

## **Minutes from 2011 Meetings**

January 12, 2011

March 9, 2011

May 11, 2011

July 13, 2011

September 14, 2011

November 9, 2011

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at Church of the Open Door, 210 S. Broad St., Kennett Square PA at 7 pm on the eve of the aftermath of a cold snowy event, twenty-eight hearty community members were present. Refreshments were provided by the host, in the Bread of Life Cafe, and Eileen Beck (Realtor & Member of the Church of the Open Door) welcomed the group on behalf of the Church.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday March 9 2011 at the Bayard Taylor Library at 216 E State Street, Kennett Square, Pa at 7pm**

Minutes of Bridging meetings may be accessed on the website: [www.bridgingcommunity.com](http://www.bridgingcommunity.com) and a copy of the minutes can be read in the file at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time in order to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Jeanne Searer and Tom Hoehle welcomed the group and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting and its guiding principles. The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy---*peaceful, progressive, inclusivity*. Bridging reflects this living philosophy.

The Guiding Principles Follow:

**We will come from the heart—not an obligation**

**We will work for the 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**

**New attendees introduced themselves:**

- Rob Ellis, new team member from Good Neighbors
- Cecelia Ross, Sen. Chris Ross' wife
- Dave Walker, The Garage
- Paul Sapko, Bayard Taylor Memorial Library reference librarian, who will represent the Library at future Bridging meetings.
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Other attendees introduced themselves and made their community offerings and requests:

- Kecia McMillian, (Chester County Youth Center at Pocopson) supervises a new alternative program which involves an evening reporting service and is focused on the Coatesville area. In a pilot phase, it is a structured after school program providing life skills, community service, and competencies. She needs assistance identifying potential community service projects for the youth to assist with and volunteers to present programs, enrichment activities and donations. She may be contacted at [kmcmillian@chesco.org](mailto:kmcmillian@chesco.org)
- Paul Schroeder (La Comunidad Hispana) is in charge of the education program. They are in urgent need of 2 more English teachers to teach 5 hours a week from 6:30-9 pm in Kennett and Coatesville. This is a paid position.  
Email: [pschroeder@lchps.org](mailto:pschroeder@lchps.org)

have a sliding scale fee. They have 15 faith-based counselors. Phone: 610-883-7760.  
Email: [meganbeach@verizon.net](mailto:meganbeach@verizon.net)

- Lenda Carrillo (Kennett Area YMCA Outreach) told us that the YMCA is offering one day on Monday, 11/15/10, where a person can join the YMCA for \$1.00 vs \$120. Any and all community members are invited to join. Email: [lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org](mailto:lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org)
- Luis Tlaseca (CATA—Farm Workers Union) told of a workshop to be held on 11/18/10 at 4pm at 220 Birch St., Kennett to learn about rights related to crime convictions. Call 610-444-0606. Email: [catakennettsq@yahoo.com](mailto:catakennettsq@yahoo.com)

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

- Ron Hollenbeck “bridged” with Ruth Williams around book bags from the Rotary
- Lindsey Sweet “bridged” with several persons and groups around working together on the immigration issue.
- Claudia Turner “bridged” with Megan Beech around their counseling services and doing a parent training; with Luz Garzon around a dental education and with the knitting group.
- Anne Humes told us about their knitting group at Kendal, so she “bridged” with the Garage Youth Center around providing needles and yarn for their GIRL TALK group.
- Ally Carter “bridged” with Lindsey Sweet around speaking to the GIRL TALK group about her path to becoming an immigration lawyer.
- Elizabeth Roche “bridged” with Lisa Anderson, as new residents of Kennett, and with John McKean around volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with Cathy Brison and Ruth Williams around posters for the unemployment workshop; Path Stone around their newsletter; Robyn Slater around Disaster Preparedness and others.
- Ruth Williams “bridged” with Rosemary Malatesta around receiving canned goods for the senior Thanksgiving baskets.
- Latoya Meyers “bridged” with Jackie Maas, who will provide some infant blankets for MCH program.
- Martin Reber “bridged” with Casey Jones around the unemployment workshop and encouraged meeting with Susan Rzucidlo, who held workshop for the unemployed during her political campaign. He also “bridged” with John McKean around scouts getting involved in Habitat for Humanity.
- Pam Carter “bridged” with Lenda Carrillo, who reminded her that she helped recruit Hispanic youth for the Fishing Rodeo in the past, and she will again do this.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Manuel Ibarra Gomez around a KHS student who needs eye glasses; with Habitat for Humanity having a project for MLK Day of Caring on 01/17/10. She also expressed appreciation for Lindsey Sweet and Latoya Meyers returning to the community and “giving back”.
- Diana Rarig “bridged” with Lindsey Sweet around holding an immigration education community forum related to the Dream Act legislation.

- Susan Rzucidlo, (Church of the Open Door). She announced the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau which is organizing a food checkout week. The program seeks 5 Home Economics classed\s to purchase food as part of the exercise. She mentioned that the Bureau also plans food drives. Email: [srzrrz@gmail.com](mailto:srzrrz@gmail.com)  
[Michael@susanforpa.com](mailto:Michael@susanforpa.com)
- Ron Hollenbeck (Habitat for Humanity) reported that construction of 40 homes is underway in West Grove. He also confirmed that Rotary has agreed to provide 100 book bags to Ruth Williams for her youth group.  
Email: [Hollenbeck407@msn.com](mailto:Hollenbeck407@msn.com)
- Pam Eppinger (Migrant Education) reported that a migrant education Boy Scout troop is planning a winter camping trip. The need a cold weather sleeping bag and interior frame back pack. Email: [PamE@cciu.org](mailto:PamE@cciu.org)
- Nancy Allyon-Ramirez (Sen. Pileggi's office) announced that the Senator is opening an office in Oxford. She reported on outreach days in the Kennett Food Cupboard, Oxford Community Services, and La Comunidad Hispana. She also noted that she is active with Dansa Tenochle, as their choreographer, director and dancer. The group is looking for places to perform a 30-minute program. The group began as a children's group organized by Sister Jane to teach Mexican folk dancing and the group has grown up with most dancers in their mid 20s.  
Email: [nayllon@pasen.gov](mailto:nayllon@pasen.gov)
- Kathy Hrenko (After the Bell) announced that the next class cycle for the volunteer-led program for middle school students begins on Jan. 25 2011. Volunteers are always needed to present programs. The time commitment is as little as 1 hour a week for 6 weeks, and can make a difference in the quality of youth for middle school students. Email: [afterthebell@kcsd.org](mailto:afterthebell@kcsd.org)
- Bob Whitlock (Good Neighbors) reminded the group that he is seeking volunteers to repair homes, and homes in need of repair. Email: [rhw@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:rhw@vet.upenn.edu)
- Hillary Holland (Brandywine River Museum) announced that the Museum is reaching out to invite the community to visit. A new policy has been set with free admission offered on Sunday mornings. The cost of admission should never be an obstacle. Email: [hholland@brandywine.org](mailto:hholland@brandywine.org)
- Kristina Smith (Time Bank of Kennet Square) announced that a silent auction to benefit the time bank is planned at Holly Peters Gallery. Donated items are needed. She also reported that the Singles Networking group has 101 fans on Facebook and is planning an outing on Jan. 23 at Iceline.  
Email: [artwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:artwaves@hotmail.com)
- Holly Favino (Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center) told the group that their counseling service provides assistance, parenting education and support. They had

800 client visits last year. She requested donations of size 3 and 4 diapers to be distributed to their clients. Email: [hfavino@amnion.org](mailto:hfavino@amnion.org)

