

Minutes from 2010 Meetings

January 13, 2010

March 10, 2010

May 12, 2010

July 14, 2010

September 9, 2010

November 10, 2010

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7pm at Friends Home, 147 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. On a bitter cold eve, fifty-two willing community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging.”

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at The Kennett Food Cupboard, 137 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square at 7pm. (To help bring folding chairs call: 610-717-2180)

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 the Quaker site, Friends Home that we were visiting. Brenda Riehl (Friends Home Director of Development) told us that Friends Home was founded by the Quakers and continues to offer care to the senior with compassion and dignity. The average age of the assisted living residents is 88 years old. They also have a 20 bed nursing as part of the Home. Brenda offered a warm invitation to any groups that would like to “bridge” with the seniors of our community.

Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Jeanne Searer 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.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Joan Holliday introduced the Friends Home residents, who were in attendance: Virginia Gunn, Peggy Kelly, Stella Smith, Lila Reasons, Emma Bagnato, Rosemary Kehoe, Jean, Eleanor Hawthorne, Cora Fitzgerald and Alma Struble. The group thanked them for taking interest in the community and hosting our meeting.
- Chad Moroz (Community Member) told us that Pam Carter invited him to attend Bridging. He is looking for volunteer opportunities. Email: ichadius@yahoo.com
- Matt Fetick (New Kennett Square Mayor) told us that he lives around the corner from Friends Home and is interested in learning more about the needs of the community. Email: mayorfetick@kennett.net
- Brant Kucera (Kennett Borough Manager) has been in office for over a year and is interested in meeting the needs of the community. Email: bkucera@kennett.net
- Bobbie Coyle (Community Member) was asked to attend Bridging by Rosemary Maletesta. She would like to get more involved in the community. Email: woobie222@comcast.net

- Emily Fero (Community member and new graduate of Villanova University) is interested in becoming involved in tutoring and mentoring, and also learning more about the Mexican community. Email: emily.a.fero@gmail.com
- Ed Zunino (Chief of Police) said that Kennett is the home of his childhood and that he would like to continue to help the community in the best way possible. Email: kspdl@kennett.net
- Luis Tlaseca (CATA—Farm Workers Union) would like to share information about his organization. He has brochures to pass out. The Kaolin Workers Union will be voting on their union contract very soon. He introduced his friends, Rafael Nunez and Carlos Marin. Email: catakennettsq@yahoo.com
- Marcia Wright Soika (Fund for Women and Girls) lives in Malvern, PA, and came to experience Bridging and learn about Kennett area community. Email: mwrightsoika@yahoo.com
- Shawn Brede (Senior Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census 2010) told us that he is looking for offices to educate residents about the census, sites to provide assistance in filling out forms, and contacts for recruitment of census workers. Email: shawn.p.brede@census.gov
- Marie Sedlak-Lupone (Community Member) came to find out about Bridging the Community. Email: sedlakml@yahoo.com

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

- Jessie Cocks (Kennett Borough Council Member) told us about the free performance of Playback for Change (Improvisation) at the FLASH on Monday, January 18, 2010 at 10:30am. They are sponsored by the MLK CommUNITY Advocates. The theme: “CommUNITY—The Vision and It’s Struggles.” 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. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net
- Patrick Seyler (Casa Guanajuato) told us about the organization that works to preserve the Mexican culture. They now are hoping to open up the group to “Friends of Casa Guanajuato”---all are welcome! Email: pastoripseyl@verizon.net
- Phil Gilbert (Crosslands Communities) told us that Susan Goldsworthy, Chester County Community Gardens Founder is home from her Peace Corps assignment and will be making a presentation to the community at London Grove Meeting House on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 7:30pm. All are welcome to bring a covered dish to share and arrive for a potluck dinner at 6pm beforehand. Email: plgilbert@aol.com

- Kecia McMillian (PathStone) told us about the after-school program for high-school students---help with homework and planning their future careers. They now have \$25 incentives for completing an application and for 50 hours of attendance. Path Stone will hold an Open House on Wednesday, 2/10/10 from 6pm to 7:30pm for the community. Please confirm attendance. Kecia also is a cast member of KATS production, "Little Red Riding Hood & the New Jersey Wolves". Performances at KHS on 1/15/10 at 7:30pm and 1/16/10 at 2pm and 7:30pm. Email: kmcmillian@pathstone.org. and Phone: 610-925-5905
- Rosa Garza Moore (Assistant Director of The Garage Youth Center) shared that on: Saturday, January 23, Garage staff and students will be Bakers for a Day at Great Harvest. If you love bread and other baked goods, come by between 8 AM and 4 PM to satisfy your craving and support Garage. The Rose Project and Friends will be playing at The Kennett Flash on Feb. 26th at 7 PM with an opening act by Josh Anderson's band "General Turncoat". All proceeds from the ticket sales will go to Garage After-School Programs. Please join us for an evening of great music by two former Garage staff in a great venue. Tickets are \$12 in advance at www.KennettFlash.org and \$15 at the door the night of the show. Email: rosa.moore@garageyouthcenter.org
- Jackie Maas (Director of Tick Tock Early Learning Center) spoke about the Longwood Rotary's "Dancing with our Stars" on 1/06/10 at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$250 and are available at 484-732-8658. Previous Mayor Leon Spencer will be one of the dancers. She also told us about the *Magical Mystery* fundraiser eve on 4/17/10. Tick Tock needs a part-time ELL employee from 3-6pm—does not need a college education. Email: ticktock@kennett.net
- Jeanne Searer (Cinco de Mayo) told us that there will be a planning meeting on Friday, January 15, 2010 at 7:00pm at First Baptist Church, State St., Kennett. All committees will report on work continued from 2009, when it was cancelled. Jeanne also is leading a behavior management for weight loss—TBMP. Next session will be 4/21/10 at Kennett Area Senior Center. Jeanne has lost 83+ pounds through TBMP. For more information: www.TBMP.org Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative) told us that pastor groups in Coatesville and Parkesburg are inviting churches and interested individuals in their areas to become involved in developing new intra- and inter-church networks designed to assist the increasing numbers of unemployed and underemployed in finding employment. A workshop will be offered on 2/06/10. Casey also sends out a weekly Email Update on events in the area impacting individuals and families. For workshop or information for the email announcements please email: bps461@msn.com
- Giselle Constantino (BVA) told us that there will be the annual fundraiser, Polar Plunge on 2/13/10. They are looking for participants. Also, she will bring scholarship forms for summer camp to the next meeting. Email: gisellec@bva-rcva.org

- Joan Holliday (Public Health Nurse) told about the MLK CommUnity Breakfast, which will take place on 01/18/10 from 8-10am at The Red Clay Room. The volunteer Community Choir is now over 45 participants---some recruited at Bridging in November meeting. There also will be many volunteer projects taking place during the day and a delivery of the canned food items collected at the breakfast to the Kennett Food Cupboard at 6pm. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) is looking for partners to set-up their summer music program. She would like help finding Latino musicians. Email: pam@chescofc.org
- Laurie Szoke (Penn State Extension) told about the GIRLZ Program targeting middle school girls. A program will be starting in the next two weeks, with the goal of helping build the identity and decision making skills for young girls. Also, Migrant Education is looking for Program Implementers for Girl Scout Troops in Mary D Lang, Nottingham, Avon Grove and Penn London. Contact Michele Durham at mdurham@gsep.org or 610-933-7555-1432. Email: las7@psu.edu
- 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
- Kathy Hrenko (ED of After the Bell) told us that they are looking for volunteers for the enrichment program for Kennett middle school youth. She also read us an inspirational reading about "Bridging" to the group. Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org

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

- Debbie Dart "bridged" with Casey Jones with a MLK Breakfast ticket and Joan Holliday with Jessie Cocks for a ticket.
- Emily Fero "bridged" with Luis from CATA. She received info on Casa Guanajuato from Patrick Seyler, "bridged" with Rosa from The Garage, Phil Gilbert around After the Bell and Giselle around the Polar Bear Plunge. She is ready to get involved!
- Jackie Maas "bridged" with Shawn Brede from the Census about ways she can support the census. She also "bridged" with Giselle around BVA Scholarships and Pam Carter around Latino music for Anson B Nixon Park.
- Jessie Cocks made several "bridges" related to her announcements and especially enjoyed reconnecting with Alma Struble, a 96 year old Friends Home resident, who she has known many years.
- Shawn Brede "bridged" with Carlos Marin and Luis around the census, along with Casey Jones and Patrick Seyler. He also spoke with Cathy Brison and Chief Zunino about connecting with Fran Maye at The Kennett Paper for a news article.

- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Brant Kucera around H.E.L.P. information and Marcia Wright Soika around focus groups conducted by Fund for Women and Girls. She also “bridged” with Matt Fetick, who agreed to come to an H.E.L.P. Board meeting.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Brant Kucera about helping distribute the fire alarms, which are available for East Linden Street. She also ‘bridged” with Chief Ed Zunino about meeting around a “Town Watch” and also having a Kennett Police Officer speak to Study Buddies.
- Chad Moroz “bridged” with After the Bell and The Garage Youth Center for volunteer opportunities.
- Nancy Ayllon “bridged” with Kathy Hrenko about giving a presentation with the theme of “Giving back to my community”. She also ‘bridged” with Patrick Seyler around the Stable Family Program.
- Cassie Jones “bridged” with several persons for E-Update.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with several interested volunteers for After the Bell.
- Brenda Riehl “bridged” with several community efforts. She invites us to come to a meal at Friends Home at 12:30, as a guest to ‘bridge” the community with the residents.
- Laurie Szoke ‘bridged” with Marie Wright Soika around the GIRLZ Program. She quoted: “The best things in life are not things.”

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7pm at the Kennett Police Station, 115 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. On a bitter cold eve, sixty-one lively community members were in attendance and joined in the process of “bridging.”

The plan is to have the next meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at Upland Country Day School, 420 W. Street Rd. Kennett Square at 7pm. (A bus will pick up anyone, who would need transportation at the corner of State St. and Broad St., Kennett at 6:45pm) Confirmation of this site will be announced when notices are sent out in May.

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 the Pledge of Allegiance, as we honored the civic site, where we were meeting. Sarah London (Kennett Square Patrol Officer) told us that they have a new boss, Mayor Matt Fettick and their Police Chief is Edward Zunino. She spoke highly of both of them. She told us that the police department has two corporals and eight patrol officers. She has been with the force since July 2009 and is enjoying serving the community.

Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Jeanne Searer 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 the article---“A Town’s Living Philosophy-Bridge to Community Potential” from *The Path of Potential—Becoming*. (Web site: www.pathofpotential.org)

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Briana Rivera (KHS Hermanita) introduced her “Sisters/Hermanitas”---Sandra Rodriquez, Monserrat Vazquez, Lupe Cerrato, Estefani Gonzalez, Lupita Juarez, and Sonia Castano. Laura Rodriquez (Delaware Community College Freshman) explained that the Hermanitas represent a branch of MANA/Mexican-American Women’s National Association, whose mission is to help provide empowerment and educational opportunities for young Mexican American women. They offered their volunteer help to any community effort, which needs their assistance. Briana Rivera’ Email: brianna.rivera22@yahoo.com and Laura Rodriquez’s Email: rdrgzsandra@aol.com
- Laura Gonzalez (Anthropologist/PhD Student at IUP) told us about the research project she is working on studying trans-national communities in the area of mental health. Email: gnzlzlr@bcglobal.net
- Stacie Kucera (New ED of Kennett Area Community Services/Food Cupboard) told us that she is happy to be involved in the community and looks forward to carrying on the good work of Sandy Reynolds, previous ED. Email: StacieKucera@gmail.com
- Lauren Meyers (KHS 2006 Graduate and currently Penn State Student) is doing an internship at The Garage Youth Center. Email: LAM5134@psu.edu

- Joan Buck (Teacher at Mary D Lang) is interested in learning more about the community.
- Stephanie Taylor (Jennersville Community Outreach/Scholarships) came to learn about how Bridging meetings work. Email: staylor@ymcabwv.org
- Eleanor Thomforde (Board Member of Community Gardens of Chester County) told us that Susan Goldsworthy has returned from her Peace Corps involvement in Malawi, South Africa and is back to building communities through gardening.
- Susan Goldsworthy thanked Bridging the Community participants for their great help with sending yarn, knitting needles and toothbrushes to Malawi South Africa. She gave a special thanks to Esther Rochester, who led the effort. She also told us about the workshop at the Anson B Nixon Park on 4/18/10 from 3-5pm to learn how to create HERB-AND (Urban) Containers. Email for Susan: Stargazers17@gmail.com
- John McKean (Habitat for Humanity) was invited to attend by Phil Gilbert. He would like to explore ways their organization could help the community. Email: john@hfcc.org
- Nancy Cotter (Chief Executive Officer Coalition Partnerships Director) told us about her new non-profit---Self Worth Coalition. She provides credit coaching and financial literacy programs towards empowerment. Email: NLcotter@myselfworth.org and web site: www.MySelfWorth.org
- Nancy Wykel (Community Member) told us that she is a member of ACTIVATE Kennett Square and promotes developing neighborhood walks for exercise and creating friendly neighborhoods. She and her husband also have their own building business/Village Builders-- additions and renovations. She currently started a new part-time job working for Chester County 2020. Email: wannaw@comcast.net
- Cindy Chadderdon (Community Member) is looking for volunteer opportunities, which speak to her heart. Email: cinzin@verizon.net
- Pastor Peter Abhulimen and Pastor Joseph ((RCCG Victor Life Center) told us about their church services at the Kennett Area Senior Center on Sundays at 4pm. Their mission is to reach out to the world. They would like to become more involved with ministry in Kennett Square area. Pastor Peter's phone: 302-887-0481; Email; rccgvictorylife@aol.com

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

- Daise Bedolla and Myra Zavala (KHS sophomores) came back to thank Bridging folks, who donated a guitar to Daisy and an electric piano to Mayra, when they requested help in May 2009 meeting. They both are learning to play their instruments. They also are members of the Kennett Humanitarian Club and will have a fundraiser on Thursday, 3/18/10 with a student vs. faculty basketball game. They are collecting used electronics.

Visit Partners in Health web site; www.standwithHaiti.org They will also hold a benefit concert on 4/9/10. Email: zavalamayra@gmail.com

- Kristen White (Clinical Director) and Tony D'Elia (Administrative Director) came to tell us about The Institute for Behavior Change, which provides behavior support for children of all ages in their homes and schools. All services are absolutely free regardless of family income. Phone: 610-382-1432 and web site: www.abc-pa.org
- Joan Holliday (Chester County Public Health Nurse) made the announcement for Emily Fero (Villanova Grad Student), who is seeking locations for selling fresh flowers and greeting cards during the month of April to benefit the work of Community Gardens of Chester County. Email: Emily.a.fero@gmail.com Also, Joan told the group about the free conversational Spanish sessions that Millie from the Kennett Library leads on Monday nights at 6:30pm---all are welcome! Joan's email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Lenda Carrillo (Kennett Area YMCA Community Outreach) told us about the free YMCA membership that is being offered to 7th graders. Email: lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org
- Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative) told us about the weekly E- Update on events in the area impacting individuals and families. For workshop or information for the email announcements please email: bps461@msn.com He also told us about the PARN network process in Parkersburg and the new start-up CARN in Coatesville.
- Holly Favino (AMNION Pregnancy Crises Center) told us about the Chester County Youth Expo, to be held at the Chester County Youth Center in Pocopson on Friday, 3/26/10 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Registration for vendors ends 3/15/10. There also will be two workshops---one on youth suicide and the other on CYF reporting. Email: hfavino@amnion.org
- Diane Bove (The Garage Youth Center) told us that they are looking for tutors for all subjects and especially Algebra II, Chemistry, Earth and Space. They also need tutors for 6th graders doing homework. Email: diane.bove@garageyouthcenter.org
- Dave Haradon (Historic Kennett Square) told us that Budget Travel Magazine out of 147 nominations selected 21 towns across the country, to enter into a contest for the "Coolest Small Town". Go to: <http://www.tinyurl.com/CoolKennett> to cast your ballot. Dave's email: haradon@chesco.com
- Jessie Cocks (Church of the Open Door) told us about the H.U.B. of Hope HIV/AIDS and its participation in the Coatesville Community Interfaith HIV Summit/National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at Second Baptist Worship Center, 856 Merchant Street, Coatesville, PA 10310 from 8:30am-3:00pm. To register: janelind@comcast.net or contact Jessie at: jessiecocks@verizon.net Jessie's sister has opened a store in Pocopson on Rt. 52 called Garden Time. Stop in and check it out. She also reported the Haiti Relief effort at Friends brought in \$4,000.

