

Minutes from 2019 Meetings

January 9, 2019

March 13, 2019

May 8, 2019

July 10, 2019

September 11, 2019

November 13, 2019

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, January 09, 2019 at Path Stone, 421 McFarland Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thirty-four hearty community members attended the 123rd Bridging meeting on a clear winter evening.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at Kendal Communities, 1109 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

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

Claudia Turner (Path Stone) told us about the site where we were meeting. Path Stone is a non-profit with locations in several states. Path Stone is celebrating its 50th anniversary and 40 years in PA. In Kennett Square, as a Migrant Head Start for migrant and seasonal workers, they serve 110 children in 5 classrooms from 2 months to 6 years from 7:30am to 4:00pm. They provide quality child care, including education, training, disability, family literacy, nutritious meals and advocacy services to establish sound development for children. The families must work in agriculture. They also have 2 Pre-K Counts classrooms, which are open to the broader community. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

Janet Cordova and Daniel Zavala (Path Stone) told us about the site where we were meeting. They also have employment services provided for agricultural workers. They provide training for mechanics, nursing assistants, computer skills, and commercial driver's license. (CDL.) They pay for training and provide one month's rental assistance for new employees. Email: jcordova@pathstone.org and dzavala@pathstone.org

Joan Holliday shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Dave Haradon and Jeanne Searer co-facilitated the meeting. Emails: daveharadon@gmail.com; docholliv@aol.com & jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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:

Kelly Lynch (Wings for Success) told us that she is the new Program Manager. They provide apparel, advice and advocacy for employment and internships. Clothes may be donated by calling ahead of time at--610-444-1446. They will be moving in two months from Birch Street.

Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org. Check them out on Facebook.

Anna Altieri (Community) told us that her boyfriend Nolan Morris invited her. She is a chef and provides nutrition and life skill classes at CYC with Jan Michener. Email: annaaltieri@gmail.com

Liz Curtis Swain (Church of the Advent) told us that she is a long-time resident of Kennett and is attending Bridging to learn of ways her church can become supportive and involved in the community.

Email: swaincc@comcast.net

Diane Massey (Kendal Corporate) told us that their goal this year is to focus on the external community-needs and priorities. She is attending the meeting to learn more. Email: dmassey@Kcorp.Kendal.org

Lauren Piotrowski (Family Services) told us about their ZOOM program, which provides volunteer drivers to medical appointments. They have supported CVIM in West Chester and now they are working with LCH. They are looking for volunteer drivers. The program has her as the only employee, who recruits volunteers and facilitates the need with the driver. She is looking for volunteers. Email: lp Piotrowski@familyservice.us

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

Kelly Sharp (Kennett YMCA) told us that her son, RS was attending the meeting because he is interested in volunteering. She told us about the MLK Day of Caring, on 1/21/19, in which the YMCA volunteers will be participating. They need more volunteers for the Kennett Area Senior Center from 9am to noon to help with painting and freshening up. Lunch will be provided. The YMCA is also interested in recruiting community volunteers to participate in their DIG Committee (Diversity, Inclusion, Global) quarterly meetings to evaluate the YMCA programs for these qualities. Email: ksharp@ymcagbw.org

Cathy Brison (MLK Advocates) told us that the 18th Annual MLK Breakfast will take place on 1/21/19 from 8am to 10am at the Red Clay Room, Kennett Square. Dr. Brenda Allen, President of Lincoln University will be the speaker. Tickets are \$25. Please bring canned food items to the breakfast for KACS. Also, there will be a Change for Change Event at the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, Marlborough Square Shopping Center, 826 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square on 1/19/19 from 10am to 1pm. Bring your loose spare change. Donations will go to KACS and the West Grove Bridge Cupboard. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com

Dawn Doherty Kohl (After the Bell) told us that this is their 20th years of providing enrichment sessions for middle school students after school. They have served 6,000 students. She told us that Church of the Advent will donate proceeds that are collected from the Lion King Jr movie on 01/11-12/19 at 7pm to After the Bell. Members of the church, Marshall Newton, John and Denise Wood started After the Bell. Email: afterthebell@kcsd.org

Marsha London (Community) told us that the dormant seed of a production is still waiting to be birthed. 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. She has started a core team. Marsha will be participating in the Bayard Taylor Memorial Open Mic Night at the Kennett Library on 1/10/19 from 6 to 8pm. Try to attend. Email: marshalouiselondon@gmail.com

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) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events.

