

Minutes from 2009 Meetings

January 14, 2009

March 11, 2009

May 13, 2009

July 8, 2009

September 9, 2009

November 11, 2009

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday January 14, 2009 at 7pm at Friends Meeting, Sickie St. and Union, Kennett Square, PA 19348. On a frigid winter night, forty warm-hearted community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging”.

The next meeting will be at Kuzo & Grieco Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7pm. Contact Matt Greico for information at: 160-444-4116.

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 welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Peg Baker, from Friends Meeting, told us that the current site was built in 1958. Before this location, Friends Meeting was located where the current Kennett Post Office building stands. She explained that the Quakers meet on Sunday, in the room we were meeting, and that the benches were usually filled. She explained that they have no minister, but provide the environment for each person to speak, when inspired, believing that there is a “God within each person”. Tom Hoehle let us in a moment of silence, especially remembering the Middle East crisis—Gaza.

Joan Holliday presented the framework for *Bridging* meetings and Jean 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.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Emily Cost (BVA) recently joined Brandywine Valley Association and wanted to learn more about the Kennett area community through “Bridging”. Email: theemily@ptd.net
- Jen Augustine (Together for Education) explained that she, along with her partner, Craig Pflumm, is working to be a catalyst for connecting community members with the Kennett schools. Currently, they are looking for volunteers to meet with the youth from 8:45am - 9:15am to help practice reading. Craig Plumm explained that he works at Chatham Financial and that he is encouraged to get involved in the community. Jen’s Email: Jaugustine@tfed.org and Craig’s email: cpflumm@tfed.org
- Margarita Merkle (ED of La Comunidad Hispana) has newly joined the organization and wanted to learn more about “bridging”. LCH is in the process of building a new site at the edge of town, following “sustainable” principles. Email: mmerkle@lchps.org
- Jose (Student from The Garage) would like to become more involved in volunteering in the community.
- Efrain Zavala Lopez (HR Person for North Creek Nurseries—graduate of KHS and Penn State) told us that he is looking for help for his employees. He needs to know more about how to help employees obtain a GED and how to obtain help around mortgage issues. Email: efrain@northcreeknurseries.com,

- Cathy Brison (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that The Good Kids Campaign needs help with a Telethon. Also she told us that the MLK Advocates will be sending out a survey with the Borough news in April. She is asking those present to get the word out and to respond. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com
- State Representative Chris Ross told us that he is in his 7th term representing central and SCC. He is attending the meeting to offer his help around any issues and to learn more about the community. Cecilia Ross, his wife was also in attendance. cross@pahousegop.com Email for Cecilia: c-ross@kennett.net
- Latoya Meyers (Daughter of Theresa Bass) was home on break from her Master's Public Health study and was interested in the community work. Email: Latmeg12@gmail.com
- Salvador Villicana introduced his friends, Samuel Zavala Silva and Miguel Ocetuera

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

- Esther Rochester (Study buddies) continues to ask for help with tutoring on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30pm at Bethel Church and for help with healthy snacks. She also can use more yarn to donate to Mrs. Brown Phone: 610-444-9924
- Nick Patullo(The Garage Youth Center) told us that snacks are still needed for the students, who attend after school and that the students are looking for a variety of meaningful community volunteer opportunities. Email: nick.garage@comcast.net
- Aida Garcia (Director of Social Services at LCH) told us that they will be moving in the spring to the new site and need volunteers for the move. Email: agarcia@lchps.org Phone: 610-444-4545 Ext. 14)
- Roberta Constatino (Legal Aid) is looking for places to get the message out that Legal Aid is available for legal counseling to the underserved and also works with protection-from-abuse cases. Email: emailberta@gmail.com
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told the group about the Intergen Coalition, which is a group meeting for over a year in Kennett to generate processes, which 'bridge" generations. The hope is that we create an elder friendly community through services, housing and social integration for our aging population. A survey will be sent out to persons over 65 years in February---Kendal/Crosslands communities are helping with the survey. Those who would like to get involved in the effort, contact Joan. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Marlene Drewes (MLK National Day of Service) told us that canned goods are being collected around the town. On the night of 01/19/09, celebrated day of MLK, they hope to load all the food on a tractor-trailer and parade down to the food cupboard for a rally and shelf-stocking. Everyone is welcome to attend and help. Email: mardrewes@aol.com

- Carrie Avery (Chester County Youth Center) told us that they will have a “Kids Connection Expo” on 3/27/09 from 9:00am to 11am. They will have 40 vendors. This expo is for anyone who works with youth and wants to connect with the many resources. Youth are also welcome. Email: cavery@chesco.org
- Peg Baker (Kennett Area Food Cupboard) told about the outstanding work that the Longwood Rotary has done at refurbishing the new site. She spoke about the increase in demand for food during these economic hard times. She also promoted After the Bell and the need for volunteers for after-school programs in the Kennett Middle School. Email: Sb29stnj@aol.com
- Holly Favino (Amnion Pregnancy Crisis Center) told us that part of their service is offering a pack of diapers to parents, who are struggling financially. She is asking for donations of diapers from sizes 1-3. Email: hfavino@amnion.org
- Giselle Constatino (BVA) told us that they are doing a fundraiser called the Polar Plunge, which will take place on 02/07/09 from 10am-noon at the Brandywine Picnic Park, Rt. 52 & 100. They need participants, sponsors and support. Email: gisellec@bva-rcva.org; Phone: 610-793-1090
- Jeanne Searer (Community Member) told us about the Kennett Senior Center MLK Day of Service---volunteers always needed. She also asked on behalf of a Boy Scout, who is working on an Eagle Scout project at The Senior Center, for help with materials to build and locate park benches. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Dave Haradon (President of Longwood Rotary) told us that they are looking to invest in some spring projects and always are willing to consider funding a worthy cause. He will be President until June, then, Andy Jenkins, who also was in attendance, will be President. Email: haradon@chesco.com
- Renay Loper (Big Brothers, Big Sisters) has the role of building partnerships and relationships with her organization and others. She spoke about needing more “big brothers” (18 years and older) and more applicants for “little sisters” (7-13 years). They are also looking for Black History month projects. Email: jrloper@bbbssepa.org
- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) told us that they are located at a new office; 111 Marshall St., Kennett Square, PA. They are looking for referrals for persons, who--- own their home; have paid current taxes; meet low-income guidelines and need help with having a warmer, safer, dryer and healthier home. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com

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

- Jen Augustine and Chris Plumm “bridged” with several community members about ways to involve the community in the schools. They will contact Kendal about volunteers for assistance with the reading project at Mary D Lang.
- Diana Rarig “bridged” with Ron Smith around ways she can get information about Good Neighbors to Mexican families, who own homes and need assistance.

- Barbara Walsh (Email: bsbwalsh@nni.com) passed out information about the Hadley memorial Fund Free Lectures and is asking for ideas for lectures for next year.
- Marlene Drewes “bridged” with Roberta about the Food Cupboard looking for a part-time social worker. Also she “bridged” with several people participating in the event on MLK event at The Kennett Area Food Cupboard new site.
- Representative Chris Ross “bridged” with several people about events he will attend. He also ‘bridged’ with Joan Holliday around ACTIVATE Kennett Square involvement and Efrain Zavala Lopez around mortgage help resources. He provided the resource of PHFA, PA Housing Financial Assistance.
- Nick Patullo “bridged” with Tick Tock Early Learning Center, Kennett Food Cupboard, La Comunidad Hispana about community volunteer opportunities. He also ‘bridged” with Joan Holliday, who will meet with the youth to guide them in a process for developing their own unique initiative.
- Andy Jenkins “bridged” with Theresa Bass around access to Anson B Nixon Park for East Linden.
- Holly Favino “bridged” with Peg Baker, who will help with obtaining diaper donations.
- Aida Garcia “bridged” with Roberta Constantino around Roberta attending Aida’s parenting classes to provide more information about Legal Aid services.
- Dave Haradon “bridged” with Giselle Constatino around the Polar Plunge. It looks like Dave will be a plunger.
- Roberta Constantino “bridged” with Holly Favino around providing more access to Legal Aid services for the Amnion clients.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Renay Loper around potential “big brothers” in the Kennett area.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with new members, giving them The Path of Potential Reader with articles about our work in the Kennett area community.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7pm at Kuzo and Grieco Funeral Home, 250 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. On a promising spring evening, forty-six eager community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging”.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7pm at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, 401 North Union St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Contact: 610-444-4624

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 welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework and principles of Bridging. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy.