- Sandy Reynolds (Previous ED of Kennett Area Community Services) thanked the community for their great participation and support of the agency and the food cupboard.

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

- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Roberta Constantino to teach a financial class to her ESL class and Laura Gonzalez around the Monday night conversational Spanish session at the library. Tom expressed appreciation for the “buzz” in the room during “bridging”.
- Casey Jones ‘bridged’ with Kathy Hrenko/After the Bell, BVA, Giselle Constatino; Good Neighbors/Doug Sterling; Self Worth Coalition/Nancy Cotter and others to enter their information into his weekly E-Update.
- Pastor Peter “bridged” with a retired minister who does ministry to the brain injured; Casey Jones around E-Update; Doug Sterling around getting involved in Good Neighbors work and Jessie Cocks to attend the H.U.B. of Hope workshop.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged’ with Holly Favino around signing up to be a vendor at the CC Youth Expo; Lauren Meyers, who will be interviewed as an alumni of After the Bell program; and Cindy Chadderdon, who will volunteer/cooking class for the next After the Bell session. (Kathy’s email is: afterthebell@kcsd.org)
- Rosa Garza Moore (The Garage) “bridged” with Giselle Constatino around BVA summer camp scholarships; Lenda Carillo around 7th grade YMCA scholarships; Cathy Brison around her son becoming a tutor/mentor and with Luis Tlaseca, around the Washington D.C. march and about finding a tutor for Luis’s daughter,
- Myra Zavala and Daise Bedolla “bridged” with Susan Goldsworthy around organizing a neighborhood vegetable box garden at Stenning Hills. They also ‘bridged” with others around their Haiti fundraiser. They also “bridged” with Jackie Maas around volunteering at Tick Tock, BVA Clean-up and CATA March, and Cinco de Mayo volunteer sign-up.
- Rosemary Maletesta “bridged” with Myra and Daise around taking them to free music concerts to share their mutual love of music.
- Roberta Constatino “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez around presenting to her ESL class; CATA around immigration march, and her sister, Giselle, because they are both so busy.
- Bob Whitlock “bridged” with John McKean around their common interest of home repair and also with Joan Holliday around identifying sites for Good Neighbor brochures for and Casey Jones for E-Update and Nancy Cotter.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Kecia McMillian about sharing Reiki with Pathstone students at Pathstone and talked to interested parties around H.U.B. of Hope
- Giselle Constatino “bridged” with Rosa Garza Moore, Jackie Maas, Joan Holliday, and Linda Carillo around BVA camp scholarships.
- The MANA/ Hermanitas ‘bridged” around the Red Clay Clean-up, Clothing Closet volunteering, CATA Immigration Reform March; Laura Gonzalez around a visit to IUP; and Cinco de Mayo sign-ups
- Maureen Orlando “bridged” with Kristen Jones around Behavioral Health and Nancy Cotter around the Self Worth Coalition. She also praised the youth in attendance and reflected on their elementary school days.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Esther Rochester around help with health snacks for the Study Buddies.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at Upland Country Day School, 420 W. Street Rd. Kennett Square at 7pm with fifty-eight caring community members in attendance. (A bus picked up residents in the town of Kennett)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at Willowdale Chapel, 675 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or a copy of the minutes 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, as we honored the public site, where we were meeting. David Suder (Head Master of Upland Country Day School) told us that the school educates youth from 4 years through 9th grade. Their approach is the 4 “As”—academics, arts, athletics, and attitude. They are committed to reaching out to the community.

Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Jeanne Searer 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 the article---“A Town’s Living Philosophy-Bridge to Community Potential” from *The Path of Potential—Becoming*. (Web site: www.pathofpotential.org)

Following are the Guiding Principles:

We will come from the heart---not an obligation

We will work for community---not personal agendas

We will focus on the potential side---not the issue side

We will keep it a process---not a program with infrastructure

We will value each person’s contribution---not focused on formal hierarchy

Joan Holliday announced that a “Bridging” community process has started in Avon Grove Area. They are calling it *Connecting Community*. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at the West Grove Borough Community Room, 117 Rosehill Ave, West Grove, PA (same bldg. as the West Grove Library) They will meet bi-monthly, the first Thursday in February, April, June, August, October, and December at a different site. Web site to be announced.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Christine Skrypzak, (Health Coach) told us that she is a health counselor for mothers and families with the mission of helping families eat healthy, sustainable food and engage in fitness activities. Email: phillyhealthcoach@me.com 302-584-6541
- Ron Hollenbeck (Longwood Rotary and 11 year resident of Kennett Square) told us that he is involved in two volunteer groups, Habitat for Humanity and a Bereavement Group for children. He would like to learn about volunteer opportunities for himself and the Rotary at this meeting. Email: Hollenbeck407@msn.com

in Kennett. She is having “volunteer withdrawal”, as she always was involved in Delaware. Email: klafazia@southmill.com or karamel73@hotmail.com

- Luis Tlaseca (CATA—Farm Workers Union) told us that they would like to be a part of the broader community. CATA educates mushroom workers about their worker rights. They are located at 220 Birch St., Kennett. The Kaolin Workers Union will be voting on their union contract very soon. On May 20th at 4pm they will be making a presentation about immigration “rights” at 200 Birch St. Luis brought his friend, Juan Rivera Martinez. Email: catakennettsq@yahoo.com
- Hannah Johnston (Mushroom Workers Union Contract Representative) told us that she will be legally representing the workers. She hopes that the community includes the values of “equitable” and “just” as elements of “good and healthy” food. Email: admin@kwunion.org
- Hilary Holland (Brandywine River Museum) told us that she hopes everyone in the area know the museum is open to them, and that admission should not be a barrier. Phone: 610-388-2700 Email: hholland@brandywine.org
- Iris Coloma-Gaines (Philadelphia Legal Assistance) told us that she is available for free legal advice around migrant issues related to employment every Monday from 2:30-6:30pm at the Kennett Area Senior Center. Email: iris@philalegal.org
- Kristina Smith (Community Member) told us that she has been out of work for one year and is looking for a job in community marketing. She also has started a Brandywine Query Singles network. She invites adult singles to a wine tasting at Flickerwood Wine Cellar on W. State St. on Monday, 5/24/10 from 6:30-9pm. Phone: 484-732-8576 Email: artwaves@hotmail.com and www.facebook.com/brandywinequery
- Laurie Murray and her daughter, Malorie Murray (Upland County Day School) told us that they would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Email: murraydesignworks@gmail.com and maloriekathleen@gmail.com

