

**Minutes from 2018 Meetings**

January 10, 2018

March 14, 2018

May 9, 2018

July 11, 2018

September 12, 2018

November 14, 2018

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Kennett Area YMCA, 106 Race St., Kennett Square, PA Twenty-eight engaging community members attended the 117<sup>th</sup> Bridging meeting/gathering on a wintry evening.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Genesis Health Care, 101 E. State St. Kennett Square, PA at 7pm.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site:

[www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.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.

Joan Holliday led us in a moment of silence for the homeless suffering from the cold.

**Joan Holliday** shared the Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. David Haradon facilitated the meeting. Emails: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com) and [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) and [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Kelly Sharp** (Kennett Area YMCA Volunteer Coordinator) told us that the building we were in was there since 1998. Additions were made in 2012-13. The YMCA was originally started in London in 1844 and came to the USA in Boston in 1851. The Y's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all ages. She is always looking for volunteers. Email: [ksharp@ymcagbw.org](mailto:ksharp@ymcagbw.org)

**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**

**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

**Lea Gummy** (Land Conservancy of SCC Education Coordinator) told us that their mission is the perpetual preservation & stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands in SCC. (Web site: [www.tlcforscc.org](http://www.tlcforscc.org)) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events. Volunteers welcomed! Email: [education@tlcforscc.org](mailto:education@tlcforscc.org)

**Maryann Ricca** (Community) told us that she recently retired from DuPont as a civil engineer and is now looking at volunteer opportunities. Email: [maryann.R.Ostroff@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.R.Ostroff@gmail.com)

**Michele Moll** (RSVP) told us that her focus, since coming into SCC is recruiting volunteers for literacy. She is working with the Kennett Schools and Head Start. She has a list of available slots to fill for Pre-School Readers and Reading Tutors. Email: [micheles@rsvpmc.org](mailto:micheles@rsvpmc.org) or [volunteer123@rsvpmc.org](mailto:volunteer123@rsvpmc.org)

**Rev Susan Worrell (Church of the Open Door)** told us that she is holding a session “Living the Autumn Years: Discovery Meaning and Purpose after Retirement.” This is an open invitation to fellow pilgrims on the journey in retirement to explore and share these challenges and discoveries together. This gathering will take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, starting 1/12/18 from 2-3:30pm at The Market at Liberty Place, 148 W. State St, Kennett. For more information, Email: [Rev.S.Worrell@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.S.Worrell@gmail.com)

**Dennis Arrouet** (Community) told us that he is always looking for new volunteer opportunities. He volunteers at Project Cure and also is a Zoom driver for clients who attend CVIM; a medical clinic in West Chester for uninsured low-income employed families. He encourages others to volunteer. Email: [dennis.arrouet@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.arrouet@gmail.com)

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

**Laura Mackiewicz** (LCH/La Comunidad Hispana) located at 731 W. Cypress Street, Kennett Square, told us that they have a premier health care center that takes insurances and also has a sliding scale fee. She is looking into starting a Zoom driver program at LCH for prenatal clients, who don't have transportation. She also needs donated new Women coats, small, medium and large, and Men's coats small, medium and large. Email: [LMackiewicz@lchps.org](mailto:LMackiewicz@lchps.org)

**Kathy Do** (After the Bell) told us that their next after-school cycle is January 23- March 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help out one day a week for six weeks and can get involved in a variety of enrichment activities with the middle school youth. Also, on 1/17/18 from 8:00 to 8:30pm, Joan Holliday and Bob George will be Celebrity Bartenders at the Kennett Brewing Company. There is a competition for tips, which will go to After the Bell program. Please attend and join the fun! Email: [executivedirector@afterthebell.org](mailto:executivedirector@afterthebell.org)

**Mary Ann Piccard** (Community) told us that she would like to volunteer in situations where people need help. Email: [hobbyist2037@verizon.net](mailto:hobbyist2037@verizon.net)

**Karen D'Agusto** (Girl Scouts Service Manager) told us that she is a member of Indivisible KSQ, which is a group of concerned citizens in the Kennett Square area who are working to open more doors and to help more people in the community. Karen works on the Legal Committee, which has created “Rights” cards for undocumented migrant workers with information about their rights and available resources to guide them. She has them available for anyone to pass out. She also told us that the Girl Scout cookies are coming. They just had a rally and are learning many life skills in the process. They have many community volunteer outreach efforts throughout the year. Email: [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

**Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us that she will be starting her TREVOSE Behavior Modification Program for weight loss on 1/24/18. She also said that Casa Guanajuato is starting to prepare for Cinco de Mayo. They need judges for selecting the young girl teen as “queen,” who needs to love history and culture and have talent. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Courtney Taylor** (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is Program Assistant. This organization works with young moms to help them reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They have "Club Night" once a month (in Kennett and Oxford) during which time a presentation is given and a meal is shared. During this time, volunteers are needed for childcare and preparing and serving the meal. They also are looking for volunteer mentors, tutors and drivers. They will hold their fundraiser on 3/10/18 at Willowdale Chapel. Email: [Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com)

**Natalie Coqueron** (Child & Family Focus) told us that she is the Coordinator for Respite Services. They are looking for employees, who will provide respite care for parents for youth from 3-21 years old with mental health issues. They also are open to referrals. [ncoqueron@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:ncoqueron@childandfamilyfocus.org)

**Stephanie Bernasconi** (Education Coordinator for Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) told us that they have many educational programs. On 1/24/18 they have a photographic presentation of the wildlife found in the area and then a Winter Hike on 1/28/18 to take what was learned from the lecture and see it in real life. They have their annual Polar Plunge on 2/10/ at 10am until noon at the Brandywine Picnic Park. And, they have summer camps for children 2-15 years old and have scholarships. Register on line at: [www.brandywineredclay.org](http://www.brandywineredclay.org); Email: [sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org)

**Deena Jones** (Community) told us that she would like to volunteer in the community. She is a member of the Kennett Square Rotary Light, which meets once a month and focuses on volunteering. She attends Bridging to get volunteer ideas for the Rotary. Email: [sweetdeenajones@aol.com](mailto:sweetdeenajones@aol.com)

**Rev. Marvin T. Williams** (Pastor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church) told us that as soon as his "cooks" meet this week-end, he will send out an invitation to the community for a free soup luncheon on a Saturday. He would like to bring together community members through this event. Email: [drwilliams9812@gmail.com](mailto:drwilliams9812@gmail.com)

**Joan Holliday** (Community) told us that the Hadley Fund provides funds for free community enrichment events. Their next event will take place at Friends Meeting this coming Sunday, 01/14/18 at 2pm with Mark Bowden, author of Black Hawk Down, being the Presenter. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Kathy Hrenko** (Project Cure) told us that medical equipment is sent to developing countries. They always are looking for donations and need volunteers to sort and pack. [Kathyhrenko@projectcure.org](mailto:Kathyhrenko@projectcure.org) and check out the web site at: [www.projectcure.org](http://www.projectcure.org)

**Cathy Brison** (MLK Advocates) told us that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK CommUNITY breakfast will take place on 1/15/18 from 8am to 10am. Keynote Speaker: Bishop Dwayne Royster on "Social Justice Through the Power of Compassion." Tickets are \$20. Email: [Cabrisonmm@aol.com](mailto:Cabrisonmm@aol.com)

**Rotarians in the Group**---David Haradon, Kathy Hrenko, Kathy Do, Deena Jones told us that their motto is: "Service above self." They are open to volunteer projects, so remember to contact them.

**Janet Zeis** (CC Emergency Services) told us to be the eyes and ears in the community to determine if there are any hurricane victims from Puerto Rico in the area. There are 32 children enrolled in Chester County schools. A mobile unit has been set-up in Lancaster, but if there is a growing need, Chester County will also set-up one. Email: [jzeis@chesco.org](mailto:jzeis@chesco.org)

She also told us that there are some grant funds for agencies, who come up with a creative project idea for disaster prevention. The link (in small writing at the top) to the application is:

<http://www.unitedwaychestercounty.org/long-term-recovery-committee> The deadline is 1/31/18.

**Claire Murray** (Historic Kennett Square) told us that she is the Main Street Manager and is attending the meeting to listen and learn. She welcomes volunteers to help with events; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday for one.

**Email:** [claire@historickennettsquare.com](mailto:claire@historickennettsquare.com)

**Kris Smith** (Community) told us that she missed Bridging so came to say, "Hi!" Contact information:

[artwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:artwaves@hotmail.com)

**Bob George** (Community) told us about the book he wrote with Joan Holliday, "The Story of Kennett: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time," which is for sale at \$14.99. He also told us about the Point-in-Time Count to identify the homeless at one given time in the year. To volunteer, contact the CC Department of Community Development at 610-344-6900, or Melanie Weiler/ED at Kennett Area Community Services at: [Melanie@kacsonline.net](mailto:Melanie@kacsonline.net)

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

- Kathy Hrenko "bridged" with Michele Moll about recruiting volunteers and Maryann Ricca about volunteering at Project Cure. She also "bridged" with Laura Mackiewicz, who will be hosting Boston University of Massachusetts students at LCH, and Kathy at Project Cure.
- Susan Worrell "bridged" with Dennis around Zoom and meaningful work. She also took "Rights" cards from Karen D'Agusto to offer to her church members. She "bridged" with Bob George about senior issues and concerns.
- Kathy Do "bridged" with Stephanie Bernasconi around having a Brandywine Red Clay Alliance program with After the Bell. They will hold the program at Anson B Nixon Park.
- Cathy Brison "bridged" with Rev. Marvin T. Williams around volunteering her husband Mitchell as a cook for the community soup luncheon.
- Natalie Coqueron "bridged" with Joan Holliday about a perspective respite care employee.
- Courtney Taylor "bridged" with Michele Moll about recruiting volunteers.
- Stefanie Bernasconi "bridged" with Laura Mackiewicz about camp scholarships and with Kelly Sharp about signing up her 5 year old son for camp. Stephanie was also pleased to see Lea Gummey, who was a pre-school teacher, when she was in first grade.
- Michele Moll "bridged" with Karen D'Agusto for "Rights" cards.
- Joan sold two books. She also "bridged" with Michel Moll around learning about their model of distributing books to families to promote literacy.
- Kris Smith "bridged" with Janet Zeis about fires in CA. She offered her photography and graphic art skills for volunteer efforts. She sells floor mats, so "bridged" with Kelly Sharp around buying floor mats for the YMCA.
- Deena Jones "bridged" with Bob George about volunteering for Point-in-Time Count.