We had a moment of silence in honor of all those Kennett area residents, who have died and have contributed to the town’s good life.

Tim Campbell from Kuzo & Grieco Funeral Homes Inc. told us that their funeral services have been in the Kennett area for 110 years with five different families participating. Tim is in charge of mortuary operations. The business serves between 350-400 families a year. Matt Grieco, along with himself, is the younger contingent and each has three young children. They are committed to keeping their services “family-oriented” and are strongly committed to the component of “After-Care” for the loved ones left behind. The building we were meeting in was a doctor’s office before it became a funeral home in the 1960s.

Tim’s Email: tcampbell@griecofuneralhomes.com

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Lorelle Whenry (Bethel A.M.E) explains that she wants to know more about volunteer opportunities in the Kennett area. She currently is tutoring at Bethel A.M.E. Study Buddies on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30pm. She enjoys gardening and likes supporting the senior in the community. Phone: 610-444-3479
- Carlos Marin (CATA) told us that CATA has moved to 220 Birch St., Kennett Square. Their organization supports the farm workers through forming unions. Contact Luis Tlaseca at catakennettsq@yahoo.com
- Sandy Reynolds (Kennett Area Food Cupboard) told us about their new location at 136 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square. They are open Mondays and Fridays from noon to 3pm and Wednesday from noon to 6pm. They appreciate all the communit food donations and are still unloading boxes from the MLK Day of Service donations. Email: sandy-kacs@comcast.net

- Cate Elander (University of Delaware) is a student of Urban and Public Affairs. She was invited by Bill Pugh, who is working on a community development project in DE. Cate would like to learn more about “bridging”. Email: cate.elander@gmail.com
- Kathleen Synder (Casa Guanajuato) told us about the upcoming Cinco de Mayo on 5/3/09 in the streets of Kennett. She invites everyone to a “miraculous mushrooming of care”. Email: KSnyder291@aol.com
- Karen Beltran-Alvarez (Community/Family Care Specialist at La Comunidad Hispana). She told us that the agency of three departments---Social Services, Education and Project Salud Clinic will be moving to a new LEED Certified “Green” building heading out of Kennett Square on Cypress St. the beginning of May 2009. She invites the community to learn more about their services and to partner with them. Email: kbeltran@lchps.org
- DeAnna Hannigen (Board member of Tick Tock Early Learning Center) would like to learn more about Kennett area and opportunities for volunteering. Email: deannajh@hotmail.com
- Carol Elliott (Family-Based Coordinator for Holcolmb Behavioral Health) was invited by Kristen White and wanted learn more about ‘bridging’. Email: celliott@holcombbhs.org
- Laouessa McNamar (Brandywine Cultural Alliance) told us about Kennett FLASH—a music/performance venue on Thursday through Sunday nights. Sunday nights is Open Myke night for families--\$4/person. Located at 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. Phone: 484-732-8295. Web site: www.kennettflash.org
Laouessa’s Email: lmcnemarpe@verizon.net
- Debbie Talley (Community Member) is interested in learning about ‘bridging’ and volunteering. Email: dtalley@kennett.net
- Doug Sterling (Bible Methodist Church, 500 E. Cypress St., Kennett Square) has opened a Clothing Closet. The church will be opening their doors to free clothing the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 2pm. It is open to anyone in need. Also, he told us about Brandywine Radio, which can be accessed on the Internet. The intent is to continue a local radio station, which will keep the community informed about upcoming local events and news. Web site: www.brandywineradio.com Click “On Air”.
Email: mail@ksbmc.org
- Chad Thomas (CCHD/Emergency Preparedness) told us that his role is to educate agencies serving vulnerable groups about disaster preparedness. He told us about a conference that community-based organizations and services providers may attend on Thursday, May 7th from 8am to noon at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, 455 Boot Rd., Downingtown, PA. To register call: 215-685-6462 or email: Marialisa.Ramirez@phils.org

He also is requesting volunteers to assemble disaster information bags on 4/2/09 at La Comunidad Hispana, 314-16 E. State St. Chad's Email is: crthomas@chesco.org

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

- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) told us that they will be holding their Summer Youth Camp on 7/19-24/09. The Avondale Presbyterian Church will house the youth at night. Good Neighbors is blessed with many resources and still needs more referrals for homes which need repair for low-income area residents. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com
- Bill Pugh (McIntyre Associates and HWFSCC) told us that the RFPs have gone out and any agency, who fits the priorities, may submit a grant proposal. The grant application may be accessed on the web site of www.hwfsc.org Bill's Email: wdp123@aol.com
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told about the InterGen Coalition, which is currently engaging in a mail survey of residents 55 years and older to assess need for home services and ways to create an Aging Friendly Community. She also told about the event that the youth are leading on Sunday, 4/19/09 from 3-5pm at The Garage Youth Center to engage the elders of the community in a "getting to know each other" event. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Theresa Bass (President of Historic East Linden Street Project) told us that the neighborhood continues to move forward and hopefully in the next month they will have their own non-profit status. She explained that the residents continue to be involved and that last month, the Mayor, Chief of Police and Borough Manager all attended their monthly meeting, and that they already have seen a difference on the street. They will continue to work together to keep the homes repaired and the neighborhood safe with educational activities for the youth. Email: trbass15@aol.com
- Mary Kay Peterson (Community Gardens of Chester County) told us that there are 40 raised garden beds, which can be assigned to a community member/family. On Saturday, March 28th at 9am, there will be an active work day to prepare the area for gardening. They are promoting a "Gleaning Garden"—one that will be planted by the community and the produce donated to the Kennett Food Cupboard. There also will be a Garden Conversations Series---the first being at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, 401 N. Union St., Kennett on Tuesday, 3/31/09 at 6pm. Harold Taylor, Senior Vegetable Gardener from Longwood Gardens will be the Featured Speaker on "The Three Season Garden". Email: gardenscc@gmail.com or Phone: 610-908-9549.
- Jackie Maas (Director of Tick Tock Early Learning Center) is looking for ceramic or china dishes to be used for a mosaic on their building. She has a nice list of volunteers, so if anyone needs contacts, let her know. She also represented Longwood Rotary and said that they are always looking for a service project. They will be helping LCH move in May. The Rotary also has funds and a one-page grant application for service

efforts in the community on their website. Email: haradon@chesco.com for more information. Jackie's email: ticktock@kennett.net

