meeting of Book Group 1 will begin at 1pm. She asked members to bring book recommendations for next year.

Janet Daly reminded everyone she's posted the titles of the Book Groups' books on the website.

Jacque Hinrichs asked members to contact her if they had a specialty they would like to present at a general meeting.

### Membership

Sue Steele reminded members to sign in and that the name tag rule is being enforced. Wearing a badge assists in achieving Connections goal of helping people to meet others. Sue will make a badge if someone needs one.

Connections now has 208 members; the number can increase up to 225.

Sue Steele invited the new members and their sponsors to the microphone. They are:

- Gail Murray, sponsored by Barbara Borys
- Patricia Deaver, sponsored by Dorothy O'Connell
- Marjorie Doye, sponsored by Audrey Ruhlmann
- Pauline Kraitch, sponsored by Marie D'Angelis
- JoAnn Lewis, sponsored by Gerri Altamuro

Brenda Brunelle ended the business meeting with a short poem:

Let yourself be humble,  
And remember to be kind.  
When you have respect for others  
True friendships you will find.

Speakers: Lorri Steinbacher, Director Ridgewood Public Library  
Roberta Panjwani, Assistant Director, Ridgewood Public Library

Topic: 15 Things to Know about the Library