

Minutes from 2008 Meetings

January 9, 2008

March 12, 2008

May 14, 2008

July 9, 2008

September 10, 2008

November 12, 2008

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7 pm at First Baptist Church of Kennett Square, 415 West State Street, Kennett Square, PA. About 35-40 enthusiastic community members attended the meeting.

The next Bridging meeting will be held at Newton's Restaurant, 114 E. State Street at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 12th, 2008

Bridging the Community's web site is www.bridgingcommunity.com. Announcements for the Community Calendar may be sent to Devin Zuczek at devin@vstech.net

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on this web site, and there also is a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library.

Tom Hoehle, as facilitator, welcomed everyone and shared the format of a *Bridging* meeting. Maria DiPaola, whose viewing was taking place at the same time, was remembered. She was well known to many as the long-time receptionist at the Senior Center. Joan Holliday was absent from the meeting (the first time ever, we think!) to be with her father who is seriously ill. Prayers and love were sent to her. Peg Baker recorded the minutes.

Pastor Dan Kline of First Baptist gave warm words of welcome, noting he has been in Kennett only since August - previously having been in Willow Grove - and Kansas prior to that. He was looking forward to learning about *Bridging* - feels that is the goal of the church also - being a bridge for seekers and searchers. He led us in prayer.

First Baptist members, Nick Everhart, his daughter Jennifer and Margaret Miles were wonderful hosts and provided delicious refreshments.

Sylvia Barreiro, Spanish teacher at Upland County Day School, and Tom Hoehle shared the *Bridging* Vision and Guiding Principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity**

Attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and/or requests:

- Craig Pflumm (Chatham Financial) described the new non-profit "Together for Education" which he and Kathy Robine, former principal of Mary D. Lang Elementary School and others are forming - its goal/mission is to provide volunteers, to be a clearinghouse for qualified volunteers - to provide training and connect them with schools. Also, to support schools in other projects such as teacher ed. programs, student grants in math, etc. - have students visit businesses to see why they need to [study. cpflumm@chathamfinancial.com](mailto:cpflumm@chathamfinancial.com)
- Ceil Sheffy (Executive Director of After the Bell) enthusiastically expressed her support of *Bridging* and the valuable volunteers who have bridged with ATB over the years. Sheffy116@comcast.net

- Betty Muller (Community Member) is looking for place(s) where she would consider being a volunteer.
- Kristen White (Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems) told of their providing mental health services to many families in the area. They have a large bilingual staff. Phone: 610-363-1488
- Emlyn Farinola, (Greenwood Elementary teacher) is also a Mary Kay Representative and is endeavoring to get people to get training and join the company as a means of increasing their income. Web site: www.marykay.com/farinola
- Amy DeFaio spoke of being an advocate for children with special needs.
- Jennifer Everhart (F & M Freshman) is looking for a summer job. She speaks Spanish and has been a summer intern during high school. Email: nickeverhart@verizon.net
- Phil Gilbert (Crosslands resident) is working to develop a relationship between that Community and *Bridging*. Email: plgilbert@aol.com
- Rosa Quintana (Alliance for Better Housing/HELP) spoke on behalf of Laura Jackson and TNT (Teens Networking Together) program she runs. Middle and High School students are given "dollars" for volunteer work, meeting attendance, etc. which they may use at Christmas, or possibly other times, to purchase gifts which have been donated. We are asked to donate any good, new better than used, gifts appropriate for this cause to Alliance for Better Housing. Something for which we have no use but don't wish to throw away might serve this purpose well. Phone: 610-925-1880. Email: RQuintana.abh@comcast.net
- Susan Rzucidlo who has been in the forefront of setting up a program in Downingtown for autistic young people wants to bring some of the students back to the community where they can be taught skills, be volunteers. They are very capable of learning good skills, such as shredding paper, setting tables, folding boxes--unlimited possibilities. 610-274-2364. Email: srz@dol.net
- Daniel Riehl (Peace Movement) - described "Addicted to War" - a book which costs \$10. He offered it to those present for \$5. Email: danyre@verizon.net
- Giselle Cosentino (Brandywine and Red Clay Valley Association) reported that in March they would be asking for scholarships for kids. On February 9th they are having a fun event - part of a 3 million dollar campaign - a Polar Plunge (in the Brandywine by the Picnic Park) Brave souls get sponsors for their "plunge". 610-793-1090. Email: gisellec@bva-rcva.org

- Nancy Bossert (First Baptist Church) reported that Meals on Wheels always welcomes new clients and always needs drivers. There is a three week delivery schedule - a driver drives once in three weeks (approximately 1-1/2 to 3 hours) - food is picked up at Kendal. 610-444-5049
- Esther Rochester (Study Buddies Leader at Bethel AME Church) After-school tutoring is held every Wednesday from 4 -6 pm. She needs books about Black History for this month. There are usually 14 or more students there each time. Phone: 610-444-8860.
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Ed.) collaborates with Girl and Boy Scouts. They are looking for a leader for the boys - 2 to 3 hours per week/ \$25. per hour. Contact 484-888-1764. Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Paul Schroeder (LaComunidad Hispana) Their Educational Services has the largest ESL classes ever - has 18 teachers now, needs 2 more. Classes start January 28th and 29th - meet 2 times a week for 15 weeks - until the middle of May. 610-444-4656. Email: pschroeder@lchps.org
- Lenda Carrillo (Kennett YMCA) reported that in 2007 the Y provided \$283,000 for 2,600 individuals. An amazing achievement! She also reported that the Y will be open "free" on January 20th from 12 - 4 pm. 610-444-1930. Email: lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org
- Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary Club) announced that they are looking for a "signature project" - they have money and time - need a project. Among the many things they have done are Senior Center renovation, climbing tower at Y, relocation of Senior Center Book Store - and others. Email: haradon@chesco.com
- Harry Wackerman (Senior Center Book Store on Union Street), proudly says it is the BEST BOOK STORE ANYWHERE! He and his 42 volunteers are now overloaded with books - about 3,000 books and records, DVD's, etc. come in each month. He invites anyone who knows of a need for the books to come in and fill a box. Email: hwackerman@kennett.net
- Alejandro Carrillo (Austin Tan Cerca) helps northern Mexican residents with education, etc. - he is looking for donations of adult Depends to send to Texas. He is a Senior at West Chester University, political science/philosophy major - looking for connection and meeting people.
- Mary Anderson (After the Bell volunteer for over 9 years) spoke of the constant need for volunteers to facilitate or assist in activities. Contact for After the Bell: 610-268-5889. Mary also reported on the very special, important Underground Railroad tours which will start up again in the spring. Phone: 610-444-4199

- Deborah Steeves, (Attorney with Legal Aid) reported that they offer legal help for employment problems - when people are not being paid correctly or are being fired because of illness. They are also helping with insurance and expanding information on Elder Law by going to Senior Centers. dsteeves@lasp.org
- Holly Favino (Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center), told of the work being done at that agency and knows many people don't know where it is located -645 E. Baltimore Pike near Domino Pizza. 610-444-7172 hfavino@amnion.org

The group then mingled and "bridged". Here are the "bridges" made":