- Rep. Ross (Pennsylvania State Senator) wanted the group to know that his office is available for state-related issues. He attends Bridging meetings to hear about community issues. Email: [cross@pahousegop.com](mailto:cross@pahousegop.com)
- Pam Carter (Martin Luther King Community Breakfast) reported that the breakfast is on Jan. 17. While tickets are sold out, the community is invited to attend the Day of Sharing celebration at 6 pm when the Food Cupboard will be stocked with new food donations. Email: [pamelahcarter@comcast.net](mailto:pamelahcarter@comcast.net)
- Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) announced the committee will meet Jan.21 to begin planning for Cinco de Mayo. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)
- Dave Walker (The Garage) announced The Garage is reactivating The Huddle group for Middle School young men. The group is organized to teach the young men to avoid trouble and “expect greatness.” The Garage also operates “Girl Talk,” a similar program for young women. Email: [dave.walker@garageyouthcenter.org](mailto:dave.walker@garageyouthcenter.org)
- Elizabeth Roche (Prudential Realtors) announced that she has recently moved into the neighborhood near the church. Email: [Elizabeth.Roche@prufoxroach.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Roche@prufoxroach.com)

**The group then “bridged” and following are the bridges that were shared:**

- Ron Hollenbeck “bridged” with Kecia McMillian about community service hours and Good Neighbor needs.
- Stacey Kucera, Kennett Food Cupboard “bridged” with Pam Carter for Day of Sharing.
- Holly Favino reported that many people offered diapers including Kathy Hrenko.
- Pam Eppinger “bridged” with Jeanne Searer about camping equipment, Sen. Ross about unemployment questions and Dave Walker about The Garage.
- Kris Smith “bridged” with Dave Haradon and Hillary Holland about the Time Bank. Elizabeth may have donations for the auction, and talked with Nancy about the dance group.
- Bob Whitlock “bridged” with Ron about Rotary assistance, Nancy about assistance and Sen. Ross about where to send information.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Susan about providing cooking classes, Nancy about a Latin dance class for her program, Holly for diapers, Rotary involvement with the Food Cupboard and reported that Elizabeth’s daughter signed up AFTB.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with Susan Rzuclidlo, Good Neighbors, Habitat, LCH.
- Paul Schroeder “bridged” with Nancy Ayllon and Jeanne Searer about Spanish teachers.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, March 09, 2011 at the Bayard Taylor Library, 216 E. State St. Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7:00pm. Forty-four committed community members joined in the ‘bridging’ process.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Rt 82 and Doe Run, Unionville, PA at 7pm.** Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: [www.bridgingcommunity.com](http://www.bridgingcommunity.com) or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at 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 in care for the troubles in the Middle East and around the world.

Donna Murray (Director of the Bayard Taylor Library) told us that the site where we were meeting was built in 1960. The library will be moving into a new building in conjunction with a three building construction in town, linking with the YMCA. Bayard Taylor for whom the library is named was born in 1825. He was a traveler, writer, and poet and is known for his Ballad of Abraham Lincoln. There is a historic collection of his books in the room we met. Donna told us that they have many activities at the library and presentations. They hope to be bringing more in the future.

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. Articles about Kennett’s work may be found in The Path of Potential Web site: [www.pathofpotential.org](http://www.pathofpotential.org) Joan also told the group that Devin, our web master, has volunteered to keep the site updated with Bridging minutes and renews our web site subscription.

Following are the Guiding Principles:  
**We will come from the heart---not an obligation**  
**We will work for community---not personal agendas**  
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**We will keep it a process---not a program with infrastructure**  
**We will value each person’s contribution---not focused on formal hierarchy**

**New attendees introduced themselves:**

**Nicole Bernstein** (UHS and Girl Scout) told us that she is working on her Gold Award. She is promoting Health and Fitness. She will be designing a session for After the Bell and be working with 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders, as well. She is looking for “bridges” in the broader community.  
Email: [Nicole.jeanette.bernstein@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.jeanette.bernstein@gmail.com)

**Seth Lyons** (PA Farm Workers Legal System) told us that they help migrant workers with issues related to employment, housing related to employers, and help with taxes. He will provide

community education to any group, who would like a presentation about their services. They are at the Kennett Area Senior Center every Monday. Email: [SLyons@philalegal.org](mailto:SLyons@philalegal.org)

**Sandy Tapia** (Community member) told us that she and her partner, Luis Ortiz are producing 1,500 Newsletters to provide information to the Mexican community in SCC. There is information about immigration, financial aid, criminal justice and also includes a broad range of education. They are open to adding news items from the broader community.  
Email: [sandy\\_tapia2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy_tapia2003@yahoo.com) and [ortizbernal1964@msn.com](mailto:ortizbernal1964@msn.com)

**Kristina Valente** (Community Member) was inspired by the five-day series in the Daily Local last month on "Living on the Edge"---Poverty in Chester County. She would like to get involved in volunteering. She is a graduate of WCU 2002 and is a stay-at-home mother of two children. She has worked for Domestic Violence in the past. Email: [KValente13@comcast.net](mailto:KValente13@comcast.net)

**Darcie Ward** (Kennett Presbyterian Church) was attending the meeting to learn more about the broader community to bring back information and volunteer opportunities to her church.  
Email: [darcieward@aol.com](mailto:darcieward@aol.com)

**Roberta Eldredge** (Community Member) told us that she would like to start a Pet Food Bank for those seniors and others, who find it a financial hardship to buy dog and cat food and continue to keep their pets. She is a "voice for animals" and would like to "bridge" with other pet lovers, as she will need volunteers. Phone: 484-732-8251

**Elizabeth Stinson** (Kennett Education Foundation) wants the community to know about Foundation, which offers grants for teachers' innovative projects and scholarships for students.  
Email: [Elizabeth.Stinson@verizon.net](mailto:Elizabeth.Stinson@verizon.net)

**Nina Soto-Ramirez** (Path Stone Training and Employment Manager) told us that she runs a career awareness program for high school students after school on Thursdays at 421 McFarlan Rd., Suite E. Kennett. After 40 hours, the student will be set-up with a paid work experience during the school year. She is looking for interested students.  
Email: [nsotoramirez@pathstone.org](mailto:nsotoramirez@pathstone.org)

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

**Rosemary Malatesta** (Community member) told us about the Tri-County Chamber Music concerts, which are free for children. She would like to encourage a group attending and explore a way to provide transportation. Email: [history1842@yahoo.com](mailto:history1842@yahoo.com)

**Stacie Kucera** (Kennett Area Community Service and Kennett Food Cupboard) told us that they will be starting their vegetable gardens at the Food Cupboard to provide fresh produce for the clients and they are encouraging community members to contribute excess vegetables during the summer to the cupboard. Email: [staciekucera@gmail.com](mailto:staciekucera@gmail.com)

**Linda Jacobi** (Director of Adult Literacy at the Library) encouraged us to sign up to become an ESL volunteer. There are over 50 persons waiting to be personally tutored. There is a Tutor Training and all the materials are supplied. The commitment is 2 hours a week. Also, their program offers group ESL classes, citizenship classes and computer classes.

Email: [ljacobi@ccls.org](mailto:ljacobi@ccls.org)

**Cathy Brison** (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that the YMCA will waive the membership fee, if a member has let his/her membership lapse, until the end of March.

She also told us about the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser by Boy Scout Troup 24, to be held on Saturday, 3/19/11 from noon to 7pm. Adult is \$7 and Child \$5. Take-Out is available.

Email: [Cabrisonmm@aol.com](mailto:Cabrisonmm@aol.com)

**Nelly Arevalo** (ED of The Kennett Family Center) told us that they provide parenting skills and child development for children ages 0-5 years. They also have a readiness program for entry into Kindergarten. They need volunteers for their summer program. She also is requesting two small child beds for pre-school age and sheets and towels.

Email: [NArevalo@ccmchc.org](mailto:NArevalo@ccmchc.org)

**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](http://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](mailto:bps461@msn.com)

He also told us that there will be a *Suicide Prevention Workshop* at Oxford Presbyterian on Sunday, March 27 at 3pm. No charge. This workshop is available to any community agency/church/service club who would like to sponsor it.