- Ceil Sheffy (Director of After The Bell) told us that their Spring session with after-school programs for the middle-school youth starts April 21 and goes through May. She needs volunteers. Email: Sheffy116@comcast.net or afterthebell@kcsd.org
- Dan Pierson (Boy Scout) is working on an Eagle Project at Kendal Communities. He hopes to build two raised garden boxes that will be wheelchair accessible. He is asking for donation of materials and/or funds to support this effort. His mother, Denise Pierson, also attended the meeting. Email: edpierson@comcast.net
- Giselle Consentino (BVA) told us that she has Nature Camp scholarship applications available for 4-16 year olds. She also told us about the Red Clay Valley Clean-Up Day on 3/28/09. Anson B Nixon Park and Ashland Nature Center are the two sites that volunteers are needed. Email: gisellec@bva-rcva.org
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Education) told us about this year's Soccer Valor Cup Tournament on 5/16/09 to be held at a sports center near King of Prussia. Volunteers are needed to set-up and clean-up. Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Anna Anderson (ACTIVATE Kennett Square) told about the neighborhood walks that she started in her neighborhood last year to promote healthy living and exercise. She plans to start-up again in April and is encouraging others to do the same in their neighborhood. She added that it builds friendly neighborhoods, as well. Joan Holliday reminded everyone that Healthy Kids Day will be a health fair on the streets of Kennett on Saturday, April 18th from 10 to 1pm and that the other neighborhood captains will be introduced, along with Anna, to promote the effort. Phone: 610-444-3879
- Diana Rarig (4-H Creating Communities) told us about their Fundraiser Progressive Dinner to be held on 5/13/09. Event features Kennett restaurants. Tickets \$75. Email: dleina@gmail.com
- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told us about the Springfest in the Park to be held on 4/25/09 from 10-3pm. Vendors will provide supplies and information for gardening endeavors. Email: pam@chescof.org

The group then mingled and “bridged.” Following are the “bridges” that were made:

- Mary Kay “bridged” with Lorelle Whenry and Esther Rochester to set-up a gardening project with Study Buddies and “bridged” Dan Pierson about his Eagle Scout Project and ways to support him.
- Diana Rarig “bridged” with Doug Sterling about having a spot on the radio for the fundraiser event. She also “bridged” with Good Neighbors about potential homes for repair.

- Ceil Sheffy “bridged” with DeAnna Hannigen, who will volunteer for the spring session of After the Bell and with Dan Pierson about bringing in local scouts into After the Bell and with Jackie Maas around access to volunteers.
- Salvador Villicana “bridged” with Efrain Lopez about his work of doing HIV counseling and testing at work sites.
- Giselle Consentino “bridged” with Lorelle Whentry, Theresa Bass, Joan Holliday and others around the summer camp scholarships.
- Anne Humes from Kendal told us that she “bridges” all the information she receives at Bridging meetings with the Kendal residents. She also “bridged” with Dan Pierson to help solicit support for his Eagle Scout project.
- Pam Eppinger “bridged” with Ceil Sheffy and Jackie Maas about bringing the Mexican Folk Dancers to their sites.
- Chad Thomas “bridged” with Sue Rzueidlo around ways to bring Disaster Preparedness Training to Special Needs group.
- Tim Campbell “bridged” with several attendees about his services. He also promoted leaving business cards and flyers at the funeral home, which he will keep on display.
- Doug Sterling “bridged” with Kathleen Snyder around a spot on the radios for Cinco de Mayo and also with persons about the Clothing Closet.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Lorelle Whentry, who would like to attend the next InterGen Coalition meeting. Joan also passed out copies of the Path of Potential Reader
- Pam Carter passed out many flyers for the Springfest.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7pm at the Episcopal Church of the Advent, 401 N. Union St., Kennett Square, Pa 19348. On a bright and promising evening, thirty-eight caring community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging”. (Other frequent attendees of *Bridging the Community* meetings were at the Kennett Night Blue Rocks baseball game and at the Penn State Extension Fundraiser.)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 08, 2009, 2009 at 500 E. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Phone: 610-444-5774

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Tom Hoehle welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework of Bridging. Jeanne Searer shared the principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy. We had a moment of silence with special private prayers in this place of worship.

Jeanne Searer (Member of the Episcopal Church of the Advent) has been a member for 22 years. She sings in the choir. She told us that the building has been expanded and renovated and we were meeting in the St. Nicholas room. She shared that the church members are involved in many aspects of community outreach, but in quiet ways. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Pam Murphy (Virtuous Education Baha’i) would like to learn more about the Kennett community and also offers the Virtuous Education course for elementary school children to any interested community organizations. Email: pmm9@comcast.net
- George Gower (Longwood Rotary/Project Coordinator) is starting in this position this year and is looking for projects for Rotary involvement. Email: refmin@verison.net
- Rosemary Malatesta (Bed & Breakfast on 221 S. Union—Stebbins Swayne House) is interested in learning more about “bridging”. She moved to Kennett five years ago and she describes the Kennett community as “very special”. Phone: 610-444-9097
Email: history1842@yahoo.com
- Mary Hutchins (Student at University of Delaware) has an internship at The Garage Youth Center, 115 S. Union St, Kennett Square. Email: mehutch@UDel.Edu
- Casey Jones (Resident of Parksburg and Transformation Initiative in Coatesville) explained that he is creating an Internet E-Letter, which will keep SCC residents informed of upcoming events. He invited us to give him our contact information to receive his E-Letter. He believes in “bridging” through this letter and assisting better

community communications. His ministry work is focused on “Building Healthy Communities through Healthy Families”. Email: bps461@msn.com. Phone: 484-872-1298.

- Tim Powell (New Beginnings Church Pastor, 1140 Newark Rd., Toughkenamon, PA 19374) told us that his church wants to be involved in community work, wherever it is needed. They also have a 180 Student Ministry to reach students between the ages of 12 and 18 years. They have a Parenting Class, which they hold at Saxby’s Coffee House (Rt. 1 next to The Hilton Inn). Email: 180nbc@gmail.com. Phone: 610-268-1415
- Angela White (Owner of Saxbys Coffee House) invites the community to attend events and to set-up events at her coffee house. The Garage Youth Center has Open Myke Night on Friday nights. Email: shop1047@saxbyscoffeeworldwide.com
- Sarah Maietta (Community Outreach and Events for New Beginnings Church) told us that she is setting up events for community participation and would like to be invited to be a part of community events. Email: jszmaietta@comcast.net
- Nahid Wilf (Immigration Lawyer in ChaddsFord) is also interested in learning more about “bridging” and is a part of the Virtuous Education Baha’i. Email: nahidwilf@verizon.net
- Frank Wilf (Community Member) is interested in learning more about “bridging” and volunteer opportunities. Email: nahidwilf@verizon.net
- Brittney Gangemi (Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing) told us that she will be involved in Pendall Hill’s Leadership Course this summer and is looking for a community internship on Mondays and Wednesdays, with a medial emphasis. She is attending Bridging to learn of the organizations in the community and possible arenas for her internship. Phone: 609-670-0943 Email: brittneygangemi@yahoo.com

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

- Cathy Brison (YMCA and MLK CommUNITY Advocates) told us that the Kennett Run will be held on 5/16/09. She also told us that the MLK CommUNITY Advocates are putting out a survey in the next borough newsletter, assessing the equality of the criminal justice system. She asked that everyone support both efforts. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com
- Susan Goldsworthy (Newly home from the Peace Corps in Malawi, South East Africa) warmly thanked participants of “bridging”, especially East Linden St., for their donations of toothbrushes, yarn and eye glasses to the residents of Malawi. Tom Hoehle referred to the many times Susan’s name came up in “Bridging” and how her work inspired all of us.