- TLC and Mid Atlantic Youth Anglers are collecting gently used winter boots and new, warm socks for LCH.
- They are recruiting 9th and 10th graders for 12-20 hours/week for 8 weeks in the summer and 2 weeks in school breaks for a Teens Turning Green STEM Internship. It combines work with STEM learning and career exploration at The Land Conservancy for SCC. Email: education@tlcforscc.org

Nolan Morris (Community) told us that he will be hosting a Story-Telling event on 2/10/19 at Friends Meeting from 4 to 7pm. Stories will be shared and food will be served by his girlfriend Chef Anna. Please contact him if you would like to share your story, or show up. Email: morrisnj1010@gmail.com

Anita O'Conner (KASC) told us that the Pre-Tax Assistance is now available at the Senior Center starting 2/01/19 until the first week of April. No age or income limit. Call for an appointment, which can occur Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to 2pm. Call: 610-444-4819. Email: aconnor@kennettseniorcenter.org

Joan Holliday (Community) reminded everyone that she and Bob George are still selling their book, "The Kennett Story: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time." It has a wealth of information about Kennett and the programs that support the youth. She also spoke about the P.U.L.L. (Pop Up Lending Libraries) being created for Kennett with the plan to have 15 outdoor stations by May 2019. Donated books are needed. Contact Laurie Florence at the Kennett Library. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Jessie Cocks (Community) told us that she is the Chair for the Hadley Fund. Upcoming: Last Sunday of every month---Documentary Films and Discussion Series at The Kennett Flash. (Go on line to sign-up. No cost.) She also told us to check out Hadley's free events on their web site and grant opportunities. Application is on line at: www.hadleypresents.org Email: jessiecocks@gmail.com

Jeanne Searer (Community) told us about the Trevoze Behavior Modification Program—To lose and keep the weight off! Next group will start 3/20/19 9:00am at KACS, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett. Charge \$2/week for 6 weeks. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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. Email: rbrittingham@chesco.org

Harry Hammond (Kendal Communities) told us that they are involved in many community projects at Kendal. They want to learn of more. Email: harryhammon@gmail.com

Betty Warner (Kendal Communities) told us that they are looking forward to hosting Bridging on March 13th 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

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 are having their annual fundraiser brunch on 03/09/19 at Willowdale Chapel. They are looking for Silent Auction items and Sponsors. Email: Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com

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 work with pre-schools and look for resources to support the schools, as well as support vulnerable families. Email: mtrubey@phmc.org

Maritza Rivera Cochran (Maternal Child Health Consortium) told us that they have expanded into Oxford and the rest of SCC. They are looking for referrals for families with children 0-5 years old to help parents provide growth and developmental support that leads to kindergarten readiness.
Email: mriviera@ccmchc.org

Keith Smithyman told us that he is one of the bus drivers for Family Promise. He is looking for used campers for temporary housing for the homeless. Email: Keithsmithyman@gmail.com

Ron Turner (Community) told us that he is interest in the broader community and is listening for volunteer opportunities.

Rev. Marvin T. Williams (2nd Baptist Church/Kennett) told us that he refers to the notes that Joan Holliday sends out, when he has passioners with needs. He thanked Joan for the helpful notes.
Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Bob George (Community) told us that he is looking for ideas of how to promote volunteerism. He appreciates the Bridging process and the many volunteers that After the Bell recruits, but he is thinking of the future and what other processes will sustain volunteering. He and Joan are writing weekly articles for the Southern Chester County Weeklies and this is his next topic. Email: georgert@gmail.com

Claudia Turner (Path Stone) added that they are looking for teachers for Pre-K Counts. They must fit the PA State requirements for teachers. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary) introduced the five Rotarians in the group and encouraged others to consider joining one of the two Kennett Rotary service clubs. He points out that they have the motto "Service Above Self" and participate in and initiate many volunteer service projects in the area, and they have money to contribute to worthy causes. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

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

- Claudia Turner "bridged" with Marcie Trubey around trainings that could be provided for her staff.
- Kelly Sharp "bridged" with Anita O'Connor around volunteers for the KASC and also with Lee Gummey around the Kennett Area YMCA being a site to drop off the Valentine's Day boot and sock drive.
- Dawn Doherty Kohl "bridged" with Lee Gummey around the Land Conservancy of SCC's internship program, as she has high school After the Bell volunteers she can pass on the information. She "bridged" with Marsha London about students participating in the music production of "Someone in a Tree." She "bridged" with Harry Hammond about Kendal volunteers for After the Bell.
- Harry Hammond "bridged" with Daniel Zavala around the CDL training for the ESL student that he tutors at Kendal.
- Betty Warner "bridged" with Nolan Morris around his "Story-Telling" event and would like to explore ways that Kendal residents could become involved, as they also value this process.
- Anita O'Connor "bridged" with Kelly Sharp around the MLK service project; with Daniel Zavala about the Pre-Tax Assistance; with Harry Hammond and Diane Massey about Kendal volunteers for KASC; with Rachelle Brittingham around a presentation about disaster preparation at KASC and with Jessie Cocks to receive brochures for the seniors about Hadley Fund presentations.
- Jeanne Searer "bridged" with five persons around the Trevoise program; with Sonia Muckley about placing flyers about adopting a stray cat.