- Ceil Sheffy bridged with Craig Pflumm and Kathy Rabine about "Together for Education" as a source for After the Bell volunteers and also bridged with Alejandro Carrillo.
- Paul Schroeder bridged with Harry Wackerman about books for ESL, and with Rosa Quintana about leftover bikes at LCH and with Emlyn about her interest in ESL for Health Educators re Mary Kay.
- Susan Rzcudlo bridged with Dave Haradon about Rotary project.
- Tom Hoehle (Email: thomas.hoehle@fnbchestercounty.com) bridged with Phil Gilbert about the following:
Phil had earlier told about Susan Goldsworthy (Community Gardens) who is now in Mali, West Africa as a member of the Peace Corps. She had mentioned that she needed books and as of January 11th a freight container packed with books is now enroute to Mali - a project of former Peace Corps workers. In line with this Phil reported that Susan had mentioned that toothbrushes are needed. Immediately all assembled at *Bridging* were enthusiastic to have a toothbrush collection with a goal of 10,000 - with collection boxes at the Y and other places. Upon talking to Phil Gilbert on Sunday night, Peg Baker learned that there are a total of 700 families in the village and Phil who had left before the goal was set is apprehensive about the number, etc. and will talk to Tom Hoehle and Joan Holliday. This may or may not happen before these minutes are mailed. So that project is on hold for right now until more facts are known.
- Giselle Cosentino reported that the Everharts have signed up for the "Plunge" and summer camp scholarships will be sent to Paul, Rosa and Lenda at the YMCA.
- Esther Rochester bridged with Harry Wackerman about books and DVD's.
- Nancy Bossert bridged with Phil Gilbert who agreed to let Crossland residents know of the need for drivers for Meals on Wheels.
- Sylvia Barreiro (Email: sbarreiro@uplandcds.org) bridged with the Together for Education group expressing Upland's support.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7 pm at Newton's Restaurant, 114 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA. Forty-seven engaging community members attended in the meeting room in the back.

The next Bridging meeting will be held St. Patrick's Church basement, 205 Lafayette St at 7 pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Bridging the Community's web site is www.bridgingcommunity.com. Announcements for the Community Calendar may be sent to Devin Zuczek at devin@vstech.net Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on this web site or a copy of the minutes are at the Kennett Library.

Tom Hoehle, as facilitator, welcomed everyone and introduced Michael Fisher, Manager of Newton's Restaurant. He pointed out that the building once housed Newberry's, a 5-10cent store. The current approach to dining at Newton's is: "Create A Meal"---special order items to make-up a full meal. Phone: 610-925-5055.

Jeanne Searer presented the framework for *Bridging* meetings and Joan Holliday shared the *Bridging* Guiding Principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** "Bridging" reflects this living philosophy.

Tom Hoehle announced that he has left his job at the bank and now will be an independent financial advisor---not selling products, but providing consultation. He hopes to contribute a valuable service to many community members. He will continue to help facilitate *Bridging the Community* meetings

Attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and/or requests:

- Mary Ann Piccard (Community Member and Volunteer at The Senior Center) is interested in learning more about the Kennett community. Email: jp Piccard@dca.net
- Susan Pevar (Kennett resident since 1977 and works at Lincoln University) is looking for a way to meet more community members. Email: spevar@lincoln.edu
- Sharis Jackson (Community Member) would like to learn more about what is happening in the broader community. Email: sharis.jackson@gmail.com
- Richard Menn (Chester County Community Gardens) told of the mission of his organization—"Building neighborhoods through creating gardens". He is here to be present to the process of Bridging. Email: rtmenn@verizon.net
- Suzanne Mertz (Kennett Middle School Title 1 Reading Specialist for 6-8th grade). The students are reading SEEDFOLKS, which is inspiring the students to create a community garden. She is looking for other interested community partners, and for volunteers. Email: read2me8@aol.com

Susan Cohen (Brandywine Assisted Living Community Relations) hopes to find ways to partner with the Kennett community. Email: cohens@brandycare.com

- Sharon Parker (Superintendent of Unionville Schools) spoke about the “magnificence” of her students and families and the importance of servant leadership. She is here to learn of opportunities to present to her school. Email: sparker@ucfsd.org
- Jack Wawrzonek (Community Member) is interested in discovering volunteer opportunities, as he engages his retirement. Email: jackjlw1227@aol.com
- Andrew Pirie (Chester County Community Gardens) is hoping to find some partnerships with creating neighborhood gardens. He needs volunteers to help with Santa Rosa apartment gardens, on Center St., Kennett. Email: gardenscc@gmail.com
- Summer Hess (The Garage Youth Center/Program Coordinator) is looking for more tutors for math and for ESL. They will hold their annual banquet on Tuesday, 4/29/08. It is free, but need to make reservations. Also, there will be a Talent Show including other schools on 5/30/08. (Planning meeting for show is 3/26/08 at 3:30pm.)
Email: summer.garage@comcast.net
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Education) is partnering with Boy Scouts. They have created a soccer league and will have another Valor Cup on 5/17/08 at Lincoln University. They need volunteers for this event and always need soccer coaches. Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Janice Taylor (Anson B Nixon Park) gave us information about the 20th Annual Red Clay Valley Clean-Up for Stream and Roads. There will be three sites to meet---1.) Delaware Nature Society, 2.) YMCA Community Pool and 3.) Anson B Nixon Park. They need volunteers. Gather at one of the three sites by 8am. Anson B Nixon Park put on twenty events last year.
They will have an Easter Egg Hunt on 3/22/08. Email: jbt5483@verizon.net
- Giselle Consentino (BVA) told us that BVA partners with the Park on the above clean-up day. She reported that 21 tons of trash was collected last year. She has scholarship applications for summer camp for students 6-16 years. Email: gisellec@bva-rcva.org
- Esther Rochester (Study Buddies East Linden Street) told us about the Black History Hero Presentation that was made by students today, followed by a potluck dinner. She also told us that she is collecting toothbrushes to send to Susan Goldsworthy in Malawi, Africa. She has a collection box at the Laundromat on Broad St. Phone: 610-444-9924
- Anne Humes (Kendal Resident) shared with us that Kendal is providing a home at Kendal for an Iraq refugee family, who will be arriving soon. Phone: 610-388-1199
- Carlos Navarro (Community Resident) announced that Cinco de Mayo will take place on Sunday, 5/4/08. The theme: “Real Mexico”. He has applications for non-profit (\$60)

and for-profit (\$100) booths. The next planning meeting will be held at First Baptist Church on 3/14/08 at 7pm. Email: jcnavarro_us@yahoo.com

- Jacklyn Gleber (CC Community Dental) told us that they will have a new facility in Coatesville. They will hold a free children's event on 4/26/08 from 9 to 2pm for dental exams and sealants for the molars. Email: gleberj@verizon.net
- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told about the event in the Park to engage the community around plants, food and music. It will be held on 4/26/08 from 10 to 2pm. Email: PCarter@longwoodgardens.org
- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) shared with us that the ministry, which has been in existence for many years is now planning to become its own 501C3. They have hired a part-time ED to work with the founder, Jay Malthainer with the hope to develop the capacity to serve more low-income homeowners. They need volunteers. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com
- Anna Anderson (Community Member) informed us about the Walking-Club that she will be starting in her neighborhood at Park Ave, starting in April. She thinks it will promote good health and get people out talking to each other. Phone: 610-444-3879
- Dave Haradon (Kennett Rotarian) offered the services of eighty Rotarians, who have time, talent and treasure to offer the community. Email: haradon@chesco.com
- Natalia McKendry (La Comunidad Hispana) told about the Comcast sponsored day of free international phone calls, 3/21 11am to 5pm and 3/22, 1am to 1pm at 314 E. State St., Kennett. Email: nmckendry@lchps.org
- Jeanne Searer (Kennett Area Senior Center/Program Director) told us that 8/17/08 will be the Annual Fundraiser Dinner. The Center is organizing many new and different events for the Seniors and friends. Church of the Open Door, who was a regular Sunday renter at The Center, is now moving to The Westminster House, on Broad St., so the Senior Center offers rental space. Email: jsearer@kennettseiorcenter.org
- Phil Gilbert (Friends Meeting) relayed to us that Susan Goldsworthy, who is serving time in the Peace Corps in West Africa is also looking for knitting yarn, because this is a skill the natives are learning. He suggested packing the yarn in between the toothbrushes, instead of packing material. Email: plgilbert@aol.com
- Elizabeth Garduno (The Family Center) reported that The Family Center is located next to Dominos Pizza on Miller Hill. They have bi-lingual teachers who make home visits to develop parenting skills with parents of 2-4year olds, and also help assist in enrolling in kindergarten. They would like to serve all ethnic groups, not only Latinos. They also have parent group activities/presentations provided at the Center, along with social services. She is looking for furniture for two clients---2 living room sets and a queen bed. To make referrals email: NArevalo@ccmchc.org

- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) reminded the attendees of a “Listening Project”, which Carol Krawczyk and Joan started about six months ago. Over 300 Kennett area residents were interviewed by high-school students concerning the quality of life in Kennett. Joan will bring youth to present the results to the Bridging attendees at the May 14th meeting. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Laurie Szoke (Penn State Extension) invited everyone to the “Juan In-A- Million” Music Jam the last Monday of every month. The first one was held in February. The next will take place on 3/31. The event has been created to carry Juan Avila’s music and youth ministry legacy. Email: las7@psu.edu
- Diana Rarig (HR at Phillips Mushrooms and 4-H) informed us about the Progressive Dinner, to benefit 4-H Cultivating Communities in Chester County. Just as the 4-H staff travel around the county to provide programs in the youth’s neighborhood, the participants of the dinner will progress from Sunrise Cafe, Kennett Inn, Giordano’s and Kennett Steak & Mushroom. Email Laurie (above) or Diana at: dleina@gmail.com
- Deborah Steeves (Legal Aid Attorney) told us about E-File Taxes for FREE if person made less than \$50,000 in 2007. Log on to www.lasp.org Deborah’s email: dsteeves@lasp.org
- Schenay Miles (Community Care Behavioral Health) gave us information about the Chester County African American Health & Wellness Expo on 4/19/08 from 9:30am to 3pm at the Child & Career Development Center, 1525 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA. It is free, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Call 610-594-2816 or www.ccaahawe.com. Schenay’s Email: sadlersn@ccbh.com

The group then mingled and "bridged". Here are the "bridges" made":

- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Ron Smith to offer help with financial planning around Good Neighbors conversion to a 501C3.
- Jack Wawrzonek “bridged” with Roberta Consentino from Legal Aid, which gave him information about an agency he will present at his United Way leadership training.
- Anne Humes “bridged” with Esther Rochester about providing knitting needles and manuals for the yarn to be sent to West Africa.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Phil Gilbert about the process for mailing materials to West Africa. She also “bridged” with Kristen White from Holcomb Behavioral Health around a client referral and The Kennett Rotary around meeting about their major 2008 project.
- Jeanne Searers “bridged” with Phil Gilbert about donating yarn from the Senior Center for the box to be sent to West Africa.
- Richard Menn and Andrew Pirie “bridged” with Mary Anne Piccard about volunteering with Chester County Community Gardens projects. Also, Richard and Andrew “bridged” with Suzanne Mertz about helping KMS students with their community garden.

- Susan Parker “bridged” with Pam Eppinger around recruitment of Unionville students and parents to be volunteer soccer coaches for Migrant Ed and volunteers for Boy Scouts. She also will ask ChaddsFord Elementary to donate toothbrushes.
- Peg Baker “bridged” with Deborah Steeves around having information about E-File at The Kennett Area Food Cupboard
- Natalia McKendry “bridged” with several people to get the word out about the free international phone calls at LCH.
- Giselle Consentino “bridged” with Sharis Jackson, Anna Anderson and Joan Holliday around summer camp scholarship applications.
- Elizabeth Garduno “bridged” with Andy Jenkins, who will get the word out to The Kennett Morning Rotary about the need for used furniture.
- Anna Anderson “bridged” with Joan Holliday around signs that will be placed in her yard to identify her as a “Neighborhood Walk-Club Captain”.
- Jacklyn Gleber “bridged” with Pam Eppinger around providing a dental outreach with Migrant Education this coming summer.
- Schenay Miles “bridged” with several people about attending or volunteering at the African American Health & Wellness Expo.
- Joan Holliday passed out the most recent, Path of Potential Reader, “Work For All Children”.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 7 pm at St. Patrick's Church basement, 212 Meredith St. Kennett Square, PA. Forty-five lively community members attended the meeting.

The next Bridging meeting will be held at Brandywine Assisted Living at Longwood, 301 Victoria Gardens Dr., Kennett Square, PA at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 9th, 2008

(Directions: Take Cypress St. out of Kennett toward Longwood. Take a right turn onto McFarlan and within 100 feet will be Victoria Gardens Dr. and take a left turn. Follow signs. Susan Cohen Phone: 484-734-6200

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Tom Hoehle, as facilitator, welcomed everyone and introduced Marie Elliott, Business Manager of St. Patrick's Church. She shared the following history of the church: The church was founded in 1897 and had its first location on South Street. The current church at 212 Meredith St. was built in 1907 and they are celebrating their 100th Anniversary. The church has 1,400 families and 4,000 people. They have one priest and one deacon. The school was started in 1927. Today they have 215 children from Pre-K through eighth grade.

Joan Holliday presented the framework for *Bridging* meetings and Jeanne Searer shared the *Bridging* Guiding Principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** "Bridging" reflects this living philosophy.

Attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and/or requests:

- Maritza Rivera (The Family Center—next to Domino's Pizza) told us they have teachers making home visits with children from 2-5 years to provide parenting classes. The third Thursday of every month they have an event at the Center with a different theme. This summer they will hold Pre-K Transition Classes in the morning and afternoon during the month of July. Email ED: NArevalo@ccmchc.org
- Jim & Marie Elliott (St. Patrick Parishioner) have lived in the area for 27 years, when they moved from Wilmington, De. Their community involvement is with the church. Email: marieelliott@verizon.net
- Maria Martinez (The Garage Youth Center) has just graduated from Penn State University. She is working on an art project with the youth. Email the Coordinator, Summer Hess at: summer.garage@comcast.net
- Nick Patullo (The Garage Youth Center) just graduated from WCU on Saturday. He also is working with the youth on several community projects. He is looking for opportunities for youth to volunteer in the community. Email: Nick.Patullo@gmail.com

- Susanna (Rural Opportunities Teacher) wants to learn more about the community and opportunities for employment and volunteerism. She attended with her husband and two children. Email: Susana_27_65@hotmail.com
- Linda Theis (The Kennett Square Jeweler) is back to Bridging meetings after a hiatus and is interested in the happenings of the community. Email: ksjlinda@comcast.net
- Linda Wawrzonek (Unionville resident) told us that she will be opening up a new store in August, in Kennett, featuring decorative cupcakes. Email: ltwawrzonek@aol.com
- Martha Lubbe (CCIU/Migrant Education) enrolls migrant students in school and migrant programs. Email: marthal@cciu.com
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Education) told us about the soccer league with youth from Kennett, Oxford, Coatesville and Avongrove. They will have a Valor Cup on 5/17/08 at Lincoln University. They need volunteers for this event and always need soccer coaches. Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Summer Hess, Maria Martinez and Nicholas Patullo showed us a mural that the students had jointly created and would like to paint on The Garage doors. They were asking for our support from the Bridging participants, as they are presenting the proposal on 5/16/08 to the ARB for approval. Email: summer.garage@comcast.net
- Susan Rzucidlo (Autistic Youth Advocate) told us that Downingtown High School had a successful program, which will be brought to KHS in September 2008. The autistic youth would attend school one-half day and then learn the skills of working. She is looking for a site to hold these classes. Email: srz@dol.net
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told of the PBS Special that showcased *Bridging the Community* meeting. The framework of the Series was “Unnatural Causes for Health Problems”. The series showed a *Bridging the Community* meeting; The Garage Youth Center’s mentoring and tutoring, and a Work Healthy Clinic, providing health screening on a mushroom farm site. The point was made that Kennett has developed ways to provide support for the new immigrant, which helps prevent health problems. Joan asked the participants to applaud their community efforts. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Anne Hume (Kendal) reflected on the impact of an idea that was generated at a Bridging meeting two meetings ago. Esther Rochester initiated the idea of collecting toothbrushes, yarn and needles to send to Susan Goldsworthy, a “bridging friend”, who is currently in the Peace Corps in Malawi, South Africa. Anne spoke about all the community elements which were involved to make this happen. She thanked Esther for her initiation of a great idea. Esther tells us that Susan would like non-prescription reading glasses now to be sent over. There will be a collection box at the Kennett Laundromat on Union Street.
- Mary Dugan (Kennett Underground Railroad) told us that the tours will be starting up again on 5/18/08 from 1:00 to 2:30pm. They can accommodate 38 people.