She now is volunteering, helping seniors develop their gardens. Phone: 484-888-4101.
Email: Stargazers17@gmail.com

- Rosa Garza Moore (The Garage Youth Center, 115 S. Union St., Kennett) told us that they are having a Garage Sale on Saturday, 5/16/09 from 8:30am to 8:00pm. They would like donations. Drop off at The Garage after 2pm and before 7pm on Thursday and Friday. Also, they are planning Financial Literacy Workshops for youth and families on June 25 and July 9 at 6:30pm. They have a variety of youth programs and are always looking for tutors and mentors.
- Barbara DesJardins (Peacework Ltd) told us that they are located at 321 Cypress St., Kennett Square. They conduct art therapy workshops for disadvantaged children. They need a volunteer to help out at Family Fun Fest Day in the park.
Email: peaceworkltd2@verizon.net
- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) told us that their summer camp will be held on 7/19-14/09. They will have between 40-50 youth and 20 adults working on four different homes of SCC residents, who do not have the means to maintain their home. They are looking for volunteers and support with refreshments during their summer camp week. They also have brochures in Spanish. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com
- Sue Rzueidlo (Community member) told us that she works with Kennett Works at KHS to help find job placements for youth with developmental disabilities. She needs to find more locations to place the students. Email: srz@dol.net
- Phil Gilbert (Kendal/Crosslands Communities) told us that Kendal and Luther House are working together to bring affordable senior housing to the Kennett area. He also expressed his concern about another community in PA, who is in a legal immigration battle and is categorizing Kennett in the same light, as their community. He believes Kennett is a better community and that we need to continue to promote the Bridging philosophy, which we are trying to live by---Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity. Email: plgilbert@aol.com
Joan Holliday encouraged us to have an open communication with each other, if we do believe there is a discrimination issue and work through it together.
- Efrain Zavala (HR Mgr. at Northcreek Nurseries) told us that they are happy to make donations of plants for special community activities. Also, he read a letter in Spanish and English from one of his employees, who is asking for medical help and referrals for a serious injury. Email: efrain@northcreeknurseries.com
- Mayra Zavala (KHS student) is looking for a donation of a used electric piano. She would like to learn to play the piano and promises to practice and develop this talent if she receives one. Email: zavalamayra@gmail.com
- Karen Beltran (Kennett Area Community Services/Food Cupboard) told us that she is their first official Case Manager. The Center provides food, utility and rent assistance for

low-income residents. She also told us that she is managing a transportation program for low-income SCC residents, who are not accessing healthcare because of lack of transportation or insurance. She will make referrals and set-up free transportation.

Email: kbeltron2@hotmail.com or Karen-kacs@comcast.net

- DeAnna Hannigen (Board member of Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that she attended the last Bridging meeting and is now connected with After the Bell program. She also told us that Tick Tock is looking for items for their summer programs. They are looking for toddler toys, water toys and board games. They also are looking for youth volunteers. from 12-16 years old for the summer.

Email: deannah@hotmail.com

- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told everyone one about ACTIVATE Kennett Square and the importance of exercise. She reported there are four neighborhood captains, who are conducting weekly walks. She encouraged others to form a neighborhood walk. She introduced Anna Anderson, who was awarded the “Healthiest Senior Award” by the youth at Healthy Kids Day. She is 80 years old and conducts a walk on Park Ave every Wednesday at 6:30pm. She also eats and prepares healthy foods. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

The group then mingled and “bridged.” Following are the “bridges” that were made:

- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Ron Smith around volunteering with Good Neighbors
- Ron Smith “bridged” with Pastor Tim Powell, Mary Hutchins, Andy Jenkins & George Gower from Longwood Rotary around volunteer possibilities.
- Sue Rzueidlo “bridged” with Cathy Brison from the Kennett Area YMCA for job placements for developmentally disabled high school students.
- Rosa Garza Moore (The Garage Youth Center) “bridged” with Frank Wilf, who will help tutor/mentor youth at the Garage. He is bi-lingual, so this will help immensely. She also “bridged” with several people about the Garage sale and also a workshop provided by Efrain Zavala.
- Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative) “bridged” with five organizations, who would like to be included on his E-Letter. He also “bridged” with Tim Powers about how to partner with Tim’s parenting workshop and his healthy families workshop. He also “bridged” with Good Neighbors to see how they and Good Works from Coatesville could network.
- Efrain Zavala “bridged” with Jeanne Searer and will provide flats of flowers for the Eagle Scouts. Also he “bridged” with Susan Goldsworthy about donations for her work with the senior gardens.
- Phil Gilbert “bridged” with Nahid Wilf around the legal profession and ways to work on immigration issues.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Efrain Zavala and told him she would discuss his employee’s medical need with Project Salud. Joan reminded everyone that La Comunidad Hispana now has a new building at 731 W. Cypress, Kennett Square. They provide social services, education/ESL/GED and have a medical clinic/Project Salud. Their Open House is Sunday, 5/17/09 from 2pm to 5pm. Joan also “bridged” with

Brittney Gangemi about a potential internship with Project Salud/ Work Healthy Clinics on the mushroom farms.

- DeAnna Hannigen “bridged” with several people around the Garage Sale and with Joan Holliday to teach ESL to one of Joan’s nursing clients. She also “bridged” with Pam Murphy around the Virtuous Education.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Rosemary Malatesta around attending Each and All Dialogue Group, held the first Wednesday of every month at Friends Meeting, Sickle St. and Union from 7:45am to 9:00am. Joan also passed out The Path of Potential Reader to new and interested attendees.
- George Gower “bridged” with Theresa Bass around a project on East Linden Street.
- Mayra Zavala “bridged” with Jeanne Searer, who may have an electric piano to donate to her. Also Mayra was told about www.freecycle.com as a website to look for free items.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 7pm at the Bible Methodist Church, 500 E. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. On a perfect summer evening, thirty-two caring community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging.”

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 09, 2009, at the new La Comunidad Hispana, 731 Cypress St., Kennett Square at 7pm. Phone: 610-444-7550.

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 welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. He also gave an overview of the framework of Bridging. Jessie Cocks presented the Vision Statement. Jeanne Searer elaborated on the guiding principles and read the website: www.bridgingcommunity.com. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy.

Doug Sterling, Pastor of Bible Methodist Church, welcomed all guests. He shared a history of the Church and his family's involvement. He is a 2nd generation pastor; his parents first started the Church in 1952 in their garage, and bought the current property two years later from Tony Talamonti. Bible Methodist Church is an evangelical Methodist Church, strongly associated with Bridging the Community through its Kennett Clothing Closet, which is open every second Saturday of the month for people needing clothing. Doug thanked all who've helped the project and asked people to continue to spread the word. He also spoke about his other job, as an announcer at a local radio station: Brandywinerradio.com. The station has a community bulletin board for free announcements. Doug encouraged everyone to send him an email about any announcements. Doug then offered a blessing in the spirit of this special community.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Tamara Fox – is the new Development Director at La Comunidad Hispana, and this was her third day on the job. She is looking forward to her new job, the community, and the support she anticipates. Email: tfox@lchps.org
- Diane Bove – is a Mentor, Trainer and Volunteer Coordinator at The Garage Youth Center, 115 S. Union St., Kennett, and this is her first visit to Bridging the Community. Email: diane.bove@garageyouthcenter.org
- Katie Uhler – is a recent college graduate, originally from Downingtown and was invited by Sylvia Barreiro. She is looking for a job and hoping to get involved in the community, especially with the Hispanic community. Email: katlyn.uhler@gmail.com
- Barbara Powers –director of Kennett Clothing Closet of the Bible Methodist Church. She iterated what Doug said earlier about the program. She expressed interest in speaking to Katie for help with Hispanic clients if she has time. The Closet has outgrown its current location at the Church and is looking for a larger building in the Kennett Area. Barbara

seeks volunteers for Friday nights to set up for Saturday, for Saturdays, and for Sunday school class. The Closet is running low on new unused undergarments and socks. It is open from 10-2 on Saturdays. She asked people to continue to spread the word.