Some attendees had left, but Chris Smith asked to take a photo of all of us, as a group. They are attached.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Genesis Health Care, 101 E. State St. Kennett Square, PA at 7pm. Thirty-two affable community members attended the 118<sup>th</sup> Bridging meeting/gathering on a windy, chilly evening.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 09, 2018 at 7pm at The Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square, PA 19348**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site:

[www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.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.

Joan Holliday led us in a moment of silence for the 17 victims of the shooting at Parkland Florida.

**Joan Holliday** shared the Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. David Haradon facilitated the meeting. Emails: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com) and [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) and [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Ginger Meadows** (Genesis Health Care) set-up the meeting, but was not able to attend. Joan Holliday told the story of when Genesis was proposing to come into Kennett Square, a small town community in 1998 and the many concerns that the “small town” feel would be gone if a corporate headquarters came into town. This is when *Bridging the Community* meetings started to keep the small community interactions personal and dynamic. Genesis employees now shop and eat in town, which adds to the economy and have drawn in other investors. Thank you to Genesis for the wonderful meeting space.

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**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

**David Park** (Kennett resident) told us that he and his wife and two children are involved in the Kennett community. He is interested in forming a Birth Center, where natural birthing and lactation is supported in the native tongue of clients. He would like to “bridge” with those who would be partners. Contact Keith Smithyman, who referred David to Bridging. Email: [Keithsmithyman@gmail.com](mailto:Keithsmithyman@gmail.com)

**Patty Malloy** (Kennett resident) told us she was invited by Roberta Eldridge and is nosy about what is happening in the area. She has 3 sons and 8 grandchildren. She also may want to volunteer.

Email: [patriciamalloy44@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciamalloy44@yahoo.com)

**Carmela Contro** (Kennett resident) told us that she and her husband moved to Kennett 4 years ago and they love it. She promoted the Kennett Senior Center as a great place to engage fun people and activities. Membership is 50 years on up. Phone:484-731-4130

**Jacqui Baxter** (RSVP) told us that they are looking for volunteers, who will tutor children in literacy through Head Start in Kennett Square and in the Kennett School System. They will provide training and help with clearance checks. Email: [jacquibaxter@rsvpmc.org](mailto:jacquibaxter@rsvpmc.org)

**Rev Lydia Munoz** (Pastor of Church of the Open Door) told us that she and others are putting on a month-long Community Conversations on Gun Violence and its Intersections. It starts on 3/18/18 at Kennett Friends Meeting at 1pm-3pm with setting up the T-shirt memories with names and dates of Chester County victims of gun violence. This memorial will be up until the closing event on 4/22/18 at 1-4pm at Kennett Friends Meeting with a time of remembrance, music, prayer and community forum/panel. Email: [lydiaem0501@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaem0501@gmail.com)

On 3/26/18 Gun Safety/Gun Violence: An Officers Perspective with Chief Holdsworth at 6:30pm at the Kennett Library.

On 4/5/19 Intersections: Systemic Racism, Gun Violence and Communities of Color at Lincoln University. (Time to be determined)

On 4/11/18 Changing the Story Around Violence at Kennett Friends 7pm with Sarah Kastriner and Jessie Cocks.

On 4/18/18 Intersections: Domestic Abuse and Gun Violence 7pm at St. Patricks Catholic Church.

**Marsha London** (Kennett resident) told us that she has lived in Kennett for 4 years. She is a friend of Steve Baciani. She loves the town and likes the way people support each other to make progress, which she states, "takes a long time to make!" Email: [marshalouiselondon@gmail.com](mailto:marshalouiselondon@gmail.com)

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

**Joan Holliday** (Community) told about the exciting Kindergarten Readiness Project, which has over twenty agencies working together with the Kennett School District to extend their programming to help with kindergarten readiness. At the last Bridging meeting, Joan met Michele Moll from RSVP and together they wrote a proposal to the Pia Foundation to fund the Lucky Reader Literacy Project for preschoolers. They received the funds for RSVP to implement the parent-child training for this pre-school literacy program, and volunteers have started a used book drive to collect pre-school books. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Cecilia Arce** (CCMCHC/The Family Center) told us about the Parenting Classes that they are putting on for 12 weeks to help parents learn ways to support their children becoming kindergarten ready. They are working in concert with the Kindergarten Readiness Project and the School District. They also have Healthy Start advocates, who make home visits and help families prenatally through 2 years. (The Family Center up thru 5 yrs.) They help with enrollments for medical insurance. She shared information about the Single Mothers conference on 4/14/16 from 9am to 3:30pm at Henderson HS, West Chester, PA Email: [carce@ccmchc.org](mailto:carce@ccmchc.org)

**Courtney Taylor** (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is Program Assistant. This organization works with young moms to help them reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They have "Club Night" once a month (in Kennett and Oxford) during which time a presentation is given and a meal is shared. During this time, volunteers are needed for childcare and preparing and serving the meal. They also are looking for volunteer mentors, tutors and drivers. They had a successful fundraiser on 3/10/18 at Willowdale Chapel. Email: [Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com)

**Jessie Cocks** (Community) told us that the Hadley Fund provides funds for free community enrichment events. On 4/5/18 will present Dick Boak Martin Guitar Lecture at Kennett Friends Meeting at 7pm. This is their 55<sup>th</sup> Season. She also told us about The Rainbow Chorale, "Life is a Cabaret!" on 3/23/18 at 7:30pm Arden Gild Hall, 2126 The Highway, Wilmington, DE. Email: [jessiecocks@gmail.com](mailto:jessiecocks@gmail.com)

**Lea Gummey** (Land Conservancy of SCC Education Coordinator) told us that their mission is the perpetual preservation & stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands in SCC. (Web site: [www.tlcforscc.org](http://www.tlcforscc.org)) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events. Volunteers welcomed! Email: [education@tlcforscc.org](mailto:education@tlcforscc.org)

**Pastor Mark Avery** (Greater Works Ministries) told us that he has been pastor for 25 years at the church at 553 Rosedale Rd., Kennett Square. He has been involved on many boards, took time off, and now would like to be reconnected with the community. Email: [Gwmjo1412@gmail.com](mailto:Gwmjo1412@gmail.com)

**Rev. Marvin T. Williams** (2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church) told us that he has been pastor at 132 S. Willow Street for 26 years. He also told us that their church had a free soup luncheon in January and some "bridgers" attended. They are having "Choir Day" 3/18/18 and the church will be filled with music from several choirs. All are invited. Email: [drwilliams9812@gmail.com](mailto:drwilliams9812@gmail.com)

**Meggie Schaeffer** (Community) told us that the idea of starting a local grocery store co-op in Kennett Square is moving forward; they are incorporated. They hold the vision of it being member owned and people working together for better food, stronger communities, and a healthier planet. They will have a table at the Farmers Market and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays and will be reaching out to groups to educate about the this community venture. Email: [mshaeffer916@gmail.com](mailto:mshaeffer916@gmail.com)

**Roberta Cosentino** (Chester County Food Bank) told us about their Fresh 2You Mobile Market. They will have a mobile unit in front of the Kennett Area YMCA the third Thursday of the month; all are invited to buy fresh and local. They will accept SNAP vouchers. She also told us that 4 years ago she attended a "Bridging" meeting and found her first job with Legal Aid, which got her on a new career path and changed her life. She expressed appreciation for the bridging process. She is looking for volunteers, and also needs a Spanish speaking volunteer to help at the Kennett Market (YMCA location.) Email: [rcosentino@chestercountyfoodbank.org](mailto:rcosentino@chestercountyfoodbank.org)

**Roberta Eldridge** (Community) told us that she is putting on a fundraiser to benefit the Treetops Kitty Café, 305 W. State St., Kennett Square. This natural home-like setting provides a space for rescue cats to be visited by potential adoptive families and others who enjoy cats. They have adopted out over 100 cats. The fundraiser---Catstravaganza will feature the mews-ic of "Bubblin Crude" at the Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett on Sunday, 4/8/18 from 1-4pm. \$20/person. Tickets at café, door, or online at Eventbrite. Donations needed. Refreshments served. Email: [robertae28@gmail.com](mailto:robertae28@gmail.com)



**Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us that Cinco de Mayo will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2018. They are soliciting vendors at this time. There will be the selection of Miss Cinco de Mayo on 3/24/18 at The Garage Youth Center at 3pm. All are welcome.

She also is a member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary Post 491. They are raising funds for warriors to attend a week-long healing experience at the Grand Canyon. Dine at P.J. Whelihan's in Downingtown on 5/16/18 and 15% of the proceeds will go for this cause. They need new members to join the Auxiliary. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Kathy Do** (After the Bell) told us that their next after-school cycle at the KMS starts 4/24/18 and goes until the end of May. Volunteers are needed to help out one day a week for six weeks and can get involved in a variety of enrichment activities with the middle school youth. She also told us about a "bridge" she made at the last meeting. Stephanie Bernasconi from Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and she worked creatively to have the Alliance program brought to Anson B Nixon Park for one of the enrichment activities this spring. Email: [executivedirector@afterthebell.org](mailto:executivedirector@afterthebell.org)

**Stephanie Bernasconi's Mother** (Education Coordinator for Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) told us that they are the oldest watershed organization in the country. They are taking summer camp registrations and they have scholarships. There will be the Annual Red Clay Valley clean Up on 3/24/18. Meet at 8am at Anson B. Nixon Park or Kennett Area Community Pool at 8am to volunteer. On 4/1/18 there will be a Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point starting at 10am at 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd, West Chester, PA. Proceeds go to the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance. Email: [sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org) or [contact@brandwineredclay.org](mailto:contact@brandwineredclay.org)

**Karen D'Agusto** (Girl Scouts Service Outreach Manager) told us that the Girl Scouts are in all of the Kennett and Unionville schools. They are all inclusive. They are always looking for service projects. Email Karen at [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com) She will recruit scouts for the project.

