**Strangers No Longer Zoom Meeting: January 17, 2023**

**Attendance:** Fiona Archer, Pat Boland-Saoud, Kathy Best, Sue Johnston, Mary Lou LaTorre,

Cyndi Malow, Donna Nesbitt, Rose Pikor, Julie Watanabe, Pat Watanabe,

Sr. Martha De-La-Torre, Carol Schroeder

**Opening Prayer:**  Rose Pikor

**Strangers No Longer Updates:**

1. Advocacy continues to be the focus of the Organization.

* The month was changed from March to February due to a conflict with another organization.
* Lobby Day is in Lansing on February 28th at 9AM.
* Anyone interested in attending can contact the group chairpersons: Rich and Kathy Faba ([rkaba@aol.com](mailto:rkaba@aol.com)).
* Sr. Martha spoke about possible transportation being offered on that day,

such as buses. Therefore, a number of attendees would be helpful to plan.

* There are plans for about 100 to attend, which would include lawmakers and lawyers. Plans are for organizing groups of 20 each. The groups will report back as to what had been discussed.
* You can register on the website to find out more information.
* There has been a very positive response for interest.

1. Fundraiser Luncheon: Report given by Pat Watanabe

* It will take place on April 23, 2023 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, which is located on Ryan Rd. South of 696. The cost of a ticket is $30 (up from $25 last year). Cyndi and Pat are going to personally visit the Hall.
* The Center will provide the tablecloths and napkins (in Ukrainian colors). We need to arrive on that day one hour before to set up and another hour after for clean-up. The staff at the Center will serve the food. There will be 4 serving lines, rather than 2.
* There is expected to be 400 in attendance, with 40 tables and 10 at each table.
* Cyndi will work organizing baskets to be raffled.
* Research is needed on how the tickets will be purchased with using organizations that provide this service. Fiona has done some research with a company. Some are expensive to use. Pat will look into a Catholic organization that provides this service which may be cheaper than others by possibly not having a fee with processing online.
* Pat has collected wine bottles and has put little “fairy lights” in the bottles to help decorate the tables with 3 bottles each. Each bottle will be set on a silver charger. She needs 4 more chargers and some wine bottles.
* Pat asked for volunteers to arrive an hour before the luncheon to set up. It should be much quicker and easier that last year. All in attendance at this meeting have volunteered to help, including Sr. Martha. Raffle Baskets also need set up.
* Discussion was had that since all of us are setting up, another Church Circle of Support might be able to do the clean-up after the luncheon.
* Sr. Martha offered to give the women in the Mujeres Group the information on the luncheon. Julie offered to find out if any of the women might need financial help in purchasing their tickets. Sr. Martha will help her with that.
* There will be entertainment: Sr. Val’s music group, and a Ukrainian Dance Group
* We are still searching for a guest speaker.

**New/Continued Business:**

1. Cyndi had e-mailed us a report from Christian Service.
2. Michelle will contact Fr. Mike to see if he will once again help with our dues
3. Super Bowl of Caring (February 10th and 11th): This charity will be shared with us.
4. Lenten Communion Service:

* Need to pick a date: Either March the 9th, 16thor 23rd.
* We need outside participation: Sr. Val’s Children Music Group and

Pat W. could do the music once again.

* Homily: Mary Lou suggest using the children to speak. It might be difficult to provide children from the Mujeres group. We could possibly use the children from Sr. Val’s group who are already providing the music. Pat W. might talk to Sr. Val about this.
* We will need: 3 songs, opening/closing/communion/Gospel reading
* More discussion on this Service to come in February.

1. Easter Baskets: Last year we did 50 baskets.

* We will again purchase the cloth cubes and cellophane.
* TBD: Where the baskets will go.

**Next Meeting:**  Feb. 21st **Agenda:**  Julie **Minutes:**  Rose

**Opening Prayer:**  Pat W. **Closing Prayer:**  Rose **Bulletin:** Julie

**Communication with Michelle Hayes:** Fiona (Facebook)

**Communion Service:**

* **Welcome/opening prayer/Prayers of the Faithful:** Julie **Writing:** Mary Lou

**\***Julie has written an article for the Bulletin summarizing all our past events.