- Ruth Schulz – is from Minnesota and just graduated from Swarthmore. She took a job with CATA, working with Kaolin Workers Union. She heard about Bridging and came to introduce herself. Email: ruth.j.schultz@gmail.com
- Karen & Natalie Guarino – came to learn about Bridging and see if they could find an Eagle Scout project for their son/brother, Nicholas. Email: guarinos@comcast.net
- Ginny Parfitt – is representing the new campus of Delaware County Community College at Pennocks Bridge in Jennersville, at the Chester County Technical College Bldg. She hopes to interest people in classes at DCCC and has flyers for people who always wanted to get a college education. She also brought community education catalogs for the fall. For enrollment info see her. Email: vparfitt@dccc.edu
- Eileen Beck – of the Martin Luther King Community Advocates came to share information about “Crash,” the movie, which will be presented on Saturday, July 11th from 1-4 at the Kennett Area Senior Center. It is R Rated so don’t bring children. A discussion will follow until 5:00 PM. Email: Sophiaeb@aol.com

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

- Rosemary Malatesta of Stebbins-Swayne Bed & Breakfast was impressed with the last Bridging the Community she attended and came again tonight. Phone: 610-444-9097
Email: history1842@yahoo.com
- Joyce Cummins – spoke about Adult Day Care of Chester County, a licensed older adult day care center, which has another site in Exton. She lives in Chester Springs and wants to learn more about Kennett Square. She comes to KS on Thursdays and Fridays, is intrigued by the feeling of revitalization here, as she came from a community just
Email: jcummins@acofcc.org
- Pam Murphy – of Baha’i provided an update on the Virtues Class beginning Tuesday, July 28, from 6-8 at La Comunidad Hispana. The Virtues Project is a non-denominational course for children and families on the human virtues and world unity that have been honored in all of the major religions. Email: pmm9@comcast.net
- Lenda Carrillo – from the YMCA, is looking for kids 9+ for a new free program from 8-3 at the Y; it is a horse camp, where participants learn grooming, riding and care of horses. They will provide transportation and the program runs the weeks of August 10 and 17
Email: lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org

- Ann Humes – Kendal volunteers – has five new volunteers whose average age is in the 80s who are volunteering at Mary D Lang and at the Library. They are also putting on a special food collection for the Kennett Food Cupboard. Phone: 610-388-1199
- Jesse Cocks – serves on the MLK Community Advocates committee, which is doing a series of events on race and awareness. The first is on Saturday, August 8 at the Kennett Area Senior Center, “Playback for Change, an Improv Theater – Kennett Square Colors of a Nation,” a playback theater that is unrehearsed and interactive with the audience. It is free. There is a follow-up on Saturday Aug 22 from 9-1 at the senior center about exploring race relations and is also free. If anyone is interested in joining the MLK Community Advocates, they are welcome. She announced a survey on race discrimination and asked people to participate. The survey is available on the MLK Breakfast website, she also has flyers, people may drop off their completed surveys to the Crash movie, the senior center or borough hall. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net
- Deborah Steeves – an attorney with Legal Aid of SE PA discussed a new program to provide funding to help people pay utility bills, and other emergency matters; she brought flyers; there are also available food produce coupons for low income seniors through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. For people with criminal records who’ve been free of arrest or prosecution for at least five years, a new statewide pardon program can expunge old records so that people will be able to get jobs. Another new program will run on Tuesdays from 1-6 in which bar association attorneys will take free phone calls from anyone with a legal problem, e.g., utility bills, foreclosures, etc. The program provides advice, not assistance. Email: dsteeves@lasp.org
- Jackie Maas – the Executive Director of Tick Tock Early Learning Center discussed an opportunity for volunteer placements. Tick Tock has volunteers as young as 9 or as old as 70s. Opportunities exist for one time or regular summer volunteers. Tick Tock continues to accept gently used toys. Jackie placed flyers at the back of the room about their Golf Tournament, an important fundraiser for Tick Tock. Thanks to a grant, six employees (single moms) have gone back to school for early childhood education careers. Tick Tock is using St. Anthony’s in the Hills school for a swimming pool program; Jackie complimented their underused, but wonderful resources. Email: ticktock@kennett.net
- Casey Jones – (Resident of Parkesburg and Transformation Initiative in Coatesville) explained how he is involved in different ministries in the Coatesville area, sharing information from different organizations. Recently, Transformation Initiative began publishing weekly information about activities in the county, especially training for families. In the last 3-4 weeks, they have had a calendar of events. He encouraged everyone to get their contact information to him. He shared information about a summer youth employment program offering minimum wage jobs. For 55+ people who need help, the organization provides access to information about nonprofits that can help. Employment information for medium to high income people who’ve lost their jobs and

are not accustomed to being unemployed or underemployed, is available and the program facilitates learning about all the services available, e.g., Careerlink for jobs, training, especially veterans. Email: bps461@msn.com. Phone: 484-872-1298.

- Mary Kay Peterson – Community Gardens of Chester County has an ongoing series of free garden conversations. Moira Sheridan, a Master Gardener, is speaking July 21 about herbs; on August 25, Nick Tolman, Senior Gardener from Longwood Gardens, will talk about perennials. The garden conversations will take place at Anson Nixon Park. Community Gardens of Chester County is looking for faith based and community-based organizations interested in partnering with them; they provide materials, soil, technical assistance, they just need the groups. Email: mkpeterson@chesco.com
- Anita O'Connor – from Kennett Area Senior Center shared information about the Center's annual fundraising event, the Community Cuisine, which will take place Sunday August 9, 2009 from 5 to 9 at the Red Clay Room. Her appeal was for people who are interested in attending, or to volunteer. 67 volunteers are needed between 12:00 PM and 10:30 PM for various two or four hour shifts. She can be reached at 610-444-4819 or by email at aconnor@kennettseiorcenter.org
- Karen Beltran – Kennett Area Community Service's food cupboard; attended for two reasons – KACS has a program to help with up to \$500 for emergency needs – rent, food, utilities, etc. She also discussed the social services dept., available at the cupboard Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. She seeks help in promoting the program to low income families. She also mentioned that KACS offers free transportation for medical and dental needs Email: kbeltron2@hotmail.com or Karen-kacs@comcast.net
- Ron Smith – Good Neighbors Home Repair Ministry is a faith-based non-profit that repairs homes for people who can't do it themselves. Good Neighbors obtains grants for materials, and has volunteers. Ron announced a summer youth work camp July 19-24; five projects will be working through the Avondale Presbyterian Church. Tonight's request is for Gatorade, water, and juice; Ron will see you are reimbursed. You will be inspired seeing youth work hard during their vacation helping others. He has flyers with details and brochures including in Spanish. Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com

The group then mingled and “bridged.” Following are the “bridges” that were made:

- Ron Smith bridged with Ann Humes for cookies for summer camp, also with Tom Hoehle and George Gower for a Rotary project
- Anita O'Connor bridged with Tom Hoehle, Ann Humes, Pam and Chris Murphy, Rosemary Malatesta, Lenda Carillo and Jesse Cocks about the fundraising dinner
- Mary Kay Peterson bridged with Doug Sterling for a potential garden project for next year, Deborah Steeves' husband at St. James Church for raised beds and also Casey Jones

- Jessie Cocks bridged with Ruth Schulz, Jackie Maas of Tick Tock, George Gower and Andy Jenkins from the Longwood Rotary Club and Anita O'Connor of Kennett Area Senior Center . She also shared the MLK Advocates flyers.
- Karen Guarino spoke with Joyce Cummins at Adult Day Care – for a project for Nicholas
- Barbara Powers spoke with Deborah Steeves and Cathy Brison about flyers for clothing closet.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, September 09, 2009 at 7pm at La Comunidad Hispana, 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. At the beginning of the harvest season, fifty-two extending community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging.”

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at The Kennett Area Senior, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square at 7pm. Phone: 610-444-4819

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 welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Tom led us in a moment of silence. Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Jeanne Searer shared the guiding principles and the website: www.bridgingcommunity.com. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy.