Karen is also a member of Indivisible Kennett Square and they are putting on a "Citizenship Day" on 5/19/18 to help community members apply for citizenship. There is a 22 page application to complete. They will have attorneys present to access eligibility.

**Antoinette Gomez** (Community) told us that she "bridged" with the Kennett Area Senior Center at the July, Bridging meeting and is now doing her internship for her doctorate at the Center. She said the Center has an Assisted Senior Program for members with early dementia, which provides respite for family members from 9am to 3pm. Check out their web site for this month's varied enriching and educational activities. [www.kennettseniorcenter.org](http://www.kennettseniorcenter.org)

Antoinette is a member of a Women's Group called, "The Drifters. They are seeking African American high school candidates to provide a supportive college scholarship. Please let her know of avenues to advertise the information. Email: [Harmonycounseling709@gmail.com](mailto:Harmonycounseling709@gmail.com)

**Ron Turner** (Community) told us that the raised beds for gardening are now available at \$25 a bed at Anson B Nixon Park. These small beds provide a large amount of produce throughout the summer. For further information, leave a message at 610-444-1416 or Email: [ksqcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:ksqcommunitygarden@gmail.com)

**Claudia Turner** (PathStone) told us on McFarlan Road they have a PathStone PreK Counts and a PathStone East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. They enroll children from 3 weeks to 5 years. They are looking for a Pre-K Counts bi-lingual Teacher. She has applications. [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)

**Louise Bennett** (Kendal Communities) told us that they are looking for local businesses and community organizations to attend a special community event from 2-4pm, Thursday, June 7, 2018 at Kendal to introduce themselves to the new and old residents. She has registration forms. To register email Louise at: [louise@bennethousehold.com](mailto:louise@bennethousehold.com) or call 610-388-2756.

**Anne Humes** (Kendal Communities) told us that she had crayons, books and other items for clients at LCH Health Clinic. She also told us that Kendal collects household items that are needed for His Mission, as their residents transitioned into their own apartments.

**Kathy Hrenko** (Project Cure) told us that medical equipment is sent to developing countries. They always are looking for donations and need volunteers to sort and pack. [Kathyhrenko@projectcure.org](mailto:Kathyhrenko@projectcure.org) and check out the web site at: [www.projectcure.org](http://www.projectcure.org)

**Kelly Sharp** (YMCA) wanted to let everyone know that they need volunteers for: 1) Healthy Kids Day on 4/21/18 from 9am to 3pm; 2) Looking for volunteers to help 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students learn about water safety on multiple dates in May from noon to 2pm. 3) Looking for volunteers to help behind the scenes for Dance Showcase Recital on 4/28/18 from 9am to noon. 4) Looking for volunteers for Special Needs Abilities Program (SNAP) on Tuesdays and Friday nights to assist students. Email: [ksharp@ymcagbw.org](mailto:ksharp@ymcagbw.org)

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

- Louise Bennett “bridged” with four different organizations around Kendal’s community event.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Anne Humes to deliver her donated supplies to LCH.
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Claudia Turner about the job position for a bi-lingual pre-school teacher, as she had candidates at the Casa Guanajuato organization.
- Karen D’Augusto “bridged” with Dave Haradon, Kathy Do and Kathy Hrenko, and Rotarians about helping out on Clean-Up Day at Anson B Nixon Park. She also “bridged” with David Park about a summer scholarship for his son.
- Roberta Cosentino “bridged” with Meggie Schaffer around the Kennett Co-Op and the Chester County Food Bank working together.
- Meggie Schaffer “bridged” with Roberta Eldridge who is interested in Co-Ops. She also “bridged” with Lydia Munoz around gun violence conversations, and she “bridged with Louise Bennett about Kendal’s community event.
- Roberta Eldridge handed out many flyers for the Catstravaganza.
- Patti Malloy “bridged” with Carmela Contro and has decided to join the Senior Center.
- Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Jessie Cocks and Lydia Munoz on gun violence conversations; she “bridged” with Louise Bennett about Kendal’s community event. She “bridged” with Lea Gummey around the Land Conservancy educational activities, and with Karen D’Augusto around Brandywine Red Clay Alliance events. She plans to support the Catstravaganza. She also “bridged” with Cecilia Arce around MCHC services.
- Jessie Cocks and Lydia Munoz “bridged” with several persons around the gun violence conversations.
- Kathy Do “bridged” with Cecilia Arce around the CCMCHC Luncheon on 5/10/18 from 12pm to 2pm at the Mendenhall Inn.

- Janet Zeis “bridged” with the CC Food Bank. She shared the idea of having people donate can openers, as many clients who receive food from the food pantries do not have openers.
- Roberta Eldridge “bridged” with everyone with her invitation to attend the weekly Kennett intergenerational Coffee Klatch every Thursday from 10:30am to 11:30am at The Market at Liberty Place.
- Antoinette Gomez “bridged” by learning about two contacts for her college scholarships and with Pastor Mark Avery.
- Karen D’Agusto “bridged” with Pastor Mark Avery about the Girl Scouts helping with shrub trimming around the church and yard clean-up.
- David Park “bridged” with Cecilia Arce and YoungMoms around the Birthing Center. He also “bridged” with Lea Gummey around educational programs at SCC Land Conservancy.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, May 09, 2018 at The Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thirty-eight highly spirited community members attended the 119<sup>th</sup> Bridging meeting/gathering on a cool spring evening.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2018** at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA. The Annual Potluck (No-infrastructure-- a Tom Hoehle inspiration) will start at 6pm, when everyone will show up with healthy food and join in a community meal together. PLEASE bring paper products as a donation and a healthy food to share; grilled meats provided. Meeting begins at 7pm.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site:

[www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.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.

**Dave Haradon** led us in a moment of silence to reflect on Kennett Square and our sense of community.

**Anita O'Connor** (ED of Kennett Area Center) told us that the Center was started in 1972 and met in the Kennett Presbyterian Church for some time. It then moved to the current location, which was renovated in 1989. The Kennett Area Senior Center is committed to preserving and enhancing the dignity and well-being of all adult residents of SCC by providing a vital assortment of services that enrich social relationship, foster physical health, encourage educational interest and promote self-reliance. They helped 650 people complete their tax forms and saved \$7,000 through rebates etc. They also advocate for seniors when needed. In addition, they have an Assisted Senior Program, for seniors who have mild dementia. Anita emphasized that they are not a Center of rocking chairs and inactivity; the seniors are very active. Email: [aconnor@kennettseiorcenter.org](mailto:aconnor@kennettseiorcenter.org)

**Joan Holliday** shared the Framework with **Jeanne Searer** and **Anita O'Connor** shared the Guiding Principles. David Haradon facilitated the meeting. Emails: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com) and [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com) and [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

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, as each has a role to play--not focused on hierarchy**

**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

**Patricia Blades** (Community) told us that she volunteers at the Resale Book Shoppe in town for the Senior Center and also has signed up to be a volunteer for the RSVP literacy program for preschoolers.

Email: [trish.19.68@comcast.net](mailto:trish.19.68@comcast.net)

**Melissa Brooks** (Community) told us that she moved here a year ago. She was a strong volunteer in her previous community and would like to explore options here. Alicia Hicks, her cousin suggested she attend the Bridging meeting. Email: [melissacb74@yahoo.com](mailto:melissacb74@yahoo.com)

**Brendan Murphy** (Community) told us that he is retired from the Navy after 29 years of services. He would like to get involved in community service now. Email: [BRENDAN.J.MURPHY8@gmail.com](mailto:BRENDAN.J.MURPHY8@gmail.com)

**Susan Froning** (Community) told us that a friend invited her to attend. She is a previous KCSD teacher and now volunteers at Mary D Lang. Email: [sefksq@aol.com](mailto:sefksq@aol.com)

**Robin Martin** (The Oaks Ministry) told us that she started The Oaks Ministry in 2012 when the scripture Isaiah 61:1-3 inspired her to provide transitional housing for women. She has two homes to house women in transition. If you have a referral, please contact her. She also is looking for a house manager, who will live with the residents for free boarding. Applicant could have a full or part-time job outside. Email: [robinmartin3@hotmail.com](mailto:robinmartin3@hotmail.com)

**Shannon Flanagan** (CCMCHC) told us that she had a 600 hour internship with Maternal Child Health Consortium and now has been hired to be a parent educator in the new MCHC office in Oxford. She is graduating from West Chester University on 5/12/18. She is attending Bridging to learn about the community. Email: [sflanagan@ccmchc.org](mailto:sflanagan@ccmchc.org)

**Crystal Cruz** (CCMCHC) told us that she also will be a home parent educator in Oxford. She and Shannon's office will be at the Oxford Neighborhood Services. Email: [ccruz@ccmchc.org](mailto:ccruz@ccmchc.org)

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

**Ron Turner** (Community) reminded us that Tuesday, 5/15/18 is the primary election. He will be working at the voting polls. He encouraged us to vote and if you are not registered, please come to the polls for registration forms and you will be able to vote in November.

**Claudia Turner** (Path Stone) told us they are located on McFarlan Road. They have a PathStone Pre-K Counts and a Path Stone East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. They provide quality child care for children from 3 weeks to 5 years as well as family services. Their Head Start program runs from September through March. Pre-K Counts runs throughout the school year. Path Stone has training for employment and housing help. Email: [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)

**Courtney Taylor** (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is Program Assistant. YoungMoms inspires and equips young moms to build thriving futures for themselves and their families. This organization helps young moms reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They have "Club Night" once a month (in Kennett and Oxford) during which time a presentation is given and a meal is shared. During this time, volunteers are needed for childcare and preparing and serving the meal. They also need volunteer mentors, tutors and drivers. Email: [Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com)

**Ann Barr** (Mobile Workforce Navigator) told us that she helps individuals seek employment through resume writing, transportation to PA Career Link and the United Way Financial Stability Center of CC. She is available for walk-in appointments at the Kennett Library on Mondays from 9am to noon and KACS from 1pm to 4pm and the same times and locations on Friday. She also is in Phoenixville on Wednesdays and Coatesville on Thursdays.

