

Minutes from 2015 Meetings

January 14, 2015

March 11, 2015

May 13, 2015

July 8, 2015

September 10, 2015

November 11, 2015

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7pm at Church of the Open Door, 210 S. Broad Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348**. Forty-four lively community members joined to share a Bridging event on a cold winter evening. **This is the 99th Bridging meeting! (Correction: This community process has been vibrant and lively since September 1997 at bi-monthly gatherings.** Organizing meetings started in May and June 1997 and the first broad community meeting took place at Friends meeting in September 1997)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at Friends Meeting House, Sickle and Union St., Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7pm.

Come help celebrate the 100th *Bridging the Community* meeting!

Since 2002, Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or there is 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.

David Haradon and Jeanne Searer, Co-Facilitators welcomed everyone!

Rev. Neil Gutmaker (Pastor of Church of the Open Door United Methodist Church) told us that this church has been in Kennett since 2008. Their church invites diversity and has a strong community outreach. Sundays: Bible Study and Discussion 9am; Fellowship 10:00 to 10:30am; Worship with a variety of cultural music 10:30am to noon. Rev. Neil lives in Philadelphia in his birth home and has served in pastoral ministry in Virginia and Philadelphia. This church site originally housed Church of the Advent, Kennett Presbyterian is now the owner and had a Youth Center in the 1990s and now are renting to Church of the Open Door.

Joan Holliday gave an overview of the Framework and Jeanne Searer shared the guiding principles for Bridging. **The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - *peaceful, progressive, inclusivity*.** "Bridging" reflects this living philosophy.

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

New Attendees introduced themselves:

- **Caroline Smith** (Director of Mental Health Services) told us that The Office of Mental Health provides services and resources for a range of mental health concerns by contracting with local agencies. Email: casmith@chesco.org
She also told us about KATS/Kennett Amateur Theatre Society. They will perform COMEDY OF ERRORS & PIRATES – a British Panto on Friday, 01/23 at 7:30pm and on Saturday, 01/ 24 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm. They are looking for actors and actresses next year and all talents and ages welcome. To learn more contact: katskennett@gmail.com

- **Kayla Higgins** (Chester County Women Services) told us that CCWS provides free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound, education about parenting options, a variety of classes including childbirth and parenting, material assistance, and referrals to other social services. Center is in Kennett Square, 645 E. Baltimore Pike.
Email: Kayla@ccwsmedical.org
- **Vanessa Stine** (Friends of Farmworkers) told us that she provides legal assistance and information/workshops about Consumer Laws and Immigration Fraud.
Email: fstine@friendsfw.org
- **Judy Peterson** (Kennett Square Bible Methodist Church, 500 E. Cypress) told us that anyone in need may visit the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to 2pm to obtain free clothing. They always can use volunteers. They have a collection box on site.
Email: j.peterson305@comcast.net
- **Julie Hughes** (Resident and Octorara 4th Grade Teacher) told us that she has been tutoring a Spanish-speaking client in English through the Bayard Taylor Library and the person passed the Citizenship test today! She is also interested in hearing what is happening in Kennett as she prepares for volunteering in her retirement.
Email: julahug@verizon.net
- **Terron Villicana** (Salvador Villicana's Grandson) came to learn more about job opportunities in the community. Phone: 610-504-4582.
- **Kris Russomagno** (Community) is looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity that uses her talents and helps an organization. Email: Kris.Russomagno@gmail.com
- **Amy Mer** (Chester County Department of Emergency Services) told us that she is responsible for community outreach and would like every citizen to be prepared for 72 hours in the event of a weather-related emergency. She provides presentations and educational materials. She also encouraged us to "like" the CCDES face book page for information related to serious storms at: ccdes Email: aamer@chesco.org
- **Dawn Tally** (Longwood Rotary and Girl Scouts) told us that the Longwood Rotary has 81 members and is a strong resource for the community, as they get involved in many community projects. She also is the Volunteer Manager for Girl Scouts for 20 years. Unionville Chadds Ford and Kennett have over 700 girls. She needs volunteer drivers to help students from Buena Vista, Kennett site go on field trips.
Contact: mrsplmr@aol.com
- **Aalana Vasquez** (Carter CDC) told us that one of her friend's home on East Linden Street home had a fire on 12/31/14 and the family needs financial support to get back together and on their feet. To help--Email: lmyers@cartercdc.org or call: 518-577-8114.
- **Jen McGonigle** (Stylist at Salon Secrets) came with her mother Sylvia Barreiro Thomas to learn more about the community happenings. Email: jen@jenmcg.com

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

- **Berta Rains** (Kennett Senior Center) told us that the Neighbors in Action Program is set-up to help persons 60 years and older with transportation, light housekeeping and other assists, to help persons stay in their homes. The service is provided by volunteers. She is looking for referrals and volunteers. Email: bertarains@kennettseiorcenter.org
- **Roberta Eldridge** (Community) told us that she is the Co-Chair of The Kennett Community Coffee Klatch, which meets every Thursday from 11am to noon at The Market at Liberty Place, 147 W. State St., Kennett. All generations are welcome for a lively and enjoyable exchange. Free artfully brewed coffee provided. Email: bobbiny28@gmail.com
- **Joan Holliday** (Community) told us about the Kick off Heart Month at Super Walk 2015 on 02/01/15 at 154 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA 19342. Registration 7:30am to 8:30am. Kickoff is at 8:30am. To register: 1-866-CALL.MLH or sign-up on line at: mainlinehealth.org/superwalk. ACTIVATE Kennett Square is promoting this to encourage exercise for good health! Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- **Laura Gonzalez** (La Comunidad Hispana) told us that this agency has a host of services offered to the vulnerable and middle class client. They offer an extensive health clinic, social services and language and citizenship classes, along with other support. Come visit them and take a tour! Email: gnzlr@sbcglobal.net
- **Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us about the Dinner and Dance Fundraiser for Casa Guanajuato on 2/28/15 from 7-11pm at The Red Clay Room in Kennett. The proceeds are going towards Cinco de Mayo and a future Casa de las Culturas. Tickets \$50/person. For tickets: [610-335-6327](tel:610-335-6327). Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
- **Cathy Brison** (MLK Advocates) told us 1) There will be a forum: *Building Bridges--A Community Conversation* on 01/21/15 from 7-9pm at Mary D. Lang Library, 409 Center St., Kennett to discuss both issues highlighted as a result of the 2014 police shootings in Ferguson and other communities, and building better community alternatives. 2) MLK CommUNITY Breakfast tickets are available for 01/19/15 from 8-10am at The Red Clay Room. Call United Way Office for \$15 tickets at 610-444-4357. 3) United Way of SCC is holding a fundraiser on 2/8/15 at KHS. To purchase tickets: www.kennettchocolate.org Cathy's Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com
- **Sylvia Barreiro Thomas** (Upland Country Day School) told us that they have students from K to 9th grade. They will have their day of MLK community service on 01/16/15. Email: sbarreiro@uplandcds.org
- **Jackie Grunther** (ED Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that they continue to provide day care and nursery school, and after-school care for 18month olds to 14 year olds. They are looking to employ an Assistant Teacher. Jackie@TickTockELC.org

- **Lany L. Villalobos** (PA Farmworker Project of Philadelphia Legal Assistance) told us that they provide tax seminars and that they provide information for migrant farmworkers and agencies that serve them. Email: lvillalobos@philalegal.org Call: 1-888-541-1544.
- **Susan Worrell** (Church of the Open Door Pastoral Team) told us that they have a Mental Health Crisis Training on 01/17/15 from 8am to 5:30pm. She also informed us of their Compulsive Recovery 12-Step meeting every Thursday at 6:30 at their church. Email: susan.worrell@comcast.net
- **Kecia McMillian** (Sylvan Learning) told us that Sylvan would like to provide services in the SCC area. Currently, they are located at 530 Peoples Plaza, Newark, DE. They provide study skills, math, writing, reading, homework help and SAT/ACT Preparation. A Free STEM Class will be provided on 01/19/15 to learn about robotics; computer programming skills; Math Edge program and to receive a special offer on the STEM program. They offer reading and math instruction on IPADS! Phone: 302-838-3400. Email: sylvan.newark@sylvanlearning.com or check out the website at: www.sylvannewark.com
- **Claudia Turner** (Path Stone Migrant Head Start) told us that they provide daycare for migrant children 6 weeks to 6 years, whose parent/s work in the agricultural field. They are open from 7am to 5pm. They are opening up two new classrooms. They can provide busing up to one hour driving distance (one way) within Chester County. They have job openings for various levels of teachers and assistants. She also has a need to learn of sources for financial assistance for eye exams and glasses. Email: cturner@pathstone.org
- **Susan Rzucidio** (Landenberg Resident and Advocate for Special Needs) told us that her 23 year, old son Ben (with autism) has a desire to volunteer. She reports, "He is a great envelope stuffer." Susan provides education to public services and organizations about autism and special needs. In light of the current concern about police, she passed out cards that can be handed to police officers:
"POLICE OFFICER For as long as people show *valor* in their actions to protect others, there will be *hope* for our society. Thank you for your service."
Email: srzzrz@gmail.com
- **Janet Cordova** told us about the Training and Employment Program that they provide at Path Stone. The service is funded by the Department of Labor, and helps the unemployed, underemployed, documented farm workers, rural poor, disadvantaged and/or disenfranchised find gainful employment at livable wages, by offering quality job training and employment services. Email: jcordova@pathstone.org
- **Robert Garrett** (Community) told us about the monthly Support Group for Caregivers of Alzheimer and Dementia at the Senior Center. They have professional facilitation and presentations, as well as time for support group dialogue. He also offered his sons services to the community for picking up trash; free to non-profits.
Email: BobTGarrett@aol.com

