

## Connections General Meeting

March 18, 2025

Attendance: 64

Zoom Attendance: 5

Recorder: Linda Bakian

Marianne Siccardi reviewed Connections finances including revenue and expenses. Our major expenses are the church \$4400, Constant Contact \$1000, fellowship luncheon \$1000, activity leaders' luncheon \$1200, and the possible cost of monthly programs \$1500. Miscellaneous, such as Zoom, website, gifts, and materials needed for activities is about \$700. In addition, we must be aware of probable cost increases. Connections takes in about \$10,000.. Seed money may be needed for our trips and luncheons. Before we collect money from members, tickets and buses must be paid in advance and occasionally two trips overlap. This money is replaced but needs to be there to organize these activities. Connections is audited once a year.

### Membership: Sue Steele

Applications are on hold; we have 253 members. The book groups have been "cleaned up" and new members are being added.

### Emergency Forms: Marianne Siccardi

Members are asked to fill out emergency contact forms with a name and phone number. Only one form per person is needed. Once this information is organized your activity leader will have your emergency information at each of your activity meetings.

For trips and luncheons, Donna Singer will create a roster and give it to the trip leader or Denise Santora Mosher.

If a change is necessary, the member should tell Donna.

### First Presbyterian Church Fundraiser: Marilyn Chuebon

The church is having a fund raiser on April 1. A Tastefully British food truck serving fish or chicken, French fries, and coleslaw, will be at the FPC parking lot from 5-7. Dinners can be ordered in advance, picked up between those hours, and taken home or eaten in the church auditorium.

### Activity Leaders

- Luncheons: Denise Santora-Mosher
  - The next luncheon is at the Bonefish Grill, on Thursday, March 27. Forty eight women have signed up, and March 19 is the last day to do so.
  - There will be a luncheon on Tuesday, April 22, at Fiona's, in Midland Park.
- Canasta: Donna Singer
  - Canasta is played at the Ridgewood Village Hall at no cost. Deanna Schablit, the Recreation Program Coordinator, may ask us to allow women

who are not in Connections to play. It is necessary to allow this if we want to continue playing there for free.

- Marianne Siccardi added it is the same at the Northwest Senior Center in Midland Park.
- Brenda Brunelle added this is true for the libraries where we hold activities.

- Cooking Club: Donna Singer

- There will be a virtual cooking class on Zoom at the cost of \$20 per person.
- On June 20, there will be a luncheon at FPC
- Donna asked for suggestions for cuisines.

- Constant Contact: Donna Singer

- The names of the new group members are updated in Constant Contact. Donna will reach out if someone mistakenly opted out of Constant Contact.
- If a member has signed up for a trip and did not receive information, she should contact Donna or Carolyn Seibel.

- Opera Group: Brenda Brunelle

- Twenty one people attended *Fedelio*.
- The next opera is *The Marriage of Figaro*, on April 26. Members are encouraged to attend and bring friends.

- Zoom Book Group: Brenda Brunelle

- The virtual book group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 7pm. More members can be accommodated, and If you would like to join, contact Brenda. She'll let Donna know and send you information. Say Nothing is the book for the March meeting.

- Trips: Carolyn Seibel

- Fifty women have signed up for the April 10 trip to the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) and eleven are on the waiting list.
- The final trip of the spring/winter will be to the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx and lunch at the Sears Steak House in Closter, on June 24. The visit to the botanical gardens requires walking and everyone must be able to walk on her own. Checks will be accepted at the April 15 general meeting. A member can only bring one additional check for another member.
- If anyone has trip suggestions or would like to join the committee, contact Carolyn.

- Movie Group: Sue Steele and Sue Cassell

- The Oscar Party was a success and two attendees tied correctly filling out the ballots forecasting the winners. This Friday, the group will discuss the two versions of the movie *Sabrina*. The April 18 meeting is on Good Friday and there may be a problem having it at the church. Members will be notified if there is a meeting on that day.

- Connections Cares: Bridget Cena

- Bridget asked if anyone knows a member who has significant health problems to please contact her.

- Walking: Janet Daly
  - The walking group meets Monday mornings, at 10am, at the Ridgewood Duck Pond. There will be a walking tour of Historic Radburn on May 5<sup>th</sup> and perhaps at a later day, one on Historic Women of Radburn.
- Sunshine Strollers Group: Marcy Fearon
  - Marcy thanked the 45 women who signed up and spoke about the importance of positive attitude citing it as part NASA's training of astronauts. The Sunshine Strollers is fifty percent positive attitude and fifty percent strolling. If you want to sign up, contact Donna Singer. An email will be sent out in the morning when a stroll is cancelled.
- Diamond Painting: Marianne Siccardi
  - Diamond painting is held on the fourth Friday of the month, from 10-12, at FPC. Bonnie Molar is the activity leader.

Presentation: Chris Martin, bagpiper