There will be a Digital Power Skills Bootcamp: Word Training 5/22& 5/24 from 9am to 4pm; Resume Re-Invention Workshop 5/25 from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

For more information call 610-331-4101 or email [abarr@openhearthisc.org](mailto:abarr@openhearthisc.org)

There will be a Blood Drive at Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, 290 State Rd, West Grove, PA on 6/3/18 from 8am to 1pm. Call: 1-800-RED CROSS for an appointment.

**Kathy Do** (After the Bell) told us that this will be her last Bridging meeting as she is moving to Lewis, Delaware and will also have an apartment in Washington DC, where her husband works. She will still continue to write grants for After the Bell, and is also open to contract to do grant writing for other programs. She has been attending Bridging for four years. We applauded her good work and her community bridging. Email: [afterthebell@kcsd.org](mailto:afterthebell@kcsd.org)

**Dawn Doherty Kohl** ( After the Bell) told us that she will be the representative a Bridging now that Kathy Do is moving. After the Bell is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. They provide enrichment sessions for middle school students at the school. Anyone with a hobby or interest they would like to share for 6 weeks/once a week with the students is needed. Many volunteer opportunities. Sessions run fall, winter and spring. You can volunteer for one of the sessions or all. Email: [executivedirector@afterthebell.org](mailto:executivedirector@afterthebell.org)

**Kate Uhler** (The Constellation Network) told us that she attended a Bridging meeting in 2009 looking for a job and found one through the meeting. She worked at KACs for several years and now, through The Constellation Network is partnering with them through their Bridges Out of Poverty process. She explained that Constellation's work is one of joining forces together to make a greater difference. They offer a workshop for the general public to learn about how to work together to help reduce the barriers to getting out of poverty. This is called the **Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop**; email Kate if you are interested in attending. They also are holding a **Getting Ahead Workshop** for low-income families. This will be held at Oxford Neighborhood Services for 16 weeks. They need babysitters for 3 hours once a week from 8:30am to 11:30am. **There will be a Community Opportunity Network meeting on 7/17/18 from 6-7:30pm; Location TBA**---If you would like to hear more the above programs and about the subcommittees that are working on housing, transportation and seniors contact Kate:

[KUhler@theconstellationnetwork.com](mailto:KUhler@theconstellationnetwork.com) or Ben Stafford at: [BStafford@theconstellationnetwork.com](mailto:BStafford@theconstellationnetwork.com)

**Stephanie Bernasconi's** (Education Coordinator for Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) told us that they are the oldest watershed organization in the country. They are taking summer camp registrations and they have scholarships. They offer a variety of Scout Programs. They have Star Gazing with CC Astronomical society 5/18 from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm and Birding with the WC University Birding Club on 5/19 from 8am to 10am. Minimal charge. She encouraged us to go to the web site at: [www.brandywineredclay.org](http://www.brandywineredclay.org) Email: [sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org) or [contact@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:contact@brandywineredclay.org)

**Pam Carter** (Anson B Nixon Park) told us that there will be free summer concerts in the park; they start 6/20/18. Check out the web site at [www.ansonbnixonpark.org](http://www.ansonbnixonpark.org) She also told us about the raised beds for gardening and some may still be available; Email: [ksqcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:ksqcommunitygarden@gmail.com). There will be a Dog Park by mid-summer, as well. Email: [pamelacarterf64@gmail.com](mailto:pamelacarterf64@gmail.com)

**Louise Bennett** (Kendal Community) **Louise Bennett** (Kendal Communities) told us that she is a Kendal representative for those residents, who can't get out at night. She brings back flyers from this meeting and posts them on their bulletin board. Email: [louise@bennetthousehold.com](mailto:louise@bennetthousehold.com)

**Kristin Proto** (The Garage) told us that they are an afterschool program for middle and high school students. They are located at 115 S. Union St., Kennett Square and they have a site in West Grove. They serve approximately 500 students each year. They provide help with homework, mentoring and an initiative related to community service.

They have a MAPs initiative, which pairs students with a case manager to launch successfully after high school. This summer a summer internship program will pay the salary of 10 students (Ages 15-19 years.) These students will be placed in businesses related to the profession they will be pursuing. Kristin is looking for business sites related to ultrasound, engineering and the medical profession. Students will work from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Kristin told us that there will be a 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraiser Raffle event at Hartefeld Country Club on 5/20/18 from noon to 4pm. It is a free event with activities for children. She is selling tickets for three prizes: Prize 1; \$10,000, Prize 2: \$1,500 and Prize 3: \$500. Email: [kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org](mailto:kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org)

**Jacqui Baxter** (RSVP) told us that they are looking for volunteers, who will tutor children in literacy through Lucky the Reader project, which trains parents with children to read together. This program will be part of the Kennett Kindergarten Readiness Project, which hopes to reach 500 families with this program. RSVP will provide training and help with clearance checks. We are always looking for more donated pre-school books with lots of pictures. (For donating books email Joan Holliday at [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com), who will pick them up.) For volunteering email: [jacquibaxter@rsvpmc.org](mailto:jacquibaxter@rsvpmc.org)

**Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us that Cinco de Mayo on May 6<sup>th</sup> was a great success. She thanked the community for their involvement and attendance.

She also is a member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary Post 491. They are raising funds for warriors to attend a week-long healing experience at the Grand Canyon. Dine at P.J. Whelihan's in Downingtown on 5/17/18 and 15% of the proceeds will go for this cause. They need new members to join the Auxiliary. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Karen D'Agusto** (Girl Scouts Service Outreach Manager) told us that the Girl Scouts are in all of the Kennett and Unionville schools. They are all inclusive. They are always looking for service projects. She will recruit scouts for the project if you provide information. Email Karen at [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

Karen is a member of Indivisible KSQ, which will be sponsoring a Citizenship Day on 5/19/18 at Kennett Friends Meeting. They will provide help with filling out the forms (22 pages) and have an attorney on hand to assist and answer questions. Please make referrals. Email: [kdagusto@aol.com](mailto:kdagusto@aol.com)

**Britton Mendenhall** (Community) presented their idea of starting a local grocery store co-op in Kennett Square. They hold the vision of it being member owned and people working together for better food, stronger communities, and a healthier planet. They are now fundraising. They need \$3,000 to become incorporated. They are having a fundraiser at The Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen, 108 W. State St., Kennett Square PA on 5/23/17. Please stop in for a drink/dinner and tip the bartender. Also, consider being a guest bartender. The Food Co-Op is applying for a matching grant for seed monies of \$10,000 to do a feasibility study for a Kennett Co-Op. Email: [brittonmendenhall@gmail.com](mailto:brittonmendenhall@gmail.com); [kennettsquarefoodcoop@gmail.com](mailto:kennettsquarefoodcoop@gmail.com)

**Rev. Marvin T. Williams** (2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church) told us that he has been pastor at 132 S. Willow Street for 26 years. They hold an annual Mother's Day luncheon, when the men cook and manage the entire event. The mothers receive gifts and \$10 each. On 6/16/18 the church will hold a luncheon for their KHS graduates. They receive a Bible and \$50 gifts. They also have book awards of over \$1,000.

Email: [drwilliams9812@gmail.com](mailto:drwilliams9812@gmail.com)

**Joan Holliday** (Community) announced that "The Story of Kennett: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time" has received a first place award for non-fiction book in the Delaware Press Association and a second place award in the non-fiction book in the National Press Association. She pointed out that the stories of over 50 community members "made" the story. Following is the judges comment: "Superb: important topical & local history. I especially love the very real sense of community and the sense of warmth and caring that permeates each page. Yes to this book!" Joan has books for sale.

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

- Kate Uhler "bridged" with Lizbeth Quintana about child care for the Getting Ahead workshop. She also "bridged" with Britton Mendenhall around being a guest bartender for the fundraiser at the Grain.
- Claudia Turner "bridged" with Britton Mendenhall from the Food Co-Op and also Pam Carter from Anson B Nixon Park to involved her Pre-K Count families in these community processes.
- Melissa Brooks "bridged" with the Garage Youth Center as she has a young relative, who would benefit. She also "bridged" with Courtney Taylor to learn more about becoming a mentor to a young mom. She "bridged" with Dave Haradon about joining either the Longwood Rotary or the Rotary Lite, which meets the second Sunday of the month at Giordano's.
- Jacqui Baxter "bridged" with Patricia Blades and Susan Froning about becoming "readers" for the Literacy Program. She "bridged" with Kristin Proto offering available STEM career presenters from RSVP that could be brought to the Garage.
- Dawn Doherty Kohl "bridged" with Stephanie Bernasconi about the Boy Scout Programs at Brandywine Red Clay Alliance to bring to After the Bell. She shared volunteer information about After the Bell with Brendan Murphy
- Kathy Do "bridged" with Britton Mendenhall about contracting with the Food Co-Op as a grant writer.
- Lizbeth Connors "bridged" with Janet Cleaver about being a volunteer for the Assisted Senior Program.
- Janet Cleaver "bridged" with Stephanie Bernasconi about providing environmental programs at the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.
- Ann Barr "bridged" with Kristin Proto about bringing the student, who is interested in health care, from the Garage Youth Center, to attend a Career Link Health Fair on 5/21/18. She and Joan Holliday also suggested checking with a local oral surgeon for ultrasound internship. She "bridged" with Shannon and Crystal to provide information about her services for Oxford resident seeking employment.
- Louise Bennett "bridged" with several persons to obtain flyers for Kendal's bulletin board.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with Courtney Taylor and Sonia Muckley, who bought the book, "The Story of Kennett."
- Anita O'Connor "bridged" with Ruth Rochester, who was a candidate for receiving some of the supportive services of the Kennett Senior Center.
- Karen D'Agusto "bridged" with Brendan Murphy, as her father went to the Naval Academy, as Brendan did and 20 years earlier she traveled the road that Brendan did.
- Brendan "bridged" with Pam Carter about the upcoming Dog Park in Anson B Nixon Park and the concerts. He also spoke with Dawn about volunteer opportunities at After the Bell.
- Pam Carter "bridged" with Britton Mendenhall about the Food Co-Op and with Karen D'Agusto about the event at Friends Meeting for the citizenship registration.
- Joan Holliday announced that Ruth Rochester and Esther Rochester have been faithfully attending the Bridging meetings for the past 20 years. They were applauded.
- Joan Holliday thanked Tina Butcher for attending and thanked her for hosting next meeting in July.
- Esther Rochester suggested we sing "Happy Birthday" to all the persons having May birthdays.