- **Jessie Cocks** (Community) told us about: 1) Hadley Memorial Fund, which provides free lectures and enrichment sessions. The next session, "A Legacy of Musical Wealth with Rollin Wilbur, Pianist Concert will be held 01/16/15 at 8pm at Kennett Friends Meeting. 2) 4th Annual SISTAS" TEA for National Women and Girl's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on 3/7/15 from 2-4pm. Contact: hub-of-hope@umcod.org or 610-444-2400. 3) Jessie Cocks, 807 S. Walnut St., Kennett will be providing information and some classes about "Yes...AND Playback Theatre. Email: jessiecocks@yesandplayback.org or call 484-888-6966.
- **Dave Haradon** (Longwood Rotary and Family Promise) told us that the non-profit to address family homelessness in SCC is moving forward. Local churches are signing up to house families at night and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in West Grove is providing the vacant convent as the Day Room, where case management services will be conducted to move families out of homelessness. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com
- **Chrissy Shelly** (ARC) is an Education Advocate for Special Needs in the Kennett School District. Services are free. For more information: www.paedforall.org or Email Chrissy at: Chrissyshelly@gmail.com or cshelly@arcofchestercounty.org
- **Mikey Glass** (Director Kennett Garage Youth Center) had to leave early for another appointment but emailed the following information: 1) Kennett and West Grove Garages are having volunteer orientation sessions on Saturday, January 31st. All are welcome and we encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved in one or more of our various programs to join us! The orientation in Kennett will be held from 9:30-11am and the one in West Grove will be held from 2:00-3:30pm. No need to register, just show up! 1) As Aalana mentioned, one of our students, Jalayshia Allen and her family lost their home to a terrible fire on New Year's Eve. In partnership with the Carter CDC, The Garage is also collecting donations for the family. Gift Cards are preferable. The family lost a lot of money in the fire and could really use financial assistance. 3) If you're still looking for a service project for MLK Day please consider coming to The Garage to help clean. We are preparing to build 2 classrooms and could really use help from 9am-12pm. 4) I will be guest bartending at Buckley's Tavern tomorrow night from 6-8pm in an effort to raise money for the Kennett High School After Prom. Please come out and support our students.
Check out: www.garageyouthcenter.org Email: michael.glass@garageyouthcenter.org
- **Casey Jones** (Transformation Initiative) has a weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events and the Face book Page at www.facebook.com/TransformationIni "Like" the page to receive email updates. Community non-profit groups may email Casey to have free event announcements included. If you would like weekly email notices, or want to inform Casey of upcoming events, email: bps461@msn.com
- **Brenda Flax** (Community) gave a heartfelt thanks to the persons who helped sponsor Lincoln University international students with a Thanksgiving and Christmas events through Bridging in November. Email: derrick.flax@gmail.com

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

- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Susan Rzucidio around the Police Officer card and the Building Bridges Conversation. She “bridged” with Esther Rochester around attending the “Sistas Tea” and handed out her cards for Yes...AND Playback Theatre. She “bridged” with Julie Hughes around Playback Theatre.
- Salvador Villicana “bridged” with Farmworker representatives.
- Kayla Higgins “bridged” with Pathstone Employment about ways to partner and share supportive services; with Lany Villalobos about education for clients and with others.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with many community members around purchase of tickets for MLK Breakfast. She also “bridged” with Aalana around fire victims.
- Claudia Turner “bridged” with both Farmworker legal and tax services for education for the migrant families she serves; with Chrissy Shelly from ARC for services for her families and several persons around need for financial support with eye glasses for a 3 year client; with the Carter CDC around fire victims and Susan Rzucidio around Police Officer cards.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with Dawn Tally around Sylvan services for Girl Scouts; with Chrissy Shelly around ARC; and she passed out Sylvan Edge information to several “bridgers.”
- Susan Worrell “bridged” with Robert Garrett about his son’s offer to remove trash for non-profits; with Caroline Smith around mental health services and Robert Garrett around Caregivers Support Group.
- Roberta Eldridge “bridged” with Dave Haradon and thanked him for allowing her to vent. She also “bridged” with Caroline Smith around KATS.
- Robert Garrett “bridged” with Caroline Smith around mental health services; with Terron Villacana, who was wearing an Ink Spots Sweatshirt and with others around the Kennett Community Coffee Klatch.
- Dawn Tally “bridged” with several members around Girl Scouts and services to provide them.
- Julie Hughes “bridged” with Chrissy Shelly around services for her students at Octorara and reconnected with Jessie Cocks.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Claudia Turner around sources for paying for eye exams and eye glasses; with Cathy Brison around MLK Breakfast tickets; with Terron Villicana around his job search; with Sylvia Barrerio Thomas, who is creating an intergenerational experience for her Upland students with the Kennett Senior Center and with those who did not have time to include information---It has been included in the minutes.
- Cathy Brison reminded everyone to donate food to the Kennett Food Cupboard, as donations are down at this time of year. MLK Collection Bins are available in stores.

After the meeting, community members continued to “bridge” and enjoy the coffee provided by Church of the Open Door. Thank you!

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7pm at Kennett Friends Meeting, Sickle St. and Union, Kennett Square, PA 19348. This was our 100th meeting!** Fifty-two festive new and old community members joined in the heart-warming celebration.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Upland Country Day School, 470 W. Street Rd., Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7pm.

Since 2002, Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or there is 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 and Jeanne Searer, Co-Facilitators welcomed everyone!

Joan Holliday gave a short history of Bridging the Community meetings and led the group in a song she wrote, that reflected the Vision, Framework and Guiding Principles for Bridging.

The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - *peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.* "Bridging" reflects this living philosophy.

Vision: Kennett Square: Every day a better place to grow up in and grow old in.

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

Jessie Cocks (Kennett Friends Meeting) told us that at Quaker services they read a Query to reflect on. She read Query #7, related to social conscience and justice, which she said related to the spirit of Bridging the Community. She told us that the Quakers first had a site near Kendal in 1710; then another site where the current post office resides, then this site at Sickle and Union Streets. Their services are at 10:45am meet and start at 11am. She led us in a Moment of Silence. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net

Tom Hoehle invited attendees to share stories about how Bridging has helped the community. Tom Hoehle, Kate Uhler, Dave Haradon, Roberta Eldridge, Pam Carter, Jeanne Searer, Joan Holliday, Kathy Hrenko, and Cathy told stories that spoke about: "bridging" emergency needs with resources; finding jobs, natural mentoring relationships discovered, Longwood Rotary taking up significant projects due to information shared at Bridging; youth learning of volunteer opportunities and getting involved; Mexican culture celebrated; after-school youth programs started; under-served groups taking on leadership and many more!

