

## HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – March 5, 2026

**Birthdays:** The March birthday slide was displayed as members arrived. 37 Hobbyists have birthdays in March, including 8 lifetime members: Jonathan Jackson (94), Thomas Mitchell (92), Len Cheringal (98), Sy Choo (93), Ralph Kirby (95), Joe Linfante (92), Jack Warner (90) and Jerry Goetting (94). Two members are celebrating their birthday today, March 5: Ed Driscoll (89) and Vincent Magnano (78).

**Meeting called to order** by President Peter Weinstein at 10:03 a.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Gary Engelhardt.

**Hobbyists Concerned** – Steve Rubin

- Two Hobbyists passed away during the past month: Rick Laurino (Hobbyist since 2022) and James Jebaily (Hobbyist since 2014).
- Mary Ramage, the wife of Hobbyist Dick Ramage, also passed away recently.

**Treasurer's Report** – Gary Engelhardt

- Our CD earned \$124.03 in February. The CD will mature in July.

**Membership** – Bob Mosher

- One new member joined in the past month, bringing our total new members thus far in 2026 to 16.
- There are 92 members present at this morning's meeting, with one more participating on Zoom.
- As of today, there are 452 total Hobbyists members, including 79 life members.
- There are 2 new members being inducted today:
  - Sam (Josephson) Kokotek, introduced by Alan Stein
  - Bob Wong, introduced by Bob Mosher

**Speakers** – Steve Friedman

- Today's speaker is Evan Weiner, who will make a presentation on "Jewish Comics: from Vaudeville to Film to Radio", which will include the Marx Brothers, Jack Benny, the Three Stooges, Lenny Bruce, Rodney Dangerfield, Mel Brooks and Jerry Seinfeld, among many others.

**President's Report** - Peter Weinstein

- The First Presbyterian Church will hold a fundraiser dinner on March 18 from 5 – 7 pm, featuring fish and chips or chicken and chips, both served with cole slaw. The cost is \$20. Attendees may either eat-in in the church auditorium or pick up a box in the church parking lot. Hobbyists are welcome and encouraged to attend. Funds raised will be directed to 3 programs: hunger assistance, disaster assistance and self-development. If interested, contact Dana in the church office by March 15: phone 201-652-2504 or e-mail [firstpresridgewood.org](mailto:firstpresridgewood.org).

**Update on Coming Events** –

- Woodloch Pines Trip (September 16 – 18) Don Peterfriend: Anyone who is interested in attending the Woodloch Pines trip and has not yet signed up, please contact Don Peterfriend ([dpeterfriend@yahoo.com](mailto:dpeterfriend@yahoo.com)) or Gary Engelhardt ([garye569@msn.com](mailto:garye569@msn.com)).
- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance (Wednesday May 13 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes) Don Peterfriend: Thus far, about 150 people have either paid or said they plan to come. If you would like to attend, please contact Don Peterfriend (email: [dpeterfriend@yahoo.com](mailto:dpeterfriend@yahoo.com)) or Bill Healy

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(email: [whealy3741@aol.com](mailto:whealy3741@aol.com)). The cost is \$215 per couple. Please send checks directly to Don Peterfriend (20 Knollwood Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446). Please address requests for table seating arrangements to Bill Healy. The Indian Trail Club is a beautiful facility with plenty of parking. The dance will run from 6:00 – 9:30 pm and will feature open bar cocktails in the cocktail lounge (or outside overlooking the lake), dinner in the dining room and dancing to a live DJ. Constant Contact emails with details have already been sent out to members and reminders will continue to be sent during the next few weeks. Dress code for the dance is business casual.

- Fellowship Luncheon (Thursday, April 23 in the church auditorium) Bob Mosher: The luncheon will be catered by the same vendor as last year. A great meal and a great way to meet old and new friends. More details will be coming by Constant Contact.
- St Patrick's Lunch Bob Stevenson: This annual lunch will be held at the Hearth and Tap, 125 Kinderkamack Rd, Monvale on Wednesday March 11, starting at noon. There are presently about 45 paid attendees. We are expecting 50 or more. The lunch honors deceased Hobbyist Jim Feeney, who was a memorable raconteur of stories and jokes. Two of Jim's sons will be attending this year's lunch, as will Pastor Bruce Ballantine of First Presbyterian Church. The cost of the lunch is \$52 per head. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bob Stevenson ([robtstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:robtstevenson@hotmail.com)).