He told us about the *RX Take Back Day* (proper disposal of expired drugs) to be held on 4/30/11. The Kennett Police Station participated the last time around---check with them.

**Joan Holliday** (Public Health Nurse) told the group about ACTIVATE Kennett Square, which is a grassroots effort to help our community "eat smarter, move more and create a supportive environment." We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month at 4pm at the Kennett Borough building. Come join the effort. We will be participating in Healthy Kids Day, Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm on Broad St., Kennett.

Joan thanked Theresa Bass, President of Historic East Linden Street, Tom Hammer and Ethan Cramer for the Black History event they led, which involved the children recognizing Black Heroes of Kennett Square and others, as well as organizing a potluck dinner. They "bridged" neighborhoods and created a lively and meaningful event.

Joan offered books of *The Path of Potential* to learn more about the living philosophy, which guides the "Bridging" process. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Ron Hollenbeck** (Longwood Rotary & Habitat for Humanity) told us that the Rotary helped rehabilitate some homes with Good Neighbors and always is looking for community projects. The Habitat for Humanity is moving forward with 40 new affordable homes in West Grove. They also are hoping to open a Home Store in SCC, which would be a place to donate used furniture and offer items for very low cost to the public. Email: [Hollenbeck407@msn.com](mailto:Hollenbeck407@msn.com)



**Jeanne Searer** (Community member) told us that she had applications for tables and booths for Cinco de Mayo, which will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2011. She also told us that Casa Guanajuato will sponsor a lecture entitled the "Frog Man" at Friends Meeting on 3/12/11 at 6pm. The speaker does aquatic archeological digs. The lecture will be in Spanish only. Jeanne invited us to the Church of the Advent Spring Classical Concert on Sunday, March 13, at 4pm. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Kecia McMillian** (Chester County Youth Center) told us that they are conducting 6 week sessions after-school for court-ordered youth, to build life skills. Volunteers and presentations are welcome. Email: [kmcmillian@chesco.org](mailto:kmcmillian@chesco.org)

**Laurie Szoke** (Penn State Extension) told us that there is a Pony Partners program to build animal sensitivity. There are 6-8 sessions at the cost of \$25. She still is collecting Fluffy's Blankets for pets. She also told us that the Avon Grove Community Gardens will be starting soon. Email: [las7@psu.edu](mailto:las7@psu.edu)

**Rob Ellis** (ED of Good Neighbors) told us that Good Neighbors is looking for homes of low-income owners, who need repair. Please make referrals. Email: [goodneighbors@comcast.net](mailto:goodneighbors@comcast.net)

**Tom Hammer** (East Linden Street Study Buddies Leader) told us that they are hoping to develop a summer program for the youth on East Linden. He is looking for volunteers and craft materials. He also encouraged us to check out the Kennett Area Time Bank, as new members are always welcome. Check out the web site: <http://kennett-timebank.org>  
Tom's Email: [thammer302@yahoo.com](mailto:thammer302@yahoo.com)

**Anne Humes** (Kendal Communities) told us that a woman at Kendal would like to donate her car with hand controls. She was a victim of polio, so owned this car. She no longer will be driving. She would like to donate it to a person in the community who needs this specialized vehicle. Phone: 610-388-1199

**Giselle Constatino** (BVA) has scholarship applications available for summer camp for youth 4-15 years old. Also, there will be the Annual Clean-Up Day at Kennett Area Pool, Ashland Nature Park and Anson B Nixon Park. Show up at 8am on 3/26/11 at any of the sites. Email: [gisellec@bva-rcva.org](mailto:gisellec@bva-rcva.org)

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

- Tom Hoehle announced that there will be information about a Kennett Square Area Community picnic on Wednesday, July 12, 2011---more to come at the next meeting!
- Kristina Valente "bridged" with Stacie Kucera around heat assistance, volunteering at the food cupboard; Kecia McMillian around volunteering at the CC Youth Center; Nelly Arevelo and Joan Holliday around donating children's clothing and equipment.
- Linda Jacobi "bridged" with Anne Humes around having the ESL students visit Kendal and carry on conversations with the residents to practice their English. She also

“bridged” with Seth Lyons to make a Farm Workers Legal Rights presentation at a Night ESL class and with Sandy and Luis around providing their newsletter to students. Sandy and Luis also agreed to become ESL tutors.

- Ron Hollenbeck “bridged” with Nellie Arevalo around obtaining the two child beds; with Anne Humes around the car, Kecia McMillian and Giselle Constantino around their programs and signed-up Tom Hammer to speak at the Longwood Rotary.
- Stacie Kucera “bridged” with Kecia McMillian around bringing youth to help out with the gardens at the Food Cupboard, with Anne Humes who will contribute travel soaps from Kendal residents and with several others who would like to volunteer.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with Darcie Ward around using the Presbyterian’s kitchen for her youth’s cooking project and with Giselle around team building and scholarships.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with Sandy and Luis around their newsletter, with Phil Gilbert around information for the RX Take Back Day and with Darcie Ward and Good Neighbors.
- Roberta Eldredge “bridged” with Stacie Kucera around working together around the Pet Food Bank and with Laurie Szoke and “Fluffy’s Blankets” and with Sandra and Luis.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Nicol Berstein around attending an ACTIVATE meeting and joining other students involved in nutrition/exercise programs. She also “bridged” with Ethan Cramer around gardening on East Linden and with Giselle Constantino around camp scholarships.
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with four community entities, who would like a table at Cinco de Mayo, with Elizabeth Stinson around grants and with Luis and Sandra.
- Rosemary Malatesta “bridged” with Nina Soto-Ramirez around mediation presentation to the youth at Path Stone.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Nicole Bernstein around YMCA scholarships for the youth she will work with and gave Roberta a donation for the animals.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Rt. 82 and Doe Run, Unionville PA at 7pm. Thirty-two adventuresome (crossing over from Kennett to Unionville) community members joined in the 'bridging' process.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at His Mission, 342 Birch St., Kennett Square at 7pm.** Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: [www.bridgingcommunity.com](http://www.bridgingcommunity.com) or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

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DeAnna Hannigan (St. Michael's Lutheran Church) told us about church activities, in which the broader community is invited to participate:

- 1) Music Series---May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm---Copland String Quartet
- 2) Mission trip to another country
- 3) Vacation Bible School---First week of August
- 4) They will rent the large room to community groups where we were meeting in.

Email: [deannajh@hotmail.com](mailto:deannajh@hotmail.com)

Vicar Melissa Lemons led us in a prayer. St. Michael's also served great snacks and beverages.

#### **New attendees introduced themselves:**

- **Richard Plaughter** (Community Member) told us that he is recently retired and is looking for a good "fit" for volunteering. Email: [r6plaughter@comcast.net](mailto:r6plaughter@comcast.net)
- **Robin Jenkins** (Community Member) told us that she was touched by the Daily Local newspaper series on "Living on the Edge" and the poverty in our area. She explained that she guided her son in developing a food collection project at Avon Grove Nazarene Academy. Email: [rejenkins3@comcast.net](mailto:rejenkins3@comcast.net)
- **Hayden Jenkins** (6 year old Community Member) told us that he spoke to seven classrooms about donating food for the Bridge (Food Cupboard at Church of the Nazarene) and showed us a photo of all the food that was collected. He and his mother would like to make this an annual event.

