



THE LINK

September 2026



A Note from our Founders...

As summer winds down and we head into fall, we are excited for all that is ahead at Next Chapter! We are especially grateful for the friendships, connections, and fun that continue to grow within our community.

Our Book Club has quickly become a member favorite, and in October, we will already be reading our fifth book, **The Lion Women of Tehran by Marian Kamala**. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, October 8** for what promises to be another lively conversation.

October also marks a very special milestone for Next Chapter: **our one-year anniversary!** We will celebrate together with dinner at the **J House on Tuesday, October 20**. It is hard to believe a full year has passed since our first gathering. What better way to mark the occasion than with the women who have made it

so much fun. And there is plenty more to come in year two. We always welcome your suggestions.

Be sure to read this month's **Worth It!**, featuring Janet Bartucci, and take a look at Summer, Well Spent, a photo gallery featuring our members making the most of the season.

Here's to a wonderful fall and another year of friendship, connection, and new experiences together!

Cheers!



Anne & Mary Beth

Read On for...

Worth It!

Photo Gallery
Summer, Well
Spent

Upcoming
Events

Membership
Update

WORTH IT!

**AN INTERVIEW WITH NEXT
CHAPTER MEMBER, JANET
BARTUCCI**



THE PIVOT

What was happening in your life or career that made you realize it was time for a change - even if the path ahead wasn't yet clear?

I was at a point in my life where I was longing for a little more quality of life, freedom and perhaps a new challenge. I did not want to retire, but wanted to do something a bit more fulfilling. After some soul-searching and discussions, I started to realize that one word kept coming up in almost every conversation I was having. COACHING! Frankly, I really wasn't sure what that would look like for me, but I decided to aim my sights specifically on coaching pathways.

THE RESISTANCE

What fears, doubts, or practical concerns did you have to work through before taking that leap?

Even though everyone around me was positive I should coach, I wasn't so sure. Did I really have the mojo to do that? My imposter was running rampant in my head. How would I support myself, do coaches actually make money, how do you build a coaching business... all that. What about my current consultancy? But generally, my biggest fear was me. Could I make one more pivot in my life....should I?

THE AHA

Was there a moment - big or small when you knew you had made the right decision?

Even though I wasn't certified, clients were starting to refer coaching clients to me. But one day a young M&A lawyer came to me with a serious professional issue and I realized I didn't feel qualified to do her justice. That was when I decided to take coaching seriously and almost immediately signed up for IPEC training – one of the most rigorous coaching certification programs. If I was going to do it, I was going to do it right. (After all, I was only 72!)

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THE GROWTH

How has stepping into this new chapter changed how you see yourself-- professionally, personally, and creatively?

IPEC coaching starts with an enormous amount of introspection. As a result, my self-awareness has grown considerably. I definitely got the challenge I was looking for – the course was way more involved and demanding than I anticipated! Hours and hours of virtual classes, finals, book reports, peer coaching sessions, private coaching, not to mention three intensive 30-hour onsite immersions.

Finally, I learned how to combine my 5 decades of corporate work and life experiences with my coaching niche. And I feel like I have miles to go before I sleep. And ironically, I feel like I've opened a whole new book – never mind a chapter. I am doing things I never thought I would do and joined communities that keep me looking forward.



THE WORTH IT

Looking back now, what makes this pivot “worth it” and what would you say to a woman standing at the edge of her own next chapter?

First of all, coaching has added a new edge to my business and my life. As they say, it is important to add life to my years versus just adding years to my life. Coaching has allowed me to help people find their fulfillment, which in turn adds to my own.

Completing the certification was enormously satisfying, and I also made many new coaching friends through the course. We have a strong camaraderie and bond in having climbed this mountain together.

I would say to a woman standing at the edge of her own next chapter to think carefully about her values, what she wants in the end and why she wants to do it, and be honest about her dealbreakers. As my mother always told me, “there’s a cover for every pot,” but you have to know what you want to put in the pot before you stir it. But don’t dismiss the idea that the next chapter might be your best creation yet.

Celebrating



One Year!

Cheers to one year! Join us on **Tuesday, October 20 at Tony's at the J House** as we celebrate Next Chapter's first anniversary! Come raise a glass to a wonderful first year of friendship, connection and new experiences — and to all that is ahead.

Dinner will be paid individually, allowing everyone to order from the menu as they wish. We hope you will join us for this special evening!

Seating is limited, so please RSVP [here](#) to save your spot.

SUMMER, WELL SPENT

Next Chapter members made the most of summer—near and far.



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SUMMER, WELL SPENT

Next Chapter members made the most of summer—near and far.



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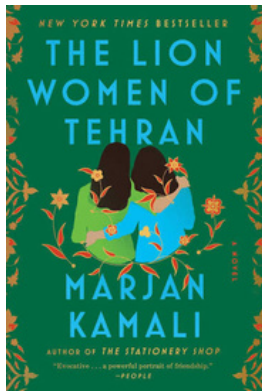
Photo Key

1. Kathleen Cartine's trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Chesapeake, MD.
2. Megan Tyre and her family enjoying a beach day.
3. Michelle Pennino at Sunset Cliffs in San Diego.
4. Anne Murdock in golf tournament with Laura Aronstein and Mary Bouton.
5. Mary Beth O'Connor and Pat on the Greek Island of Corfu.
6. Maria Paris enjoying the sea-life on a California beach.
7. Sharon Kelly-Tuck with family in the El Yunque National Rain Forest, Puerto Rico.
8. Jill Birkett with son at St. Andrews on the Swilcan Bridge.
9. Aperol Spritz enjoying Paris at Le Café Marley overlooking the Louvre Pyramids.
10. Julia Lane and brothers in Northport, Long Island.
11. Road trip to Major League Pickleball tournament at Randall's Island.
12. Stephanie Cleary and family enjoying a weekend in Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB

Thursday, October 8
6:30 pm
Greenwich Boat & Yacht Club



The October Book Club selection is **The Lion Women of Tehran** by Marjan Kamali. The story follows two girls who become best friends in 1950s Tehran despite coming from very different backgrounds. Set against decades of political and social change in Iran, their very different life choices test their friendship while exploring women's rights, courage, loyalty and forgiveness. RSVP [here](#) to join us.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We hope that you are enjoying your Next Chapter membership and finding value in the connections, experiences and fun we have shared this year. As we look ahead to 2027, we hope you will continue your Next Chapter with us - and continue to spread the word to friends who might enjoy being part of our community.

2027 membership renewal will be sent in December 2026.

YOU ARE WORTH IT!

Everyone has a story and we'd love you to tell yours! Be a part of Next Chapter's **Worth It** and share **YOUR** Next Chapter journey. Inspiring and supporting one another is what Next Chapter is all about!

If you are Interested, please reach out to us at:
info@nextchapternetwork.net.
We would love to hear from you.