### Activity Chairman Reports:

- Beer Appreciation - Rick Rosenthal: Next gathering is on Thursday March 12 at 6:30 pm at Celtic Corner, located at 312 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. Please contact Rick Rosenthal ([rickrosenthal@icloud.com](mailto:rickrosenthal@icloud.com)) if you plan to attend.
- Book Club – Jonathan Sterling: The Book Club meets on the third Friday of each month at 10 am in the church library. The next meeting is on Friday March 20. The book being discussed is "James" by Percival Everett. In April, the Book Club plans to read "Family of Spies" by Christine Kuehn, a true story of a woman who discovers that her grandfather and other family members were Nazi spies sent to Hawaii to provide information to the Japanese in preparation for Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The April Book Club meeting will be joined by the Military History group. The meeting will probably be held in the auditorium as the church library may be too small to hold all participants.
- Chess Club - Rick Pascal: The chess club meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon in the rear of the auditorium at the church. All levels of skill are welcome. The group is growing, with 14 players at the most recent session.
- Cornhole – Stu Levine: There have been 3 meetings of this new club, with a total of 12 players attending at least one session. The next meeting will be in the church auditorium on Wednesday March 11 at noon. Once weather improves, the club will be looking for an outdoor venue to play. Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- Cribbage – Don Dexter and John Peterman: The new cribbage activity group had its first meeting attended by 7 players, 4 of whom were familiar with the game and 3 of whom were new to it. At this initial meeting, experienced players used open hands to demonstrate the rules and strategies of the game. John described cribbage as simpler than bridge but involving more strategy than poker. Newcomers are welcome to join. The group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at Don Dexter's house in Ridgewood from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The next meeting is Thursday March 19. Contact Don ([donaldcdexter@gmail.com](mailto:donaldcdexter@gmail.com)) or John ([petermanj@wpunj.edu](mailto:petermanj@wpunj.edu)) if you are interested in joining.
- Golf – Paul Fazio: Golf registration concluded February 28. As of that date, there were 95 registered golfers. Late registration is still possible, but the registration fee will be \$20 rather

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than \$15. The golf season begins on April 10<sup>th</sup> for Friday golfers and on April 14<sup>th</sup> for Tuesday golfers. Pro shops at Bergen County golf courses are now open. Golfers should renew their Bergen County ID cards for 2026 by visiting a pro shop. To renew an ID, golfers will need their old card, their driver's license and their credit card for payment. The renewal fee for Bergen County residents is \$45. For non-residents of Bergen County, the renewal fee is \$100. Greens fees on Bergen County courses will be the same this year as they were last year. April schedules for Friday golf are being put together by Giancarlo Bisone and April schedules for Tuesday golf are being put together by Gary Don. If a golfer indicated at the time of this year's registration that he will be available for Tuesday or Friday dates in April, it is very important that he contacts Giancarlo or Gary by March 20<sup>th</sup> if his plans change, so that they can remove him from the schedule for dates that he can no longer play. Going forward, the same need for notice applies: a golfer should notify Giancarlo or Gary to remove him from the schedule if he knows he can't play on a date for which he had previously signed up. A few other closing points: (i) golfers should write their names or initials on their golf balls so that there is less chance of mistakenly playing another golfer's ball; (ii) on the green, please mark the location of your ball with a coin rather than a tee.

- Movie Lovers – Dick Oswald: The movie this month is “The Heiress” starring Olivia de Havilland, Montgomery Clift and Ralph Richardson. It is an excellent film that was nominated for 8 Academy Awards and won 4, including Best Actress. The film will be shown in the Ridgewood Village Hall on Tuesday March 10 at 1:30 pm.
- Music Lovers – Jim McKeown: The next Music Lovers presentation will be Part 3 of Broadway Showstoppers, led by Rick Pascal. As there was a conflict with a church activity on the usual Friday date in March, the presentation will be held on Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>. A Constant Contact announcement is forthcoming. Rick explained that the Part 3 presentation will be shorter than Part 2, running a little over one hour. It will include music from Les Miz, Pippin, My Fair Lady, and Guys and Dolls, among others. Friends and family are welcome. An invitation is also going out to Connections. Jim concluded by mentioning that a Hobbyist member is looking for a piano accompanist. If anyone is a pianist or knows one, please contact Jim.
- Navigating Retirement – Mitchell Milch: This group had another good meeting yesterday (March 4) and will continue meeting in the church auditorium on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. All Hobbyists are welcome. Mitchell mentioned two other concepts he is working on, a NY Giants Fan Appreciation group and personal one-on-one instruction sessions on mindful eating. More information to come.
- Newsletter – Rick Pascal and Mike Doherty: The team working on the special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter has collected input from a majority of the 35 Hobbyist activity groups but is still waiting to hear from 14 groups. The original target date of March 5 for responses has been extended to March 13. Group leaders (or group members if the group leader is unavailable) are encouraged to contribute to this special newsletter, which will be preserved in Hobbyist digital archives for posterity. Questions can be addressed to committee members: Rick Pascal, Mike Doherty, Mark Singer, Steve Rubin and Giancarlo Bissone.
- ROMEO – Cliff Matthews: The next ROMEO will take place on Friday March 20 at 12:00 noon at Justin's Ristorante, 234 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. At recent meetings of ROMEO, we've had good turnout, about 25 to 30 guys. And the price per head is very reasonable at \$22. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cliff ([cematthews0914@gmail.com](mailto:cematthews0914@gmail.com)).
- Wine Appreciation – Bob Stevenson: WAG's next luncheon will take place on Friday March 27 at Aldo's Restaurant, 640 Wyckoff Avenue, Wyckoff at noon. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bob Stevenson ([robtstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:robtstevenson@hotmail.com)).

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**The business meeting concluded** at 10:55 a.m.

**March program:** Evan Weiner presented “Jewish Comics: from Vaudeville to Film to Radio”.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Dick Boswell, Secretary