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

- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Education) encourages everyone to support the Valor Tournament, which is a soccer outlet for migrant youth. She also said Boy Scouts is always looking for enrollments and volunteers. She also told us that First Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square is planning to provide child care, on the First Friday of the month, to help couples, who would like to participate in the Art Strolls. Email: PamE@cciu.org
- Kecia McMillian (Path Stone) told us about the after-school program for high-school students---help with homework and planning their future careers. She has 3 requests: 1) Donated used printer for one of her students; 2) TI 8 calculators/new or used; 3) A

- Jeff Offstraught (Community Member) heard about Bridging through a newspaper article and would like to learn about more volunteer opportunities. He will be moving to a townhouse in Kennett Square. Email: jmostroff@yahoo.com
- Derrick Flax (KHS Garage Youth Center) told us that he is an intern at the Garage Youth Center. Email ED of Garage—see below.
- Esther Flax (9th Grade KHS Garage Youth Center) also participates in activities at the Garage and does community volunteer work. Email ED of Garage—see below.
- Rosa Garza Moore (ED of Garage Youth Center) told us that their mission is to “Empower youth to reach their potential.” They have a wide-range of programs and especially need volunteers for tutoring and mentoring. There will be another Garage Youth Center in the town of West Grove, opening this summer, if Borough Council approves tonight. Email: rosa.moore@garageyouthcenter
- Roberta Eldridge (Community Member) told us that she moved from New York, to retire in this area. She is a writer and has a passion for animals. She is looking for ways to engage the community more broadly. Phone: 484-732-8251
- Denny Van Thuyne (Traumatic Brain Injury TBI) told us his story of his brain injury. He is a retired Catholic priest, who started the TBI Fellowship of HOPE. He gives talks about this injury and holds a support group at his new General Store, near the corner of Broad St. and State St.
Email: TBI.DennyVanThuyne@gmail.com
- Melissa Lemons (St. Michael Lutheran Church) told us that she provides marriage counseling and individual counseling. Email: melissalemons@gmail.com
- Kate Uhler (MCH Healthy Start) told us that Healthy Start receives referrals for prenatal, postpartum and infants to provide support during these times of transition. They also provide Medicaid Health Insurance on Mondays and Tuesdays. Phone: 610-444-4002
Email: kuhler@ccmch.org **On a personal note:** Kate’s boyfriend from Peru will be coming to the area in the summer and he is an artist, who provides ecology and environmental workshops combined with art. She is interested in finding arenas for him to work. She also told us that her mother is starting a Counseling Practice on Cypress St., Kennett Square and that they are looking for a bi-lingual counselor.
Email: katlyn.uhler@gmail.com
- Rosemary Gill (Longwood Rotary) told us that she was representing the Longwood Rotary and Andy Jenkins, President. The Rotary continues to look for projects to be actively involved in the community. Email: gillsummit@aol.com
- Kara LaFazia (Kaolin Mushroom) told us that she lives in Delaware, but is working in Kennett and she, her brother and her mother all would like to find volunteer opportunities

sponsorship of a \$350 Summer Aviation Camp at New Garden for one of her students. Email: kmcmillian@pathstone.org and Phone: 610 925 5600.

- Rosemary Malatesta (Bed & Breakfast Owner/Stebbins-Swayne House, 221 S. Union St., Kennett) told us that the Self-Worth Coalition is hoping to help young people with managing their lives towards self-esteem. They would like partners and donations. Email: history1842@yahoo.com or NLcotter@myselfworth.org and check out the web site: www.MySelfWorth.org
- Jackie Maas (ED Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that they now have full enrollment with 92 children. They would like teen volunteers for the summer and donated gently used toys. Also the CCIS is open for applications for subsidy for child care for low-income families. Email: ticktock@kennett.net
- Bob Whitlock (Good Neighbors) told us that their mission to provide “safer, warmer, drier and healthier” homes for low-income families. They are looking for adult volunteers and also referrals and locations to place their English and Spanish brochures. Email: rhw@vet.upenn.edu
- Jessie Cocks (Kennett Borough Council and much more) told us about the series on Spirituality to be held at Kennett Friends Meeting, Union and Sickel St., Kennett starting on May 14, 2010 at 7pm. To be led by Patrick Seyler. The follow-up series will be in June, September, October, November and December. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net
- Dave Haradon (Historic Kennett Square) told us about the “Beers on Broad Street” fundraiser to be held on 6/5/10. He also told us that the final vote brought Kennett into the “Fifth Coolest Small Town in US”, to be featured in Budget Travel magazine. He also told us that HKS would like more community involvement. Opportunities for involvement: 1) The HKS Marketing Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 9 at 8:30 am in the HKS conference room at 106 W. State St. Anyone is welcome to join this “working” committee as we plan the marketing for the rest of the year. 2) The HKS Events Committee will meet on Friday, June 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the HKS conference room at 106 W. State St. Anyone is welcome to join this “working” committee as summer, fall and holiday events are planned for 2010 & 11. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

Holly Tyson (The Land Conservancy for SCC) told us that there is an opportunity to help clean up trails on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 from 10am to 5pm. This will take place at the Stateline woods Preserve, 814 Merrybell Lane, Kennett Square, PA.

Holly is also hosting a “Help Rebuild Haiti with a Brunch Celebration!” at her Apartment, 110 W. State St., Kennett on Sunday 5/16/10 from 11am to 4pm.

Email: guerillacomposter@gmail.com; Phone: 484-612-8312 RSVP

- Cathy Brison (Kennett Area YMCA) told us about the Kennett Run Charities taking place this Saturday, 5/15/10. Also, the Anson B Nixon Park will showcase the recreational arenas they have in the park. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com

- Pam Carter (Chester County Community Foundation & Anson B Nixon Park) told us about the Eagle's Van coming to La Comunidad Hispana on Tuesday, 05/18/10 to give free eye exams. She reports that the Concerts in the Park will continue this summer, with many activities planned. Email: pam@chescofc.org
- Stacie Kucera (New ED of Kennett Area Community Services/Food Cupboard) attended the meeting and continues to encourage community donations and participation. Email: Stacie-Kacs@comcast.net

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

- Izzy Gonzalez “bridged” with many community members to reconnect.
- Bob Whitlock “bridged” with Rosemary Malatesta and Brenda Flax around Good Neighbors services.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with PA Farm Workers, UGRR, Anson B Nixon Park and others to include their information on his E-Update. Feel free to email him with news from non-profits, which he will send out county-wide on a weekly basis. Email: bps461@msn.com
- Denny Van Thuyne also “bridged” with many people around his TBI mission. He also would like to encourage donation of used bicycle helmets.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with several people and has offers of two possible used printers and one TI 8 calculator. She also was given some possibilities of how to receive funds for the aviation camp scholarship.
- Dave Haradon “bridged” with Rosa Garza Moore and will generate volunteers from three Rotary Clubs to remodel the new Garage Youth Center in West Grove.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Jeff Offstraught around the spirituality workshop on 5/15/10 and with many others, including Roberta Eldridge, who she thinks is “cool”.
- Holly Tyson “bridged” with Kate Uhler around the art/ecology project with Victor and others around the Land Conservancy for SCC.
- Derrick Flax “bridged” with Roberta Eldridge around being mentored in writing and also with Kate Uhler, because of his interest in art.
- Iris Coloma-Gaines “bridged” with Kate Uhler, CATA and Hannah Johnston and Kennett Food Cupboard around services.
- Kate Uhler “bridged” with potential employee for her mother and potential art projects.
- Christine Skrypzak “bridged” with several community members about her services and with Joan Holliday around Chester County Food Bank process.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Joan Holliday around community member's funeral services.
- Theresa Bass “bridged” with Mary Dugan/UGRR, who will help with Historic East Linden Street's Gala in September 2010.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at Willowdale Chapel, 675 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square at 7pm with forty-five friendly community members present.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 08, 2010 at the Democrat Office at 112 E State St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Tom Hoehle welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Jim Conkle, Willowdale Chapel Outreach Director, told us that their church believes in community outreach, which matches with the Bridging process. They always are seeking partners in community work, and work closely with The Garage Youth Center, Good Neighbors and Amnion Pregnancy Crisis Center. In the fall, they have one day where 250 volunteers do projects around the community. He led us in a prayer. He left to join his wife on their 20th wedding anniversary---applause!

Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Jeanne Searer 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 the article---"A Town's Living Philosophy-Bridge to Community Potential" from The Path of Potential---*Becoming*. (Web site: www.pathofpotential.org) Everyone received a copy of "Mushrooming of Miracles" written in 2003.

Following are the Guiding Principles:

We will come from the heart---not an obligation

We will work for community---not personal agendas

We will focus on the potential side---not the issue side

We will keep it a process---not a program with infrastructure

We will value each person's contribution---not focused on formal hierarchy

The "Bridging" community process has started in Avon Grove Area. They are calling it *Connecting Community*. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 05, 2010 They will meet bi-monthly, the first Thursday in February, April, June, August, October, and December at a different site. Web site to be announced.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Bob Kane (Congressman Joe Pitts Office) told us that Joe Pitts is proud of Kennett Square and of the community work that is being accomplished.
Email: Bob.Kane@Mail.House.gov
- Lois Herr (Democrat for Congress) told us that she believes in a community that cares, listens and is "here for each other". She expressed an appreciation of the Bridging process, which she had attended a previous time. Email: herrlk@me.com

- Sandy Smith (Volunteer for Lois Herr) told us that she appreciates a community, which works together. Email: Sandysmithte@yahoo.com
- Megan Beach (The Peacemaker Center) told us that she is a therapist at a Counseling Center located at 321 E. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA. They are open to referrals and have a sliding scale fee. Phone: 610-883-7760. Email: meganbeach@verizon.net
- Jeremiah Kauffman told us that the Garage Youth Center in West Grove has received zoning approval and hopes to start in the fall. They need architectural help and funds for the renovations. Email: jeremiah@garageyouthcenter.org
- Marliessa Armentrout (The Hood Work Specialist) told us that her agency serves Chester County Youth from 16-21 years old to help them enter the work force. They are located at 530 E. Union St., West Chester, PA They would like to develop more SCC participation in their programs. Email: marmentroutthehood@live.com
- Cheryl Meyers & Ginny Huestis (Church of the Open Door) told us that they have a New Horizon ministry, which teaches English to Hispanic women. They provide child care during the classes. They also teach computer classes, and after one year of tutoring, donate a used computer to each woman. They are looking for used computers to donate. Email: cherylmyers1946@comcast.net
- Bob Thomas (A retired Pastor) with New Life Ministries will go to Montrouis, Haiti in August to assist the people in expanding their Pre-K to 3rd grade school to include twelve grades. He is looking for donations to help finish the school---for 2,400 bags of cement. Sylvia Barreiro will also be going on the trip. Email: CThomas487@aol.com
- Katrina Campbell (New Graduate from Messiah College) is looking for ways to get involved in the community through volunteering in tutoring in Spanish and English. She found Bridging through the web site. Email: KC1256@messiah.edu
- Izayah Rivera (5 month old) attended his first Bridging meeting. He and his mother are an example of Kennett's supportive community. Five different persons helped babysit him, so teen mother could attend high-school. The mother now works in the summer youth job program and volunteers in the community. Contact Patti Olenik: Email: pattiolenik@verizon.net

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

- Patrick Seyler (Lutheran Pastor) shared the following information: 1) On Wednesday, 7/21/10 at 7pm at Kennett Friends Meeting, there will be an **Educational Forum on Immigration**. Panelists will be: Andy Dinniman, Chris Ross, Steve Glassman (PHRC) and Susan Kim (PICC) will present with Mayor Matt Fetick and Former Mayor Leon Spencer as Facilitators. Public is encouraged to attend. Email: pastorjpseyler@verizon.net

2) COSECHA—A partnering group around children and youth programs continues to offer programs to the community, and seek partners. Contact Laurie Szoke: las7@psu.edu

3) Sign-up for Patrick Seyler's Beginner Spanish Class, starting in September.

4) There will be a Ministerium effort focused on young men, who drop out of school---leading to a Men's Summit next year. For more information: Phone: 610-444-6333;
Email: pastorjpseyler@verizon.net

- Jessie Cocks (Kennett Borough Council and more) told us that she has been asked to be a member of the Chester County Aging Advisory Board. She also told us about her participation in Inter Gen, promoting inter-generational housing and community processes and about the *Hands Across the Ages* program, to be presented in the fall with the Garage Youth and the KASC. She also told us that she had brochures from the Family Center, 637 Millers Hill, Kennett, which has openings for families with children under 5 years of age for promotion of early childhood development. The program is open to all vulnerable families of all race and ethnic backgrounds. Email for Jessie Cocks: jessiecocks@verizon.net Email for Family Center: kfamilycenter@ccmchc.org
- Kecia McMillian (Chester County Youth Center) told us that she has recently started a new job at the Center, where she will lead a program for young men under house arrest. The program will start with Coatesville youth, but would like to expand to the entire county. She is looking for volunteers. Email: kmcmillian@chesco.org
Phone: 610-793-5910 x5028.
- Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative) currently is emphasizing Re-Entry Programs.
 - 1) He told us about the faith-based effort of Jack Krantz, who is helping re-unite fatherless children with their fathers in prison, or other locations. Volunteers welcome.
 - 2) He encouraged interested community members to check-out the Family Development Credentialing Program offered by the County. It is free and gives 7 college credits.
 - 3) Unemployed and underemployed persons seeking education and training, resume and effective cover letter writing, and career planning workshops, along with employment assistance for veterans, ex-offenders and persons with disabilities are offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor Career Link at its office in Coatesville and at the Chester County Library in Exton.
 - 4) QPR---Youth Suicide Prevention Program is offered as a workshop. Suicides in Chester County are up by 50%. For more information contact Casey at: bps451@msn.com
 - 5) Software for Chester County Refer Web, an online database of community services, has been updated to provide several new features, including changes in type size for easier reading by persons with low vision, different presentation of categories, enhanced ability to e-mail and print out selected information, and easier ability for organizations to submit initial and updated information. The database is accessible directly at www.referweb.net/chesco, through the Find Help link on the front page of the county at www.chesco.org and through links on front pages of many county governmental department websites.
If you would like your training information placed on Casey's E-Update---- bps461@msn.com

- Esther Rochester & Theresa Bass (Historic East Linden Street) told us about the upcoming Block party on East Linden Street on 8/21/10, and the Fifth GALA Fundraiser---tickets are \$35. Both events are designed to enliven the street and bring the town of Kennett to the history of the street, especially the UGRR. They are proud of the progress made on the street both in housing repair, human and relationship development. They are looking for participation and volunteers. Email Theresa Bass to help out/and or to purchase a GALA ticket: trbass15@aol.com
- Mary Dugan (S.E. Historical Society) told us that they are looking for speakers, who could provide a history of the Hispanic's entry to the area. They have heard the history of other groups, but not the Hispanic history. Email: maryd@kennett.net
- Salvador Villicana (CCHD HIV Outreach) explained that he does free confidential HIV testing for anyone who wishes to be tested within Chester County. Email: svillicana@chesco.org
- Nancy Ayllon-Ramirez (Staff of Senator Dominic Pileggi) is located at 631 West Baltimore Pike, West Grove, PA 19390. She is interested in being the voice of bringing key issues to the Senator's attention. Phone: 610-345-1084. Email: mayllon@pasen.gov
- Diane Bove (Volunteer Coordinator of the Kennett Garage Youth Center) is looking for a work project to accommodate the summer youth job program. With the hot temperatures and rain, the work needs to be inside. Email: diane.bove@garageyouthcenter.org
- Kathy Hrenko (After the Bell) told us that they are recruiting volunteers for the after-school enrichment programs held at the Kennett middle school. The requirement is one hour a week for six weeks. Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org
- Anita O'Connor (ED of Kennett Area Senior Center) told us about the LIFT program, which is a financial literacy program for families experiencing a cycle of poverty. They need volunteers for one week for nine week program. Training is given and ongoing support provided by UWSCC. She also told us about the Senior Center Annual Fundraiser is on 8/22/10. They are selling tickets and need volunteers. Email: aoconnor@kennettseiorcenter.org
- Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) is offering Mexican History Workshops in September and November. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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