*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA. The Annual Potluck (No-infrastructure-- a Tom Hoehle inspiration) started at 6pm, when fifty-six spirited community members showed up with healthy food and joined in a community meal together on a sunny July evening for Bridging's 120<sup>th</sup> meeting. Laura Gonzalez led us in prayer before the meal. The meeting began at 7pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018** at Kennett Friends Meeting, 125 W. Sickle & Union St., Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7pm. Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.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** returned as a guest facilitator and helped with the grilling with his "Tom the Chef--No Infrastructure" apron. Tom thanked the Longwood Rotary for their financial support in having new windows and siding installed on the His Mission building. The Longwood Rotary topped off their gift with the purchase of a new propane gas grill, which Tom initiated tonight. Joan Holliday thanked Tom Hoehle and his partner, Virginia Maroun for taking on the role of grillers and food organizers. Esther Rochester expressed appreciation for Tom's presence and his gift of pickled eggs.

**Bobbie Newman** from His Mission told us that this homeless shelter has been in operation for 42 years and was started by her mother Margaret Valentine. Bobbie and her sister, Tina Butcher have taken over since 2010. Bobbie works from 8am to 5pm and Tina works from 5pm to 11pm. His Mission gives residents a "hands-up" to move out of homelessness. They are now transitional housing. Daren Lighty, a current resident, told us that he is ready to move to an apartment in West Chester and has been greatly helped by His Mission.

**Joan Holliday** shared Bridging's Framework and the Guiding Principles. We sent love to Jeanne Searer, recovering from knee surgery. Tom Hoehle explained the format for the meeting: new attendees introduce themselves; announcements of needs and offerings are expressed by all; then there is bridging time and finally we all come back and report the bridges made and CELEBRATE!

**The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected be 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:**

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

**We will value each person's contribution, as each has a role to play--not focused on hierarchy**

**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

**Bill Iloff** (Community) told us that he is new to the community and has joined Friends Meeting and volunteered at Study Buddies this past year. He described Kennett as a "gentle" community and is interested in hearing about more volunteer opportunities. Email: [cheslindogs@gmail.com](mailto:cheslindogs@gmail.com)

**Bonnie Caton** (RSVP) told us that she recruits volunteers for literacy projects. Currently she is working with the Kindergarten Readiness Project with Lucky the Reader program. If you like working with children or seniors, “bridge” with her. Email: [bonniec@rsvpmc.org](mailto:bonniec@rsvpmc.org)

**Jackie Lara & Deb Melon** (CCHospital Prenatal Clinic) told us that Jackie has worked at the clinic for 18 years and Deb for 25 years. They come to Kennett every Wednesday for prenatal clinic. They are interested in learning about resources in the community. Email: [Jacqueline.lara@UPHS.upenn.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.lara@UPHS.upenn.edu)  
[Debra.Mellon@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Debra.Mellon@uphs.upenn.edu)

**Kyle J. Pawloski** (Penn State Intern) told us that he is interning at Friends Home for 8 weeks. He is majoring in health administration and computer science. He graduated from Kennett High School. Email: [KyleJPawloski@gmail.com](mailto:KyleJPawloski@gmail.com)

**Nancy Lopez** (Pathstone) told us that she works in the Pathstone youth high school completion program. She is interested in learning about the Kennett community. Email: [nancylopezsosa@gmail.com](mailto:nancylopezsosa@gmail.com)

**Rochelle Brittingham** (Department of Emergency Services) provides support for the disabled community. She has educational information for individuals, groups and organizations about how to plan for emergencies and disasters with the disabled. Email: [rbrittingham@chesco.org](mailto:rbrittingham@chesco.org)

**PJ Harris** (Community) told us that she has lived in the Kennett community for one year. She has a therapy dog (Maggie) that she brings to Friends Home. Her background is childhood education, so is interested in volunteer opportunities. Email: [pj.harris007@gmail.com](mailto:pj.harris007@gmail.com)

**Julie Hughes** (Community) told us that she retired two years ago from teaching. She has many volunteer roles and is interested in what Bridging has to offer. Email: [julahug1@gmail.com](mailto:julahug1@gmail.com)

**Kathleen Snyder** (Casa Guanajuato) made the Mexican Cactus Salad tonight for dinner and told us her recipe. She told us that she is a member of ACOLA (Advisory Committee for Latino Affairs) for the Borough of Kennett Square. She also is President of Casa Guanajuato. Besides Cinco de Mayo, Casa Guanajuato will be putting on an expanded Day of the Dead in November. Anyone interested in volunteering and helping to create large carpets made with flower petals, seeds, corn, sawdust etc. for the altars, contact Kathleen. Email: [KSnyder291@aol.com](mailto:KSnyder291@aol.com)

**Anna Pucciarelli** (Home of the Sparrow) told us that they provide supportive housing services for single women and mothers who are homeless or in danger of losing their homes. They are located at 969 Swedesford Rd, Exton, PA. They have case managers at Kennett Area Community Services from 9am to 5pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Email: [apucciarelli@homeofthesparrow.org](mailto:apucciarelli@homeofthesparrow.org)

**Donna** (Community) told us that Tina Butcher invited her because she donates items to His Mission. Email: [nitramek@aol.com](mailto:nitramek@aol.com)

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

**Claudia Turner** (Path Stone) told us they are located on McFarlan Road. They have two PathStone Pre-K Counts and a Path Stone East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. They provide quality child care for children from 3 weeks to 6 years as well as family services. Their Head Start program runs from September through March. Pre-K Counts runs throughout the school year. Path Stone has training for employment and housing help. (On the side: Claudia and Tom Hoehle had a photo taken together—the tall and short of it) Email: [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)

**Christine McDonald** (ED Friends Home) told us that they are celebrating their 120<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. They will have activities for the community. On 10/20/18, there will be an Open House with food trucks and activities on premises. Kyle Pawloski encouraged the community to become a sponsor for this event. Community members are always welcome to visit and also volunteer. Email: [CMcDonald@fhkennett.org](mailto:CMcDonald@fhkennett.org)

**Pam Eppinger** (Community) told us three things: 1) The Unionville Fair will take place the first full week of October. They are looking for volunteers. 2) There is available retail commercial space on Rt 1 across from the WaWa. 3) Pam is working with a person, who is a landscaper and also does car repairs; they are looking for referrals. Email: [PhoenixPress2@gmail.com](mailto:PhoenixPress2@gmail.com)

**Roberta Eldridge** (Community) told us that the Treetop Kitty Café has adopted out 162 cats this year. They are looking for sponsors, who would support a cat, until it is adopted out. She made a passionate plea to donate. They need contributions to stay open. Email: [robertae28@gmail.com](mailto:robertae28@gmail.com)

**Carmela Contro** (Kennett resident) told us that she and her husband moved to Kennett 4 years ago and they love it. She promoted the Kennett Area Senior Center as a great place to engage fun people and activities. Membership is 50 years on up. Phone: 484-731-4130

**Karen Martin** (KASC) told us that she supervises the Kennett Resale Book Store. They are having a Teacher Appreciation Day on 8/25/18. For \$30, tax included, a teacher can fill a bag with books. Karen also has gift certificates that the community can purchase to provide or add to the teacher's gift. Email: [furrytails426@hotmail.com](mailto:furrytails426@hotmail.com)

**Kelly Sharp** (Kennett Area YMCA) was attending with her son, RS and told us that there will be a Y Camp Celebration on 7/19. They need groups of volunteers to help with set up/take down and assisting with running activities for this event from 8:30am to 3pm. On 8/12/18 members will have a "Swap Out Book Day." They need volunteers to organize books. They have a Special Needs Abilities Program and on Tuesday and Fridays in the early evenings, they need volunteers to help participants work through instructor lead exercises. Email: [ksharp@ymcagbw.org](mailto:ksharp@ymcagbw.org) or call 610-444-9622- ext. 2338

**Kathy Hrenko** (Project Cure) told us that she is the Operations Manager for Project Cure. They are always looking for donated medical supplies to send to countries in need and also are recruiting volunteers (15 years and older) and groups to provide support. Email: [Kathyhrenko@projectcure.org](mailto:Kathyhrenko@projectcure.org) and check out the web site at: [www.projectcure.org](http://www.projectcure.org)

**Michelle Maloney** (CC 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. There is a Center in Kennett Square, 645 E. Baltimore Pike. There is no charge for services. They have another Center in West Chester and Coatesville. They have a 5K Run in September in Downingtown. They need volunteers. Email: [michelle@ccwsmedical.org](mailto:michelle@ccwsmedical.org)

**Joan Holliday** (Community) announced that "The Story of Kennett: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time" has received a first place award for non-fiction book in the Delaware Press Association and a second place award in the non-fiction book in the National Press Association. She pointed out that the stories of over 50 community members "made" the story. Joan has books for sale tonight. Email: [dochollisv@aol.com](mailto:dochollisv@aol.com)

**Kate Uhler** (Community)---on Kate's behalf, Joan Holliday announced that there will be a Connective Art & Music Festival on 8/04/18. They are looking for volunteers. There will be a volunteer training on 7/18/18 6-8pm at Oxford Area High School Auditorium. Free general admission pass to the festival for working 4-hour shifts. Check out the volunteer opportunities at: [ConnectiveFestival.org/Volunteer](http://ConnectiveFestival.org/Volunteer).