- Marsha London “bridged” with Dawn Doherty Kohl around After the Bell students; with Jessie Cocks about the videos to view for “Someone in a Tree;” and learned that Bob George and Jeanne Searer attended American International schools.
- Martiza Rivera “bridged” with Kelly Lynch, past employee of CCMCHC; with Nefta Erroa from LCH and Joan Holliday to increase referrals by passing out information about services provided by CCMCHC in Southern Chester County.
- Rev Marvin T. Williams “bridged” with Nolan Morris around the story-telling event and that he will be interested in attending, as he tells stories every Sunday from the pulpit.
- Ron Turner “bridged” with Lauren Piotrowski about volunteering as a driver for ZOOM.
- Courtney Taylor “bridged” with Marcy Trubey, who had children’s music CDs to donate to YoungMoms.
- Kathy Ditchfield “bridged” with Joan Holliday about learning about a Time Bank that was started in Kennett years ago. Joan to send her contact information for Tom Hammer, who started it.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Lee Gummey, who had books to donate for the Pull-Program.
- Kelly Lynch “bridged” with Maritza Rivera Cochran and Courtney Taylor, who will refer clients to Wings for Success around styling appointments.
- Keith Smithyman “bridged” with Rochell Brittingham, who saw a sign this week in an Avondale yard for a free camper.
- Diane Massey “bridged” with Anita O’Connor and Dave Haradon around Kendal participating in helping with a Needs Assessment for the broader community.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Dawn Doherty Kohl, who gave her a pendant from the After the Bell students in appreciation for being their bus aide,

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

Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at Kendal Communities, 1109 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Fifty-four spirited community members attended the 124th Bridging meeting on a “hint of spring” evening.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 08, 2019 at New Garden UAME, 309 E. Linden St., Kennett Square, PA from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the NEW web site: 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 everyone in a moment of silence. We reflected on how we continue to be instrumental in making our Kennett area community *peaceful, progressive and inclusive*.

Joan Holliday shared Bridging’s Framework and Jeanne Searer shared the Guiding Principles. Dave Haradon facilitated the meeting.

Emails: daveharadon@gmail.com; dochollisv@aol.com & jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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.

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Betty Warner (Kendal~Crosslands Communities) told us that there are 400 residents at the Kendal location. (Crosslands is located on 926.) At Kendal there are 300 independent residents; 50 residents personal care and 50 residents skilled care. Betty and her husband joined Kendal in their 70s’ and plan to stay the rest of their life---It is a CCRC. There is a strong Quaker influence which leads many residents to community service. Currently there are 50 active trained ESL tutors. Students come to Kendal, which helps more residents participate.

A new outreach is “Narrative 4 KCC Story Exchange” In this model, participants are randomly paired and share a story that in some way defines them. Partners then tell each other’s story as a way to build empathy among diverse populations and turn that empathy into understanding and action. Organizations or groups of 12-20 can have a trained facilitator come to their site for no charge due to the Kendal Charitable Funds grant. Another opportunity: KCC would love to host your group of 6-10 to engage in an intergenerational Story Exchange with KCC residents. Email: KCCintergen@gmail.com or contact Facilitator: Andrea Taylor PhD at 302-545-5960 or Betty Warner at 484-889-0719. Email: bettywam@aol.com

New Attendees introduced themselves:

Andrea Taylor (Narrative 4 Facilitator) was introduced by Betty Warner. She spoke of the community building that the Story Exchange promotes. To discuss further: Phone: 302-545-5960

Barbara MacDonald ((Land Conservancy of SCC) told us that their mission is the perpetual preservation & stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands

in SCC. They currently have 2,000 acres preserved. (Web site: www.tlcforscc.org) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource. They are recruiting 9th and 10th graders (who may not be considering college) for 12-20 hours/week for 8 weeks in the summer and 2 weeks in school breaks for a Teens Turning Green STEM Internship. It combines work with STEM learning and career exploration at the Land Conservancy for SCC. They are also looking for presenters. Email: getinvolved@tlcforscc.org or Lea Gummey at: education@tlcforscc.org