- **Emily Smith** (WCU Public Health Grad Student) told us that she is working on a “Nutritional Environment Assessment and Social Marketing Recommendation for SE, PA.” She is partnering with several agencies in the area. Email: [emsmith15@gmail.com](mailto:emsmith15@gmail.com)
- **John Sanville** (Director of Unionville/Chadds Ford Secondary Education) told us that he is a member of the Longwood Rotary and is on the Kennett Area YMCA Board of Directors. He told us that Sharon Parker had invited him to attend the Bridging meeting. Email: [Jsanville@ucfsd.org](mailto:Jsanville@ucfsd.org)
- **Burt Rothenberger** (Habitat for Humanity) told us that they are always looking for volunteers. They also are looking for partners, such as churches, who will help sponsor a portion of a home through funds and volunteers. Email: [BFRothen@verizon.net](mailto:BFRothen@verizon.net)
- **Jen Steiner** (Habitat for Humanity & daughter of Burt) told us that by 2013 there will be 40 new homes built for underserved families in West Grove area. Applications will be received in the fall of 2012. She also told us that Habitat is working on obtaining a site in the Kennett area, which would become a Home Store---donated furniture would be sold at low cost, which in turn would provide funds for the mission. Check out the web site at: [www.hfhcc.org](http://www.hfhcc.org) Email: [Jrothe1111@yahoo.com](mailto:Jrothe1111@yahoo.com)
- **Tina Butler** (His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett) told us that even though the Founder of His Mission, Margaret Valentine died this year, her daughters are continuing the mission work for the homeless. They need canned foods, paper goods, blankets, sheets, clothes, shoes. They also would benefit greatly from money donations and they are a non-profit 501C-3/tax exempt organization. Phone: 610-444-2559
- **Janet Cleaver** (Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection) told us that they are willing to make presentations to community groups and also have a monthly Speaker Series. They have ideas for how to promote fuel changes in our homes and community. Volunteers needed. Email: [j.cleaver@att.net](mailto:j.cleaver@att.net)
- **Michael Corp** (Local Construction Contractor) told us that LaToya Meyers & Theresa Bass invited him to the Bridging meeting. Email: [platinumred88@gmail.com](mailto:platinumred88@gmail.com)

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

- **Kecia McMillian** (Chester County Youth Center) told us that they are conducting after-school sessions for court-ordered youth, to build life skills. Volunteers, who have a special knowledge to share and presentations, are welcome. They are in session from 4pm to 8:15pm. Email: [kmcmillian@chesco.org](mailto:kmcmillian@chesco.org)
- **Lenda Carrillo** (Kennett Area YMCA Outreach Coordinator) told us about the free SPLASH program, for low-income families from ages 4-13 years from June 6-10<sup>th</sup>. The swim lessons will be held after school. Email: [lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org](mailto:lcarrillo@ymcabwv.org)

- **Jackie Maas** (ED Tick Tock Early Learning Center) spoke about a project that United Way of SCC is organizing. Bed Bath & Beyond store will donate overstocked items, i.e. bedding and household items. A storage location is needed to deliver the weekly supplies, where non-profits would come by to pick up items. A donated community storage location is needed.

Jackie also told us about the *Empty Bowl Project*, which helps raise awareness of hunger. Church groups provide dinners, where attendees eat food from one bowl---rice and beans. The ceramic bowls are made by children and seniors and sold at the dinner, which raises funds for the hungry and would be items, at home, to raise awareness about hunger. Tick Tock Day Care Center will be making ceramic bowls. Email: [ticktock@kennett.net](mailto:ticktock@kennett.net)
- **Casey Jones** (Transformation Initiative) told us about the weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events. Community non-profit groups may also email Casey to have event announcements included in the information at [bps461@msn.com](mailto:bps461@msn.com) Information may be accessed on the following site: [www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html](http://www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html) Casey also told us about the 12 Step Program for the unemployed and under-employed to be starting up in June 2011. Exact dates and locations are on [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org)
- **Holly Favino** (Amnion Pregnancy Crisis Center) told us that they are a life-affirming organization, which helps mothers with pregnancies. They will have a *Walk for Life* at the Anson B Nixon Park on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 11pm to raise funds for Amnion's services. Email: [hfavino@amnion.org](mailto:hfavino@amnion.org)
- **Ron Hollenbeck** (Longwood Rotary) told us about Relay for Life (Cancer Fundraiser) will take place at Unionville High School from June 17-18 from noon to noon. They are interested in developing teams and participation. Email: [Hollenbeck407@msn.com](mailto:Hollenbeck407@msn.com)
- **Rosemary Malatesta** (Time Bank) told us about the Kennett TIME Bank, which is an exchange of volunteer services/talents in time. Anyone may join. There are monthly gatherings to meet members of the Time Bank. Email: [history1842@yahoo.com](mailto:history1842@yahoo.com)
- **Theresa Bass** (Historic East Linden Street Project) told us that this street is the oldest in Kennett. The neighborhood now has their own non-profit status, a Board, and are developing programs for youth. Tuesday and Thursday computer classes are taught from 4-6pm and Study Buddies takes place on Wednesday 4-6pm. They also participate in the YMCA Splash. They will have a Block Party on 8/20/11 and their Annual Fundraiser Gala on 9/24/11. They are looking for Board members from the broader community, who have a heart to work with the neighborhood. Email: [trbass15@aol.com](mailto:trbass15@aol.com)
- **Bob Whitlock** (Good Neighbors) told us that summer camp, with nearly 60 youth involved, will be working on 5 houses to repair and renovate them. This service is for low-income elders and families, who own a home. Summer camp is 7/17-23/11. Email: [rhw@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:rhw@vet.upenn.edu)
- **Anne Humes** (Kendal Communities) told us she will organize her annual cookie baking process and deliver them with a beverage to the Good Neighbor Youth Camp sites.

- **Pam Carter** (Anson B Nixon Park) told us that there will be a Fitness Camp for Teenagers the week of June 20-24. Nicole Bernstein will be leading the effort. Email: [Nicole.jeanette.bernstein@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.jeanette.bernstein@gmail.com)  
Pam also told us about the 8 week Concert Series in the Park. They also can rent out the stage for \$500 for church choir groups and other performances. She encouraged us to use the park and the trail, which has distance markers. Email: [pamelahcarter@comcast.net](mailto:pamelahcarter@comcast.net)

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

- Joan Holliday “bridged” with LaToya Meyers about providing Blue Rock Tickets on Kennett night, June 8<sup>th</sup> for Study Buddies youth.
- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Holly Favino to donate money for the Walk for Life.
- Jackie Maas “bridged” with Burt Rothenberger around holding a space for the Bed Bath & Beyond donations at the new Home Store to be started in Kennett.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with Good Neighbors, Rosemary Malatesta, YMCA, Joan Holliday, Latoya Meyers, His Mission and many others around E-newsletter and workshops.
- Richard Plaughter ‘bridged” with Bob Whitlock, Kecia McMillian and Jen Steiner around volunteer opportunities. He likes the idea of working in the Home Store.
- Lenda Carrillo “bridged” with Holly Favino to advertize the Walk for Life at the YMCA and with Joan Holliday and Theresa Bass around the SPLASH program applications.
- Janet Cleaver “bridged” with several community members around Climate Protection.
- Burt Rothenberger “bridged” with Janet Cleaver and DeAnna Hannigan/St. Michael’s Lutheran Church around becoming a Habitat for Humanity partner with West Grove homes.
- Bob Whitlock “bridged” with Casey Jones, Lenda Carrillo, Joan Holliday and Tina Butler about their services and applications for home repair.
- Rosemary Malatesta ‘bridged” with several folks around the Time Bank membership.
- Holly Favino “bridged” with the Rotary, Lutheran Church, YMCA, Good Neighbors and HELP around their services and Walk for Life.
- Jen Steiner “bridged” with Tina Butler about receiving surplus construction materials for His Mission and several others.
- Pam Carter “bridged” with Emily Smith around Anson B Nixon Fitness Camp for teens.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA at 6pm with a community picnic, followed by a Bridging meeting at 7pm. Approximately 45 community members joined in the process of sharing a meal together, after a blessing offered by Harry Wackerman, and stepping into the community circle of Bridging. The group sang "Happy Birthday" to one of our long-time attendees, Mary Anderson, who celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday and is still volunteering at the KASC.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E, 309 E. Linden St. Kennett Square at 7pm.** The new Pastor Maxine Mao welcomes us.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: [www.bridgingcommunity.com](http://www.bridgingcommunity.com) or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at 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.

