

Connections Membership Meeting

January 21, 2025

Attendance: 61

Zoom Attendance: 5

Recorder: Linda Bakian

Marianne Saccardi welcomed the attendees. There is a need for places in book groups for members. She will send an email to book group leaders asking them to contact the members of their group to enquire if they wish to remain. Women who do not respond will be removed from the group.

Treasurer's report: Lee Atiah:

Dues made up most of the deposits. The December opening balance was \$25,255.97. Expenses were the tickets and bus deposit for the play, Church payment, Christmas gratuities, flowers for the outgoing president, and Adobe for a total of \$7,654.34. Deposits of dues and the Caramoor trip payments were \$8,932.00. The ending balance is \$26,533.63.

Membership: Sue Steele

The cap on Connections' membership is 250. This year eleven women did not renew, and there are fourteen people on the waiting list. The Board will not reopen the waiting list.

New Members: Marianne Siccardi

The new members and their sponsors were introduced.

They are:

- Barbaralee Berte (Donna Kahn, Sponsor)
- Cathy Revicki (Dottie Giglietta)
- Diana Perez (Debra Dzuibinsky)
- JoAnn Jarolmen (Carol Maloney)
- Blair Kokotek (Susan J. Steele)
- Patricia Ryan (Bridget Cena)
- Catherine Sloan (Janet Daly)

Activity Leaders

Caroline Seibel: Trips

The December trip to Caramoor was a success, and an enjoyable time was had by all. The February 13 trip to see *A Wonderful World: The Louis Armstrong Musical* is sold out. One or two trips will be planned for the spring. Anyone who wants to be on the waiting list should contact Diane Paola.

Denise Santora Mosher: Luncheon

The next luncheon will be at Mado Restaurant, on February 26, at 12:00. Despite her efforts to keep the price down, it will be \$45 per person. Included are appetizers, choice of entrée, dessert, coffee/tea, and soft drinks.

Brenda Brunelle: Zoom Book Group, Opera Group

Members were encouraged to join the Zoom Book Group. The next meeting is on Thursday, January 30, at 7pm. The book is *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty.

Aida, the next opera, is on Saturday, January 25, at the AMC Theater at the Shops at Riverside. It can also be seen at the AMC theater at the Garden State Mall. Members can bring family and friends. The group meets briefly in the lobby before and after the presentation.

Donna Singer: Canasta, Cooking

Members were invited to join the Canasta Group that meets on Thursdays, from 1-3, in the Ridgewood Village Hall. If a member would like play, but doesn't know, she'll be taught.

The Cooking Club is having a Lebanese lunch. More hosts are needed if the lunches are to continue. The host is responsible for preparing the main course and coordinating the menu

Sue Steele and Sue Cassell: The Movie Group

They are trying to pick films that are possible Oscar contenders, Members were warned that *Anora*, the next movie may be "shocking." This year's Oscar party is tentatively scheduled for March 2. However, because of the fires the date for the Oscars may be postponed. If this happens, the party will be rescheduled.

Janet Daly: The Walking Group

The Walking Group meets at 10am at the Duck Pond Pavilion. The walk is four miles, but an attendee can turn back any time she wants. The group will walk weather permitting.

Danielle Manis: Connections Celebrates You

January birthday members were wished "A HAPPY Birthday."

Program: Check It Out: Winter 2025 Reads, a presentation by the Ridgewood Library Director Lori Steinbacher, Assistant Director, Roberta Panjwani, and Library Assistant and Readers' Advisory Blogger, Stacey Loscalzo.