**Laura Gonzalez** (Community) told us that Anson B Nixon Park has 69 raised garden beds and there are still some plots available. She encouraged the community to visit and experience the intergenerational and intercultural relationships being built in this process. She also is looking for a Kennett area community site to hold Al-Anon meetings in Spanish to address the opioid crisis. Email: [gnzlzl@gmail.com](mailto:gnzlzl@gmail.com)

**Dave Haradon** (Longwood Rotary) told us that there are 1.2 million Rotarians around the world. We have 5 chapters in SCC. He introduced **Dawn Talley**, Director of Projects, who helps match Longwood Rotary funds and volunteers with community projects. Kathy Hrenko told us about Rotarians coming from around the area to do service at Project Cure in Jennersville on 7/21/18. This is a time that community members could join to learn more about the Rotary and their commitment to "service above self." Email: [daveharadon@gmail.com](mailto:daveharadon@gmail.com)

**Marina Haley** (Community) told us that she attended Bridging over a year ago and got her first job with Friends Home. She is now working for CCIU part-time and still needs another part-time job to help pay her increased rent. She is a self-proclaimed "hard worker." Email: [marinajhaley@gmail.com](mailto:marinajhaley@gmail.com)

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

- Pam Eppinger "bridged" with Laura Gonzalez about locating a site for Al-Anon meetings. She also "bridged" with Carmela Contro, who convinced her mother, Mrs. McGinnis to attend the Kennett Area Senior Center. She also "bridged" with several people around the Unionville Fair.
- Tina Butcher "bridged" with Anna Pucciarelli about Home of the Sparrow to be able to make referrals to their agency. She "bridged" with Kathy Hrenko who will make cookies for His Mission. She "bridged" with Kathleen Snyder about the Day of the Dead event, as she knows a person who wants to be involved.
- Kathleen Snyder "bridged" with three persons, Nancy Lopez, Kathy Hrenko and Tina Butcher about getting involve in the Day of the Dead event.
- Donna Caton "bridged" with PJ Harris who would like to volunteer for RSVP and Julie Hughes, who would like to volunteer. She "bridged" with Karen Martin about children's books for literacy projects. She also had a "side-bridge" with Michelle Maloney, who has an 8 year old son, who could volunteer to read to younger children with Lucky the stuffed animal Dalmatian, which would also help improve his reading.
- Donna and Tom Hoehle "bridged" with Roberta Eldridge about sponsoring a cat until it is adopted.
- Virginia Maroun "bridged" with Project Cure about donating medical supplies and with Bobbie Newton about donations to His Mission.
- Michelle Maloney "bridged" with PJ Harris who would like to volunteer at the CC Women's Center in Kennett. She also "bridged" with Karen Martin about a teacher gift for the book donation day and "bridged" with Christine McDonald about a sponsorship for Friends Home event.
- Bill Iloff "bridged" with Laura Gonzalez around the community gardens and support around finding a site for Al-Anon meetings.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with 8 persons, who bought the book, "The Story of Kennett." She "bridged" with Laura Gonzalez, who suggested a book club to discuss the book.
- Jackie Lara and Deb Melon "bridged" with Nancy Lopez, who offered as a volunteer to personally provide transportation services to prenatal clients attending the clinic. They also "bridged" with Dawn Talley, who works with Girl Scouts, who make Baby Bundles, which can be donated to the prenatal clinic. The prenatal clinic "bridged" with Kathy Hrenko to donate surgical instruments to Project Cure. They will donate items to His Mission every Wednesday on their way to the Kennett prenatal clinic.

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at Kennett Friends Meeting, 125 W. Sickle & Union St., Kennett Square, PA 19348 at 7pm. Thirty-six highly spirited community members attended the 121st Bridging meeting on a damp autumn evening.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2019 at First Baptist Church, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, Pa, 19348.**

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.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.

**Dave Haradon** led us in a moment of silence to reflect on 9/11 and also to remember the southern states that will be affected by Hurricane Florence later this week.

**Jessie Cocks** welcomed us to Friends Meeting. She told us that she attends Friends Meeting and “loves Quakerism” because it is a faith that accepts all belief systems. One can be a Christian Quaker, a Buddhist Quaker, a Jewish Quaker etc. The church service is one of silence, until one is moved by the Spirit to speak to the congregation. The church body runs the church; there is no priest or deacon.

**Joan Holliday** shared Bridging’s Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles.

The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected be 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, as each has a role to play---not focused on hierarchy**

**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

**Brett Dolente** (Community) told us that she is a retired veterinarian from New Bolton Center. She currently volunteers helping disabled persons ride horses. She promotes voter registration and is at the Kennett library every Monday to help residents sign-up. (Deadline is 10/9/18.) Anyone can vote absentee ballot. Email: [brettdolente@gmail.com](mailto:brettdolente@gmail.com)

**Barbara Bolton** (Community) told us that she is promoting the LCH Health Run on 9/22/18 held at Anson B. Nixon Park. Events include: 5k Run for Individuals & Teams; 1-Mile Walk for Individuals & Teams; 50-Yard “Sunbeams” Children’s Dash. Register on line at [www.LaComunidadHispana.org](http://www.LaComunidadHispana.org) or show up and register the day of the event. She also promoted getting involved with The Garage Youth Center and volunteer with middle and high school youth. Email: [barbara\\_bolton@verizon.net](mailto:barbara_bolton@verizon.net)

**Laura Herman** (Child & Family Focus) told us that they provide respite services for children ranging from 3 to 21 years with a mental health diagnosis. They are looking for referrals and providers. Email: [lherman@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:lherman@childandfamilyfocus.org)

**Julie Brown** (RSVP) told us that they are looking for volunteers, who will tutor children in literacy through Head Start in Kennett Square and in the Kennett School System. They will provide training and

help with clearance checks. Joan Holliday added that RSVP is the provider for the Lucky Reader Program (funded by Pia Foundation) with over twelve pre-school community groups participating in the program. AHHAH is expanding the PULL (Pop Up Lending Library) Campaign to Kennett Square. The Longwood Rotary donated money to build 10 outdoor PULL Stations. There are 20 indoor PULL Stations and they need books to keep the stations stocked. AHHAH is partnering with the Kennett Square Library with the PULL Campaign. If people have books to donate or would like to organize a book drive, please contact Laura Florence at the Kennett Library or myself. For tutoring contact Julie at: [julieb@rsvpmc.org](mailto:julieb@rsvpmc.org) and to donate books contact Laura at: [lflorence@ccls.org](mailto:lflorence@ccls.org)

**Anton Andrew** (Candidate for 160<sup>th</sup> District for State Representative) told us that he believes in peace backed by social justice. He is running for office because he wants to “walk the talk” of being involved to make a difference. He is attending Bridging to learn about what is going on in the community. Email: [anewtonandrew@gmail.com](mailto:anewtonandrew@gmail.com)

**Nolan Morris** (Community) told us that he will be hosting a Story-Telling event on 9/23/18 at the store/State&Union at 4pm. Please contact him if you would like to share your story, or show up. Email: [morisnj1010@gmail.com](mailto:morrisnj1010@gmail.com)

**Karen Dempsey** (Girl Scouts) told us that she is looking for projects for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scouts for their Gold award. Each girl will need to take leadership with an original project from beginning to finish. (This would involve 80 hours.) The Girl Scouts also are open to being involved in a one-time service project. Karen is requesting ideas, arenas and volunteer opportunities for the Girl Scouts. Email: [kmc Demp@aol.com](mailto:kmc Demp@aol.com)

**Jennifer Lewis** (Together for Education) told us that they are looking for volunteers to help support students in the Kennett Elementary Schools. Teachers will identify what is needed and Jennifer makes the volunteer match. Also, the 40 volunteers she currently has are also interested in becoming involved in other volunteer opportunities. Email: [jlewis@tfed.org](mailto:jlewis@tfed.org)

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

**Christine McDonald** (ED Friends Home) told us that they would like to have a voter registration event at their site. They are celebrating their 120<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. They will have activities for the community. On 10/20/18, there will be an Open House with food trucks and activities on premises from noon to 4pm. Email: [CMcDonald@fhkennett.org](mailto:CMcDonald@fhkennett.org)

**Rev Lydia Munoz** (Pastor of Church of the Open Door) told us that community members are welcome to attend their services and events. Check out their website at: [www.umcod.org](http://www.umcod.org). Also they have a convenient meeting space and she welcomes groups to hold meetings at 210 S. Broad St., Kennett Square, PA. Email: [lydiaem0501@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaem0501@gmail.com)

**Lizbeth Conners** (Kennett Area Senior Center) told us that they are hosting a Caregivers Circle Thursdays for the next 4 Thursdays from 9:30am to 11am. Antoinette Gomez is facilitator. Medicare Open Enrollment appointment Book will be open on Thursday September 21. Enrollment and changes in Medicare benefits can be made until 12/7. Also, there will be a Yard Sale on 9/29/18 and the Craft Bazaar Galleria Style on 10/19-20/18. Email: [LConners@kennettSeniorcenter.org](mailto:LConners@kennettSeniorcenter.org)

**Stephanie Bernasconi's** (Education Coordinator for Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) told us that they are the oldest watershed organization in the country. They offer a variety of scouting programs and school programs. They are holding a volunteer work day on 10/6/18 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. They need help cleaning up the 318-acre facility, the Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville WaWaset Rd, West

Chester, PA 19382. She encouraged us to go to the web site to learn of the BRC's 2018 Fall Public Programs at: [www.brandywineredclay.org](http://www.brandywineredclay.org) Email: [sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:sbernasconi@brandywineredclay.org) or [contact@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:contact@brandywineredclay.org)

**Rochelle Brittingham** (Department of Emergency Services) provides disaster support for the disabled community. She has educational information for individuals, groups and organizations about how to plan for emergencies and disasters with the disabled. She encouraged us to go to the web site to learn how to prepare for the upcoming Hurricane Florence effects in our area. <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/09/10/take-action-now-possible-power-outages-flooding-hurricane-florence>) Email: [rbrittingham@chesco.org](mailto:rbrittingham@chesco.org)