Tim Schembs (His Mission Board Member) told us that His Mission/Homeless Shelter started in 1983 under the heart-felt direction of Margaret Valentine. Her vision was that every person needs to have a place to lay his/her head. The daughters and friends of Margaret are continuing the work and are open to volunteers and donations. They are a 501C3. Tim also told the story of how he was adopted by Margaret Valentine when he was 14 years old, and now has a financial corporate job, thanks to her love and support. Tim & Mrs. Valentine daughters and families hope to keep the dream alive and progressing to a new level. Email: [Tschembs@hotmail.com](mailto:Tschembs@hotmail.com)

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](http://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 Vision** for the community picnic came from Tom Hoehle, who wanted to support the Principle of "no infrastructural burden." So, every person was asked to just show up with food, with the grills hot ready to go. There was more than enough food---the loaves and the hamburgers and hot dogs multiplied, along with the delicious potato salad made by seasoned cooks, Ms Ophelia Bass and Anna Anderson. Healthy fruits and salads also made the scene. It was a perfect setting for a community dinner.

**New attendees introduced themselves:**

- **Connie Mohn** (The ARC) told us that ARC now has an office in the extended office of Adult Day Care of Chester County in New Garden. They serve the developmentally

disabled with recreation, life skills and support. They also conduct the Early Intervention Program. Connie is a Kennett native and is pleased to experience a Bridging meeting. Email: [oneheartk@comcast.net](mailto:oneheartk@comcast.net) or [cmohn@archofchestercounty.org](mailto:cmohn@archofchestercounty.org)

- **Michael Guttman** (20 year Kennett Township resident) has done business consulting and is now looking for some community volunteer opportunities. Email: [Michael@guttman.net](mailto:Michael@guttman.net)
- **Richard McLaughlin** (35 years of Certified Financial Planning) helps those persons, who are concerned about their financial stability in their retirement. He is welcoming referrals. Email: [richardmcl@comcast.net](mailto:richardmcl@comcast.net)
- **Mary Serowoky** (PhD Nursing student at Wayne State Univ. in Michigan) told us that she came to visit Project Salud and La Comunidad Hispana to learn how the agency works with migrant workers, as she also serves this population. Email: [dt4735@wayne.edu](mailto:dt4735@wayne.edu)
- **Toni Butcher** (His Mission) is a family member of Margaret Valentine and a Board member. Email: [TButcher72@gmail.com](mailto:TButcher72@gmail.com)
- **Bobbie Newman** (His Mission) is a family member of Margaret Valentine and describes herself as the “backbone” of the operations, as she is present at the site every day managing the process with the residents.
- **Tina Butcher** (His Mission) is a family member of Margaret Valentine and a Board member. She is taking the lead with the sustainability of the mission.
- **Amanda and Holly Favino** (Amnion Pregnancy Crisis Center) offer counseling, health education, supplies and other supports to women with unplanned pregnancies. Email: [hfavino@amnion.org](mailto:hfavino@amnion.org)
- **Jose Ramirez** (20 year resident of Kennett) is a family member of the Valentine family. He spoke highly of the operations and his connection with the mission.
- **Howard Bowman** (His Mission) spoke about his long-time relationship with the mission.

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

- **Andrew Joyce** (The Garage Youth Center) told us that he is the Community Service Coordinator and is looking for community volunteer projects for youth to become involved. Email: [Andrew.Joyce@garageyouthcenter.org](mailto:Andrew.Joyce@garageyouthcenter.org)
- **Rosa Quintana** (La Comunidad Hispana Social Services) told us about the *Vive tu Vida Get Up! Get Moving!* Event that LCH/National Alliance for Hispanic Health is sponsoring on 10/01/11 from 9am to 1pm at the Anson B Nixon Park. The intent is to promote physical, healthy and active lifestyles in our community. Email: [rquintana@lchps.org](mailto:rquintana@lchps.org)



- **Casey Jones** (Transformation Initiative) told us about the weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events. Community non-profit groups may also email Casey to have event announcements included in the information at [bps461@msn.com](mailto:bps461@msn.com) Information may be accessed on the following site: [www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html](http://www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html) Casey also told us about the 12 Step Program for the unemployed and under-employed. 250 Chester County residents have attended workshops, while Chester County has 1,600 unemployed. Exact dates and locations are on [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org)
- **Esther Rochester** (Historic East Linden Project) told us that there will be two events in August on East Linden Street and they invite the broader community to attend. August 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a *National Night Out* from 5-8pm to expose the community to the services in the community. Esther is looking for vendors to display their offerings. The police will also be present to make visible their work. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be an *East Linden Street Block Party* with music, food and games from 2-7pm. Esther is starting a Brownie Troop for 3-5 years old at Bethel A.M.E. Church on Fridays From 3-5pm, starting when school starts.
- **Rosemary Malatesta** (Hospice RN) told us about Willow Tree Hospice (located in Jennersville) and the opportunity to volunteer. Training is given in the area of patient services, respite and support for family members, administrative work, pet and massage therapies and bereavement support programs. This volunteer effort rewards the giver and the receiver. Email: [history1842@yahoo.com](mailto:history1842@yahoo.com) and [www.willowtreehospice.com](http://www.willowtreehospice.com)
- **Nelly Arevalo** (ED Kennett Square Family Center) told us about their upcoming fundraiser---Salsa Night. It will be held on July 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-9pm. Contact Nellie for tickets. Email: [NArevalo@ccmchc.org](mailto:NArevalo@ccmchc.org)
- **Harry Wackerman** (KASC Resale Book Shoppe) told us that everyone is always welcome to browse. There will be a Teacher Appreciation Day on 8/20 and 8/27 from 9:30am to 4:30pm. This honors current, retired and student teachers. Fill a large brown bag with books for school or personal use for \$20. Email: [hwackerman@kennett.net](mailto:hwackerman@kennett.net) or web site at: [www.kennettseniorcenter.org](http://www.kennettseniorcenter.org)
- **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 will have an information meeting open to the public on 7/14/11 at 4:30pm at their office at 220 Birch St., Kennett Square. Email: [catakennettsq@yahoo.com](mailto:catakennettsq@yahoo.com)
- **Kecia McMillian** (Chester County Youth Center) told us that they are conducting after-school sessions for court-ordered youth, to build life skills. Volunteers, who have a special knowledge to share and presentations, are welcome. They are in session from 4pm to 8:15pm. Email: [kmcmillian@chesco.org](mailto:kmcmillian@chesco.org)

- **LaToya Meyers** (Historic East Linden Street Project/Program Director) told us that the HELP Board is looking for two board members with expertise---one with a legal background and the other with financial. Also, look for the HELP website to be launched in the near future. Address: [www.historiceastlindenproject.org](http://www.historiceastlindenproject.org)  
Ethan Cramer has taken on the role of Fund Developer and needs a donated office space to do his grant writing. HELP will hold the annual GALA fundraiser on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm on East Linden. To volunteer or for tickets, contact Theresa Bass at [trbass15@aol.com](mailto:trbass15@aol.com) or LaToya Meyers at: [Latmeg12@gmail.com](mailto:Latmeg12@gmail.com)
- **Joan Holliday** (CCHD Public Health Nurse) told the group that ACTIVATE Kennett Square is a grassroots effort that anyone can join. The purpose is to address the need for a healthy community. The motto: *Eat smarter; move more; create a supportive environment*. The group is currently working on advocating for a “walk able” community. Joan introduced **Emily Smith**, WCU Public Health Graduate student, who spoke about her experience of walking from the town of Kennett to Longwood Shopping Center and to New Garden Shopping Center. She observed people walking this route and she found many unsafe areas. Presentations will be made to the Borough Councils of three townships. We always are encouraging new community members to join in this noble effort. Next meeting is Wednesday, July 20, 2011 from noon to 1pm at the Kennett Borough Office. Following meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at the same time. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) Emily Smith: [es661931@wcupa.edu](mailto:es661931@wcupa.edu)
- **Jeanne Searer** (Community Member) will be conducting a weight reduction program, which helped her lose eighty pounds. It is a behavioral modification diet program. She will be teaching a class at KASC starting 9/21/11 from 9am to 11am. There is a night class at Church of the Advent, as well. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

