

## Connections General Meeting

February 18, 2025

Attendance: 66

Zoom Attendance: 4

Recorder: Linda Bakian

### Treasurer's Report: Lee Atieh

Lee explained the reason Connections seems to have so much money is because seed money is needed to pay in advance for trips, tickets, and other activities. Dues are Connections only source of income and are collected in the fall to be used during the entire year.

The forwarded opening balance was \$26,533. There was a deposit of \$2,612 from dues and the luncheon. A down payment of \$3,469 was made for the June trip. The current balance is \$25,676.32.

### Membership: Sue Steele

With today's seven new members, the waiting list is exhausted. We now have 253 members, and the application process is closed. We're working on cleaning up the book groups to find how spaces are available for members.

### New Members

Marianne Siccardi introduced the new members:

- Susan Amsterdam (Donna Kahn and Bridget Cena, last minute volunteer sponsors)
- Susan Cropper (Danuta Kuc, sponsor)
- Joan Donlan-Mulkeen (Dolores LaRonca, sponsor)
- Geraldine Howard (Viginia Cuce, sponsor)
- Cheryl Mallen (Lois Stalp, volunteer)
- Gloria Martini (Lauren Salvani, volunteer)
- Gail McCormick (Diane Haderthauer, sponsor)

### New Activities

Three new activity groups were accepted by the board.

- Diamond Painting
  - Bonnie Molnar will hold the first meeting on Friday, February 28, downstairs in the church, from 10-12. Women who want to attend must bring a kit with them. Kits can be purchased at Michaels, Joanne's. and Amazon. The cost varies depending on the project. Let Bonnie if you plan to attend.
- Sunshine Strollers
  - Marcy Fearon spoke about how this group will be an opportunity to rejuvenate mind, body, and soul. Members will discuss positive and uplifting topics. It will meet at the Ridgewood Duck Pond, at 3:30pm,

either on Thursday or Friday depending on the weather. Marcy encouraged members to join.

- Classic Book Club
  - Carol Laford would like to share her enjoyment of reading with others. The group will select books from The Modern Library Collection. The first book will be *The Magnificent Ambersons*. The group will meet on the first Friday of the month, in the church dining room. Connections members can only belong to one book group so if someone who is in one now would like to join the Classic Book Club, she'll have to resign from the other.

### Activity Leaders

- Trip Committee: Diane Paoli
  - The trip to see *It's a Wonderful World* was a big success. There are ten women on the waiting list for the trip to the CIA. There will be a trip on June 24 to the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Lunch will be in New Jersey.
- Cooking: Donna Singer
  - The next meeting of the Cooking Club will be on February 28 at her house, and the food will be Lebanese. Only two homes were offered while 27 women signed up. More hosts are needed in the future.
- Canasta: Donna Singer
  - Canasta is on Thursday, from 1-3pm, at the Ridgewood Village Hall. An easy version is played and if someone doesn't know how to play but would like to join, we'll teach her.
- Constant Contact: Donna Singer
  - Do not hit unsubscribe on an email. If you do, you'll be removed from everything. Contact Donna if you would like to be removed from an email list. She will be holding a Constant Contact training session.
- Walking:
  - The Walking Group meets Monday mornings at the Duck Pond, at 10am. Women can walk the distance they want.
  - A walking tour of Radburn is being planned.
- Luncheon: Denise Santoro Mosher
  - Fifty-five women have signed up for the Wednesday, February 26, luncheon at Mados, in River Edge. The deadline to do so is February 19. She'll take checks at today's meeting or one can be left in her mailbox.
  - The next luncheon will be on Thursday, March 27, at the Bone Fish Grill. There is room for as many who would like to attend.
- Opera Group: Brenda Brunelle
  - *Fidelio*, Beethoven's only opera, will be shown on Saturday, March 15, at 1pm, at the AMC theater at the Shops at Riverside and the Garden State Mall.
- Zoom Book Group: Brenda Brunelle
  - Ten members are on the roster and there's room for more. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7pm. Let Donna Singer know if you want to join. February's book is *Promise*, by Minrose Gwin.

- Movie Group: Sue Steele
  - The film *Anora* will be discussed at the Friday, February 21, 1pm, meeting, in the church. The Oscar party will be on March 2. More information will be sent.
- Hiking Group: Sue Robinson
  - The next hike, on February 25, at 10am, will be for 3 miles at the Glen Rock Arboretum. It's a flat one and members can walk fewer miles if they wish.
- Bridge Group: Linda Bakian
  - The bridge group meets Thursdays at the Midland Park Senior Center from 10am-12pm. Players are at different levels and the atmosphere relaxed.

Activity: Chair and Standing Yoga with Margaret Woodward.