**Courtney Taylor** (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is Program Assistant. This organization works with young moms to help them reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They have "Club Night" once a month (in Kennett and Oxford) during which time a presentation is given and a meal is shared. During this time, volunteers are needed for childcare and preparing and serving the meal. They also are looking for volunteer mentors, tutors and drivers. Email: [Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com)

**Kelly Sharp** (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that all the YMCAs in the area are holding a Welcoming Week to the broader community. On 9/15 from noon to 5pm there will be a World Cup Tournament at Willowdale Chapel. On 9/18 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm there will be a Breaking Bread with foods from different cultures. On 9/21/18 from 4:30pm to 8:30pm there will be Multicultural Night with dancers from different cultures. Also, the Kennett Area YMCA is looking for a lifeguard. Email: [ksharp@ymcagbw.org](mailto:ksharp@ymcagbw.org)

**Nancy Lopez** (Community) told us that she has a degree in social anthropology. She wants to know how she can help the community. Email: [nancylopezsosa@gmail.com](mailto:nancylopezsosa@gmail.com)

**Anna Pucciarelli** (Home of the Sparrow) told us that they provide supportive housing services for single women and mothers who are homeless or in danger of losing their homes. They are located at 969 Swedesford Rd, Exton, PA. They also help match homeowners, who would like to rent a room to a single mother. They have case managers at Kennett Area Community Services from 9am to 5pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Email: [apucciarelli@homeofthesparrow.org](mailto:apucciarelli@homeofthesparrow.org)

**Claudia Turner** (Pathstone) told us that they now have two state-funded Pre-K Count classrooms and this opportunity is open to the entire community. They will be starting up their Migrant/Seasonal Head Start for families who work in agriculture in October with 110 slots. They are taking referrals. This is a federally funded program. Pathstone provides other services as well; training and employment services; homeownership and advocacy. Email: [cturner@pathstone.org](mailto:cturner@pathstone.org)

**Marsha London** (Community) told us that she has a vision of a beautiful project for Kennett Square. It involves putting on a performance around the song, "Someone in a Tree—Pacific Overtures." (Check out the YouTube.) Pacific Overtures is a musical written by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman. The show is set in Japan beginning in 1853 and follows the difficult westernization of Japan, told from the point of view of the Japanese. In particular, the story focuses on the lives of two friends caught in the change. It relates to Kennett Square because Bayard Taylor was in Japan writing for the New York Tribune and accompanied the Perry Expedition to Japan from May-September 1853. It could be a celebration of Kennett's history, as well as its willingness to be a "friend to many." Marsha would like to "bridge" with residents interested in putting on the project. Email: [marshalouiselondon@gmail.com](mailto:marshalouiselondon@gmail.com)

**Jeanne Searer** (Casa Guanajuato) told us that there will be a celebration of Mexican Independence Day on 9/16/18 from 4-6pm at Anson B Nixon park. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share and meat will be provided. On 9/20/18 Casa Guanajuato will be providing activities for children at 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. On 9/22/18 there will be the Annual Fundraiser for Casa Guanajuato---providing funds for Cinco de Mayo festival and other cultural events.

Dia de Muertes will take place on 11/2-3/18 at the Garage Youth Center. Residents who would like to get more involved with creating rugs for the altars contact Jeanne for two work sessions at 109 Chambers Mill Rd., Kennett Square, PA. EEmail: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Karen D'Agusto** (Girl Scouts and Indivisible) told us that she has cards for migrants to hand to an officer or ICE agent if stopped. If the person is not the driver of the car, he/she has a legal right to remain silent. She also told us that they are hosting an Open House at Mary D Lang on 9/28/18 to recruit scouts from the kindergarten and first grade girls. Email: [KDAGUSTO@aol.com](mailto:KDAGUSTO@aol.com)

**Jessie Cocks** (Hadley Fund) told us that Friends Meeting has a Friends Fund for Immigrant Support. Donated funds go for legal expenses, emergency needs, interpreter services, citizenship application process and repatriation expenses. She also told us that she is Chair of the Hadley Fund, which supports free concert series. On 9/21/18 from 8-11pm, Hubby Jenkins of Carolina Chocolate Drops and a talented multi-instrumentalist who endeavors to share his love and knowledge of old-time American music, will perform at The Flash. On 10/25/18 from 6-7:30pm Alan Novak & TJ Rooney (Pennsylvania's Political Odd Couple)—political opposites interact in a friendly, engaging manner that encourages political unity. For free tickets, go to: [www.hadleypresents.org](http://www.hadleypresents.org)

**Keith Smithyman** told us that he is one of the bus drivers for Family Promise. He is looking for a vacant barn where he could start a project of fixing up campers or trailers for the homeless. Email: [Keithsmithyman@gmail.com](mailto:Keithsmithyman@gmail.com)

**Roberta Little** (The World's Littlest Art Gallery) will present the First Interactive Art Show---A Call To All Grateful People! **Where:** Mary Pat's Provisions at The Market at Liberty Place, 148 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA. **When:** During regular business hours 6am to 6pm Tuesday-Sunday. **Featured Artist:** YOU! You Write, you Draw, You Rhyme. It's your contribution & expression of GRATITUDE. Email: [robertalittleart@gmail.com](mailto:robertalittleart@gmail.com)

**Laura Gonzalez** (Community) reports that there will be free Citizen Classes. **Monday** from 6-8pm at St. Rocco Center—English & Spanish; **Tuesday** from 6 to 8:30pm at Kaolin/South Mill Mushrooms—English and Spanish; **Wednesday** from 6 to 8pm at LCH in Kennett—English; **Thursday** from 6 to 8:30pm at Kaolin—only English. For more information contact Laura at: [gnzlr@gmail.com](mailto:gnzlr@gmail.com) or Laura Mackiewicz at 610-444-7550; ext 256

**Kennett Square Area Newcomer's Club** is a Local Women's Club. Meet New Friends Join an Activity. For locations and times contact: [President@ksanc.org](mailto:President@ksanc.org) or [www.KSANC.org](http://www.KSANC.org)

**Ron Turner** (Kennett Democrats) told us that the Democrats now have an office at the corner of Cypress and Broad Streets, Kennett Square, PA. They are open from 1-9pm Mon-Fri; Sat. 10-5pm & Sun. 1-5.

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

- Laura Herman "bridged" with Keith Smithyman, who is willing to become a provide for Child & Family Focus respite services.
- Anton Andrew "bridged" with Nolan Morris around the story-telling event. He would like to participate and tell his story.



- Marsha London “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez, Brett Dolente, Jeanne Searer and Jessie Cocks around her “Someone in a Tree” idea. She got more “bounce” and “secret sauce” for the idea.
- Jeanne Searer and Barbara Bolton “bridged” around bringing a new Latino WCU professor to the Anson B Nixon celebration of Mexican Independence.
- David Haradon “bridged” with Kelly Sharp about his daughter being a lifeguard and the possibility of her interest in the YMCA position.
- Rochelle Brittingham “bridged” with Karen D’Agusto about putting on an emergency preparedness presentation to the Girl Scouts.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Keith Smithyman about getting the request out about finding an old barn for a project helping the homeless.
- Brett Dolente “bridged” with Stephanie Bernasconi, who she discovered was her daughter’s supervisor at the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance summer camp. Brett also passed out absentee ballots of several persons to distribute.
- Anna Pucciarelli “bridged” with Claudia Turner about Path Stone Migrant/Seasonal Head Start for her clients at Home of the Sparrow.
- Laura Gonzalez “bridged” with Rochelle Brittingham about putting on an emergency preparedness presentation to the Advisory Committee for Latino Affairs (ACOLA)
- Christine McDonald “bridged” with Julie Brown about Friends Home residents being tutors for students and with Karen D’Agusto about Girl Scout projects at Friends Home.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Ron Turner and Barbara Bolton and sold them books. She also “bridged” with Jeanne Searer who suggested Clarke Green as a person to involve in the PULL Lending library project. She “bridged” with Kathy Ditchfield around her interest in a community project.
- Karen D’Agusto “bridged” with Claudia Turner around projects for Girl Scouts
- Nancy Lopez “bridged” with Courtney Taylor around volunteering at YoungMom’s Club night.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with several attendees at several levels around Hadley fund and other community affairs.
- Dave Haradon “bridged” with the group and took a group selfie!

*Bridging the Community* was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at First Baptist Church, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Twenty-five engaging community members attended the 122nd Bridging meeting on a crisp autumn evening.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 09, 2019 at Path Stone, 421 McFarland Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site: [www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.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.

**Pastor Dan Nicewonger** (First Baptist Church) led us in a prayer to honor the site where we were meeting. He told us that the church is celebrating paying off the mortgage for some remodeling and the addition of the Welcome Center. He told us about the vision of having the church site be a place that is used every single day of the week. This is now happening minus Saturday nights. They have JAM daycare in operation during the day.

He also told us about the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service occurring for the 4<sup>th</sup> year joining together St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Church of the Advent, Unionville Presbyterian and First Baptist. They holds this up as testimony that the faith community is engaged in "bridging." All community members are invited!

**Joan Holliday** shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles.

The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected be our land's energy/spirit - *peaceful, progressive, inclusivity*. "Bridging" promotes this living philosophy for each and every day.