New Attendees introduced themselves:

- **Mary and David Kerr** (New Kennett residents) are looking at ways they can become involved in the Kennett community and in volunteer opportunities for their retirement in a couple of years. Email: Kerrhome2008@yahoo.com

- **Matrie Johnson** (Home of the Sparrow) told us that there will be a Single Mothers' Conference on 4/11/15 from 8am to 3pm. This is Free with Free Childcare for the Day; Guest Speakers; Resource Gallery & Health Fair: singlemothersconference@gmail.com; Phone: 484-876-1582. She also told us that Home of the Sparrow provides housing and supportive services to homeless and low-income women who want to improve their lives and become self-sufficient. Matrie's Email: mjohnson@homeofthesparrow.org
- **Ryan Nettle** (Americorp/VISTA) told us that he is working for CCD CD with Decade to Doorways, which is the Plan to end homelessness in Chester County in ten years. There will be a public meeting on 3/18/15 at 3pm at the Brandywine Center, 744 E. Lincoln Highway, (Kay Conference Room) in Coatesville to share the Point-in-Time count report with the community, and to solicit input on the Decade to Doorways Plan.
- **Joseph Bilik** (Tick Tock Early Learning Center Board Member) told us that the Day Care/pre-school center for low-income families is celebrating its 50th year. They will be renovating the physical facilities. Email: JoeTBilek@aol.com
- **Frank Burke** (Veterans medical Center) told us that he is trying to find homeless or near homeless veterans in our community, so the Veterans can offer the needed support. Email: frank.burke@vmcenter.org; Phone: 610-384-8387
- **Arturo Gomez Rubio** (Casa Guanajuato) told us that Cinco de Mayo Festival will take place on 5/3/15 from 11am to 5pm on the streets of Kennett. It is the 14th Year; there will be 100 Vendors with over 10,000 participants. They will have six college booths for parents and youth to investigate and explore. They need sponsors and volunteers. Emails: gomezrubio@comcast.net or casaguanajuatoks@yahoo.com
- **Becky Del Grande** (Haverford College student) told us that she is an intern with Lindsey Sweet Esq. to learn more about immigration law. Email: rdelgran@haverford.edu
- **Mary Pat Knauss** (Wings for Success) told us that they have a new location in Kennett at: 457 Birch St.; Phone: 610-444-1446. They provide free quality work-appropriate clothing and scrubs to disadvantaged and economically challenged women through a nurturing experience that not only prepares them for job training, interviews and the workplace, but also fosters hope and confidence. Email: mary.pat.Knauss@gmail.com
- **Judy Diner** (Chester County Historical Society) told us that they are launching an oral history initiative. They are recording and preserving the memories of community members who lived or worked in the County during the 1960s for an exhibit about the decade, scheduled for November 2015. They are inviting community members from all walks of life and from all corners of the County to participate; your stories are unique, valuable treasures for our community. Anyone interested in participating please contact either Ellen Endslo, CCHS Dir. of Collections/Curator eendslow@chestercohistorical.org or Judy Diner, museum volunteer jdiner1@aol.com

- **Sally Warren** (Kennett Community) told us that she would like to connect with community members, who are upset with the Bayard Taylor Library changing its name; she points to the history that the name holds. Email: Sallywarren217@gmail.com
- **Kathy Do** (ED After the Bell) told us that she is encouraging everyone to join in providing or supporting enrichment classes during a 6 week session with Kennett Middle School students. (Sessions start 9/30; 01/27 and 4/21.) There are also behind the scene volunteer roles with web management etc. They have a fundraiser in two weeks with a fantastic Beatles band. Tickets for sale. Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org
- **Alisa Jones** (CEO of La Comunidad Hispana) told us that LCH has been part of the community for 40 plus years and they want to continue to be involved. She invited attendees to visit, as the agency is going through many changes. Email: ajones@lchps.org
- **Richard Gaw** (Chester County Press) told us that he is doing a story on tonight's event, however, he has already identified at least five stories that he could write about. He appreciated the opportunity to obtain community information at Bridging. Email: rgaw@chestercounty.com

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

- **Jackie Maas** (Kennett Area Senior Center) had information to share about the KACS. She also wanted to inform the community that her accusation of theft from Tick Tock has been dropped by the DA. Tick Tock needs to sign-off on the case and Jackie is asking for a public apology. She has received great loving support from community members. Email: JMaas@kennettareaseniorcenter.org
- **Luis Benites** (HR at Kaolin Mushroom) told us that there is more flexibility for employment at Kaolin. They will hire high school students only on week-ends, or college students at breaks, and they have opportunities for advancement. Phone: 610-444-4800 Ext, 245 or 213.
- **Anne Humes** (Kendal Community) told us that she had spent three months in southern Alabama on a mission trip. There is much division between ethnic groups and blacks and whites. She gave a presentation on Bridging and hopes she planted an idea for a community process that will help their community building. Phone: 610-388-1199.
- **Mikey Glass** (ED Kennett Garage Youth Center) told us that Kennett and West Grove Garage Youth Centers will have a joint fundraiser on Friday, 4/17/15 at 7pm at KHS, 100 E. South Street, Kennett featuring DAVID KIM, Concertmaster of the Phil Orchestra & International Performer. Check out: www.garageyouthcenter.org
Email: michael.glass@garageyouthcenter.org
- **Kayla Higgins** (Chester County Women Services) told us that CCWS provides free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound, education about parenting options, a variety of

classes including childbirth and parenting, material assistance, and referrals to other social services. Center is in Kennett Square, 645 E. Baltimore Pike.
Email: Kayla@ccwsmedical.org

- **Eileen Loughran** (Community) told us that she has lived in Kennett for thirty years. She is a part-time nurse at Christiana Hospital. She is looking for community volunteer opportunities. Email: Eileen.d.loughran@gmail.com
- **Kecia McMillian** (Sylvan Learning) told us that Sylvan would like to provide services in the SCC area. Currently, they are located at 530 Peoples Plaza, Newark, DE. They provide study skills, math, writing, reading, homework help and SAT/ACT Preparation. They have STEM Programs, Robotics, Coding and Math Edge. They offer reading and math instruction on IPADS! Saturday, 4/25/15 from 10am to 5pm to experience the new programs. Phone: 302-838-3400. Email: sylvan.newark@sylvanlearning.com or check out the website at: www.sylvannewark.com
Kecia's church-- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark, Delaware's Youth Group is going on a Mission Trip to Portland, Oregon in June 2015.
To donate: <http://www.faithify.org/projects/uufn-youth-group-general-assembly-trip/>
- **Jessie Cocks** (MLK Advocates & I.S.M.S.) told us that Building Bridges; a Community Conversation with Police Leaders will be held on 3/18/15 from 7-9pm at Mary D. Lang Library, Kennett Square, PA. This is a forum to discuss issues highlighted as a result of the 2014-15 police shootings. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net
- **Leon Spencer** (Borough Council President and CC Technical College) told us that he lives in the "best town in the world." He gave the example of a KHS student, calling to help a classmate that had been a victim of a house fire on 1/1/15 and it had been over 30 years since they had gone to school together. He also told us about 5K TECH RUN/Community Day and Health Fair at TCHS Pennock's Bridge as a fundraiser for scholarships. To Register: www.cciu.org/5KTECHRUN; Email: ksmayor@verizon.net
- **Sheila Magendantz** (Hadley Memorial Fund) shared the information that there will be two upcoming Free Lectures. On Saturday, 4/11/15 from 3-5pm and Concert at 7pm: *Old Time Music With Ken and Brad Kolodner Concert* at Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, 101 Old Kennett Rd., Wilmington, DE. 19807. On Monday, April 20th there will be a lecture at 8pm: *Quilts and Quilters of the Civil War with Nancy Long* at Kennett High school. Email: magendantz@gmail.com
- **Jeanne Searer** (KASC) is offering a Trevoze Behavior Modification Program on 4/22/15 at KASC Wednesdays at 8:30am. Call: 484-467-8011. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

The group then gathered around for birthday cake and beverages and "bridged." The following bridges were shared:

- Susana Gomez Rubio "bridged" with Kecia McMillian around Sylvan's Educational offerings. She "bridged" with Wings for Success and also LCH about services.

- Laura Gonzalez “bridged” with Mary Pat Knauss around Wings for Success Services; she “bridged: with Luis Benites around job opportunities; she “bridged” with Robyn Slater around Emergency Services and with Kris Russomagno around Young Mom’s being empowered through health education and community involvement.
- Sally Warren told everyone about the Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner to be held at Kennett Friend’s Meeting on 3/14/15 from noon to 7pm. \$8 for adults and \$5 for youth and under 3 years freed. She also “bridged” with several community members around the library name change.
- Kris Russomagno “bridged: with Kayla Higgins around services at CC Women’s Services for Young MOMs.
- Eileen Loughran “bridged” with Luis Benitis to bring information about Kaolin employment to employees at Christiana Hospital, who would have youth, who could apply. She also “bridged” with Kathy Do around After the Bell and volunteer opportunities, and with Anne Humes around her experience in southern Alabama.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Richard Gaw around the history of Bridging the Community meetings; she “bridged” with Kris Russomagno around Young MOM’s partnering with agencies in the room; she “bridged” with Mary Lou Thomas, Anne Humes and Esther Rochester around the shared history of Bridging.
- Pam Carter “bridged” with Robyn Slater, who is a Board member of Wings for Success for a workshop on Job Etiquette for Cheyney University; she “bridged” with Laura Mackiewicz about Vive tu Vida; she “bridged” with Arturo Gomez Rubio about Casa Guanajuato’s use of the Anson B Nixon Park; she “bridged” with Jessie Cocks around Family Promise and Building Bridges; and she “bridged” with Roberta Eldridge around the Coffee Klatch.
- Others made “bridges,” but at this meeting it was difficult to bring the group back to a focused sharing----the room was full of chatter and laughter.