Email: maryd@kennett.net

- Phil Gilbert (Crosslands) told us more about Malawi, South Africa: Susan Goldsworthy reports that there is a concern about food at this point because they have had no rain since 4/1/08 and crops are drying up. Susan's team has helped dig two wells with two foot activate water pumps. Phil keeps in touch with Susan by email.
Email: plgilbert@aol.com
- Daniel Riehl (Peace Movement) was selling a book, "Addicted To War" in English and Spanish. It is selling it for \$5. Email: danyre@verizon.net
- Jeanne Searer (Kennett Area Senior Center/Program Director) told us that 8/17/08 will be the Annual Fundraiser Dinner. KHS and UHS Students are holding a Senior Prom on 5/31/08 from 6:00 to 9:00pm at The Senior Center. Cost \$5.00/person. Please buy a ticket! They also will be holding a Garden Show on 08/05/08 where anyone over 50 years can exhibit. Email: jsearer@kennettseiorcenter.org
- Susan Cohen (Brandywine Assisted Living) will be sponsoring *La Tertulia*, A Social Gathering for Spanish & English conversation. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22nd from 7:00 to 8:30pm. This will be held every Thursday.
Email: cohens@brandycare.com
- Peg Baker (After the Bell) said they are preparing for next year. They will need 125 volunteers for the KMS After School Enrichment Program. Email: Sb29stnj@aol.com
- Janice Taylor (Anson B Nixon Park) told us that they will have the first Kennett Community Garden. The idea started with a KMS teacher and class, Susan Mertz and has grown to building 39 raised beds, each 3feet by 10 feet. Lumber and soil has been donated. 20 beds are accounted for; 19 more remain. On Saturday, 5/17/08 at 1pm, the project will be taking off. Meet at the Children's Playground.
Email: jbt5483@verizon.net
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Education) told us about the Juan-In-A-Million Music Jams which will take place at The Garage Youth Center on Mondays 6/30/08 and 0728/08. Anyone interested in bringing an instrument, voice, or an eager ear is invited to create a community jam. Youth are encouraged to attend to share music from their culture.
Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Laurie Szoke (Penn State Extension) told us she is looking for a home or room for rent for a Lincoln University Graduate, who will be working with Penn State during the summer months. She is looking for craft materials for their projects on site in vulnerable neighborhoods. Also, she is planning on starting a "baby bundles" project for the youth to organize and assist. Email: las7@psu.edu

- Gabriella Perez (KMS Student) told us about the Mexican Dance Group that has been learning dances related to the Mexican folklore. They have practices every Friday from 3:00 to 5:30pm. They need funds for their costumes. Email Laurie Szoke.
- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) reminded us that there will be Free Summer Concerts in the Park for 8 weeks. She encourages attending. Email: Pamelahcarter@comcast.net
- Antoinette Gomez (Lincoln University and MLK Advocate) told us about the successful Teen Empowerment Series that was conducted at Lincoln and now they would like to bring to the Kennett area. Email: agomez242002@yahoo.com
- Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary Club) told us that their theme this year is: "Make Dreams REAL". They are always looking for ways to help the community with hands-on projects, financial support or mentoring. Email: haradon@chesco.com
- Deborah Steeves (Legal Aid) told us about the assistance that Legal Aid can provide for undocumented, when there is a domestic abuse case. She is open to providing more information at meetings and to providers. Email: dsteeves@lasp.org

The group then mingled and "bridged". Here are the "bridges" made":

- Susan Cohen "bridged" with Nick around The Garage Youth Center being involved in the La Tertulia. She also "bridged" with Laurie Szoke, Susan Rzucidlo, Deborah Steeves, Pam Carter, Maritza Rivera and Jari Santana to assist their efforts and to bring them into the Brandywine Assisted Living process.
- Peg Baker "bridged" with Susan Rzucidlo about having the autistic youth provide assistance at The Kennett Area Food Cupboard.
- Anne Humes "bridged" with Laurie and Gabriella around crafts for their outreach efforts and assistance with the Mexican dancers.
- Pam Eppinger "bridged" with Deborah Steeves, Dave Haradon and Susan Rzucidlo around the Valor Cup and volunteers.
- Deborah Steeves "bridged" with Maria Martinez, Jari Santana, Pam Eppinger and Laurie Szoke around programs about domestic abuse.
- Esther "bridged" with Cintra Murray about taking photos of Bridging folks for Susan Goldsworthy, at the next Bridging meeting.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with Andrew, Chester County Community Gardens, around generating interest in creating community gardens at His Mission Homeless Shelter.
- Antoinette Gomez "bridged" with Good Neighbors, Ron Smith, and learned their Annual Fundraiser Dinner will be held on 09/25/08 at Mendenhall. She "bridged" with Dave Haradon to have breakfast with him at the Rotary. She also "bridged" with Jari Santana about a bi-lingual therapist and Teen Empowerment Series.
- Dave Haradon "bridged" with Maria Martinez about creating a computer generated photo of what the mural will look like on The Garage Youth Center door to help the ARB better visualize what is being proposed.
- Daniel Riehl "bridged" with several people who purchased the book, *Addicted to War*.
- Linda Theis "bridged" with Joan Holliday about possible art and culture focus in Kennett.
- Joan Holliday passed out The Path of Potential Reader to new attendees.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, July 09, 2008 at 7 pm at Brandywine Assisted Living at Longwood, 301 Victoria Gardens Dr., Kennett Square. Forty warm-hearted community folks, plus Rovi, the site's pet dog, attended the meeting.

The next Bridging meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 7pm at Crosslands, 1660 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square (Take Baltimore Pike out of Kennett towards Longwood. Take a left turn onto Rt. 52 to Rt. 926 and take a right turn (also called Street Rd.). Crosslands will be on your right. Take driveway to first stop side (going over a couple of speed bumps). Drive past the stop sign and park in Visitor's Parking and go into Main Building. For questions related to directions call: 610-388-1441.

Bridging the Community's web site is www.bridgingcommunity.com. Announcements for the Community Calendar may be sent to Devin Zuczek at devin@vstech.net Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on this web site or a copy of the minutes is at the Kennett Library.

Tom Hoehle, as facilitator, welcomed everyone and introduced Susan Cohen, Director of Community Relations at Brandywine Assisted Living. This site opened January 1008. It has 72 units and has all levels of care from independent to long-term care. They have nursing care around the clock. Susan welcomed us, introduced her staff members and provided us with an array of delicious foods and beverages. She expressed a strong interest in "bridging" with the Kennett community and finding ways to continue to work together.

Joan Holliday presented the framework for *Bridging* meetings and Jeanne Searer shared the *Bridging* Guiding Principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** "Bridging" reflects this living philosophy.

Attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and/or requests:

- Denise Kurman (WCU Graduate Student) told us about her Internship with the MCH Family Center and her project to do a Needs Assessment with the African American community, learning how the Family Center can better serve this group in increasing children's success in school. A community conversation will be held at The Kennett Square Family Center, 637 Miller Hill, Kennett Square on July 29, 2008 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Contact Latoya Myers at Latmeg12@gmail.com or Denise at 484-429-1415.
- Karen Halstead (Kennett Area Senior Center Board) told us about the Fundraiser they are holding on Sunday, 08/17/08 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm. Community Cuisine will be provided and a Silent Auction held. Tickets are \$45. Call Senior Center for tickets at: 610-444-4819. Email: kdhlps@verizon.net
- Mario & Nick Patullo (The Garage Youth Center) told us about their final meeting to get approval for their mural for The Garage doors. They are asking us to sign a petition and/or show up to show visible support at the Kennett Borough Council meeting at The Red Clay Room on July 14, 2008 at 7:00pm. Nick also said that he would like to help youth get involved in community volunteer efforts. Email: Nick.Patullo@gmail.com

- Don Price (ED of Chester County Community Dental, 744 E. Lincoln Hwy, Coatesville, PA 19320) told us that they provide a broad range of dental services. (Jaclyn Gleber provides further info later on.) www.chescodental.org
- Frances DeMillion (Resident of Victoria Gardens) moved from West Chester and would like to become more involved in the Kennett community. She is especially interested in Land Trust efforts. Email: fran@demillion.com
- Latoya Myers (Kennett East Linden Street resident) will be going to the University of Albany for her Masters in Public Health. She is helping Denise Kurman with her public health project with The Kennett Family Center. Email: Latmeg12@gmail.com
- Mitzie Greene (Brandywine Assisted Living Wellness Director) enjoys this work and would like to work with the community. Email: greenem@brandycare.com
- Mary Walker (Brandywine Assisted Living Business Office Manager) recently moved to Kennett Square and would like to participate more. Email: walkerm@brandycare.com
- Kristen Sams, (Brandywine Assisted Living Arts and Entertainment Director) is looking for ways the community can participate in her programs. Email: samsk@brandycare.com
- Barbara Hall (Brandywine Assisted Living Director of Community Relations) has lived in the Kennett area for 26 years and had been with Brandywine Corporate before moving to this location. Email: hallb@brandycare.com
- Diana Rarig (Phillips Mushroom Human Resources) told us about the Each and All Dialogue group, which meets the first Wednesday of every month from 7:45am to 9:00am at Friends Meeting, Sickle and Union St., Kennett. She identified it as a spiritual group (non-religious), which is based on readings from The Path of Potential and helps us stay focused on our personal, human and earth purposes. She described it as a place to learn more deeply how to live out our Bridging philosophy of being *peaceful, progressive and inclusive*. All community members welcome.
Email: dleina@gmail.com
- John Linder, running for PA State Senate, 9th District, and his Campaign Manager, Bill Thomas wanted to become more familiar with the Kennett area and the grassroots efforts. Website: www.Linder08.com
- Ruth Williams (2nd Baptist Church) told us about the Annual Book Bag and School Supply Give Away on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm at 2nd Baptist church, 132 S. Willow St., Kennett Square, First Come. First Serve. This is sponsored by the Rotary Club. She also is asking for donations from the group.
Email: marvinwilliams1960@verizon.net
- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) told us about the Award they received from the State Dept. of Agriculture for their cooperative efforts with USDA and Alliance for Better Housing.

Fifty homes were provided with either heaters and/or new roofs with this program. Also, Good Neighbors, after 16 years, will be obtaining their own 501C3 status and have a new logo and brochures. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com

- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told about the *Can Walk* event, which ACTIVATE Kennett Square will be holding in concert with Family Fun Fest at Anson B Nixon Park on Saturday, July 26 at 10:00am. Show up with 2 canned goods to donate to The Kennett Area Food Cupboard and walk with the community for 45 minutes on the park's trails--- get healthier and meet new community members. .Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Susan Cohen (Brandywine Assisted Living) told us about the La Tertulia Salsa Party that she is holding at this site on Thursday, July 24th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. She is looking for a Salsa dancer/teacher. This also provides the opportunity to have a bi-lingual conversation---Spanish and English. Email: scohens@brandycare.com
- Dave Haradon (President of Longwood Rotary) welcomed us to join the club, which meets from 6:45 to 8:00am every Thursday at Longwood Gardens. They are supporting the Book Bag project and are helping The Kennett Area Food Cupboard relocate and reconstruct a site on Cedar Street, which has more space. Joan Holliday, who makes referrals to the Food Cupboard, explained that the Food Cupboard has a disciplined process---asking for pay stubs to assure eligibility and providing approximately one week supply of food, which only can be renewed every month. This is to assure that the contributions are used to provide a balanced support. Email: haradon@chesco.com
- Anne Hume (Kendal) told us that Kendal is “bridging” with The Food Cupboard and she is the transporter of vegetables grown at Kendal to the Cupboard. Phone: 610-388-1199
- Holly Favino (Amnion Pregnancy Crisis Center) told us that they are expanding hours and will be in Kennett Monday through Thursday. She also told us that childbirth education classes are being continually offered in both Spanish and English and are taught by a certified nurse midwife. Email: hfavino@amnion.org
- Jaclyn Gleber (Chester County Community Dental) told us that Kennett is not as far from Coatesville, as we might think, and that CC Community Dental accepts all insurances and has a sliding scale fee. They will address any dental problem they are presented with and also make referrals. Jaclyn does education and screenings out in the community. A free dental hygiene sealants and exams will be provided at their site at 744 E. Lincoln Hwy, Coatesville on Saturday, August 16th from 9am to 1pm. Call for appointment at: 610-383-3888. Email: gleberj@verizon.net
- Jeanne Searer (Kennett Area Senior Center/Program Director) told us that they will be holding a Garden Show on 08/05/08 where anyone over 50 years can exhibit. Email: jsearer@kennettseniorcenter.org
- Esther Rochester (Kennett Community) told us about the thank-you note we received from Susan Goldsworthy, Peace Corps worker in Malawi, South Africa. She told us that

they are using our toothbrushes and yarn and needles. They would like more yarn. They also are learning how to make toothpaste. Esther will have a collection box at the Laundromat. Call: 610-444-9924 at Laundromat.

- Theresa Bass (Historic East Linden Street Project/HELP) told about the residents becoming Incorporated in 12/07 and now are applying for their own 501C3. They will be holding a fundraiser/GALA on Saturday, October 11, 2008 on East Linden, hoping to have an historic tour of the street. They will need volunteers. They also will have a Block Party on Saturday, August 23 and community members are welcome. Email: trbass15@aol.com

We then mingled and "bridged". Here are the "bridges" made":

- Mary Dugan (Underground Railroad), Sharon Parker (UHS Superintendant) and Theresa Bass (HELP) "bridged" around the Historic East Linden Street Gala. UHS students will help make the signs needed for the tour for the GALA in October. Also, Theresa will have volunteers to help clean up the yards for the tour.
- Karen Halstead (Senior Center) "bridged" with The Garage Youth Center for volunteers for the Fundraiser dinner. She also sold several tickets.
- Rosaneli Zavala "bridged" with Susan Cohen around the Salsa Party. Rosaneli knows how to Salsa and has friends she can bring to the event.
- Jaclyn Gleber (Chester County Community Dental) "bridged" with Dave Haradon about an educational presentation at the Rotary Club and also a willingness to explore how to bring an extension of the community dental clinic to the Kennett area.
- Ruth Williams (2nd Baptist Church) "bridged" with community members, who will get the word out about the Book Bag distribution, and also received two donations.
- Nick Patullo (The Garage Youth Center) "bridged" with many attendees and received over twenty signatures and promises for people to attend the Borough Council Meeting.
- Sharon Parker (UHS) "bridged" with Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) and Dave Haradon (Rotary) around having experienced maintenance Rotarians serve as a mentor for 4-5 UHS students on a Good Neighbor's project.
- Joan Holliday (PHN) "bridged" with John Linder (PA State Senate, 9th District) around his campaign having a link to the Bridging website. Joan explained that this was open to any entity or even the political opponent. Joan Holliday also passed out The Path of Potential to new attendees with stories of the work in Kennett. Joan "bridged" with six persons, who will bring groups to walk in ACTIVATE Kennett Square.
- Holly Favino (Amnion) "bridged" with Susan Cohen (Brandywine) if staff would ever need services. She also "bridged" with Nick Patullo (The Garage) to have youth volunteers to do some landscaping around their site.
- Denise Karman (WCU Masters) "bridged" with several people that she had interviewed previously, to generate names and interest in the 07/29/08 event.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 7 pm at Crosslands, 1660 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Sixty-four interested community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging”.

