

Minutes Membership Meeting, October 15, 2024 10 AM

The meeting was called to order by President Jacquie Hinrichs at approximately 10 AM.

President Hinrichs introduced Donna Singer, Chair of the Nominating Committee to announce the slate of officers for calendar year 2025. Donna reminded the audience of our “order of succession”, Jacquie will become Past President, the First Vice President will become President, the Second Vice President will become the First Vice President and Marilyn Chuebon has agreed to serve as Second Vice President. The Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, and the Membership Secretary remain in their current positions.

Our slate of officers for next year are:

Marianne Siccardi, President

Joan Cooke, First Vice President

Marilyn Chuebon, Second Vice President

Lee Atieh, Treasurer

Linda Bakian, Recording Secretary

Sue Steele, Membership Secretary

A vote was taken and the slate of officers passed.

Jacquie reported that the board discussed the change in dues due date, we are returning to December 1 due date. A vote was taken and the measure passed.

The members that join in September, October, November and December will be paid for the following year. They will not need to resubmit dues payment on December 1.

If a member is not paid by December 31, they will be removed from our data base and will have to reapply through the normal application process. A vote was taken and the measure passed.

There is an Activity Leader meeting scheduled for October 22 at 10 am in the First Pres Auditorium.

The President’s luncheon appreciating Activity Leaders is scheduled for November 8 at Due Fratelli, Hawthorne. Activity Leaders are reminded to RSVP so we can get a count for our planning.

You will be receiving an email invitation to the HILT trip to Cape May in December. All Connections members are invited (not just Ridgewood residents).

You have also received an invitation to the Hobbyist’s holiday dance on December 9.

Lee Atieh gave the Treasurer’s report: as of September 24, our beginning balance was \$20,371

There were \$2550 in deposits into our account which included the checks for our monthly luncheon. Expenses included our annual Constant Contact payment of \$226, our quarterly donation to the First Presbyterian Church of \$1000, and the payment to the restaurant for our luncheon. Our ending balance is \$20,002.56

Our membership secretary, Sue Steele reported that with this month's 4 new members we have reached our maximum of 250 members. We have removed our application from the website. There are currently 15 people on the wait list. Those applications are on hold until we see how many members do not rejoin for 2025.

We also have a waitlist for entry into a book club. Our book clubs are capped at 25. We are looking for a member to offer to lead another book club. Please reach out to Sue Steele or any member of the board if you are interested.

New members: Holly Valerio sponsored by Lee Atieh (hiking, MahJongg, walking). Joann Rosen sponsored by Dina Stein (canasta, pinochle, MahJongg, walking), Donna Maslak sponsored by Donna Kahn (hiking, movies, PBS, rummikub, walking) Karen Arilotta sponsored by Jacquie Hinrichs (book group, movies, Opera, PBS, Rummikub).

Activity Leaders Reports:

Canasta (Donna Singer, Pat Boyko) meets Thursdays at 1 pm in Ridgewood Village Hall. Please make sure you RSVP if you are coming so we can plan for how many tables/cards etc we need.

Cooking Club (Donna Singer) Donna apologized for not being in contact earlier as she has been undergoing a kitchen renovation. We are planning a "Thanksgiving Sides" event. Please note: Green bean casserole with cream of mushroom soup and sweet potatoes with marshmallows are not welcome at our event! Be creative! Share any ethnic foods you might include in your holiday planning. Details will be forthcoming. We are also planning for our "Cookie Exchange" in December. The cookie exchange happens in members homes. We will also offer our theme lunches next calendar year.

Movie Group (Susan Cassell, Sue Steele) This time we broke our group into two groups. Each group will watch a different movie. The movies this month are: Good Will Hunting (Robin Williams) and Molly's Game (Jessica Chastain).

Opera (Brenda Brunelle) Everyone in connections is invited to join the Opera experience. You will receive an invitation with details on the opera being shown at the AMC theatre in Hackensack. You can invite non Connections members to join you (spouse, friend, child). We meet on Saturday afternoons. Food is served at the theater and the seats are comfortable.

Zoom Book club (Brenda Brunelle) The Zoom Book club meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7PM. Please let Brenda or Donna know if you are interested in joining. You will be placed in that group and receive the communications sent out about the meeting and book selection. They are reading "The Art of Hearing Heartbeats" this month. In December, they are reading "Hidden Figures".

Monthly Lunches (Denise Santora) This month our lunch is at Andreas in Waldwick on October 30 at noon. We have hit Andreas maximum of 50. There is a waiting list. If you find you cannot come and have paid, please let us know ASAP so we can pull from our waiting list. Next month the luncheon will be held on Thursday November 21. You will receive a notification on location and price.

Day Trips (Carolyn Seibel) Brooklyn "Best of Brooklyn Tour" October 23. Graydon Pool Parking, 8:15 am Board bus, 8:30 am bus departs, we are meeting Tony, owner and our tour guide at 10:30 am.

Dec 18, Caramoor trip. Trip includes house tour, entertainment by opera singer and Juilliard school of music piano player. The trip is open to non members, so invite a friend, a spouse...

Donna and I are working on doing a trip to the Culinary in Hyde Park, NY. They have not been responsive however. We are hoping for a date in April when they have their winter luncheon special pricing. If we cannot schedule it, we will look into going into NYC for a play. Play schedules are changing so we will make a decision later as to which play it will be.

Friday Mah Jongg (Marianne Siccardi): On Friday, October 18, Mah Jongg is cancelled due to the Movie Group meeting.

Birthday club (Danielle Manis) Danielle reported a new club. Connections celebrates you if you opt in by sending your birth month to Danielle. Please let us acknowledge you on your birth day. Send Danielle your name, birth month and we will acknowledge you and celebrate you!

Marianne announced November's activity at our membership meeting will be making Bows. Please bring 10 yards of wired ribbon if you wish to participate. Sharp scissors are necessary too.

Today we are playing Bingo, so please join us!

Respectfully submitted by Donna Singer 10/17/2024