After the meeting, community members continued to “bridge” and enjoyed the tea and coffee provided by Friends Meeting and Roberta Eldridge. Thank you!

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7pm at Upland Country Day School, 470 W. Street Rd., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thirty-two interested new and old community members joined in the process of “bridging” on a delightful spring evening. This is the 101st meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 08, 2015 at 6pm at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. The Annual Potluck (No-Infrastructural Tom Hoehle Inspiration) will start at 6pm, when everyone shows up with some healthy food to grill, or a side dish and join in a community meal together. **Meeting will begin at 7pm.** Each and all are welcome to one or both events. Email Joan Holliday with questions dochollisv@aol.com

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We started the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of the seven persons who lost their lives in the Amtrak train accident today.

Dave Haradon gave an overview of a Bridging meeting. **Joan Holliday** shared the Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles.

The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity. “Bridging” promotes this living philosophy.

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Tom Reid, Head of Upland Country Day School told us that he has been here since July 2014. The school has diversity of students from K-9th grade. Their Stated Mission: *Founded in 1948, Upland Country Day School is a non-sectarian, independent day school educating boys and girls in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Nine. Within a nurturing and fully participatory environment, we develop children as independent and lifelong learners. Upland's program prepares students for success in their secondary education and beyond through a balance of academics, the arts, athletics and citizenship. Our students graduate as developing adults with a strong sense of community, respect for others, strength of character, and self-confidence.* The school seeks community volunteer opportunities for their students and ways to participate in the broader community. Email: treid@uplandcds.org

New Attendees introduced themselves:

Mary Kessler (Chester County Food Bank) told us that she will be extending the Food Bank’s Nutrition Program into SCC. Email: mkessler@chestercountyfoodbank.org

Annalee Korengel (Pastor of Unionville Presbyterian Church) told us that she is interested in learning about the broader community and will share information with her congregation. She is Board Vice President of Family Promise and a Longwood Rotarian. Email: lorgusfamily@verizon.net

Jodi Dill (ARC of Chester County) is an Education Advocate for Special Needs in the SCC School District. Services are free. For more information: www.paedforall.org or Email: jdill@arcofchestercounty.org

Elizabeth Garduno (Kennett Head Start) told us that this pre-school is open to low-income families with children from 3-5 years old. She is hoping to find book bag donations for the 5 year olds, who will be entering kindergarten. She brought her seven year old daughter, Maureli to the meeting. Email: elizabethga@cciu.org

Ann Reid (Community) told us that she enjoys her new home in the community and is now volunteering for Neighbors in Action as a driver for seniors, who need to attend medical appointments. Volunteers are needed for NIA. Email: treid@uplandcds.org

Kris Russomagno (Community) is an active volunteer for Young Moms, which is an organization that empowers young moms to reach their goals and their potential. Email: Kris.Russomagno@gmail.com

Mary Pat Knauss (Wings for Success) told us about the location in Kennett at: 457 Birch St.; Phone: 610-444-1446. They provide free quality work-appropriate clothing and scrubs to disadvantaged and economically challenged women through a nurturing experience that not only prepares them for job training, interviews and the workplace, but also fosters hope and confidence. Email: marv.pat.Knauss@gmail.com

Holly Poole (Public Health Nurse) told us that she is attending the meetings to learn of community resources she can share in her public health nursing home visits with prenatal and postpartum clients. Email: hpoole@chesco.org

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

Sylvia Barreiro Thomas (Upland Country Day) told us that she teaches Spanish from grades 4th through 9th. She also facilitates community volunteerism. Email: sbarreiro@uuplandcds.org

Cynthia Fannon (Community Resident) told us that she wants to stay in-touch with the community through Bridging. Email: Cynthia.moriarity@us-resources.com

Jackie Maas (Kennett Senior Center) told us that her daughter, Juliette Maas is in Nepal helping rebuild, after the earthquake. If community members would like to support the cause, contact Jackie, as she has contact with her daughter. Email: jmaas@kennettseiorcenter.org

She also told us that ESL Classes will be starting up in July in Avondale. Call the Kennett Library for more information.

Corrine Hyzng (Upland Country Day) told us that she is in the marketing and communications department at Upland. Email: chvzrv@uplandcds.org

Jessie Cocks (MLK Advocates; Family Promise and Playback Theatre) told us that she was one of the first students of Upland Country Day School. Her parents were Founders. She had to leave after 4th grade because the classes ended then. She even rode a horse to school. She announced that there will be a Playback Theatre event/*Inspirations—Sharing Stories and Our Humanity* on 5/31/15 at Friends Meeting at 2pm. \$12 admission. Hadley Memorial Fund hosts the Free Concert in Anson B Nixon Park on 6/24/15 with Dukes of Destiny from 7-9pm. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net

Laura Gonzalez (La Comunidad) told us that this agency provides health and social services to low-income families. She announced that they have a new CEO—Alisa Jones! They have many programs that are reaching out to the community. She is most pleased with the meetings that take place every Monday 9:30am to 11:30; conversations with the police. This is developed out of a connection she made at a Bridging meeting and attending the MLK Advocates Community Dialogue with the Police. Remember 9/27/15 for the next Vive tu Vida event in Anson B Nixon Park. Cinco de Mayo was a huge success with over 10,000 persons attending. 12 colleges had booths. She also wanted us to know about the American Heart Association event on 5/30/15 from 8:30am to noon at Kennett High School--“Eat, Play and Learn.” To register call 215-575-5245. Email: lgonzalez@lchps.org

Kecia McMillian (Sylvan Learning) told us that Sylvan is providing services in the SCC area. Currently, they are located at 530 Peoples Plaza, Newark, DE. They provide study skills, math, writing, reading, homework help and SAT/ACT Preparation. They have STEM Programs, Robotics, Coding and Math Edge. Phone: 302-838-3400. Email: sylvan.newark@sylvanlearning.com or check out the website at: www.sylvannewark.com. Email: keciamcm@me.com

Kecia's church-- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark, Delaware is hosting a jewelry sale to benefit the Underground Railroad on June 2nd from 6 to 8pm. Email: keciamcm@me.com

Casey Jones (Transformation Initiative) told us about the Father's Matter Initiative and System of Care processes that he is initiating in Coatesville, Phoenixville and Kennett. He has a weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events and the Face book Page at www.facebook.com/TransformationInj “Like” the page to receive email updates. Community non-profit groups may email Casey to announce free events or to receive weekly email notices. Email: bps461@msn.com

Luis Benites (HR at Kaolin Mushroom) told us that there is more flexibility for employment at Kaolin. They will hire high school students (17 years and older) only on week-ends, or college students at breaks. They have opportunities for advancement and

they have medical benefits after 90 days. Phone: 610-444-4800 Ext, 245 or 213.
Email: lbenites@southmill.com

Janet Kane (Community) told us that she volunteers at the Spanish Health Ministry as a driver for young mothers and their children to attend Bible Study, and at Chester County Women's Services to help support prenatal clients.

Bob Kane (Community) told us that he knew most of the persons in the room from his past role as assistant to local politicians. He is now retired.