The next meeting will be at the Church of the Open Door, 214 Broad St. Kennett Square, PA. (The building is located across the street from The Kennett Presbyterian Church on the right side of the street from Cypress St. It has a red door.) Phone: 610-444-2400

Bridging the Community's web site is www.bridgingcommunity.com. Announcements for the Community Calendar may be sent to Devin Zuczek at devin@vstech.net Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on this web site or a copy of the minutes is at the Kennett Library.

Tom Hoehle and Jeanne Searer, as facilitators, welcomed everyone and opened the gathering with a moment of silence. Phil Gilbert, resident of Crosslands gave the following description of the site: Kendal Communities (Crosslands is one segment) started about forty years ago. There are now about 1,000 residents in total. The founder started a program to “Untie the Elderly” because up to this point, it was the practice to tie elders to the bed to protect them from injury. This intervention has had impact throughout the world in elder care. To apply to Crosslands, the applicant must be seventy years or older. At Crosslands there is graduated care. The residents support each other and there are over ninety committees to join. Their goal is to build a strong community inside and to contribute as volunteers to the broader Kennett area community.

Jeanne Searer presented the framework for *Bridging* meetings and Joan Holliday shared the *Bridging* Guiding Principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy.

The Crosslands residents introduced themselves:

- Dee Nelson: Resident of Crosslands for one year.
- Anne Humes: Resident of Kendal, attends Bridging frequently, and is volunteer coordinator for Kendal and Crosslands.
- Vernon Dixon: Resident of Crosslands for four months and was interested in “bridging”. Involvement with economic development in several states and countries.
- Ruth Vaurio: Resident of Crosslands and volunteer for After the Bell
- Barbara and Dave Heckman: Residents of Crosslands for nine months and are active volunteers in the Kennett community, where they lived for seventeen years.
- Jessie Hocaut: Resident of Crosslands for five years
- Lorraine Sprag: Resident of Crosslands and came to find out more about “bridging”.
- Polly Crawford: Resident of Crosslands for two years and has volunteered primarily in nature activities.
- Jean Talbot: Resident of Crosslands for three years and is interested in ‘bridging’.
- Ellen Blosser: Resident of Crosslands
- Marie Pinckney: Resident of Crosslands
- Helen Roland: Resident of Crosslands for six years and volunteers in medical arenas.
- Qwen Robinson: Resident of Crosslands for ten years. Volunteers in community. Phone: 610-388-3630.

- Alice Gilbert: Resident of Crosslands and volunteers at After the Bell and Crosslands.
- Ray Furman: Resident of Crosslands and belongs to about six committees and managed the microphones this eve. He has lived in US for fifty years now.
- Adah Davis: Resident of Crosslands for thirteen years and is 88 years old.

Other attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and/or requests:

- Yahneri Quitana (Four-year old community resident) is the daughter of Rosa and was happy to share in 'bridging'.
- Nellie Arevalo (Family Center ED) told about the Needs Assessment that was done by Denise Kurman, WCU Graduate Student around the Family Center serving the African American community. She brought the report and also a poster to show findings and would be willing to share this with everyone. Also, she is requesting tutors, especially in math for Study Buddies, which meets every Wednesday from 4pm to 5:30pm at Bethel AME Church, 300 E. Linden St., Kennett Square. She also has information about Culture and Interpreter Trainings she conducts, and a Dialogue on Immigration session on 9/25/08. Email: NArevalo@ccmchc.org
- Angela Gordon (WCU Office of Service Learning) would like to find out volunteer opportunities for students. To contact this office call Maggie Tripp at 610-436-3379 or Email: mtripp@wcupa.edu
- Mr. Nino (Community resident & employee of Swayne Mushroom Farm) was invited by Salvador Villicana to participate in the broader community.
- Mary Kay Peterson (Co-Director of Community Gardens of Chester County) told us that there still is time to plant kale and greens and that the garden beds available at Anson B Nixon Park. Email: mkpeterson@chesco.com
- Janice Macrae (Community Care Behavioral Health) was participating on behalf of Schenay Miles, who is on maternity leave. They help address assurance of mental health care for Medicaid clients. There will be a health fair again, addressing African American Health in the spring of 2009. Email: mcræjf@ccbh.com
- Kristine Peck (Mision Santa Maria Director of Social Services) would like to a'bridge" the needs with the community resources. Donations of used clothing and furniture are welcome, but must be delivered when the Mision is open to receive proper attention. Email: misionsantamaria@att.net
- Alice Moorehead (LCH Board member) told us that the agency has a new ED, Margarita Mirkil. Also, a new building is being constructed for Social Services and Project Salud on the location beyond Kennett Beverage on Baltimore Pike. The construction will be environmentally friendly---"super green". Alice also expressed an interest in helping us all have a better connection with the Hispanic community. LCH will be fundraising

soon. October is Hispanic Heritage month and there will be a special event on 10/13/08 at West Chester University. Email: a.moorhead@earthlink.net

- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) told us that they are looking for homes in need of repair of low-income elders in SCC for Summer Youth Camp. Referrals are accepted. Good Neighbors is also becoming its own 501C3 and has a new brochure. Fundraiser on Thursday, 09/25/08 at Mendenhall Inn. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com
- Susan Pevar (Lincoln University & Kennett resident) told us about the Abraham Lincoln "Journey To Emancipation"---an exhibition at Lincoln University of PA from 10/02/08 to 11/14/08. On 10/02/08 James Horton will be the keynote speaker from 4-6pm. He has written the book, "The Landmarks of African American History in 2005, Slavery and the making of America" Email: spevar@lincoln.edu
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) shared the idea that if transportation is a barrier for residents to volunteer in the Kennett community, we each may consider offering transportation to an elder resident, when one is also volunteering. This multiplies our resources. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Anne Humes (Kendal resident) encouraged Crosslands Community to hold a food can drive to support The Kennett Area Food Cupboard. Phone: 610-388-1199
- Lenda Carrillo (Outreach Coordinator Kennett Area YMCA) is looking for one gold sponsor for \$250 to cover one financial assistance scholarship for the YMCA. Email: lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org,
- Denise Kurman (WCU Graduate Student) told us that she had completed her Needs Assessment of the African American for the Family Center and thanked those involved for their help and participation.
- Nick Patullo (The Garage Youth Center on Union St.) told us that the mural for The Garage door is complete. He thanked the Bridging folks for their support and invited everyone to an Open House on 9/30/08 from 7-8:30pm. He expressed the need for tutors/mentors, who would help students between the times of 3-6pm. Email: nick.garage@comcast.net
- Rosa Quitana (The Alliance for Better Housing & HELP) spoke about the mentor program she will be running at The Garage for East Linden Street youth. Requesting twenty mentors for middle-high school students. The commitment would be one hour a week with the student, at the most convenient location for both student and mentor. She also told us about the Whiz Kids program at The Kennett Library from 4-6pm M-Th. Finally, there will be several home maintenance and financial stability workshops offered in the near future. Email: RQuintana.abh@comcast.net

- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told us that there will be three key events coming up. On Friday, 9/12/08 WXPB will hold Artist To Watch event (Free). Saturday, 9/13/08 will have Mexican Independence Day (Free) from noon to 6pm, and Sunday, Fall Jam with contemporary music (Admission \$10). She told us about the “Volunteer Mileage Reimbursements Legislation Change” and encouraged us to call our legislators to support the same mileage deduction for travel as for- profits, which is 58 cents per mile from 14 cents for non-profits.
Email: Pam@chescocf.org
- Sylvia Barrios (Upland Country Day School) told us that they will hold an Autism Workshop on 9/11/08 from 8:45 to 10:30am. Also, the business WLGore would like their employees to contribute 4-6 volunteer hours to the community on October 29. Does any agency have a need? Sylvia has information about a Global Project targeted to address HIV/AIDS. Email: sbarreiro@uplandcds.org
- Ceil Sheffy (ED After the Bell) told us that After the Bells is celebrating its 10th year anniversary for after-school programs for KMS students. They always are looking for volunteers, with a commitment of 1 hour a week for 6 weeks. There are three sessions. Fall Session is 9/23 to 10/30. She also shared the new idea of transporting students to retirement communities if a person/s would like to create an after-school activity.
Email: Sheffy116@comcast.net Phone: 610-268-5889
- Peg Baker (Kennett Friends Meeting) told us that there will be a free clothing drive on 9/12/08 from 5-8pm and 9/13/08 from 9am to noon at Friends Meeting, Sickle and Union St., Kennett. Email: Sb29stnj@aol.com
- Deborah Steeves (Legal Aid) told us about their move to 222 N. Walnut St., West Chester. She is selling raffle tickets for a fundraiser to be held on 10/14/08 for \$5 for 6 tickets. Email: dsteeves@lasp.org
- Theresa Bass (President of Historic East Linden St.) told us that they now have their Incorporation note and will soon have their own 501C3 status. For the past five years the residents have been working to improve the buildings and the lives on the street. The Annual Block Party in August was a big success. Theresa recognized her mother, Ms Ophelia Bass for her help with the summer lunch program. There will be a community event entitled, “Celebration of Our History and Future” on 10/11/08 from 4 to 8pm, which will include a tour of the street, dinner, silent auction and the introduction of the book Mary Dugan has written about the street’s UGRR roots. Theresa is selling tickets for \$35 for the event. Email: trbass15@aol.com
- Andrea Durynski (Program Director for Kennett Area Senior Center) told us that she is new in the role and is looking forward to “bridging”. She told us about the workshop, “Heart of the Matter” addressing Alzheimer Disease which will take place Tuesday, 10/14/08 from 10am to noon and 6-8pm. She also announced the annual Craft Fair, which will take place at the Center, 427 S. Walnut St. on 10/24/08 from 10-6pm and 12/25/08 from 9am to 2pm. Carmen Cruz will also be assisting Seniors, who would like

to change their Medicare Part D Plan on 11/20/08 and 12/11/08 from 9am to 3pm. Email: adurynski@kennettseniorcenter.org

We then mingled and "bridged". Here are the "bridges" made":

- Several community members "bridged" with Deborah Steeves to purchase raffle tickets for Legal Aid benefit.
- Nelly Arevelo "bridged" with Ceil Sheffy around the African American needs assessment and ways After the Bell could benefit from the findings. She "bridged" around Girl Scout involvement with Jeanne Searer.
- Karen Halstead "bridged" with Esther Rochester around providing yarn for a resident on East Linden Street.
- Mary Dugan "bridged" with Sylvia Barrios for volunteer assistance around the restoration of a cemetery in Kennett Twmsp. On Buck toe Rd.
- Nick Patullo "bridged" with Sylvia Barrios around ways to bring Ethan Zohn to speak to the The Garage Youth about HIV/AIDS and The Grass Root Soccer (Check it out on U Tube)
- Many members "bridged" with the Crosslands residents around coffee and cookies.
- Theresa Bass and Joan Holliday "bridged" with several members around buying tickets for the 10/11/08 event on East Linden St.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with several new attendees by handing out copies of The Path of Potential Reader
- Angela Gordon "bridged" with about six community entities for volunteer opportunities for WCU students.
- Susan Pevar "bridged" with Theresa Bass, who would like to help the East Linden Street Study Buddies students visit the Abraham Lincoln exhibit. Several community members took information on the speaker James Horton.
- Peg Baker "bridged" with persons interested in the free clothing drive.
- Ceil Sheffy "bridged" with Joan Holliday around ways to facilitate more volunteer opportunities for the Kendal/Crosslands Communities.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday November 12, 2008 at 7pm at Church of the Open Door, 214 Broad St. Kennett Square, PA. Forty-eight caring community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging”.

The next meeting will be at Friend’s Meeting, Sickle St. and Union, Kennett Square, PA on Wednesday, January 14, 2008 at 7pm. Contact Peg Baker for information at: 610-444-0962.

Bridging the Community's web site is www.bridgingcommunity.com. Announcements for the Community Calendar may be sent to Devin Zuczek at devin@vstech.net Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on this web site or a copy of the minutes is at the Kennett Library.

Joan Holliday and Jeanne Searer, as facilitators, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with an overview of the format of a Bridging meeting. Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell led us in a prayer. She told us that the United Methodist Church of the Open Door has been in the Kennett community for six years. They began with establishing a relationship with the community and met as a “church” in several different places until they made 210 Broad St., its current home. Their mission is one of building partnerships with the community and outreach through small service groups. The current New Horizons helps Hispanic women learn English. They also will be starting a Shalom Ministry of Reconciliation, which will support relationships. They have an HIV/AIDS ministry. She emphasized that one did not need to be a member of the church to join one of their community ministries. Previously, the building where we met has been the home for several religious denominations before Church of the Open Door.

Jeanne Searer presented the framework for *Bridging* meetings and Joan Holliday shared the *Bridging* Guiding Principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Kristen Smith (Member of Church of the Open Door) told us that she has a home-based business---Mary Kay. She is willing to donate baskets for silent auctions and to do home presentations. Email: smithkr@marykay.com
- Renay Loper (Big Brothers, Big Sisters) has the role of building partnerships and relationships with her organization and others. She is always looking for caring adults to volunteer for the program. Email: jrloper@bbbssepa.org
- Angela Varela (YMCA Outreach Coordinator) explained that she will be filling in for Lenda Carillo, while she is on maternity leave. She introduced her son, Robert. Email: Avarela@ymcabwv.org
- Mary Louise Bellezza (Human Resources Mgr. To Jo Mushrooms) told us that she was looking for ways to “bridge” her employees with the community. She also introduced her husband Paul Bellezza. Email: marylouise@to-jo.com

