

## Connections

### Membership Meeting

December 20, 2023

In person attendance: 61

Zoom attendance: 3

Recorder: Linda Bakian

### Welcome

Brenda Brunelle welcomed everyone to her last meeting as Connections President. For her, "The number one 'thing' that kept me going this very busy year is the happiness of knowing that you, our members, were enjoying the many activities." Brenda recited some words from Ireland:

Sure as the shamrock's a beautiful green  
And Irish skies are blue  
Sure as the luck of the Irish is mine  
Just knowin' the likes of you!

Brenda reviewed the past year's activities:

- Restarting Stitch and Chat,
- Starting an Opera Group
- Taking great trips.
- Hosting ten luncheons at a variety of venues.
- Hosting Connections first Fellowship brunch in April.
- Holding a picnic In September at the church
- Cooking classes by a chef in Italy on Zoom cooking classes.
- Learning at general meeting from guest speakers about a variety of topics
- Thriving activities continue to thrive

Brenda ended by thanking the members for allowing her to be their President.

### Treasurer's Report

Lee Atieh reported Connections final balance was \$17,366. Currently, forty-eight women have not paid their dues. Lee is available if there are any questions.

### Membership Report

Susan Steele introduced the new members:

- Christina O'Brien (Lee Jenkins, Sponsor)
- Linda Kopff (Sally Zelhof, Sponsor)
- Bridget Cena (Valerie Florstadt, Sponsor)

She reminded the attendees to bring their name tags and sign in. Sue reported there were new members through May, but she hasn't received any applications in the past six weeks. Sue asked for volunteers to be sponsors.

### Activity Leaders Reports

Trips: Carolyn Seidel reported trip to Caramoor was so successful it will be repeated next year. There will be a trip to the Culinary Institute in the spring and one to the Topicana, in Atlantic City, on June 27, 2024.

Hiking: Sue Robinson announced there will be an impromptu hike at the Celery Farm, on Thursday, December 28, at 10am. Starting in January, the hike will be on the second Tuesday of the month.

### Movie Club

Sue Cassel announced the movies to be discussed in January are *Maestro* and *The Holdovers*. The former is the subject of broadcast tonight, at 7pm, on WQXR.

### Luncheons

Denise Santora-Mosher informed the group ten luncheons are held a year. The next one is on January 9, at Andrea's, in Waldwick. January 3 is the deadline for signing up.

### Opera Group

Brenda Brunelle reported she and her husband were joined by two members and one of their husbands for a performance of *Florenzia en el Amazonas. Nabucco*, by Guiseppe Verdi, on January 6, is the next opera.

### Passing the Gavel Ceremony

Donna Singer, a founding member of Connections and its first president, led the ceremony. The gavel went from her to Janet Daly, from Janet to Brenda Brunelle, and from Brenda to Jacquie Hinrichs, the new president.

Brenda ended the meeting by reciting words from the side of the new Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, NJ.

In the joy of others lies our own.  
In the progress of others rests our own.  
In the good of others abides our own.  
Know this to be the key to peace and happiness.

Meeting Activity: Holiday Party