**Strangers No Longer Zoom Meeting: November 15, 2022**

**Attendance:**  Rose Pikor, Julie Watanabe, Kathy Best, Watoii Rabii, Cyndi Malow,

Pat Watanabe, Fiona Archer, Donna Nesbitt, Pat Boland-Saoud, Sue Johnston,

Mary Lou LaTorre

**Opening Prayer:**  Pat Watanabe

**SNL Updates:**

1. Immigration Advocacy: The public assembly will meet on December 9th. Registration can be obtained on their website. Julie discussed how the House and the Senate in Michigan is now with Democratic control and hopefully some bills which have been stalled under Republican control can now be passed to benefit immigrants, such as obtaining driver licenses. There may be discussion on this at the meeting.
2. Fundraiser:
* Report was made by Pat Watanabe.
* Tentative Date: April 16th, which is the Sunday after Easter. Exact time and place TBD.
* We could use the hall from last year, but there were drawbacks.
* Pat talked to St. Therse Lisieux Church. Their hall holds about 300, which might be too small. We might need a room for 350 to 400. But an advantage would be that they have a hospitality committee which would set up and clean-up for us. There would be no charge.
* She is also looking into St. Isadore Church, working with Sr. Val. This hall is much bigger. Pat thought this was a good one to investigate.
* We could also look at the hall where the Dec. 9th Assembly is taking place. Some on the SNL committee are going to visit it and if they like it, Pat will have to fill out an application to see if April 16th is available.
* Ticket price might be increased to $30 from $25.
* Thought is to look at a digital site (ex. “Sign UP Genius” or others) to purchase tickets online. There is a one to two percent charge for this use, but that would still be less than we paid to print them last year. People would be responsible to purchase their own tickets. Pat questioned how people could reserve seats to sit with each other at the tables.

Julie stated that her music program at her school’s district uses “Event Bright (sp?)” and they are able to purchase personal seating. More information is needed. Pat stated that it might eliminate using written checks. She discussed how there is a fob that Bill could use to process the ticket funds, enabling people to use their credit cards. All this is still in the discussion stage.

* There is still discussion on whether to have basket raffles as last year.
* Pat W. asked to have wine bottles saved to enable her to create a decoration for the tables.
* Sister Val is still collecting women’s coats, medium size, new or used. Pat W. will get them to her.
* We need committees to work on the luncheon. Bill may want to be using more time for work on Advocacy which might leave less time for planning the luncheon. If so, April 16 date may have to be moved.

**Christian Service Report:** Cyndi had e-mailed us the report.

**Education Discussion:**

We discussed information Julie had sent us about St. Father Toribio Romo,

patron saint of Immigrants. He is more famous today in Mexico than in U.S.

* He was from Mexico at a time when the Mexican government in the 1920’s persecuted Catholics. He lived a life of hiding and fear from the government. He might have experienced the same type of fear that today’s immigrants have. He served the poor and performed miracles through his relationship with Jesus.
* He was found by soldiers in hiding and was murdered.

 **New/Continued Business”**

* Adopt a Box Program will run from 11/23 – 12/11. Boxes can be picked up at church. The Bulletin will list the items that need to be boxed. We are working on getting 60 boxes filled. Some will go to Sr. Val to give to families seeking asylum in Northern Macomb and some will go to the Mujeres group. There may also be another group to give the boxes.
* Giving Tree: It begins this weekend and donations need to be in by Dec. 4th. Julie will pick up the ones to go to the Mujeres Group on Dec. 6th. Sr. Val will pick up the ones she needs.
* Christmas Stockings Project: All the stockings have been chosen. If you forgot who you picked, contact Julie and she will review with you. We will meet at the Youth Group room on Dec. 3rd at 10:00AM to fill them. If you can’t meet on that date, get your supplies to someone to bring. We agreed to once again send Christmas cards to the Mujeres Group. Mary Lou reminded us that we planned to put a spiritual gift in each stocking. Julie found a Nativity sticker craft kit to put into each stocking, where each child can create into an ornament. Kathy Best offered to make a donation in lieu of filling a stocking, so she may donate the Nativity craft kit.
* Bill O’Brien was talking about possibly joining SNL with another Detroit group. More to come later.
* Art Exhibit in Grand Rapids: Photographs showed objects that were taken away from immigrants. Pat B. had seen the exhibit and had talked to the photographer who had arranged the pictures of confiscated items. Mary Lou suggested we might think about doing an exhibit at the church to show photographs of objects that were confiscated from immigrants. She thought this might set up an awareness about immigrants for the families in our church. Discussion was had to pursue this as a possible project.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 20th. There will be no Agenda outlined and will have shorter meeting to only discuss the fundraiser.

**Minutes:** Rose won’t be at the meeting and minutes may be taken by Julie.

**Opening/Closing Prayer:** Informal by members.

**Communication with Kathy Chadick (bulletin):** Julie

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