- John McKean (Habitat for Humanity) “bridged” with the West Grove Garage Youth Center in helping with the renovation of the site. john@hfhcc.org
- Joan Holliday, PHN “bridged” with Diane Bove, who has a volunteer teacher who will teach Zumba to families, who are trying to lose weight. She also encouraged the West Grove Garage Youth Center to call the group, who provides home repair help---RAKE. Joan “bridged” with Anita O'Connor around *Hands Across the Ages* and ways to develop its potential. Joan “bridged” with New Life Ministries to give a donation.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Tom Hoehle, who will grill hamburgers at the HELP Block Party and he also bought a GALA ticket.

- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Diane Bove, Esther Rochester, Mary Anderson and Anna Anderson around receiving Spanish lesions.
- Marliessa Armentrout “bridged” with Esther Rochester around bringing food to the HELP Block Party and with Lois Herr around developing a Focus Group to explore ways to bring the HOOD training to SCC.
- Mary Dugan “bridged” with Jeanne Searer and Patrick Seyler, who will identify a speaker for SE Historical Society about the Hispanic history in the area.
- Lois Herr “bridged” with Mary Dugan, whose mothers went to school together---a first meeting.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with many people and will add more people to his E-Update.
- Bob Kane told us that he will “bridge” with any community group, who has written a grant and needs a letter of support from Congressman Joe Pitts.
- Katrina Campbell “bridged” with Kathy Hrenko to volunteer for After the Bell in the fall.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Megan Beach around their mutual counseling professions and the needs in Kennett.
- Many community members “bridged” with Izayah through giggles and coos.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, September 09, 2010 at 112 E. State St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm with forty invested community members present.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at Kaolin Mushroom, 649 South St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Tom Hoehle welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Tom led everyone in a moment of silence. Joan Holliday wished our Jewish community members a "Happy New Year!" Joan reminded everyone that Bridging meetings provide an umbrella for each and all community members---no advocacy of one political party.

Jeanne Searer gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Joan Holliday 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. Articles about Kennett's work may be found in The Path of Potential. Web site: www.pathofpotential.org

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The "Bridging" community process has started in Avon Grove Area. They are calling it *Connecting Community*. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 07, 2010. They will meet bi-monthly, the first Thursday in February, April, June, August, October, and December at a different site.

Jessie Cocks told us about the site where we were meeting. The Kennett Paper was recently located here for about a decade and J.J. Newberry, a 5-10 cent store, was located here for many years. Jessie said she remembers shopping at Newberry and can still picture some of the old setting. She welcomed everyone, expressing the spirit of inclusivity.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Brian Gill (Community member) told us that he just graduated from Franklin & Marshall college and also had spent time in Costa Rica---He majored in biology and speaks Spanish. Email: gillsummit@aol.com
- David Conolly (Community member) is new to the area. He is Bob Thomas's son-in-law. He told us about HELP-PORTRAIT, which is a community volunteer effort with the purpose of giving time and photos to families in need. Kennett community members may get involved. Website: <http://community.help-portrait.com/group/chestercountypa>
Email: burrellboom911@gmail.com

- Amanda Galloway (ED Chester County Community Gardens) told us that she is new to the role and is looking forward to building neighborhoods and community through gardening—processes of beautifying and planting of food gardens. She is open to hearing about new projects to become involved in. Email: gardenscc@gmail.com
- Jen Lewis (ED of Together for Education) told us that TFE is a non-profit, which recruits tutors, mentors and other volunteers to support the Kennett area elementary and middle schools. She is looking for volunteers. Email: JLewis@tfed.org
- Vickie Malthaner (Kennett Presbyterian Church) told us that she would like to learn about the community volunteer opportunities to promote at her church. Email: jmalthaner@aol.com
- Claudia Turner (Education Coordinator for Path Stone) told us that she and her husband have lived in the area for 35 years. She spoke about the many programs that PathStone has for rural agricultural workers---including child care, a food bank, job training and placement, after-school tutoring etc. Email: cturner@pathstone.org
- Ron Turner (Community member) told us that he is a tutor at Lincoln University. Email: Turner.Ronald@gmail.com
- Tom Hammer (Community member) told us that he is the new Education Coordinator for Study Buddies for Historic East Linden Street Project. The tutoring takes place every Wednesdays from 4-6pm at Bethel AME Church. Volunteer tutors are needed. He also told us about the Kennett Area Time Bank, which consists of people taking turns helping each other. Email: thammer302@yahoo.com, or <http://kennett-timebank.org/>

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

- Ron Hollenbeck (Longwood Rotary) told us that he is looking for community Rotary projects. He also is a member of Habitat for Humanity and told us about 45 homes to be built in Coatesville, adjacent to the other 20 homes they built. Volunteers needed. Email: Hollenbeck407@msn.com
- Susan Rzucidlo (Candidate for PA House of Representatives) told us about the number one issue she is experiencing as a candidate is employment. She is sponsoring a free Community Job Fair, which will be an opportunity for companies to seek employees and for job seekers to connect with a new job, find new resources and investigate new options. It will take place on 9/21/10 from 10-2pm at The Italian-American Club, 30 Ways Lane, Kennett. To reserve a table email: Michael@susanforpa.com
- Kecia McMillian (Chester County Youth Center) told us about the life skills and career development program for young men under house arrest. The program will start with Coatesville young men, but would like to expand to women and the entire county. Volunteers needed. Email: kmcmillian@chesco.org Phone: 610-793-5910 x5028

- Cathy Brison (Kennett Area YMCA) told us about the Free Fitness Program for Adult Cancer Patients and, Achieve Your Goals program, which promotes fitness and proper nutrition. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com
- Jackie Maas (ED Tick Tock Early Learning Center) promoted the value of attending a Bridging meeting and told us about the “bridge” she made with PathStone at the last meeting and the help she received for a teen mother. Tick Tock is having its annual fundraiser, golf tournament on 09/21/10. She is looking for businesses, who would like to advertise. Email: ticktock@kennett.net
- Rosa Garza-Moore (ED at The Garage Youth Center) told us about the Blood Drive that will be held at the Garage on 9/16/29 from 1-7pm. One donation of blood saves 3 lives! She also told us about their Parenting Workshop, in partnership with Migrant Education, which will be offered in October and February. A student from the Garage Youth Center told us about *Hands Across the Ages*---an inter-generational workshop for 10 weeks, which will bring together youth with seniors. Email: rosa.moore@garageyouthcenter
- Rosemary Gill (President-Elect for the Longwood Rotary) presented two checks to the community from the Rotary--One check to the Garage Youth Center for *Hands Across the Ages* program and one to Historic East Linden Project for the GALA. Rosemary explains that the Rotary has money to donate and also looks for projects to assist in the community. Email: gillsummit@aol.com or George Gowen at refmin@verizon.net
- Ruth Williams (2nd Baptist Church) thanked the Longwood Rotary for the money donated this summer for book bags and school supplies for youth that she tutored. She introduced her husband, Rev. Marvin T. Williams. Email: marvinwilliams1960@verizon.net
- Jessie Cocks (Kennett Borough Council and more) told us about the Spirituality & Healing Conversations at Kennett Friends meeting 9/17/; 10/08; 11/12/ and 12/3rd led by Rev. Patrick Seyler. She also promoted *Hands Across the Ages*----She is recruiting teens and adults over 55 years to participate. Email for Jessie Cocks: jessiecocks@verizon.net or pastoripseyley@verizon.net

Jessie told us about the Training for Change workshops offered by “ invitation-only” to community leaders by MLK Community Advocates. The topics include “Class Bias and Racism.

