

Minutes February 20, 2024

Attendees: 57 members attended in person. Zoom members(8) were Donna Singer, Lee Atieh, Lou Gallo Mann, Mary Aletras, Lauren Salvani, Susan Schwade, Josephine Botta, Mary Crowley. We had a total of 65 attendees.

Jacque Hinrichs, our new President reminded us that we had meetings cancelled twice, so this is her first meeting.

Parking in the lot across from the church has CH parking spots that we are able to use for our meeting. The other parking spots are rented by the Ridgewood High School students.

Sue Steele, Membership Chair will give membership tags to any member who does not have one.

Please contact her at sjwjsteele@verizon.net if you are in need.

Jacque call for a vote on the changes to the Constitution and Policies and Procedures that were shared with our membership. Acceptance of the changes passed by hand vote.

Jacque announced the solicitation email was not targeted to any individual, rather it was a reminder to all members (we have many new members who might not be aware) that it is against our policies to use Connections activities or email lists to further a personal business interest.

Sue Steele Introduced new members and invited their sponsors to introduce them

Nancy Solomon, Rosemarie Drummond, Kathy Vindigni, Macrina Olweck, Sonya Andricci, Betsey Hirschberger, Noreen Quinlan, Debra Angioletti, Gerry Pehush and Liz Collier were introduced and welcomed into the organization.

Treasurer's report:

January statement: Balance as of Jan 31: \$19,133

We maintain a balance to be able to "front" purchases for trips e.g. Broadway tickets, bus deposits and other activity expenses.

January activity: Deposits \$950. Dues

Expenses: Security Adobe: \$21/month , Refreshments for Connections day at FPC \$100.

Activity Group Reports:

Opera: Brenda Brunelle reports this group started in September last year. Growth in attendance went from 3 people to 17 people. They meet at the AMC Theatre in Hackensack. Some attendees meet for dinner afterward to discuss the opera. Next Opera is March 9. The Opera is La Forza Destino. The opera tells the tragic tale of the lovers Leonora and Don Alvaro, whose relationship is thwarted by the demands of honor, family and fate. Invitation to Opera events go out to all members. For more details on Opera offerings google amc theatres opera. You can see what operas will be offered.

Walking group: Janet Daly reminds us that the walking group meets on Mondays at 10 am at the Ridgewood Duck Pond. We walk from the Duck Pond to Dunkerhook. It is 2 miles out and 2 miles back for a total of 4 miles. Some members chose not to walk the whole 4 miles. We have a few who walk 1 mile in and 1 mile back.

Trip Committee: Caroline Seibel reported on 4/10/24 we will have a trip to Broadway to see "The Notebook". This trip sold out in 4 days. We currently have 6 on waiting list. A confirmation email will go out soon, We will follow up with a reminder close to 4/10.

Future trips: Atlantic City in June to the Tropicana. We will get \$25 for gambling, \$20 for food. This trip will include tickets to a Whitney Houston Tribute show. In the Fall we will offer another Brooklyn Tour: The Best of Brooklyn on 10/23. In December we will again offer a trip to Caramoor for their Christmas Tea. Information for this trip will go out in the summer, so monitor your email and send your check in quickly. This trip also sold out quickly.

Movie Group: Susan Cassell and Sue Steele report that last meeting we broke into groups to discuss some of the movies nominated for Best Picture. We will offer an "Oscar Party" at the home of Susan Cassell on March 10 from 2-4. There is a limit of 25-30 attendees. Please respond when the invitation goes out that you will attend and what you will contribute. (Appetizer, wine, soft drink, dessert). Susan tries to make sure we have a good variety to choose from.

Monthly Luncheon: Denise Santora reminds us the March luncheon is scheduled for 3/7 at Fiona's in Midland Park at noon. Checks are due to Denise by 2/29. You can drop off in her mailbox, mail or give to her at today's meeting. There are currently 37 signed up to attend.

Canasta: Donna Singer reports: Weekly reminders go out on Tuesday morning, Please RSVP. We will not be meeting on April 18, both rooms at the Village Hall are in use. You will receive a reminder about this date.

Cooking club: Donna Singer mentioned there were 2 very successful Chinese New Year celebrations at Lou Gallo Mann's house and Sofia Bufis' house. The guests reported it was a wonderful event. Unfortunately, Donna apologetically reported that the event scheduled at her house was cancelled twice, once for snow and the second time because she was diagnosed with conjunctivitis and is contagious. She will figure out when she might be able to reschedule and contact the 15 members who were supposed to attend. Donna also reported April 1 she has

reserved the auditorium for a cooking event. The group will meet to discuss what the theme will be. This date was chosen because there is no school that day and the whole parking lot will be available to Connections Cooking Club members.

Constant Contact Training: Donna Singer reports that she has offered Constant Contact Training (one on 2/16 and an upcoming one on 2/21). She recommends activity leaders who may not be using it consider using this software. She and Sue Steele keep activity groups updated as members leave and join group and Connections. Please contact Donna Singer if you are interested in learning Constant Contact. Donna.mainardi.singer@gmail.com

Writing Group 2: Pat Crifo and Lisa Banta will be offering a second writing group. The first writing group was so successful and it cannot accept any more members due to time constraints.

Connections first writing group was such a success that we are offering a second group. The Writing Group offers a chance to try your hand (and pen) at creative writing and storytelling. The facilitator will e-mail the two topics the night before and we will write about them when we meet. Then we will share what we wrote in a welcoming, non-judgmental and confidential atmosphere.

We will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Mc Clure room at the First Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood. The first meeting will be February 27. Come and make new friends and have some fun! Contact Donna Singer if you are interested in being added to this activity group at donna.mainardi.singer@gmail.com.

Minutes submitted by Donna Singer