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

- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Esther Rochester around being the Bar BQ Chef at the East Linden Street Block Party on 8/6/11.
- Rosemary Malatesta “bridged” with Andrew from The Garage Youth Center; Richard McLaughlin and Howard Bowman around volunteer opportunities with Willow Tree Hospice.
- Richard McLaughlin “bridged” with Ethan Cramer around donated office space for his HELP grant writing.
- Ethan Cramer “bridged” with a person, who may have an interest in joining the HELP Board.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with the attendees around providing a donation to His Mission. \$108 was collected. She also “bridged” with Mary Serowoky around their backgrounds as Michigan residents and work with the migrant community. Salvador Villicana reminded the group that he was in jail in Michigan for “pursuing the American dream”--- -fortunately for us; he is now a permanent resident.
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Casey Jones about the upcoming unemployment workshops and with Connie Mohn around diet program at KASC.

- Harry Wackerman passed out many flyers for the Teacher Appreciation Day. (The color of Joan's blouse)
- Rosa Quintana spoke to several people about Vive tu Vida and possibility of becoming a vendor.
- Luis Tlaseca passed out flyers for July 14<sup>th</sup> event for C.A.T.A.
- Susana Trendelenburg "bridged" with Joan Holliday about summer lunches at Bethel Church at East Linden St, also about Study Buddies for tutoring help for her 9 and 11 year old sons.
- The community members who attended the picnic donated the left-over hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, and chips to His Mission.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at New Garden U.A.M.E., 309 E. Linden St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Forty-six engaging community members joined in the 'bridging' process.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 09, 2011 at The Family Center, 637 Miller Hill, Kennett Square, PA at 7pm.** Nelly Arevelo (ED) welcomes everyone! Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: [www.bridgingcommunity.com](http://www.bridgingcommunity.com) or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Tom Hoehle (Email: [tomhoehle@yahoo.com](mailto:tomhoehle@yahoo.com)) welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting.

Because Bridging honors the site, where we were meeting, Pastor Maxine Mayo of New Garden ([ellamml7@msn.com](mailto:ellamml7@msn.com)) led us in a prayer. She told us that New Garden Memorial U.A.M. E has been in existence for about 185 years. It started near the Buck toe cemetery. Sunday school is held every week at 10am and Worship Service is at 11am. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month there is a Bible Study in the evening. She expresses an interest on behalf of the church to get involved in more outreach in the community. Several church members are attending the *Bridging* meeting tonight for the first time.

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. Articles about Kennett's work may be found in The Path of Potential Web site: [www.pathofpotential.org](http://www.pathofpotential.org)

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**New attendees introduced themselves:**

- **Cindy Schofield** (Kennett Head Start) told us that they have a Head Start site at 380 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square and the staff wants to connect with the broader community. Email: [cynthiasc@cciu.org](mailto:cynthiasc@cciu.org) She introduced her co-worker Elizabeth
- **Gary Altoonian** (Longwood Rotary) told us that he is representing the Rotary, which supports community volunteer projects. Email: [Garyaltoonian@gmail.com](mailto:Garyaltoonian@gmail.com)
- **Leon Goodwin** (New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that he grew up in Kennett Square on Cedar Street and now lives in West Grove. Phone: 610-869-3147

- **Yvonne Goodwin** (New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that she would like to see more multi-cultural events in the Kennett community. Phone: 610-869-3147
- **Margaret Jarmon** (New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that she used to live in Kennett and now lives in West Grove. Email: [Peggie10@aol.com](mailto:Peggie10@aol.com)
- **Gayle Winters** (New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that she would like to volunteer in the community. Phone: 610-648-4946
- **Joyce Driver** (New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that she grew up in Toughkenamon and went to KHS. Phone: 3-2-575-9368
- **Loretta Perna** (KHS) told us that she is working with WIN/Walk in Knowledge at KHS. It is an after-school tutoring/mentoring program for any interested high-school student. Email: [per.loretta.louise@gmail.com](mailto:per.loretta.louise@gmail.com)
- **Maria Martinez** (Avon Grove HS) told us that she came to the US when she was 9 years old, graduated from KHS and received her Masters degree in 2010. She works with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program at AG High and Middle Schools. They need volunteers. Email: [mariama@cciu.org](mailto:mariama@cciu.org)
- **Norma Grant** (New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that she lived in Kennett many years, and recently moved to Luther House in Jennersville. She would like to volunteer. Email: [grandu66@yahoo.com](mailto:grandu66@yahoo.com); Phone: 484-643-5393
- **Peggy DeShields** ( New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. member) told us that she was raised in Kennett and would like to stay involved. Email: [deshscco@hotmail.com](mailto:deshscco@hotmail.com)
- **Monica Dulembe** (DNB FIRST Bank) is a new employee and wants to get involved in the community. Email: [mdulemba@dnbfirst.com](mailto:mdulemba@dnbfirst.com)
- **Johnna Goodridge** (COAD/Strengthening Families Program) is involved with the Kennett community with the Strengthening Families Program. She will notify us when funding is available for another program next year. Email: [jgoodridge@coadgroup.com](mailto:jgoodridge@coadgroup.com)
- <sup>Sepko</sup> **Paul Southfield** (Bayard Taylor Library) told us to check out the library's web site at [www.bayardtaylor.org](http://www.bayardtaylor.org) Many children's programs and family movie night. Willow Tree Hospice also will be making presentations this fall. Email ED: [dmurray@ccls.org](mailto:dmurray@ccls.org)
- **Nina Soto-Ramirez** (Path Stone Training and Employment Mgr.) works at the HOOD in West Chester and appreciates having volunteers and speakers. Email: [nsotoramirez@pathstone.org](mailto:nsotoramirez@pathstone.org)
- **Jennifer Everhart** (Environmental Science and Spanish Major Graduate) is looking for a job. She is bi-lingual. Email: [Jennifer.c.everhart@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.c.everhart@gmail.com)

- **Theresa Vasquez** (Kennett Community) attended Bridging with Salvador Villicana to learn more about the community. [svillicana@chesco.org](mailto:svillicana@chesco.org)