Tamara Fox, La Comunidad Hispana Development Director welcomed us to their new site, which was opened in May 2009. She told us that LCH was founded in 1973 by a group, who saw the need to support the new Latino immigrant to our area. LCH serves Latinos and others in the areas of Social Services, Health Clinic/Project Salud and Education, which includes GED classes in Spanish, ESL, Citizenship Classes and Conversational English. LCH now has a permanent home at this location, and previously rented sites on Broad St., Birch, St. and State St. in the past. LCH has extended services into Coatesville and New Castle, DE.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Jessie Cocks (Borough Council and on her way to the Kennett Planning Commission meeting), encouraged all attendees to keep an open communication with the Council around issues and needs. She told us about the dedication of the new Kennett Area Food Cupboard/The Bill Buffington Center and Open House on 9/29/09 from 4pm to 7pm. She also told us about the Community Town Hall on Health-Care Reform on 9/13/09 at 7pm at Church of the Open Door, 210 S. Broad St., Kennett. All voices will be heard. Jessie is a member of the MLK Jr. Advocates and invites each and all to attend their meetings the first Thursday of the month at The Kennett Area Senior Center. Two events have taken place, which have addressed race relations. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net
- Lorri Sarosy (Office of Aging Services Contractor) told us that she will be leading a pilot project through The Kennett Area Senior Center—Neighbors in Action, volunteers helping homebound seniors in the community. Email: sarolori@yahoo.com
- Kecia L. McMillian (Path Stone) told us about the youth program that they will be leading for 14-18 yr. old youth exploring careers. Email: kcmillian@pathstone.org

- Bob Witlock (Good Neighbors) told us that he will be stepping into the role that Ron Smith has played with Good Neighbors Home Repair. This non-profit agency helps low-income families stay safe and dry through their home repairs. They raise funds for supplies and provide volunteers for home repairs. Fundraiser Dinner will be on 9/27/09 at Mendenhall. Email: RHW@vet.upenn.edu
- Joan Holliday (CCHD/PHN) thanked Ron Smith for his good community work through Good Neighbors and for being a faithful “Bridging” attendee for several years. We send good wishes to Ron and his family, as they move to Texas. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Kristin Proto (Path Stone) explained that this agency, previously named Rural Opportunities, has programs to develop the work force and also has a migrant and seasonal Head Start program. Email: kproto@pathstone.org
- Maureen Orlando (Mary D Lang School Nurse) introduced two school employees and expressed her interest in “bridging”. Email: morlando@kcsd.org
- Leanne Lightcap (Mary D Lang 3rd Grade Bi-Lingual Teacher) told us that she lives in Kennett and is interested in learning more about the community. Email: LLightcap@KDSO.org
- Jan Turner (Mary D Lang Bi-Lingual Guidance Counselor) told us that the school is open to volunteers and also “bridging” with the community. Email: JTurner@KCSO.org
- Maria Diego (Even Start) told us that this program has been in the area for 14 years. They have a three-prong effect--GED/Education for the parent, pre-school for the children and parenting classes. Maria is happy to attend the “bridging” meeting. Email: MariaDi@cciu.org
- Fran Maye (The Kennett Paper Editor) told us that he wanted to learn more about “bridging” and that he believes in building a positive community. He is a Longwood Rotarian and has participated in several projects. Email: kennettpaper@gmail.com
- Susie McDonnell (Bayard Taylor Memorial Library Board Trustee) is interested in learning more about the needs and interests of the community to find ways to “bridge” with the library’s mission. Email: smacdonnell@verizon.net
- Carolyn Boyd (Kennett Square Resident for 3 months) has moved from North Carolina and is interested in volunteering. Email: cpmpgb@verizon.net
- Kathy Hrenko (After the Bell ED) told us they are a non-profit, which partners with the Kennett School District to hold enrichment programs for Kennett Middle School students In three 6 week cycles on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for one hour. The program has over 200 volunteers. She is always looking for volunteers, who want to share their interests, hobbies with the students. Email: executivedirector@afterthebell.org

- Mary Jo Boyer (Delaware County Community College) told us that they have been in Chester County for 13 years, but now have a campus in Jennersville. They are already fully enrolled. She welcomes input from the community.
- Sakthi and his wife, Kamatchi Vel(DoKall) told us about their business/DoKall, which helps charities raise funds for their organizations. As a second venture, they have a software company, which provides math challenges. As a third venture, they also provide help with web sites. www.doKall.com Phone: 302-239-4661
- Alejandra Garcia (Kaolin Mushroom HR) told us that she would like to get more involved in the community and is a recent graduate of Penn State.

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

- Anita O'Connor (Kennett Area Senior Center/ED) presented La Comunidad Hispana with the art picture that Inez (from The Garage Youth Center) created with the inscription, "We are peaceful, progressive, inclusive", also written in Spanish. Anita reflected that LCH has continued to live out this philosophy through their good work in this community agency, and is a model for others.
- Kathleen Snyder (Casa Guanajuato) told us about the club, which is promoting the Mexican culture. She showed us Lupita, an example of the doll, along with masks and piñatas, which will be made on 9/17/09 from 6-9pm at the new Mision Santa Maria, 9016 Gap Newport Pike (Rt. 41), Avondale, PA 19311. Phone: 302-766-4698. Everyone is welcome with free admission. Email: KSnyder291@aol.com
- Lenda Carrillo (Kennett Area YMCA Outreach Coordinator) told us she needs volunteers to help with the Halloween party on 10/17/09 from noon to 4pm. Phone: 610-444-YMCA Email: lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org
- Esther Rochester (Historic East Linden Street Study Buddies) told us that she is looking for tutoring volunteers for Wednesdays at Bethel AME Church from 4-5:30pm. Also, she would appreciate donations of healthy snacks. Phone: 610-444-9924.
- Deborah Steeves (Legal Aid) told us about the extended service the organization offers. There will be FREE legal or financial help offered by volunteer lawyers and banking professionals in the community. Call 1-888-799-4557 or www.PA.gov Email: dsteeves@lasp.org
- Joan Holliday (CCHD/PHN) expressed thanks from KHS students Mayra and Daisy, who received two electric pianos and a guitar from their previous requests at "Bridging".
- Phil Gilbert (Crosslands Communities) told us about The South African Music Project. They are looking for used instruments, which will be repaired and sent to S.A. students with special needs to teach reading, writing and socialization. Email: plgilbert@aol.com

- Jeanne Searer (Pocopson) told us about the Pocopson Community Festival on 9/20/09. They need volunteers. Call Rick at 610-793-2151. She also is looking for contact information for her daughter, who is a Senior in college and needs 40 hours of observation in a Spanish or ESL class. She also is starting classes at The Kennett Area Senior Center on 1021 at 9am for weight loss/Trivos Behavioral Management and has applications. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Theresa Bass (Historic East Linden Street Project President) told us about the upcoming event, "Ties That Bind" to be held on 9/26/09 from 4-8pm. There will be an historic tour with youth also participating, a silent auction and a fabulous turkey dinner served in the basement of Bethel AME. Theresa expresses pride in the success of the street's revitalization and reported that the street now has their non-profit status and the name is incorporated. Email: trbass15@aol.com
- Mary Dugan (Underground Railroad) invited the community to purchase the book on East Linden Street. They will be sold at the above event. Email: maryd@kennett.net
- Laurie Szoke (Penn State Extension) told us about the good work that the 4-H Creating Community Networks is engaging. They will be having a fundraiser entitled, "Be A Sweetheart" and purchase a piece of the program. Email:
- Anita O'Connor (Kennett Area Senior Center/ED) invited the community to learn more about the senior volunteer program that Lorri Sarosy spoke about on 10/13/09 from 6-7:30pm. She is 'bridging' with the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and churches. Email: aconnor@kennettseiorcenter.org
- Elizabeth Garduno (Migrant Education) is requesting help with school clothing and furniture for new migrant families. Phone: 610-345-1834
- Salvador Villicana (CCHD HIV/AIDS Outreach) introduced his Aunt Rafaela Lopez Osegeura. Email: svillicana@chesco.org

The group then mingled and "bridged." Following are the "bridges" that were made:

- Ron Smith (Good Neighbors) "bridged" with Anita O'Connor around volunteer work for seniors and "bridged" with Tamra Fox around Texas stories. Ron's Email: RonMSmith1@aol.com; Tamra's Email: tfox@lchps.org
- Tom Hoehle "bridged" with Carolyn Boyd around contact information for The Food Cupboard. Tom's Email: tomhoehle@yahoo.com
- Mary Dugan "bridged" with Pam Carter, Tom Hoehle and Rosemary Malatesta around being guides for the H.E.L.P. "Ties That Bind" event.
- Esther Rochester (Study Buddies) "bridged" with the Mary D Lang employees and Alejandra Garcia, who have offered to help Study Buddies with healthy snacks.