Esther Rochester (Community) told us that she was inquiring if anyone could help with providing a swing at Anson B Nixon Park for a handicap child. She learned from the group that there is such swing in the upper playground at the Park. She also told us that she is volunteering for Willow tree Hospice and really enjoys helping this way. Esther is looking for work. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Cathy Brison (Community) told us about the Annual Kennett Run which will be held this Saturday, 5/16/15. Streets will be closed off and stores closed in the morning.
Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com

Lorraine Anderson (Community) told us that Hospice volunteers for pediatrics are needed in SCC. She also offered the following idea: Every neighborhood designates a household to be set-up to receive weekly donated food items for the Food Cupboard; this household makes the delivery to the Cupboard. Email: lorraineandersen@gmail.com

David Haradon (Family Promise and Longwood Rotary) told us about the faith-based collaborative effort with 8 area churches (to add 5 more) to serve as host Churches for homeless families. There will be a Resource Center in downtown West Grove where families will be transported during the day and will receive support in seeking employment, housing and other social services. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

Jeanne Searer (KASC an Casa Guanajuato) told us about DISCO NIGHT on Saturday, 6/13/15 at KASC from 6-9pm. Dinner and music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. \$15/person. Reservations at: 610-444-4819. There also will be a Garage Sale at the KASC, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett on 6/6/15 from 8am to 3pm. Jeanne was on the Planning Committee for Cinco de Mayo and was very pleased with the event. She continues to promote Casa Guanajuato becoming all inclusive of celebrating all cultures.
Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Joan Holliday (Community) reminds everyone of a weekly Community Coffee Klatch, which takes place at The Market at Liberty Place, 148 W. State Street, Kennett on Thursdays from 11am to noon. This forum promotes intergenerational interactions. Free coffee. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

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

- Elizabeth Garduno “bridged” with Joan Holliday, David Haradon, Kris Russomagno and Ann Reid around ways to obtain book bags for the Head Start students.
- Jodi Dill “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez around helping advocate for students through La Comunidad’s contacts.
- Mary Pat Knauss “bridged” with Kris Russomagno around Wings for Success for Young MOMs and also Jackie Maas around her daughter in Nepal.
- Jackie Maas “bridged” with Marie Kessler around bringing in a Nutrition program at the Kennett Area Senior Center.
- Jessie Cocks enjoyed “bridging” with the Upland Country Day folks and reminiscing and “bridged” with Jean Searer around the DISCO NIGHT
- Sylvia Barreiro Thomas “bridged” with Marie Kessler around a volunteer project for MLK day in 2016 and with Bob Kane around the Longwood Rotary.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Annalee Korengel around a personal matter and with Luis Benites around the job opportunities at Kaolin.
- Laura Gonzalez “bridged” with several participants about La Comunidad’s services.
- David Haradon “bridged” with Corrine Hyzng about her marketing and communication expertise for Family Promise and Rotary International.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Luis Benites about jobs at Kaolin.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez about hosting a weekly Community Coffee Klatch at La Comunidad. (Will discuss further in the fall after renovations)
- If anyone would like copies of flyers passed out at meeting, directly email the person, who shared the information.

**Community members stayed and mingled after the meeting.
Thanks to Upland Country Day for being our gracious host!**

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, July 08, 2015 at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.** In spite of predictions of rain, the heavens held off and forty-eight hearty community-minded members attended and joined in our Annual Potluck at 6pm with the Bridging meeting starting at 7pm. This is the 102nd meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 09, 2015 at 7pm at LCH/La Comunidad, 731 W. Cypress St. Kennett Square, PA 19348.

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We started the meeting with a prayer led by Casey Jones

Joan Holliday shared the Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. **Dave Haradon** gave an overview of a Bridging meeting.

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Tina Butcher told the group that they were happy to provide His Mission’s site for the annual community picnic. *His Mission* provides shelter, food, clothing and mentoring for the single homeless for the past thirty years. Their goal is to give their residents a “hands up” and to help them get back on their feet with a stable job and housing. They have about an 80% success rate. They also serve breakfast and lunch for any residents, who need it. Tina Butcher and her sister, Bobbie Newman are carrying on the legacy of their mother, Margaret Valentine. At this time, the only funding they receive is from the local community. Contact Email: tamikabutcher@yahoo.com

New Attendees introduced themselves:

- **Wayne Braffman** (Kennett Democrats) told us that he and his wife Sally represent the Kennett Area Democrats for this Precinct. He is promoting Voter Registration and is visiting every household to educate and support. Email: waynebraffman@yahoo.com

- **Sally Braffman** (Kennett Democrats) told us that she is a past educator and Hospice employee for twenty-five years. She is looking for meaningful volunteer work in her retirement. Email: sbofthet@aol.com
- **Fran Maye** (Editor of The Kennett Paper and writer for The Daily Local) told us that he is interested in helping non-profits spread their news. He also is a Longwood Rotarian. Email: kennettpaper@gmail.com
- **Marianne Maye** (President of Board for Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that they provide day care and education for children of low-income families. They have a summer camp, which is serving about 85 students and their school year may be close to a 100 children. They are open for referrals and volunteers. Email: marianнемaye@gmail.com
- **Beth Adams** (Willow Tree Hospice) told us that this agency was founded by an RN in 2006. Her role is to educate the community about the role of Hospice. Email: betha@willowtreehospice.com
- **Joel Hahn** (Kennett Rotoract) told us that he joined Rotoact to help the community.
- **Christian Samulewicz** (KHS) told us that he is looking for ways to volunteer in the community. Email: cjsamulewicz@yahoo.com
- **Brooke Williams** (Longwood Rotoract) told us that she started this branch of Rotarians, which has membership of 18-30year olds. She has recruited fourteen members and they will have a celebration of their formation at Genesis Health Ventures on State Street on Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:30pm---the community is invited. Email: Bmwilliams719@gmail.com
- **Aline Oliver** (MCHC Executive Director) told us that this agency services pregnant women and children up through 5 years of age. They are home-based programs, which educates and provides support. They also have a fatherhood initiative and a kindergarten readiness process. He is looking for a Manager of The Family Center, who is bi-lingual and has had managing experience. Email: aoliver@ccmchc.org
- **Tracy Weldon** (American Heart Association) told us that she will be in the area for a couple of years, helping provide guidance and education around access to healthy foods for the migrant worker. She will be part of ACTIVATE Kennett Square, which is promoting individuals self-managing a healthy lifestyle. Email: tracy.weldon@heart.org
- **Nancy Nicewonger** (First Baptist Church) told us about the nursery/daycare that serves children from 6 weeks-6 years. They have openings for enrollment and opportunities for

employment. They are planning an Open House in August. Please contact Nancy if you are interested in attending. Email: nnicewonger@gmail.com

- **Dan Nicewonger** (Pastor of First Baptist Church) told us that he is looking forward to working with the community and is happy to finally be attending a Bridging meeting after his residency of one year. Email: fbc.pastor.ks@gmail.com
- **Thomas Trendelenburg** (Community) told us that he has his Phd in Engineering and would like to work on a project that recycles waste into energy. He will now be working out of his home, so can get more involved in community work.
Email: trendelenburg@msn.com
- **Amanda Schneider** (Kennett Rotoract) told us that she is interested in community volunteering. She is an Environmental Engineer.
- **Hilda Grauman** (Kendal Communities) told us that she volunteers as an interpreter at CVIM and finds great satisfaction in this role. She encourages others to visit Community Volunteers in Medicine in West Chester, learn of volunteer opportunities and to make referrals to the “working poor”, which may receive medical and dental care on a sliding scale fee and many times gratis.
- **John Grauman** (Brother of Hilda) grew the beans that we had for our picnic dinner.
- **Ben Wann** (Kennett Rotoract) told us that he works for Johnson and Johnson and acts as a Senior Finance Analyst and is serving as Treasurer of Rotoract. Email: Benjamin.wann@verizon.net
- **Laurie Jacobs** (Kennett Rotoract) is looking for volunteer opportunities. Contact another Rotoract member for contact information.
- **Jorge Chamorro** (Cristo Rey United Methodist Church in West Grove—arrived at the end of the meeting) told us that his church is organizing an effort to “Stop Hunger Now.” It involves donating \$2,900 to purchase 10,000 meals for Third World countries, then a “work day” of packing meals. They would like to involve churches, service groups and individuals in the effort. They will need a large meeting space to pack the meals. Email: jorch@oppy.com
- **Linda Jones** (MLK Advocates) told us that Church of the Open Door is “bridging” with West Grove Methodist Church and are reading the book, “The Little Things” to engage in a dialogue about black and white relationships. Email: office@umcod.org