- Kebbie Williams (Community Member) told us she recently lost her job and is looking for employment. She has secretarial skills. Her friend, Cathy Brison, encouraged her to attend the meeting to make contacts. Email: iluvkalynn1@hotmail.com
- Selena Almanza (KHS Student) would like to learn more about the community and is willing to volunteer. Email: littlemamii95@aim.com
- Eileen Beck (Realtor & Member of Church of the Open Door) told us that she is exploring the Home Share program, which does not have an office in SCC. She expressed concern for community members, losing their jobs and their homes. She will report back at the next meeting her findings and ways to develop this program. Email: sophiaeb@aol.com; Phone: 610-444-4888
- Serafina Youngdahl Lombardi (Kaolin Mushroom Workers Union) told us that the CATA union currently does not have an office in the area, and that CATA is planning a fundraiser at The Garage Youth Center, to help this cause. There will be an event on Friday, November 21st from 7-10pm. It will include a silent auction, raffle, music and Mexican food. She is looking for raffle items. Email: Serafina@kwunion.org
- Luis Tlaseca introduced himself as Kennett area CATA organizer, and he also is working on the fundraiser at The Garage. Email: catakennettsq@yahoo.com
- Elizabeth Garduno (Migrant Education) told us that she had attended the meeting in another role, and now is a new employee of Migrant Education and works in Oxford, Octorara and Coatesville. Email: ElizabethG@cciu.org

Other attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and/or requests:

- Laurie Szoke (Penn State Extension) told us about their Holiday Care Packages project. They are collecting food, toiletry items and baby items for those most in need in the community. Please make a contribution. Email: las7@psu.edu
- Sue Rzucidlo (Community Member) told us about the Premise Alert project she has developed with Chief Kevin McCarthy. Fill out a form, which identifies Special Needs in a home, in case of an emergency. She also had an article from the newspaper that was advertising a grant for a PA Historic Project. Web site for PA Premise Alert: www.papremisesalert.com
- Mary Dugan (Underground Railroad) told us that she and Ella Sestrich discovered through Mexican students from After the Bell, that blacks found refuge from Texas, into Mexico during the time of slavery. She found this to be a parallel to the UGGR in Kennett Square and is asking community members if she researched this, how it could be used in our Kennett community. Email: maryd@kennett.net

- Rosa Moore (The Garage Youth Center) told us that she has taken on a new role in the community in the youth center and is asking if we could get a process started for providing snacks for The Garage Youth. She has about 50-100 youth, who visit The Garage five days a week. Any interested parties? Email: rosa.garage@comcast.net
- Esther Rochester (East Linden Street Study Buddies) told us that the Study Buddies had a field trip to Lincoln University today to view the Abraham Lincoln exhibit, "A Journey to Emancipation". She expressed thanks to Susan Pevar, who was their guide and to Church of the Advent for their funds for dinner. She invites any community member, who would like to assist in tutoring elementary students every Wednesday at 4pm at Bethel AME Church, Phone: 610-444-9924
- Anne Humes (Kendal Communities) told us that she had a bag of cookies and asked Esther from Study Buddies and Rosa Moore from The Garage to guess a lucky number--- Rosa Moore won a large bag of cookies for The Garage. She also spoke about Kendal and Crosslands community members looking for areas of the community they can share their talents and wisdom. She emphasized that she holds a wonderful volunteer resource for the community. Phone number : 610-388-1199
- Dave Haradon (President of Longwood Rotary) told us that they are looking to invest in some winter and spring projects and always are willing to consider funding a worthy cause. Email: haradon@chesco.com
- Theresa Bass (President of Historic East Linden Street Project) expressed her heartfelt thanks for the community participation in the October 11th event on East Linden Street. She shared that over 180 community members took a tour of the street and learned about East Linden Street's history and enjoyed a unified community meal in the basement of Bethel Church. Email: trbass15@aol.com
- Susan Cohen (Brandywine Assisted Living) told us that The Longwood Rotary would be hosting a Friday night Art Gala on Friday, November 14th at her site. Tickets are \$20 at the door and she would cover anyone, who needed support. She is excited about this partnership and invites the community to view many original artists' work. Email: cohens@brandycare.com
- Carol Krawczyk (Kennett Planning Commission) told us that she would like to offer an idea that she received in Baltimore in viewing a Senior housing complex with Intergen Coalition. The concept was one of a "Time Bank". In Bridging the Community terms, it is an opportunity for someone to ask for help and the opportunity for someone to give help---keeping track of hours and feeling more freedom to draw on help when needed. She was encouraging community entities/agencies/churches to consider formalizing this idea. Carol also spoke about The Lego Club, which includes her son, and has over 47 Mary D Lang students involved. They are looking for mentors and opportunities to expand the learning in this arena. Email: cakrawczyk@verizon.net
- Sharon Parker (Superintendent of UHS) spoke about the value of students becoming

involved in the community in a meaningful way, and would like to build on some of the ideas which were expressed by Carol. Email: sparker@ucfsd.org

- Jeanne Searer (Supporter of Kennett Area Senior Center) told us about the Medieval Dinner-Dance to be held on 11/15/08 from 6pm to 9pm at The Kennett Area Senior Center. \$25/person. She also told us about Lunch with Santa on 12/06/08 from 11am to 1pm at the Center. Charge is \$5 a person. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Carrie Avery (Chester County Youth Center) told us that she deals with about 48 youth in the Detention Center and 12 youth in the Shelter. She has made many “bridges” at *Bridging the Community* meetings and is hoping to make more. She expressed public appreciation to Anne Humes for making weekly visits to the shelter youth and providing support and projects for them. Email: cavery@chesco.org
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Ed) told us that they have moved to 284 Pennock Bridge Rd., West Grove, PA 19390. New phone: 610-345-1824. She invites us to come and visit them at their new site. Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told about the Master Program students who had viewed the PBS special, “Unnatural Causes” and were requesting a visit to Kennett Square to experience the model which supported the Mexican migrant community through *Bridging the Community*, Project Salud and The Garage Youth Center. She has the video if anyone would like to view it. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

We then mingled and "bridged" and enjoyed the snacks provided by Church of the Open Door. Here are the "bridges" made":

- Robert Varela told us that he ‘bridged’ with his mother.
- Carrie Avery (CC Youth Center) “bridged” with Pam Carter, who told her about the summer concert series in Anson B Nixon Park and The Kennett Symphony as options for field trips for the young women in the shelter. Carrie also “bridged” with Don Cornett around bringing the youth to the Open Mike at Church of the Open Door, and with Kristen Smith, who would provide a Mary Kay evening for the women at their shelter.
- Carol Krawczyk “bridged” with Sharon Parker around the Time Bank and Lego Club and are exploring ways to help Unionville ChaddsFord students get involved.
- Kebbi Williams “bridged” with Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell around a part-time secretarial position at Church of the Open Door. She “bridged” with Angela Varela, who told her about a job opening at the Kennett YMCA. She also ‘bridged’ with Eileen Beck about the Home Share program.
- Ann Humes “bridged” with Sharon Parker about bringing a Kendal resident, who is from India to speak to in an International History class. They also will explore other possibilities for residents to share their experiences with the students.
- Selena Almanza “bridged” with Reney Loper from Big Brothers, Big Sisters and was told that she could sign-up to have a “Big Sister”.

- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Rev. Dr. Anita Adams Powell around contact names for their effort in teaching Mexican women English to share with a church in Avondale, who is interested in starting similar program. She “bridged” with new members and gave them a book of The Path of Potential Reader, and ‘bridged” with Eileen Beck around viewing the Unnatural Causes film.
- Mary Louise Belleza “bridged” with Joan Holliday about the potential presenters and mentors, who could be brought into To Jo Mushroom’s Women’s Support Group.
- Sharon Parker ‘bridged” with Rosa Moore around snacks for The Garage Youth Center.
- Elizabeth Garduno “bridged” with Renay Loper about becoming a “Big Sister”.
- Salvador Villicana (CCHD—HIV Testing and Outreach) “bridged’ with Laurie Szoke from Penn State Extension and Rosa Moore. They are interested in viewing the “Tiny Tears” film produced by/for Camp Dream Catcher.
- Susan Cohen “bridged” with Joan Holliday around a contribution to Bethel Church AME Honoree Banquet.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Joan Holliday around finding more yarn for an elder resident on East Linden Street to continue her knitting project.