- Sylvia Barrios (Upland Country Day teacher) “bridged” with Legal Aid’s Deborah Steeves. She also “bridged” with Laurie Szoke around programming for her students and Andrew from The Garage Youth Center around volunteer possibilities.
- Bob Witlock (Good Neighbors) “bridged” with Elizabeth Garduno (Migrant Education) around clothing and home repair opportunities with Good Neighbors and Good Works in Coatesville. He “bridged” with Carolyn Boyd and The Garage Youth Center, Andrew around volunteers.
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Mary D Lang employees, who gave her info for her daughter’s class observation, and also gave out two Trivo Behavioral Management applications.
- Lorri Sarosy “bridged” with Fran Maye from the Kennett Paper, who will cover the event recruiting community volunteers for seniors on October 13th. She also “bridged” with Andrew from The Garage Youth Center for volunteers.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Kecia McMillian “bridged” around youth programs and Carolyn Boyd around volunteering at After the Bell.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Barbara DeJardins, Peace Works Ltd. Around developing an art project with Study Buddies. She also “bridged” with Kathleen Snyder to have flyers to give to her clients around celebrating Mexican culture.
- Theresa Bass “bridged” with several community members, who purchased tickets for H.E.L.P. fundraiser event.

After the meeting, Tamra Fox took a group of community members on a tour of the new La Comunidad Hispana site.

Bridging the Community was held on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7pm at the Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. On a windy, rainy, November eve, fifty-four engaging community members were in attendance and joined in the process of "bridging."

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at Friends Home, 147 W. State St., Kennett Square at 7pm. Phone: 610-444-2577

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

Tom Hoehle welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Tom led us in a moment of silence in honor of our veterans. Tom Hoehle and Clarence from the Senior Center were the only veterans present. Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Nancy Ayllon shared the guiding principles. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.** "Bridging" reflects this living philosophy. Each person received a copy of an article from *The Path of Potential—Becoming*, which are stories about how the living philosophy is expressed in Kennett.

Anita O'Connor, ED of The Kennett Area Senior Center told us that the Center has been in existence since 1974, when Dr. Leonard Kanofsky, with the Rotary Club, developed the Center. They highly promoted volunteer help from the seniors. They had 75 members at the start and now have over 4,000 members with 23,000 visits per year. They promote the physical, social, emotional and spiritual well-being of the seniors through programs. They offer nutritious meals five days a week, and programs which deal with Medicare, fraud prevention, and many others.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Cassie Plumb, (Upland Country Day Parent) told us that she was attending Bridging because of Sylvia Barreiro. She is present with her son, Huey Plumb and her friend, Billie Bailkin and her son, Chase Bailkin. They are hoping to "bridge" with agencies that the 6th grade boys will then raise funds for their coats, distributed by Operation Warm in the autumn, every year. Email for Cassie: CassPlumb@aol.com; Email for Billie Bailkin: bittersweetfarm4@aol.com and Chase Bailkin at: chasegiants@aol.com
- Eunice Carpitella (Community Member) saw the Bridging website and is interested in volunteering. Email: ecarpitella@hotmail.com
- Carol Koehler (WCU MSW) was invited by Sue Rzueidlo to experience "bridging". Email: queeniekoebler@yahoo.com
- Ginger Meadows (Genesis Health Care Ventures Community Outreach; Longwood Rotary member, and Historic Kennett Square Board member) is interested in learning more about the community. Email: ginger.meadows@genesishcc.com

- Areli Zavala (Mision Santa Maria) told us that she was new in her role and was looking forward to working with the community. Gabriela Pedroza (Mision Santa Maria Social Services) also was in attendance. Email: arelizavala@gmail.com. Gabriela Pedroza: Gabriela@misionsantamaria.org
- Stacy Gibson (Kennett Square Massage) told us that she just started a massage business in Kennett Square. She is open to offering a donation to a non-profit silent auction. Email: [Stacy@Kennett SquareMassage.com](mailto:Stacy@KennettSquareMassage.com)
- Lathie Gannon (Volunteer) looking for a paid position in non-profit world. She prefers working in the non-profit world. Her formal education is marketing. Email: lathieg@comcast.net
- Darlene Flores (Community Member) is looking for volunteer opportunities. She is an engineer, who also knows computers. She is available during school hours. Email: floresflyingcircus@yahoo.com
- Debra Ann Griffin (Kennett Area Senior Center) works on information and referrals for seniors and also will be working with Neighbors in Action. Email: dg@kennettseniorcenter.org
- Bonny Anderson (Delaware Rotarian) was invited by Bill Pugh. She would like to experience the “bridging” process to see if she can initiate the same in her area. She is a strong Rotarian and believes in its mission. Email: banderson1066@earthlink.net

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

Jessie Cocks (Kennett Borough Council Member and was recently married to Rev. Patrick Seyler) She had several items to share. 1) November 21st is the Quaker Fair at Friends Meeting on Union/Rt. 82 and Sickle St., Kennett Square. She promoted it as being a great community event and a place to buy Christmas craft gifts. 2) She spoke about the MLK Advocates, who invite any interested community member to attend the monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of every month at 5:30pm at the Kennett Area Senior Center. 3) She invited the community to join in the Mexican tradition of a Posada--to be held on 12/18/09 at 6pm. Meet at Friends Meeting on Union/Rt. 82 and the parade will go down East Linden Street, up State Street and end at The Garage. (Sylvia Barreiro explained that a Posada is a faith-based tradition that re-enacts Mary and Joseph trying to find a room within an Inn in Bethlehem. The event has music and knocking at doors, where there is no welcome until the last home/The Garage Youth Center, which welcomes the couple to enter to embrace the birth of Christ.)

Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net

Jessie has lost her entire EMAIL list---so please email her, if you would like to receive notices from her about upcoming events.

- Doug Sterling (Pastor of Bible Methodist Church) had several items to share. 1) He told us that he is on the Board of Good Neighbors and invites referrals for low-income families who need home repairs to help keep their homes “safer, cleaner and dryer”. They operate totally with volunteers, so always would like new help. 2) He told us about the Kennett Clothing Closet, which is open the 2nd Saturday every month at Bible Methodist Church from 10am to 2pm for free used clothing. They welcome donations, which may be dropped off at any time (not on a rainy day) and they always need volunteers. 3) He also is a member of the Kennett School Board. He told us about the newly adopted Generations Program, which encourages seniors to volunteer in the schools of Kennett (it is starting in New Garden) and then, receive up to \$500 off their school taxes. 4) Brandywine Valley Speaks---Doug’s Internet radio station is always looking for guests---free of charge. 5) The Kennett Ministerium will hold a Thanksgiving Choir Concert on 11/25/09 at 7pm at First Baptist Church. All are welcome and choir members are welcome. Email: Stirling@kennett.net
- Jeanne Searer (Community Member) told us about the jazz piano concert to be performed by Wilson Summers on 12/5/09 at 4pm at Church of the Advent, which will benefit The Food Cupboard. She is a member of the choir. She also told us that Boy Scout Troop 22 from Unionville/ChaddsFord is always looking for opportunities to clear properties of fallen trees. They sell the firewood and this supports their Boy Scout efforts. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) called Ruth Williams ((2nd Baptist Church) and Sandy Reynolds (Kennett Food Cupboard to the front of the room and facilitated the “bridge”, whereby Sandy gave Ruth 10 tickets for turkeys for Kennett Seniors, who attend 2nd Baptist Church. Ruth’s church provides the trimmings. Emails for Ruth: marvinwilliams1960@verizon.net; Email for Sandy: sandy-kacs@comcast.net
- Cathy Brison (Kennett Area YMCA) told us about their project to provide food items for Thanksgiving dinners for low-income families. Go the YMCA and pull off a feather from the paper turkey and bring the food item identified by 11/19/09. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com
- Dave Haradon (Kennett Morning Rotary) told about the Rotary’s Mission---“Service above Self”. He reports that they continue to look for meaningful community projects. He suggested that community members contact George Gower, who was present, to discuss potential projects. Email for George: refmin@verizon.net; For Dave Haradon: haradon@chesco.com
- Casey Jones (Ministry work in Parkesburg) told us about the workshop he provides for “Surviving the Holidays” for those who are grieving or suffer depression during the season. He is willing to provide workshops for any group in the area. He also is willing to include community announcements for E-Update. Email: bps461@msn.com