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

- **Kecia McMillian** (Chester County Youth Center) told us that they are conducting after-school sessions for court-ordered youth, to build life skills. Volunteers, who have a special knowledge to share and presentations, are welcome. There are sessions from 4pm to 8:15pm. Examples of volunteer contributions: Helping students cook healthy meals, carpentry etc. Email: [kmcmillian@chesco.org](mailto:kmcmillian@chesco.org)
- **Casey Jones** (Transformation Initiative) told us about the weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events. Community non-profit groups may also email Casey to have event announcements included in the information at [bps461@msn.com](mailto:bps461@msn.com) Information may be accessed on the following site: [www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html](http://www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html) Casey also told us about the 12 Step Program for the unemployed and under-employed. Exact dates and locations are on [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org) He also announced that there will be a day for dropping off old meds to prevent drug abuse or environmental contamination on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Check out the web site for drop-off locations.
- **Alice Moorehead** (LCH Board President) told us about the *Vive tu Vida/Get Up! Get Moving!* event at Anson B. Nixon Park on Saturday, October 1 from 9am to 1pm. There will be a wide-range of activities to promote healthy living. Free Flu Shots will be provided and a raffle for a Wii Game and Flat Screen TV will take place. Email: [a.moorhead@earthlink.net](mailto:a.moorhead@earthlink.net)
- **Cathy Brison** (YMCA/ MLK Advocates) invited community members to the MLK Advocates monthly meetings the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm at KASC. She also told us about Church of the Open Door having alternate months of books and movies with a discussion to follow. Starts on 9/20/11 at 6:30pm at 210 S. Broad St., Kennett. Email: [Cabrisonmm@aol.com](mailto:Cabrisonmm@aol.com)
- **Jeanne Searer** (KASC) told us about the KASC Bazaar to take place 10/21-22/11 at 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett. Craft items, used clothing/and household items will be sold. Jeanne also will be conducting a weight reduction program, which helped her lose eighty pounds. It is a behavioral modification weight loss program/TREVOSE. Weekly meetings are \$1. Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm there will be the monthly KASC dinner with entertainment by Leon Spencer and his band. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)
- **LaToya Myers & Theresa Bass** (Historic East Linden Street Project/Program Director and Board President) told us that the HELP Board is looking for two board members with expertise---one with a legal background and the other with financial. The National Night Out and Block Parties this summer were very successful.

There is now After-School Tutoring Tues.Weds.Thurs.at Bethel AME Church with a new teacher leading the effort. Tutors are needed.

HELP will hold the annual GALA fundraiser on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm on East Linden. To volunteer or for tickets, contact Theresa Bass at [trbass15@aol.com](mailto:trbass15@aol.com) or LaToya Myers at: [Latmeg12@gmail.com](mailto:Latmeg12@gmail.com)

Latoya also told us about the MCH Prenatal and Parenting Classes being held. Contact LaToya for more information at [Latmeg12@gmail.com](mailto:Latmeg12@gmail.com)

- **Kathy Hrenko** (After the Bell) told us that the after-school program at the Kennett Middle School will begin 9/27/11---their 13<sup>th</sup> season. They serve over 300 students. They are looking for volunteers to share skills or time with students for 1 hour/week for 6 weeks. Email: [afterthebell@kcsd.org](mailto:afterthebell@kcsd.org)
- **Claudia Turner** (Education Coordinator for Path Stone) told us that they provide a Migrant Head Start Program and Childcare from 6am to 5pm for 2mo-5yr. old children for parents working in the agricultural industry. They have openings for 158 children this year. They also provide training and employment, and they have a Food Closet. Email: [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)
- **Lindsey Sweet** (Bi-lingual Immigration Lawyer) told us that she will be setting up a space in Kennett to provide low-cost services for migrants. She is looking for an entity to offer a space for her to meet clients. Email: [lindseydulce@gmail.com](mailto:lindseydulce@gmail.com)
- **Anne Humes** (Kendal Communities) asked how many attendees worked with 3-5 year old children. She asked this group to guess a lucky number and Claudia Turner from Path Stone won a large quantity of animal crackers to give to the nursery school children.

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

- Luis Tlaseca (CATA—Farm Workers Union) told us that he received many flyers with information to share with the farm workers and families. He introduced his friend, Manuel. CATA educates mushroom workers about their worker rights. Email: [catakennettsq@yahoo.com](mailto:catakennettsq@yahoo.com)
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with several persons about celebrating Mexican Independence Day on Friday, 9/16/11 from 4-8 at Friends Meeting, Kennett. All community members are welcome. She also shared the TREVOSE brochure with several interested members.
- Mary Anderson “bridged” with Cindy Schofield from Head Start to donate children’s books.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with three community members to purchase Historic East Linden Street GALA tickets. She also “bridged” with Gary Altoonian around Rotary projects.
- Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Gary Altoonian about the Longwood Rotary finding a large grill for Historic East Linden Street’s Block Party for next year.
- Casey Jones “bridged” with many people around his brochures and with six groups about displaying brochures at their sites.

- Claudia Turner “bridged” with several groups with her brochures and received brochures for the families Path Stone serves.
- Theresa Bass “bridged” with Lindsey Sweet about becoming a HELP Board member.
- Lindsey Sweet “bridged” with Luis Tlaseca about providing workshops for the farm workers and also with Monica Dulemba about office space at DNB FIRST Bank.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Monica Dulemba about teaching personal finance classes to the Kennett Middle School After-the-Bell students. She also “bridged” with Pastor Maxine Mayo about putting information in her church bulletin.
- Alice Moorehead “bridged” with many groups around the October 1<sup>st</sup> event in the Park.
- LaToya Myers “bridged” with Leon Goodwin and Johnna Goodridge (for her son, Patrick) about tutoring at Study Buddies.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Casey Jones around displaying his Unemployment brochures and with Joan Holliday around community projects.

After the meeting, attendees eagerly stayed talking and “bridging” for a spell.



*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, November 09, 2011 at The Family Center, 637 Miller Hill, Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Thirty-six connecting community members joined in the 'bridging' process.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at Head Start, CCIU Early Learning Center, 380 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square, PA at 7pm.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings may be accessed on the web site: [www.bridgingcommunity.com](http://www.bridgingcommunity.com) or a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Tom Hoehle (Email: [tomhoehle@yahoo.com](mailto:tomhoehle@yahoo.com)) welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the structure of a Bridging meeting.

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. Articles about Kennett's work may be found in The Path of Potential Web site: [www.pathofpotential.org](http://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**

**Nelly Arevalo** (ED of The Family Center) welcomed us and told us that this non-profit under Maternal Child Health Consortium has three educators, who teach parenting of children, less than 5 years of age, in the home---readiness for Kindergarten is their goal. They encourage volunteerism, when they hold events at the Center for the enrolled families. She made the offer of use of their large room for community meetings. She also gives Interpreter Training through MCH. Contact: [NArevalo@ccmchc.org](mailto:NArevalo@ccmchc.org))

Tom Hoehle led us in a moment of silence to honor the site and process within the site.

**New attendees introduced themselves:**

- **David Baldt** (Community Member/Kennett Area YMCA) expressed a concern about community still not being fully integrated, and he was looking at ways that the Kennett Area YMCA could be helpful. Email: [dwbaldt@comcast.net](mailto:dwbaldt@comcast.net)
- **Kim Engstrom** (Greenable---Building + Design Center) told us that she was attending the Bridging meeting with partner, Lynne and that she wanted to find ways to get involved in the Kennett area community. Email: [Kim@greenable.net](mailto:Kim@greenable.net)
- **Assistant at Fitchett Chiropractic** told us that she was representing the practice tonight for Dr. Mike and Jena Fitchett. They have an office at 685 Unionville Rd Suite 1, Kennett Square. They will be distributing used/new coats on 12/3/11 from 1 to 3:30pm at

their Jennersville office at 1 Commerce Blvd., Suite 202, West Grove, PA. They are looking for donated coats from child to adult. They will provide a free chiropractic evaluation with coat donation. Schedule at: 610-444-2878; [www.fitchettchiropractic.com](http://www.fitchettchiropractic.com)

- **Susan Norris** (Bi-lingual RN; WCU/MSN Program & Hospice Nurse) would like to use her bi-lingual and nursing skills as a community volunteer. Phone: 484-695-4775  
[snorris@wcupa.edu](mailto:snorris@wcupa.edu)
- **Grant Johnson** (Pastor of Church of the Open Door) told us that he would like to learn more about the community. Email: [GrantJohnson19@comcast.net](mailto:GrantJohnson19@comcast.net)