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

- **Matrie Johnson** (Home of the Sparrow) told us that they are a program and a site, which helps homeless single mothers and children. They are focusing on eviction prevention in SCC and will receive referrals. There is also rental assistance. Volunteer opportunities. Email: mjohnson@homeofthesparrow.org
- **Jackie Maas** (Kennett Area Senior Center) wore several hats tonight. 1) She reports that the Yard and Book sale at KASC was very successful. Look for another one in September. They need donations. Prices are low, so it is good to inform low-income clients. Also, the Center has 40 food vouchers for fresh fruit and veggies for seniors, who make less than \$21,000/year. 2) Jackie promotes the ESL program at LCH and encourages referrals and volunteers. 3) There will be a free Kennett Symphony Concert the day of the Mushroom Festival. 4) She also reports that her daughter, Juliette is in Nepal working with Conscious Impact. There are opportunities for volunteers to make a great difference in this country after the earth quake's devastation. Jackie was given the "Cool Hat" award by Dave Haradon this evening. Email: jmaas@kennettseior.org
- **Kathy Do** (After the Bell) told us that a new After the Bell session will be starting 9/29-11/05/15. They are looking for volunteers who will conduct an enrichment class (may be designed by the volunteer with an interest to share), or be a supportive helper. They hold sessions Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for middle school students. Email: executivedirector@afterthebell.org or afterthebell@kcsd.org
- **Laura Mackiewicz** (LCH) told us that their agency will be closed for two weeks for renovations. There will be services offered at different sites. Please check out their web site for information to give to clients at: www.lacomunidadhispana.org Also, there are vendor tables open for Vive tu Vida, a health fair for all community members at the Anson B Nixon Park, 9/26/15. Email: LMackiewicz@lchps.org
- **Kecia McMillion** (Director of Education for Sylvan Learning of Newark) told us that Sylvan would like to provide services in the SCC area. Currently, they are located at 530 Peoples Plaza, Newark, DE. They provide study skills, math, writing, reading, homework help and SAT/ACT Preparation. They have STEM Programs, Robotics, Coding and Math Edge. They are now offering Robotics Birthday Parties. Some programs are free. Email: sylvan.newark@sylvanlearning.com or check out the website at: www.sylvannewark.com. She also told us that as a member of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church that they still will accept contributions to help LGBT hostages in Uganda. Email: keciamcm@me.com
- **Anne Humes** (Kendal Communities) told us that there is a married couple, who recently moved to Kendal, who would like to have contact with any groups that are working on

- Robin Slater “bridged” with Esther Rochester about the agency, Wings for Success, which has a center right down the street from His Mission; in the old court building. They are looking for referrals for low-income women, who need clothing for work.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Joan Holliday about buying an ad for New Garden AME program booklet.
- Linda Jones “bridged” with Anne Humes to invite the new Kendal residents, who would like to get involved in social justice with the MLK Advocates. She also “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez around the altar at *Dia de los Muertos* with Laura Gonzalez.
- Beth Adams “bridged” with His Mission and came up with the idea of holding “Toilet Paper Drive” for His Mission.
- Aline Oliver “bridged” with Jorge Chamorro to help church members with health insurance enrollment; with Matrice Johnson and her services at Home of the Sparrow; and with Marianne Maye about enrollment at Tick Tock Early Learning Center for MCHC clients. He commented that it is helpful to talk to the broader community to learn where the service gaps exist.
- David Haradon “bridged” with Jorge Chamorro about involvement with “Stop the Hunger” and recruited Pastor Dan Nicewonger to be a Longwood Rotarian.
- Kathy Do “bridged” with several attendees about volunteer interest in After the Bell.
- Sylvia Barreiro Thomas “bridged” with Aline Oliver about volunteer opportunities at The Family Center for MLK Volunteer Day. She “bridged” with Jeanne Searer about multi-cultural opportunities for Upland students.
- Tracy Weldon “bridged” with Fran Maye around news coverage for the ACTIVATE Kenentt/American Heart Association food access outreach. She “bridged” with several others, who are interested in being involved in this effort.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Christian Samulewicz about an Inter Gen project, which involves growing the diversity of the KHS band through an effort to provide used, restored musical instruments to elementary and middle school children, who do not have the funds to get involved in the band. She also “bridged” with Jeanne Searer around contact with veterans for *Dia de los Muertos*.

Thanks to our gracious hosts, His Mission! We passed the hat at the end of the meeting and \$135 was donated to His Mission.

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2015 at Bethel AME Church, 300 E. Linden Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348.**

THE NEXT BRIDGING MEETING will be held on Wednesday, November 11 at La Comunidad Hispana on Cypress Street. It begins at 7pm.

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Jeanne Searer shared the Framework. **Kathleen Do** shared the Guiding Principles and gave an overview of a Bridging meeting. She reminded the group that Bridging has a website which has all the minutes from previous meetings posted.

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The meeting started with a welcome and a prayer led by the Bethel AME new **Pastor, Rev. Michelle McBeth**. She is married to Deacon Jerry McBeth. She welcomed the group and said "our home is your home, you are always welcome. While the congregation is small, our members represent all age levels. We are looking to grow with you." Worship is held at 11 am on Sundays.

New Attendees introduced themselves:

● **Sandy and Eric Luis** of S&L Services on Willow and Cypress Street – their new business specializes in copying, design, layout and translation services. They look forward to serving the community. sandytapia@cloud.com

● **Ruth Ozoline**, newly retired, currently volunteers at Tick Tock Early Learning Center ruth.ozolins@comcast.net

● **Walt and Margie Herbert** recently moved from Central Texas to Kendal. Prior to their retirement, both of them assisted individuals with legal assistance. They monitored domestic court trials and sought to recover wages which weren't paid to migrant workers. Mrs. Herbert, a

retired lawyer, represented uninsured workers in their region. They are interested in serving our community. wherbert@southwestern.edu

● **Sue Minarchi**, the new director of Family Promise of Southern Chester County, reported that they are racing to open the program. The service will help alleviate homelessness for families. They are in need of supplies, including shampoo, detergent, and volunteers to help at the West Grove Day Care Center. She asked the group to share this request to contacts in their networks. Susan.minarchi@gmail.com

● **Corita Brown**, a graduate student at Temple University has worked with the Inter Gen program at Temple University. She is doing research on adults over the age of 65. corita@temple.edu

● **Lindsay Anderson** of Decades to Doorways explained that the organization provides services to those who are presently homeless and works to end homelessness. leanderson@chesco.org

● **Rebecca Piorko-Shelly** works at the Justice Works Youth Center. As the Family Group Decision Making Coordinator, her job is to help families pull themselves back together. She holds family meetings in neutral places, and is seeking a neutral location which is convenient to her clients. Rpiorko-shelly@justiceworksyouthcare.com nsoto-ramirez@justiceworksyouthcare.com

● **Walt and Jeanine Risneski** have a new business which addresses a variety of needs to resolve pain, including massage and acupuncture among other things. waltwrzz@gmail.com

● **Susan Mackie Callas and Karen Amon, board members of the Kennett Library**, detailed the Library's offerings and needs. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate programs, including 1-on 1 tutors to assist to assist about 90 individuals involved in the adult literacy program. She announced that the library has received a grant to support the Children's Place' parent/child program. The library also offers classes including a teen video game class, bluebird house building, Spanish classes, book club and coloring for adults, among others. She encouraged people to sign up for their eblasts at www.bayardtaylor.org. They are looking for grant partners, and organizations interested in partnering should contact Noreen Snook. Susan.mackeykallis@gmail.com

'Seasoned Bridgers' announced their programs -

● **Abby Morgan of KACS (Kennett Area Community Services)** has taken on the role of Nutrition Services Manager. She detailed that their services support families at a higher than normal level – which is the 'emergency' status. Information on their services, including hours, is

available online. Staffing provided by 90% volunteers makes it possible for more people to access their services. Abby-KACS@comcast.net

● **MCHC Corporation (Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County)** is seeking volunteers to visit families homes to prepare children for kindergarten. Volunteers are also needed for copying information and organizing toys. Contact mchc@ccmche.org

● **Dan Cornett of the MLK Advocates and the Church of the Open Door** commented that “What we are doing is changing the world” at the Church, which is attempting to make the church multi-ethnic. A potluck dinner is planned for September 20 at 5 pm at Church of the Open Door. Individuals, especially those from area churches, are invited to come. He is seeking people to make that change happen. The website is www.MUCOD.org

● **Jackie Maas** is representing 5 organizations, including Kennett Area Senior Center- offers many services; La Comunidad Hispana, has free classes; Kennett Symphony Orchestra – a World Class Symphony Orchestra – is giving a free concert on Saturday night; the MLK Day of Sharing committee meets on Friday and she will be recruiting volunteers for community projects. Those interested should visit <http://www.consciousimpact.org/#!/rebuild-nepal/c216w> to learn about the earthquake survivors experiencing terrible struggles in Nepal.

jmaas@kennettsenior.org

● **Cathy Brison of the Kennett YMCA** said the area Ys are planning a Mega Fitness Fest from 9 am to noon on Saturday September 19. It is free and open to the public – activities ranging from Body Combat to Zumba are planned. cabrisonmm@aol.com

● **Laura Mackiewicz of La Comunidad Hispana** reported that Viva tu Vida will be held on Saturday September 26 at the Anson B. Nixon Park. Admission is free and activities include fitness, health and nutrition information, and lots of fun activities for the family. Volunteers to assist are needed. www.lacomunidadhispana.org