**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, as each has a role to play--not focused on hierarchy**

**New Attendees introduced themselves:**

**Anne Boryowski** (American Red Cross) told us that she is a volunteer recruiter. There are many opportunities to volunteer with blood drives, as a donor, teaching families, joining a disaster action team and more. Peoples' lives depend on the American Red Cross. Email: [ann.boryowski@redcross.org](mailto:ann.boryowski@redcross.org)

**Marcy Trubey** (Keystone STAR) told us that they are an initiative to assure high quality child care and pre-school opportunities are available for all children. They look for resources to refer and support vulnerable families. Email: [mtrubey@phmc.org](mailto:mtrubey@phmc.org)

**Tom MacAulay** (Good Neighbors Home Repair) told us that they provide home repair for low-income families to keep their homes warmer, safer and drier. They take referrals in Chester County and New Castle DE. Along with the home repair, they help restore hope. Check out their web site at: [info@goodneighborshomerepair.org](http://info@goodneighborshomerepair.org) Email: [mac.tom@verizon.net](mailto:mac.tom@verizon.net)

**David Harrison** (Westminster Presbyterian) told us that he is involved in volunteering in this area and in Wilmington. Ron Turner suggested he attend a Bridging meeting. Email: [dharrisononleave@gmail.com](mailto:dharrisononleave@gmail.com)

**Hector Rivera-Enriquez** (Community) told us he is visiting Laura Gonzalez from California, but is considering moving to Kennett Square. He likes the way the community helps each other. His profession is a truck driver. Email: [mickey123161@gmail.com](mailto:mickey123161@gmail.com)

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

**Lizabeth Conners** (Kennett Area Senior Center & Unionville Presbyterian Church) told us that until 12/7/18 there will be Medicare open enrollment. Call for an appointment at the KASC at 610-444-4819.

The Unionville Presbyterian Church is holding a Spread the Warmth drive, collecting winter wear for children and are collaborating with agencies and the community in this process. The drive will end on 11/15/18. Email: [LConners@kennettseiorcenter.org](mailto:LConners@kennettseiorcenter.org)

**Jessie Cocks** (Community) told us the Rainbow Chorale of Delaware will present their holiday concert 11/30/18 at 7:30pm at St. David's Episcopal Church, 2320 Grubb Rd, Wilmington DE and on 12/1/18 at 4pm at Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 Shipley St., Wilmington, DE. Tickets \$25. Available at the door or The RainbowChorale.org.

She also told us to check out Hadley's free events on their web site at: [www.hadleypresents.org](http://www.hadleypresents.org).

Upcoming: Last Sunday of every month---Musical Films and Discussion Series at The Kennett Flash. (Go on line to sign-up. No cost.)

On 12/18/18 *19<sup>th</sup>-Century Delaware Law for African Americans*. Lecture by Robin Krawtitz at London Grove Friends Meeting.

**Cathy Brison** (Community) told us that the 18th MLK Breakfast will take place at The Red Clay Room on 1/21/18 from 8am to 10am. Tickets are \$25. Buy tickets at the next Bridging meeting 1/9/19.

YMCA is collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets and also have an Angel Tree for clothing and toy gifts for children 0-15 years old. Donations are appreciated. Email: [cabrisonmm@aol.com](mailto:cabrisonmm@aol.com)

**Maritza Rivera Cochran** (CCMCHC/Family Center) told us that they have received additional grant funds and are expanding their services to Oxford. They are a home visiting program that helps parents and children prepare for kindergarten. They have two new family educators located at Oxford Neighborhood Services, who will serve 30 families. They are now recruiting families and would like us to make referrals. Call: 610-925-4632 or 610-612-4023. Email: [mrivera@ccmchc.org](mailto:mrivera@ccmchc.org)

**Lara Herman** (Child & Family Focus) told us that they provide respite services for children ranging from 3 to 21 years with a mental health diagnosis. They are looking for referrals and providers. She made a contact through the last Bridging meeting and has hired a new employee for respite care. Email:

[lherman@childandfamilyfocus.org](mailto:lherman@childandfamilyfocus.org)

**Jan Michener** (AHHAH) told us that P.U.L.L (Pop Up Lending Libraries) have been created in Coatesville and now AHHAH is working in Kennett with the plan to have 15 outdoor stations. This project involves funding from the Longwood Rotary and partnerships with the Kennett library, Kendal Communities, schools, The Garage Youth Center, Kennett Senior Center Re-Sale Book Shoppe and now she is looking for artists to help paint the boxes. Please donate a child's book, when you purchase a book at the Kennett Re-Sale Shoppe. AHHAH is also partnering with the YMCA Healthy Kids Day on 4/27/19 for a 5K/1K Run Walk Roll for Children's Literacy to kick off the day at Anson B. Nixon park and will have the Chester County Food Bank truck making healthy smoothies. Email:

[jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.com](mailto:jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.com)

**Norma Diego** (LCH) told us that they are asking for donated new children's coats from 0-18 years old. They will close the drive on 11/30/18. Drop off at: LCH, 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA Unionville Presbyterian will be donating coats to them, as well. Their English class will be having events on 12/17,19 &20 to celebrate the end of their classes. They would like community members to attend and engage in conversational English to build confidence in the students. Email: [ndiago-flores@lchps.org](mailto:ndiago-flores@lchps.org)

**Courtney Taylor** (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is Program Assistant. This organization works with young moms to help them reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They have "Club Night" once a month ( Kennett meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and Oxford meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday) during which time a presentation is given and a meal is shared. They are looking for volunteers for child care at Club Night, donating meals for Club Night and help with transportation for appointments. Email: [Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com](mailto:Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com)

**Laura Gonzalez** (Community) told us that the raised vegetable gardens at the Anson B Nixon Park were very fruitful this year. She would like to expand the membership. Meetings start in February 2019. Please call Laura if you have potential members to recommend. Email: [gnzlzlr@gmail.com](mailto:gnzlzlr@gmail.com)

**Jeanne Searer** (Community) told us that Dia de los Muertos was a great success and brought together many community members of all ages and cultural backgrounds. She also told us that Los Posados will take place on 12/8/18 at 4pm starting from the West Grove Garage Community and Youth Center. The custom is to knock on doors of several homes asking if there is "room within the inn" with interactive songs between actors--Mary and Joseph and the innkeepers. The event will end at the Youth Center for food, beverage and communing. Email: [jeannecrew491@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannecrew491@hotmail.com)

**Julie Brown** (RSVP) told us that they are looking for volunteers, who will tutor children in literacy through Head Start in Kennett Square and in the Kennett School System. They will provide training and help with clearance checks. For tutoring contact Julie at: [julieb@rsvpmc.org](mailto:julieb@rsvpmc.org) and to donate books contact Laura at: [lflorence@ccls.org](mailto:lflorence@ccls.org)

**Kelly Sharp** (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that the YMCA will have a couple of service projects that they will engage in on MLK holiday 1/21/19. She also reinforced donations for Thanksgiving and the Angel Tree. Email: [ksharp@ymcagbw.org](mailto:ksharp@ymcagbw.org)

**Meggie Schaeffer** (Community) told us that the idea of starting a local grocery store co-op in Kennett Square is still in process. They are now organized; have a steering committee and are incorporated. They hold the vision of the store being member owned and people working together for better food, stronger communities, and a healthier planet. They are hosting a community meeting on Tuesday, 12/11/18 at 7:00pm at The Garage Youth Center, 115 S. Union Street, Kennett Square. Bring the whole family; holiday crafts for children. Please come to demonstrate support for the effort, share ideas and volunteer. Email: [mshaeffer916@gmail.com](mailto:mshaeffer916@gmail.com)

**Lea Gummey** (Land Conservancy of SCC Education Coordinator) told us that their mission is the perpetual preservation & stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands in SCC. (Web site: [www.tlcforscc.org](http://www.tlcforscc.org)) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events. They would like ideas from the community for desired programs. Volunteers welcomed! Email: [education@tlcforscc.org](mailto:education@tlcforscc.org)

**Betty Warner** (Kendal Communities) told us that the "bridging" of experienced Kendal residents with ESL students (registered at the Kennett Library) has been very successful. They have had 100 tutors trained and currently have 60 active tutors. Students come to Kendal one-hour/week to meet with their

tutor. She adds that this exchange has enriched not only the student but the Kennett community.  
Email: [bettywarn@aol.com](mailto:bettywarn@aol.com)

**Harry Hammond** (Kendal Communities) told us that they are in the process of creating a partnership with Lincoln University around story-telling that involves both entities. They are happy about this upcoming, enlivening community project. Email: [j.harryhammon@gmail.com](mailto:j.harryhammon@gmail.com)

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

- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Courtney Taylor about her husband preparing a meal for YoungMoms Club night. She also “bridged” with Jan Michener around having a progressive story posted along the mile walk in Anson B Nixon Park. She “bridged” with Lara Herman about having brochures to pass out to friends about respite care volunteering and employment.
- Lara Herman “bridged” with YoungMoms and Keystone STARS about ways to support her mission.
- Harry Hammond “bridged” with Hector Rivera-Enriquez about counseling his ESL student about the truck driver’s licensing test, which his student will be taking and Hector has already taken.
- Laura Gonzalez “bridged” with Pastor Dan Nicewonger, who agreed to provide the church as a meeting place for a Spanish-speaking Al-Anon group.
- Meggie Shaeffer “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez around ways the Anson B Nixon Park raised gardens could partner with the Kennett Square Co-Op. She “bridged” with several others about attending the meeting.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Meggie Shaeffer about speaking to Carter CDC about the Co-Op, as they are residents in town who could walk to the Co-Op store. She also “bridged” with Julie Brown about providing additional books from the Lucky Reader Program to AHHAH for 4/27/19 Healthy Kids Day. She “bridged” with Marcy Trubey after the meeting to assure she attends the Kindergarten Readiness meeting in December.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Betty Warner from Kendal to provide flyers to the residents and promote the music concert and Hadley events.
- Jan Michener “bridged” with Marcy Trubey, Courtney Taylor and Lara Gummy, Betty Warner and Ann Borysowski about ways they could be involved in the AHHAH literacy effort in Kennett Square.
- Maritza Rivera-Cochran “bridged” with Tom MacAuley about Good Neighbors, praising their work, as her mother received help from them. She will make referrals from the Family Center.
- Norma Diego “bridged” with Meggie Shaeffer, who has a bi-lingual sister that would be interested in helping with LCH education. She also “bridged” with Maritza to share information with LCH families about The Family Center in Oxford and their services.
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez and Marcy Trubey about Casa Guanajuato and ways to get involved.
- Lizabeth Connors “bridged” with Tom McCauley. She has made referrals to Good Neighbors, but now has a face with a name. She also “bridged” with Kelly Sharp whose mother-in-law is a volunteer at the Kennett Area Senior Center.

Several members of the group then stayed a while longer after 8:30pm to continue “bridging.”