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

- **Harry Wackerman** (Kennett Area Senior Bookstore) told us that there will be a Veteran's Day Luncheon on 11/11/11. Call for reservations at 610-444-4819. There will be a "Black Friday" (Shopping for Bazaar items) on Wednesday, 11/16/11 from 9am to 2pm at KASC. He also told us about the KASC Sunday Dinner with Friends on 12/18/11 at \$10.00 per person. Email: [hwackerman@kennettseiorcenter.org](mailto:hwackerman@kennettseiorcenter.org)
- **Jessie Cocks** (Kennett Borough Council) told us that her 4-year term will be up in December. She announced that the Garnet Rogers House Concert was cancelled for 11/11/11. There will be a H.U.B. of Hope (HIV AIDs Ministry) presentation in Kennett. Contact: Deborah Tanksley Brown at ([dtanksleybrown@comcast.net](mailto:dtanksleybrown@comcast.net))  
There will be a Quaker Fair at Kennett Friends Meeting on 11/19/11 from 10am to 3pm. She gave an Invitation to the Mayan Calendar and Ceremony on 11/12/11 from 3-5pm and a Mayan Sacred Ceremony on 11/18/11 6:30 to 9:30pm, both being held at 353 N. Lincoln St. Kennett. [jessiecocks@verizon.net](mailto:jessiecocks@verizon.net)
- **Joan Holliday** (Public Health Nurse) encouraged the attendees to reconsider starting up the Intercambio group----a conversational meeting with Spanish and English speaking residents to build community. She also asked the group to go back to our Bridging roots and reflect on the many youth programs, which have been generated to help support youth's potential in the community. Consider where there may be gaps to be filled. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)
- **Kecia McMillian** (Chester County Youth Center) told us that they are conducting after-school sessions for court-ordered youth, to build life skills and a restorative life. Volunteers, who have a special knowledge to share and presentations, are welcome. There are sessions from 4pm to 8:15pm. Youth also could participate in a community event or volunteer opportunity. Email: [kmcmillian@chesco.org](mailto:kmcmillian@chesco.org)
- **Claudia Turner** (Education Coordinator for Path Stone) told us that they provide a Migrant Head Start Program and Childcare from 6am to 5pm for 2mo-5yr. old children for parents working in the agricultural industry. They have openings for 158 children this year. They also provide training and employment, and they have a Food Closet. They are taking referrals---must be agricultural workers and meet income requirements. Email: [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)

- **Rosa Garza Moore** (The Garage Youth Center) encourages community members to visit the Garage at 115 S. Union St., Kennett. There are after-school activities for middle and high school youth. There also are family events. They especially need women mentors. Everyone is invited to 11/18/11 from 7:30-10pm for Coffee House by Kennett Presbyterian and the Christmas Fundraiser on 12/3/11 from 7-10pm (Tickets \$25) Email: [rosa.moore@garageyouthcenter.org](mailto:rosa.moore@garageyouthcenter.org)
- **Cathy Brison** (YMCA/ MLK Advocates) told us that the YMCA is providing Thanksgiving food for 80 families. Come pick a “feather”, which will identify items to donate. She also invited members to take a bus trip to the MLK Memorial on 11/12/11. Cost is \$35. Email: [Cabrisonmm@aol.com](mailto:Cabrisonmm@aol.com)
- **Adrienne Nash** (CCDCD) told us about Chester County National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week starting next week. She encouraged us to check out the web site and get involved. CCDCD, with community members completed their DECADE to Doorways 10 year plan to eliminate homelessness. On 1/25/12 community members are needed to participate in the Annual Point in Time to count the homeless. Email: [anash@chesco.org](mailto:anash@chesco.org)
- **Jackie Maas** (ED Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that they are having a Buy Scholastic Books Drive----buy books to support the children 18mo. to 13 years. She announced the Flu Clinic on 11/29/11 from 3-7pm at the Center---community members invited. She would like help with Christmas gifts for 27 families----adopt a family. She is looking for musicians, who will lead Christmas caroling events for the children. She would like access to a Mexico intern opportunity for her daughter. Email: [ticktock@kennett.net](mailto:ticktock@kennett.net)
- **Jeanne Searer (KASC)** told us that Casa Guanajuato will be putting on a Posada at Friends Meeting on 12/17/11 at 6pm. Community Members are invited to experience the Christian Mexican tradition of searching for a birth place for the Infant Jesus. Contact: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)
- **LaToya Myers** (Historic East Linden Street Project/Program Director) told us that tutors are needed for Study Buddies After-School Tutoring on Tues.Weds.Thurs. from 4-6pm at Bethel AME Church, 301 E. Linden St., Kennett. Email: [Latmeg12@gmail.com](mailto:Latmeg12@gmail.com)
- **Kathy Hrenko** (After the Bell) told us that the next cycle for the after-school program at the Kennett Middle School will begin 01/25/12. They serve over 300 students. They are looking for volunteers to share skills or time with students for 1 hour/week for 6 weeks. Email: [afterthebell@kcsd.org](mailto:afterthebell@kcsd.org)
- **Anne Humes** (Kendal Communities) told us that Kendal/Crosslands is holding a Food Drive. On 12/08/11, they need strong bodies to carry the donated food to a truck between 5:30 to 6:30pm. Anne also received thank-you notes from Head Start for the knitted sweaters from the Kendal women. Call: 610-388-1199.

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

- Claudia Turner “bridged” with Susan Norris around providing a nutrition class in Spanish for parents and children. She “bridged” with Fitchett Chiropractic around the coat distribution. She “bridged” with Adrienne Nash around the homeless project and she “bridged” with Cindy Schofield ([cynthiasc@cciu.org](mailto:cynthiasc@cciu.org)) around Head Start referrals.
- Tom Hoehle ([tomhoehle@yahoo.com](mailto:tomhoehle@yahoo.com)) “bridged” with Gary Altoonian from the Rotary to help purchase a new Bar BQ grill for Historic East Linden Street. Mission accomplished!
- Pam Eppinger from Migrant Education ([PamE@cciu.org](mailto:PamE@cciu.org)) reported a “bridge” that was made at the last Bridging meeting---Jennifer Everhart was looking for work and is now hired by Migrant Education and started working this week. Pam also “bridged” with LaToya Myers and Esther Rochester around Study Buddies. She told them about the SEEDS program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls to be held on Friday nights at the Kennett Presbyterian Church.
- Rosa Garza Moore “bridged” with Gary Altoonian from Rotary around recruiting women mentors. She “bridged” with Adrienne Nash around volunteer opportunities for the youth and with Cathy Brison around the MLK Advocates.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Susan Norris around re-starting the Intercambio process. She helped “bridge” Richard Plaughter ([r6plaughter@comcast.net](mailto:r6plaughter@comcast.net)) and Gary Altoonian ([Garyaltoonian@gmail.com](mailto:Garyaltoonian@gmail.com)) around status of starting the Habitat for Humanity Used Furniture store in the area.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Gary Altoonian to encourage volunteers for After the Bell.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with Gary Altoonian around giving a talk at the Longwood Rotary. She “bridged” with Cathy Brison around the MLK Memorial bus trip. She “bridged” with Anne Humes around food transport for Kendal and “bridged” with Adrienne Nash around Point in Time Count.
- Jackie Maas “bridged: with Pam Eppinger, Joan Holliday and Adrienne Nash to provide caroling music for the Tick Tock children. She “bridged” with Pam Eppinger around a Mexican intern opportunity for her daughter. She “bridged” with Tom Hoehle, who promises to buy some books at Tick Tock. She “bridged” with others to adopt a family for Christmas.
- Richard Plaughter “bridged” with Anne Humes around transporting the donated food.
- Harry Wackerman “bridged” with Kim Engstrom from Greenable, and Rosa Moore from The Garage to work together to bring attention to Union Street.

After the meeting, caring attendees stayed and helped Nellie Arevalo carry chairs back upstairs.