Jessie invited community members to the monthly COSECHA meetings, held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This group partners and networks around children and youth programs. Contact Laurie Szoke if you would like to attend the meetings: las7@psu.edu

- Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative) told us about the weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events, which are now available at www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html Community non-profit groups may also email Casey to have event announcements included in the information at bps461@msn.com

Casey is looking for community volunteers to help with the Chester County prison mission of mentoring men and women, who will be returning to the community. He also announced that there will be a day for dropping off old meds to prevent abuse or environmental contamination on 9/25/10 from 10 to 2pm at the Coatesville Police Department. No questions asked. Email: bps451@msn.com

- Theresa Bass (ED of Historic East Linden Street Project/H.E.L.P.) told us about the GALA, the annual street tour and dinner fundraiser for home restoration and street youth programs. It will take place on 9/25/10 from 4-8pm. Theresa has tickets to sell. Email: trbass15@aol.com
- Kathy Hrenko (After the Bell) told us that they are recruiting volunteers for the after-school enrichment programs held at the Kennett middle school. The requirement is one hour a week for six weeks. They hold three cycles a year. She also told us to view the photography exhibit at the Paper Market on West State St. through the month of September; it is the work of the After the Bell students. Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org
- Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) told us about the Mexican 200th Anniversary Celebration of Independence Day to be held at Friends Meeting, 125 W. Sickle St. on 9/16/10 from 6-8:30pm. There will be a Spanish presentation and discussion about Independence Day at the Kennett Area YMCA on 9/17/10 and 11/19/10 at 7pm. The Chester County Historical Society will give an English presentation on 9/22/10 at 225 N. High Street, West Chester at 7pm. Sign-up for Jeanne's diet program---this helped her lose 80 pounds and keep them off. The next group starts 10/20/10.

The 2010 Bazaar at the Kennett Area Senior Center will be held on 10/22/10 from 9 to 6pm and 10/23/10 from 9am to 2pm.

Church of the Advent will have Jazz Vespers honoring Brubeck on Sunday, 10/24 from 3-4pm. It asks for a free will offering to sponsor a worthy cause. Jeanne's Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

- Iris Coloma-Gaines (Lawyer) told us that she assists agricultural workers with employment issues. Contact phone number for clients: 1-888-541-1544. She also is available at the Kennett Area Senior Center on Mondays. Call above number or 215-981-1800 or email: iris@philalegal.org
- Hannah Johnston (Business Labor Relations Agent) told us that there will be a workshop on Workman's Compensation on 09/6/10. Email: admin@kwunion.org
- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told us about the events in September at the park:
On 9/18/10 there will be a Sky Tour---with telescope at 7:45pm
On 9/19/10 there will be "Bark in the Park" with dogs performing and community members walking their dogs.
On 9/23/10 there will be a forum held at the Kennett Fire Company at 6pm to explore community ideas for use of old buildings on the 106 acre park.

On 9/25/10 there will be a Family Fun Fest from 11am to 6pm.

Email: pamelahcarter@comcast.net

- Kristina Smith (Community Member) told us about the success she has had on connecting single adults over 35 years through events and on Face book. She organizes a monthly event. She still is looking for work in marketing. Phone: 484-732-8576
Email: artwaves@hotmail.com and www.facebook.com/brandywinequery

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

- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Iris Colona-Gaines around Casa Guanajuato, with Jessie Cocks around the weight loss program and with several persons around the Celebration of Mexican Independence.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Amanda Galloway and Rev. and Ruth Williams around creating a community event, which would plant permanent bushes beneath the mural that is being painted on the D&B Haircuttery building.
- Susan Rzucidlo “bridged” with several people around the Community Job Fair, and she is exploring ways that small businesses can advertise their businesses.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with Tom Hammer around the Time Bank for the Chester County Youth Center home residents and with Rev. Williams and Vickie Malthaner around recruiting volunteers for the prison ministry at their churches.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Anna Anderson around the Free Fitness Program for Adult Cancer Patients and with Patricia Quinn around pool therapy support for her son.
- Jen Lewis from Together for Education “bridged” with Kathy Hrenko around ways to partner with After the Bell, with David Conolly around HELP-PORTRAIT, and with Amanda Galloway around community gardening.
- Ron Hollenbeck “bridged” with Pam Carter around the buildings at Anson B Nixon Park, and with Ruth Williams and Rosemary Gill around presentations for funds at the Longwood Rotary.
- Amanda Galloway “bridged” with Ron Hollenbeck around the Habitat for Humanity ground breaking in Coatesville and ways to support gardening for the 40 units and with Jeanne Searer around the Jazz Concert.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Jeanne Searer around weight loss program, with Kristina Smith around the Bark in the Park event.
- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Rosa Quintana, the new social worker at La Comunidad Hispana. Rosa has returned to the community after graduating from KHS and receiving a BS in Social Work and a MSW. Rosa is recruiting volunteers for mentoring youth to keep them in school. Rosa thanked the Longwood Rotary for their donation to buy tables for the bay scales at Project Salud.
- Kristina Smith “bridged” with David Conolly around H.E.L.P. portrait, Ron Turner with contacts at Lincoln University and was told by Hannah Johnston that she could always pick mushrooms, as she looks for a job.
- Pam Eppinger from Migrant Ed “bridged” with Claudia Turner around child care and with Jen Lewis from Together for Education around recruiting mentors.
- David Conolly “bridged” with Claudia Turner at PathStone about photographs for Mexican families to send back to Mexico and with others to partner in the photography process.

- Claudia Turner ‘bridged’ with Anna Anderson about donating her child care items to their Migrant Head Start; ‘bridged’ with Jackie Maas around child care applicants, who do not have funds for Tick Tock; ‘bridged’ with Iris Colona-Gaines around speaking at a Parent’s meeting and ‘bridged’ with Joan Holliday around giving a preventive health presentation to the child care employees.
- Sylvia Barrios ‘bridged’ with Brian Gill around presenting information about his Costa Rica trip to Upland Country Day 9th graders; with Jackie Maas around her two daughters reading in Spanish to Upland County Day students and with Brian Gill reading in Spanish to the students.

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at Kaolin Mushroom Farms Inc. 649 South St. Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7:00pm with forty-eight happy community members present. Cookies and coffee were enjoyed during the meeting, and a pack of white button mushrooms was sent home with each person.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at Church of the Open Door, 120 S. Broad St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Joan Holliday welcomed everyone and Jeanne Searer gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting. Joan led everyone in a moment of silence in appreciation for the contribution that the mushroom industry brings to our community.

Joan Holliday gave an overview of the framework for Bridging and Rosemary Malatesta 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. Articles about Kennett's work may be found in The Path of Potential. Web site: www.pathofpotential.org)

Following are the Guiding Principles:

We will come from the heart---not an obligation

We will work for community---not personal agendas

We will focus on the potential side---not the issue side

We will keep it a process---not a program with infrastructure

We will value each person's contribution---not focused on formal hierarchy

The "Bridging" community process has started in Avon Grove Area. They are calling it *Connecting Community*. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 02, 2010. They will meet bi-monthly, the first Thursday in February, April, June, August, October, and December at a different site.

Elaine Marnell (Human Resource at Kaolin Mushroom Farms Inc.) told us about the business at the site where we were meeting---Kaolin Mushroom Farms Inc., which is the fourth largest mushroom farm in the country. They produce a million pounds of mushrooms weekly. Kaolin has 750 employees and several sites within a seven mile radius. The Pia family is moving into its fourth generation of this family-run business, which is 100% private. The families who serve the business come from Moroleon, Guanajuato, Mexico, The Garment Capital of the World.