● **LaToya Meyer of Study Buddies**, an after-school program, is in need of an instructor to take the lead. trbass15@aol.com or lmyers@historiceastlindenproject.org

● **Claudia Turner of East Coast Migrant Head Start (Path Stone)** announced that they provide services including all-day care to children ages 6 weeks to 6 years. The program resumes the first week of October. To be eligible for the program, the children’s parents must work in rural agriculture. cturner@pathstone.org

● **Ivy of The Garage Youth Center** needs helpers to work with their students after school. info@garageyouthcenter.org

●**Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato)** told us that *Dia de los Muertos* (A Latino custom) is a celebration of the unity between life and death. A time when the spirits of lost loved ones return to earth to visit family and friends. The celebration will take place on Friday, 11/06/15 at The American Legion Hall. There will be altars honoring relatives and community members. This year Rusty Jones will be honored. She also reported that donated baked goods are needed for the Senior Center Bazaar, announced that the Church of the Advent Choir is preparing for a concert which will benefit the Food Cupboard, and she is an advocate for a weight loss program. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

●**Kathy Hrenko** a Longwood Rotary volunteer is also involved with community fundraising programs. khrenko@comcast.net

●**Nina of Justice Works Youth Center** said they are looking for drivers to transport clients. There is a budget to pay for this service. Contact www.justiceworksyouthcare.com or 877-525-5992.

●**Pastor McBeth** announced that the Church is in need of volunteer musicians and singers for Sundays, including an organist and pianist and a painter to paint a mural in the sanctuary.revmpfbp@gmail.com

●**Jessie Cocks**, Chairman of the Hadley Fund, invited the community to attend the program in English and Spanish at the Kennett Meeting House. It begins at 7 pm. She also reported that on October 17& 18 Playback Theatre has a performance. jessiecocks@yesandplayback.org

●Jessie announced on behalf of **Pam Carter** that the Anson B. Nixon Park has a benefit concert on September 27 from 4 to 7 pm to support tree replenishment in the Park. Tickets are online and cost \$10. www.ansonbnixonpark.org pamelacarterf64@gmail.com

●**Wayne Raffin**, Vice Chair of the Kennett Area Democrats announced a Latino voter registration drive is set for September 19 at 3 locations. He needs Spanish speaking volunteers. waynebraffman@yahoo.com

● **Pathstone** needs a bilingual preschool teacher. It is a paid position. ecramer@cartercdc.org

●**Kathleen Do** of After the Bell needs a volunteer to run the Outdoor Sports program beginning Oct. 29. Also she needs a volunteer to ride the bus with students to the Crossfit location. executivedirector@afterthebell.org or afterthebell@kcsd.org

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

- **Sandy bridged with Wayne Ruffin about voter registration.**
- **Kathy Do bridged with Maria and talked to Ethan about a teacher**

- **Cathy Brison distributed a zillion megafest flyers and bridged with Laura about Viva tu Vida**
- **Chrissy bridged with Shelby and Rebecca of the Justice Works Youth**
- **Jackie Maas said to ‘tell Joan that we did a great job tonight’**
- **Jessie Cocks gave out a lot of literature and noted that she is still involved with the Family Promise Program**
- **Jeanne Searer gave out all the flyers she had on Dias Los Muerteros but information is available at www.casagksorg**
- **Chrissy Shelbie said she wished that all groups knew about Bridging**
- **Mechel bridged with the Food Cupboard twice, suggested a couple of possible teachers, talked to Dan, LaToya, Ann and lots of wonderful people**
- **Sue Minarchi bridged with the Library, Karen, KACS, La Comunidad Hispana and Cathy Brison**
- **Pastor McBeth bridged with Karen from the Library who knew the artist who painted the pope’s portrait who could partner with the church mural project**

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at La Comunidad Hispana, 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.** Fifty-two spirited community members attended the 104th Bridging meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7pm at The Market at Liberty Place, 148 W. State St. Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or there is 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.

We started the meeting with a Moment of Silence in honor of the Veterans.

Joan Holliday shared the Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. **Dave Haradon** co-facilitated the Bridging meeting with **Jeanne Searer**.

The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - *peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.* “Bridging” promotes this living philosophy.

Vision: Kennett Square: Every day a better place to grow up in and grow old in

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

Alicia Jones/CEO welcomed us to LCH and expressed appreciation for introducing their “new” LCH to the community. She introduced two staff members present: Margarita Garay Zarco (ESL and Workforce Development) and Laura Mackiewicz (Community Engagement). She told us that La Comunidad Hispana/LCH’s intent to provide integrated services is reflected in the renovation of the lobby area. A client knows when they come into the doors that they are welcome for any of their services. Clients have an opportunities for primary health care, behavioral health, social services and adult education, which includes ESL and Citizenship Classes. They also have a Work-Force Development Program, which partners with 150 companies. Alicia stressed that LCH is a “person-centered” agency. They are opening a new Health Clinic in Oxford and have an Open House on 12/09/15 from 4-7pm at 301 North 3rd St., Oxford, PA. Email: ajones@lchps.org

New Attendees introduced themselves:

- **Alonca Dole** (Girl Scout, Troop 4711) is looking for a volunteer project for her Silver Award.

- **Laura Blonski** (Patton Middle School) Girl Scout Service Project mother was attending Bridging to support her daughter.
- **Karen DAgusto** (Girl Scouts Service Manager) works with Kennett and Unionville. She is holding a training on 12/10/15 for over forty girls for their Service Award. The project needs to be sustainable, demonstrate leadership, and meet a need in the community. Email: Kdagusto@aol.com
- **Noah Lessner** (WCU Student) would like to be the “bridge” for matching up WCU volunteers with Kennett area volunteer opportunities. Email: noahlessner@gmail.com
- **Leslie Lessner** (Community) told us that she attends the weekly Kennett Coffee Klatch, which promotes inter-generational conversations and getting to know new community members. Coffee is free and all ages are welcome! Email: lslessner@gmail.com
- **Judy Petersen** (Oxford Art Alliance Board President) told us that Jay Eaton had attended a Bridging meeting a couple of years ago. We helped them with their home tour. They would like to return the favor and work with us in ways to highlight the arts in Kennett. Email: judy_petersen@yahoo.com
- **Rebecca Daily** (Girl Scouts, Troop 48114) told us that she is looking for a meaningful community project to win her Gold Award. Her mother is attending to support her. Email: thedailyfamily@gmail.com
- **Alaina Darlington** (Girl Scouts) looking for a Gold Service Project. Email: aadarlington@hotmail.com
- **Ruth Krantz Carl** (Retired Director of CC Human Services) told us that she is involved in volunteering on Boards and recently with Family Promise. She is looking for a one-on-one volunteer opportunity. Email: ruthieKc@gmail.com
- **Julie Newland** (Community) told us that she moved from Vale, Colorado and wants to learn more about the Kennett community. David Haradon invited her because she transferred her Rotary membership to the Longwood Rotary and met him there.
- **Daniela Silva** (Kennett Area YMCA Outreach Coordinator) told us that the YMCA will be providing 100 Thanksgiving baskets to lower-income members and will be distributing over 300 children Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree. Email: dsilva@ymcagbw.org
- **Erin Witmer-Yuska** (Tick Tock Early Learning Center Board Director) told us that Tick Tock is a pre-school for low-income children. They are always open to volunteers. They will have their fundraiser/Little Black Dress, April 2016. Email: info@ticktockelc.org

- **Scout Leaders**, who introduced themselves with emails: [Leslie Brennan@comcast.net](mailto:Leslie_Brennan@comcast.net) GillianB9918@gmail.com and **Wendy Jones** at wendy@planetjones.com
- **Alejandra Escamilla and her husband, Victor** (New US residents) told us that she moved from Mexico to be with her mother, Theresa Escamilla. She is interested in learning about our American culture. She spoke about how volunteerism is not the norm in Mexico, and she saw the value in volunteering and the contribution it can make to a community without money. Her husband also articulated the message of wanting to become familiar with the Kennett community and was happy to be attending Bridging.