- Kecia McMillian (Path Stone) told us that they have started their Youth Program, which helps youth from 12-18 years stay in school and look at their goals for further education. They will be meeting with youth at The Garage Youth Center every Thursday afternoon. They also will have an Open House at their home base on McFarlan Rd., on 11/18/09. Email: kmcmillian@pathstone.org
- Roberta Constantino (Legal Aid) reminded us that this agency helps low-income residents with civil issues---landlord tenant issues—receiving benefits---mortgages and foreclosures. Call: 610-436-4510 for further information.
- Esther Rochester (Historic East Linden Street Study Buddies) told us that she had received some help, from the previous Bridging meeting, with healthy snacks for the students, who study on Wednesday from 4-6pm weekly, but needs more support. Phone at work: 610-444-9924.
- Sue Rzueidlo (Community member) told us about the Helping Hands CAN Ministry (an inter-denominational ministry in Kennett Square), which hosted an informational workshop for people who like to help people on Saturday, November 7th. She reported a good turn-out and said that they hope to develop a Companion Handbook for Ministries. Email: srz@dol.net
- Nancy Ayllon-Ramirez (MCH Stable Family Program at The Family Center in Kennett Square) told us that she is a case manager for a new program from the Re-Investment Act, to help provide financial assistance for residents, who have recently lost their jobs and are having difficulty paying rent or utility bills. She encourages referrals. She attended Bridging as a high-school student, and now is back to serve her own community after receiving her Bachelor's Degree. Email: nayllon@ccmchc.org
- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) invited community members to join the MLK Kennett Community choir. You only need to have a heart and ear for music and attend three practices. We perform for the MLK CommUnity Breakfast on 01/18/10) Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Anita O'Connor (ED Kennett Area Senior Center) told us about the new program, Neighbors in Action, which will have local volunteers visit the homebound. There are many ways a community member or group can participate. There will be teams of volunteers to help individuals. Email: aconnor@kennettseniorcenter.org
- Andrew Joyce (The Garage Youth Center Community Volunteerism) told us that The Garage is open to helping youth in any way possible. They need mentors/tutors and they always are looking for meaningful volunteer projects. Come visit The Garage! Email: Andrew.Joyce@garageyouthcenter.org
- Maureen Orlando (Mary D Lang School Nurse) told us about Bedbugzz business, 128 E. State St., Kennett Square holding a "Girl's Night Out", 11/19/09 from 7-9pm. A portion of this evening's sales will go toward providing gift cards for women at CC shelters.

Email: Orlando7770@verizon.net

The group then mingled and “bridged.” Following are the “bridges” that were shared with the group:

- Maureen Orlando “bridged” with Clarence from the Senior Center and found out that he was a Veteran of the 2nd World War. We all applauded Clarence. Maureen has brought the “bridging” concept to Mary D Lang, through helping develop the elementary youth in leading and organizing a food drive for the Food Cupboard before Thanksgiving.
- Esther Rochester from HELP Study Buddies “bridged” with Ginger Meadows from Genesis Health Ventures for healthy snacks and with Cathy Brison and Kecia McMillan, who donated money for Study Buddies.
- Joan Holliday and Esther Rochester “bridged” with Barbara DeJardins from Peace Works Inc., who will conduct an art session for the Study Buddies in the summer, to have their work displayed at the summer block party.
- Ruth Williams “bridged” with George Gower from the Rotary encouraging the Rotary to return to their contribution of book bags to the Kennett Borough youth next September.
- Roberta Constatino (Legal Aid) “bridged” with Susan Rzueidlo around the resource networking and with Ginger Meadows about space for counseling at Genesis Health Ventures; with George around a potential volunteer; and with Cathy Brison around a potential client.
- Anita O’Connor “bridged” with Casey Jones, around hold a “Surviving the Holidays” workshop at the Kennett Area Senior Center. She also “bridged” with Eunice Carpitella around volunteering for the Neighbors in Action and with Stacy Gibson around her business and “bridging” with the seniors.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with several people around being included in the E-Update.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Rosemary Maletesta and Ginger Meadows around joining The Kennett Area Community Choir. She also “bridged” with Casey Jones, asking him if he could start inspiring churches to develop “parish nurses” for outreach to seniors.
- Kathy Hrenko (After the Bell ED) “bridged” with Eunice Carpitella about volunteering for After the Bell
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Doug Sterling around having a spot on Brandywine Valley Speaks and also around The Garage and the Posada event and Esther around Study Buddies.
- Chase Bailkin and Huey Plumb “bridged” with Mision Santa Maria and The Family Center around raising funds for Operation Warm and providing coats for their clients.

Community members stayed around-- stacking the chairs and “bridging” to the end!

Jessie told us that Cinco de Mayo will be held on Sunday, May 2nd on the streets of Kennett Square. The committee needs 30 plus volunteers to help with the youth activities. Email Patrick Seyler at: pastorjpseyler@verizon.net

- Doug Sterling (Pastor of Bible Methodist Church) told us that the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 2pm they are open to distribute free clothing and to receive donations. He also told us about the Good Neighbors Repair mission and they are looking for projects for the youth camp the week of 7/18/10. He and Bob Whitlock invited anyone who would like to participate in the mission of keeping homes, warmer, safer, drier and healthier for qualified homeowners as an expression of faith in Christ. They need volunteers. Email: Stirling@kennett.net
- Carlos Marin (CATA—Farm Workers Union) invited the community to participate in CATA Marches for Immigration Reform in Washington D.C. on Sunday, March 21. They will provide a bus for transportation. Email: catakennettsq@yahoo.com
- Giselle Constantino (BVA) told us that the Polar Plunge on 2/13/10 brought in \$12,000 for BVA. She also has scholarship forms for summer camp for children ages 4-15 years. There will be the annual Red Clay Valley Clean-Up on 3/27/10. They need volunteers for Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett Area YMCA and the Ashland Nature Center. Email: gisellec@bva-rcva.org
- Cathy Brison (MLK Community Advocates) invited community members to attend their meeting 4/8/10 from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Kennett Area Senior Center. In May they will go back to meeting the first Thursday of the month. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com
- Roberta Constatino (Legal Aid) told us that they help low-income residents with civil issues. They have a part-time clerical bi-lingual job opening. Phone: 610-436-4510
- Jackie Maas (Director of Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that the day care is a great place for volunteers from teen to senior. An opportunity for youth during the summer. She also told us about the *Magical Mystery* fundraiser eve on 4/17/10. Email: ticktock@kennett.net
- Jeanne Searer (Church of the Advent) told us about the 4pm choir concert that will be presented on 3/14/10 to benefit children with parents in prison. Jeanne also announced that the Kennett Area Senior Center will hold a 50s' dance at the Center on 3/20/10 from 6-9pm. Tickets are \$25. There is Line Dancing on Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Kecia McMillian (PathStone) told us about the after-school program for high-school students---help with homework and planning their future careers. She is inviting community members to speak to the youth about their personal career. She told us that the Open House was cancelled because of snow. They now have a bi-lingual GED, ESL and Computer Classes. Email: kmcmillian@pathstone.org and Phone: 610 925 5600.