New attendees introduced themselves:

- Elizabeth Roche (Fox & Roach, REALTORS) told us that she has moved to the Kennett area recently. She has three children in the school system and is interested in knowing more about the community. Email: Elizabeth.Roche@prufoxroach.com
- Lisa Anderson (new resident to Kennett) told us that Pam Carter invited her. She is a broker for insurances and works for New England Phoenix Services. Email: Lisag_anderson@verizon.net

Tom also has helped start the Kennett Time Bank---a way to use your skills and bank hours for services you may need. Check out the web site: <http://kennett-timebank.org>
Tom's Email: thammer302@yahoo.com

- Bill Pugh (proud Father of Lindsey Sweet; HWFSCC Board Member; MacIntyre Associates, Inc) told us that there are HWFSCC scholarships available to persons pursuing professions in the health care field. Applications are on line at: <http://hwfsc.org> Bill's email: WDP123@aol.com
- Ally Rose (The Garage Youth Center) told us that on 11/13/10 from 4-10pm there will be events with 6 bands throughout the day to support Haiti. Donations are requested. The Garage will host a Holiday Silent Auction on 12/04/10---Tickets \$25
Ally also facilitates GIRL TALK---currently they are discussing, "Christmas on a Budget"---looking for yarn and needles for Christmas gifts.
Email: ally.rose@garageyouthcenter.org
- Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told us about the new trail that has been cleared by Longwood Professionals and Rotary---an easy access to the park from East Linden Street. They also are developing 2011 Park programs. They are looking for more participation by the Hispanics in the area for their Trout Rodeo. Email: pamelahcarter@comcast.net
- Jackie Maas (ED/Tick Tock Day Early Learning Center) told us that they will be holding a Free Flu clinic on Tuesday, November 30th. They also have families, who could be "adopted" for Christmas gifts this year. She is looking for an apartment for an employee, who is working part-time and needs a place within the next month. She has material and thread for any group, who would like to make cultural costumes from 2-4 year olds.
Email: ticktock@kennett.net
- Claudia Turner (Education Coordinator for Path Stone) told us about the many programs that Path Stone has for rural agricultural workers---including Head Start/Child Care, a Food Bank, job training and placement, after-school tutoring etc. She also told us that they now have transportation funding for their Head Start Program.
Email: cturner@pathstone.org
- Ruth Williams (2nd Baptist Church) told us that she is collecting canned food items for Thanksgiving baskets to give to Kennett Area seniors. She also has a 22 year old granddaughter, who would like to volunteer with a deaf student, as she is a graduate of the Philadelphia School of the Deaf. Email: marvinwilliams1960@verizon.net
- Christine Skrypzak, (Health Coach) told us that she is a health counselor, who has currently joined with Kennett Chiropractic Center to put on three educational programs, which can be viewed free at: www.fitmommyin15.com For the first program: <http://escapethesugarmatrix.eventbrite.com>
Email: phillyhealthcoach@me.com 302-584-6541

- Ron Hollenbeck (Longwood Rotary & Habitat for Humanity) told us that he is helping collect food items for the Kennett Food Bank with the Rotary. He also told us the good news from Habitat for Humanity--- 6 homes are under construction in Coatesville, with 34 left to go, and now Habitat has purchased property in West Grove, which will be a site for 40 more affordable homes. Volunteers needed. Email: Hollenbeck407@msn.com
- John McKean (Habitat for Humanity) added that the Habitat homes will be LEED certified or “green friendly.” Email: john@hfhcc.org
- Kristen White introduced her 7 year old daughter, Celay, who was the youngest “Bridger” Email: Whitekristenlynne@yahoo.com
- Casey Jones (Transformation Ministries) told us about the weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events, which are now available at www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html
Community non-profit groups may also email Casey to have event announcements included in the information at bps461@msn.com

He told us that this is the final of this month’s workshops, part of a new, free multi-faceted *Road to Employment* initiative unveiled recently by the Chester County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), will be held Thursday, November 18, at the Exton Mall. Casey would like to expand this effort into Southern Chester County and is looking for partners. Email: bps461@msn.com

He also told us about Malachi Dads Program: The Chester County chaplain is seeking churches, faith-based organizations and individuals to help create a strong family support network for fathers, the fatherless and families within communities, both within and outside the prison. Contact Chaplain Crans at: jackccgm@aol.com

- Joan Holliday (CCHD Public Health Nurse) told the group that on 11/13/10 at 1:00pm that there will be a dedication of the UGGRR mural at Daryl Hall’s D& B Haircuttery, 120 S. Willow St., Kennett with several community groups attending. All are welcome. Also, Joan told of a woman, who is seeking employment in the field of counseling---she has her Masters, experience in the field, and speaks some Spanish---contact Joan. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- Kristina Smith (Community Member) told us about the Sheik Holiday Party for Singles over 35 years old on 12/10/10 at 7 pm at the Antique building---across from the YMCA. They are looking for bands to donate their time. Attendees will be asked to make a small donation. Phone: 484-732-8576 Email: artwaves@hotmail.com and www.facebook.com/brandywinequery
- Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) told us that here will be a 100 year celebration of the Mexican Revolution on 11/19/10 at 7pm at Friends Meeting. There also will be a La Posada Christmas Mexican Celebration on 12/18/10 at 6pm, starting at 311 Meredith St., Kennett. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- Megan Beach (The Peacemaker Center) told us that she is a therapist at a Counseling Center located at 321 E. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA. They are open to referrals and

- Robyn Slater (CCHD Emergency Preparedness) told us that she has educational resources for groups for Emergency Preparedness. There is a conference on 11/15/10 in Montgomery County for managing persons with chronic illness during a disaster. She is hoping to meet with groups and give educations in our area. Email: robyn@phmc.org
- Ethan Cramer (lives on Garfield Street now for 3 years) is currently working with Study Buddies on East Linden St. and previously was a community organizer in Wilmington, DE. Email: curay.cramer@yahoo.com
- Luz Garzon (CCHD Dental Outreach) told us that she helps vulnerable clients receive dental care services. She also provides dental education for the broader community. Email: lgarzon@chesco.org
- Martin Reber (London Grove Meeting & Scouting) told us that London Grove Meeting will hold a joint event with Greater Works Ministries on 12/05/10 at 6:30pm with a potluck dinner, then a joint Christmas caroling. All community members are welcome. London Grove has a one-half day Kindergarten and has scholarships. He also is encouraging community groups to remember that Eagle Scouts, as well as the high school Girl Scouts, who are looking for community service projects. Email: mreber@hotmail.com
- Lindsey Sweet (Immigration Lawyer for Murphy Law Firm in West Chester) told us that she was one of the original youth to attend Bridging the Community in 1998. She helped with Study Buddies at 2nd Baptist Church and also worked for Migrant Education. She saw the need to support her clients through pursuing immigration law. She hopes to provide the help that her dream holds. Email: lindseydulce@gmail.com
- Manuel Ibarra Gomez (Migrant Education Program) works with the KMS and KHS migrant students. He will be accompanying 40 students, who will visit Penn State this week-end. He is looking for community projects for students. Email: manueli@cciu.org
- Latoya Meyers (MCH Community Outreach Coordinator) told us that she is also a youth, who attended KHS, volunteered in the community and is back to contribute to the community in a professional role. She is looking for blankets for newborns for MCH clients. She told us about the Health Fair to be held at 301 E. Linden St., Kennett on 11/13/10 from 10:00 to noon. There will be free cholesterol, diabetic and anemia testing and flu shots, as well as health educational displays. Community members are welcome. Email: latmeg12@gmail.com

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

- Tom Hammer (East Linden Street Study Buddies) told us that he has been leading the Study Buddies on East Linden Street since September 2010. The K-8th grade students meet from 4-5Pm with tutors supporting the students. More tutors needed!