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

- **Mary Pat Knauss** (Wings for Success) told us about the location in Kennett at: 457 Birch St.; Phone: 610-444-1446. They provide free quality work-appropriate clothing and scrubs to disadvantaged and economically challenged women through a nurturing experience that not only prepares them for job training, interviews and the workplace, but also fosters hope and confidence. Email: mary.pat.Knauss@gmail.com
- **Clara Vazquez (Domestic Violence)** told us that she has an office at LCH and provides assistance to women and children, who are victims of domestic violence. They have three job openings. The positions require someone to speak Spanish and to have some social work experience. Clara will also be out for 6 weeks from 11/20/15, so is looking for a replacement for this time. Email: cvazquez@dvccc.com or go on the web site at www.dvccc.com
- **Jackie Maas** (Kennett Area Senior Center) told us that they will have a “Black Friday” on Wednesday, 11/18/15 from 9am to 2pm for shopping for upscale clothing and holiday gift items. There also will be a Thanksgiving dinner on 11/22/14 for \$10 for seniors and any interested community members. There will be a ServSafe Manager Training and Certification on 11/21/15 from 8:30am to 5:00pm. (All community sites need to have a certified food handler.) Registration Fee \$175. Email: djenkins@kennettseiorcenter.org Jackie also represents the MLK CommUNITY Breakfast Committee and is taking requests for community volunteer projects. Email: jmaas@kennettseiorcenter.org Jackie’s daughter, Juliette is home from Nepal, but will be returning in a couple of weeks to continue to work on the relief that is needed after the earthquake. Juliette is willing to be a speaker at any community forum about Nepal and the relief need.
- **Cathy Brison** (Community) told us that the Hadley Fund provides FREE enrichment programs. The next will be on 12/12/15 at Kennett Friends Meeting. It will be a book discussion with local author, Kathryn Pincus—“Long Hill Home.” Check out

HadleyFund.org; facebook.com/The Hadley Fund and register for free events at:
thehadleyfund.ticketleap.com Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com

- **Kathy Hrenko** (Project C.U.R.E.) told us about her new job, where she will be helping secure medical equipment donations for developing countries. She will be working at a warehouse site at Dansko, 8 Federal Rd., West Grove, PA and will need a wide range of volunteers to help organize and pack--including medical professionals, who can identify medical equipment. Email: info@projectcure.org or kathyhrenko@projectcure.org
- **Joan Holliday** (Community) told the group that National Hunger and Homelessness Week will be starting on 11/12/15 with a Kick-Off in Phoenixville. There will be a Prayer Vigil on 11/15/15 at 3pm at Unionville Presbyterian Church and there will be a Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Walk on Wednesday, 11/18/14 at noon and a 4pm. (Meet under the Genesis Clock Tower---no registration needed.) Please bring food to donate at the food cupboard. Email: dochollisv@aol.com
- **Beth Adams** (Willow Tree Hospice, 616 E. Cypress St., Kennett) told us that they hold "Conversations on Caring" the third Wednesday of the month. The focus is on caregivers and caring for self. The next session will be held on 11/18/15 at 1pm. Email: betha@willowtreehospice.com
- **Mikey Glass** (The Kennett Garage ED) told us that they have two needs. They hold Boy and Girl Session, as well as a Wednesday night event for students. They serve meals. It would be great to have community volunteers providing these meals. The Garage will also be holding a fundraiser on 12/5/15 with a Silent Auction and food. Tickets are \$35. Email: michael.glass@garageyouthcenter.org
- **Sheila Telcavec** (The Hadley Fund and Friends Meeting) encouraged us to take advantage of the many wonderful free programs offered by the Hadley Fund. She also told us about the upcoming Quaker Fair at Kennett Friend's Meeting on 11/21/14 from 11am to 2:30pm with food and craft items for gifts. Email: thehadleyfund@gmail.com
- **Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us about KAC's Empty Bowls fundraiser, which will be held on 2/25/16. Groups may be instructed how to create artistic bowls for the event. Contact KACS for further information call Lucy D'Angelo at 610-812-4814. Jeanne also spoke about Dia de los Muertos and presented a certificate of appreciation to The Kennett Community Choir, who performed at Rusty Jones's altar. Joan Holliday shared the information that Laura Gonzalez sent by email: "It was because of Bridging in July, that I met Linda Jones, Rusty's spouse and was able to expand the Mexican tradition of honoring the dead to the broader community." Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

- **Kristine Smith** (Community) told us about the need for books for children in Buena Vista, VA. She needs books from K to 5th grad by Saturday morning, when she will deliver them. She also is working on the Rose Project, which will host three bands the night before Thanksgiving at The FLASH. Tickets \$12 early and \$15 at the door and donations will be given to KACS/Food Cupboard. Email: artwaves@hotmail.com
- **Anne Humes** (Kendal) told us that they are working on developing inter-generational projects. Some residents asked if there were any projects that they could get involved with over the holidays, and also inquired if any youth would like to come to Kendal and work together on a service project. Phone: 610-388-1199.
- **Jorge Chamorro** (Cristo Rey United Methodist Church in West Grove) told us that his church would like to create a “bridge” between churches and create an event where the church members can learn of the services available to them. Cristo Rey has organized an effort to “Stop Hunger Now.” It involves donating \$2,900 to purchase 10,000 meals for Third World countries, then a “work day” of packing meals. They would like to involve churches, service groups and individuals in the effort. They will be packing meals on 12/5/15. Email: jorch@oppy.com
- **Bob George** (KACS Board Member) told us that he and Melanie Shaner recently attended an Annual Poverty Convention. When he was telling the Story of Kennett, someone encouraged him to write a book about effective models. He and Joan Holliday are working together on the effort. Email: georgert@gmail.com
- **Kayla Higgins** (Chester County Women Services) told us that CCWS provides free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound, education about parenting options, a variety of classes including childbirth and parenting, material assistance, a men’s program, and referrals to other social services. Center is in Kennett Square, 645 E. Baltimore Pike. Email: Kayla@ccwsmedical.org
- **Esther Rochester** (Community) told us that she is now working as a bus aide for Special Needs children and she loves her job. Everyone applauded. She volunteers for Willow Tree Hospice at Friends Home, as well.
- **David Haradon** (Family Promise) told us that Family Promise, the faith-based collaborative effort with 13 churches set-up to help homeless families for 4 weeks a year is now up and running. There is a Resource Center in downtown West Grove where families will be transported during the day and will receive support in seeking employment, housing and other social services. Volunteers are needed. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

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

- Laura Mackiewicz “bridged” with Jay Eaton about working together with the Art Alliance to help provide art for the new Oxford LCH Clinic.
- Karen DAugusto “bridged” with Anne Humes about Girl Scout Service Projects with Kendal residents. Wrapping toys for the children of prisoners on 12/3/15 was one idea.
- Clara Vazquez “bridged” with Kayla Higgins about partnering Domestic Violence with the CC Women’s Center for domestic violence prevention classes and counseling about healthy relationships. She also “bridged” with Jorge Chamorro about speaking at Cristo Rey about Domestic Violence. She also “bridged” with Jackie Maas about a requested project for MLK Service Day.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with the following about possible volunteers for Project C.U.R.E: Girl Scouts; Anne Humes for Kendal volunteers; Mikey for the Garage Youth Center; the Rotarians; Noah Lessner from WCU; Jackie Mass for a MLK Project and with Joan Holliday for retired nurse contacts.
- Kristine Smith “bridged” with two persons about donating children’s books and she concluded she may want to initiate a project like this in the Kennett area. She also met Sheila Tekavec, for the first time, after talking with her several times by phone.
- Mikey Glass “bridged” with several people around the fundraiser. She ‘bridged” with Jackie Maas around a MLK volunteer project for the youth. She “bridged” with Joan Holliday about receiving food gift cards.
- Sheila Tekavec “bridged” with Janet Zeis about passing out flyers about the Hadley Free Lectures and Performances at her daughter’s school.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Ruth Krantz Carl about one option around one-on-one volunteering.
- Jay Eaton “bridged” with Jeanne Searer around conversations with Casa Guanajuto working with the Oxford Art Alliance to promote a similar effort in Kennett.
- Jorge Chamorro “bridged” with Daniela Silva about bringing the Spanish-speaking churches together. He also “bridged” with David Haradon about volunteer opportunities for Cristo Rey with Family Promise.
- Janet Zeis from CC Dept. of Emergency Services, shared the following information:
West Chester University has launched a new online searchable database for students and community members interested in participating in meaningful public service. The goal of the website is to match interests and skills of volunteers with opportunities in our community. We need your help with adding non-profit and governmental agencies looking for volunteers.

Please take a couple of minutes to input information about your organization. You can update your information on the website at any point, by emailing Joellen Reindl at JReindl@wcupa.edu. We will also be periodically asking each agency to update information. If you have questions about the new website, please contact Jodi Roth-Saks, Director of the Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs, at JRoth@wcupa.edu. Thank you for participating!

Follow these helpful instructions. Be sure to pay special attention to number 4.

To begin, go to: <http://www.wcupa.edu/volunteersearch>