Liliana Guzman (Maternal Child Health Consortium non-profit) told us that Healthy Advocates make home visits to prenatal clients and continue to visit until the child is two years old; they build relationships with the clients and provide health guidance. As part of MCHC, they are offering parenting classes for families with children ages 0-5 years. The classes will be held at Mary D Lang Kindergarten Center. Class dates: 4/3; 4/10; 4/17; 4/24. Transportation will be provided. Please get the information out and make referrals. Volunteers are always welcome. For referrals contact Cecilia Arce at: carce@ccmchc.org Contact Liliana at: LGuzman@ccmchc.org

Barbara Mancill (LCH) told us that she just started at LaComunidad Hispana, which is a bilingual Federally Qualified Health Center. They provide social services, education and health and dental care. They have locations in Kennett and Oxford and a dental clinic in West Grove. They are always open for referrals. Email: bmancill@lchps.org

Connie Carter (Sylvia & Carter & Associates) offers strategic planning; fund development and major donor strategies; pre-campaign studies and campaign management; workshops and training programs for non-profits. They enjoy working with the local non-profits in the area. She also is a member of Youth Community Forward---a nonprofit organization in SCC to inform migrants of their rights with the law and other supports. Email: Ccarter@sylviacarter.com

Arlene Rengert (Kendal) told us about the Laundromat Library League, an organization that provides childrens' books at laundromats---60 books from toddlers through teen. 68,000 books have been distributed locally and in 12 different states. Kennett laundromats have been covered. Arlene would like for us to ask relatives and friends around the country if they would be willing to identify a laundromat that they could contact; this contact person would then take responsibility to visit the laundromat twice a month and restock with books provided by the League. To get involved email: LaundromatLibrary@gmail.com Arlene's email: arengert@gmail.com

Nick Everhart (First Baptist Church) told us that their church is involved in outreach to the community. They host Kacie's Cause; AA meetings; Girl Scouts and others. They have a wonderful Daycare/Pre-School. Even with this they would like to be more involved. He is listening for volunteer opportunities: Email: nickeverhart@verizon.net

Kristin Dolan (Family Service) told us that she is working under the RSVP program, which provides volunteer opportunities with partner agencies. She is hoping to learn more about the agencies in SCC and their volunteer needs, then recruit volunteers. Email: Kdolan@familyservice.us

Grayfred Gray (Kendal) told us that he is very concerned about how divided our country has become. People don't talk to each other. He would like to form a group of persons with diverse political views and listen to each other. The only criteria for being a part of this effort is to be willing not to debate, but listen and try to understand another point of view. If interested email: g.b.gray1956@gmail.com

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

Linda Theis (Kennett Jewelers) told us about the upcoming Student (K-12) Art Show. This is its 6th year and 6 school districts are involved. It will take place on 3/30-31/19 from 10am to 5pm at the American Legion Hall. She is asking for volunteer greeters. Email: kslinda2@gmail.com

Nancy Lopez (CATA) told us she represents the CATA organization. They support the rights and working conditions of migrant agricultural workers. She is attending Bridging to learn more about the services available to her constituents.

Anne Humes (Kendal) told us that she has been attending Bridging meetings for 19 years. At this time, there are two organizations that she would like to promote. She spoke about the great need for supporting the vulnerable youth in our community. The opportunities to volunteer are: 1) After the Bell: Provide help after school, one day a week for six weeks in a variety of enrichment activities with the middle school youth. To volunteer email: afterthebell@kcsd.org or executivedirector@afterthebell.org
2) Together for Education: This organization trains tutors to work in the elementary school classrooms to support students who need additional help. Email Jen Lewis at: jlewis@tfed.org

Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) told us that she has vendor applications for Cinco de Mayo, which will actually take place on 5/5/19. Deadline for vendor application is 3/15/19. They also need volunteers. She spoke about this intercultural event, which last year drew a balance of Mexicans and Anglos. It also is a family oriented festival. On 3/17/19 at The Garage Youth Center at 5pm, there will be a selection of a young Mexican girl, who best represents the culture. She will be crowned at Cinco de Mayo. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Rev. Marvin T. Williams (2nd Baptist Church) told us that he wants to be available to help his congregation with resources and to outreach to the broader community. He learns of opportunities at Bridging. Choir Day is 3/18/19 and the community is invited at 3pm to 132 S. Willow St., Kennett Square, PA. They also have a special event for mothers the Saturday before Mother's Day. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Diane Massey (Kendal Corporate) told us that their goal this year is to focus on the external community-needs and priorities. She also is looking for volunteer opportunities for her staff. She is attending the meeting to learn more. Email: dmassey@Kcorp.Kendal.org

Christine McDonald (Friends Home) told us that Friends has 6 independent living residents; 52 personal care and 20 skilled nursing. There are a variety of ways that community members can volunteer. Please contact her for more information. It is a delightful intergenerational exchange whenever someone steps into the volunteer role at this site. Email: CMcDonald@fhkennett.org

Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told us that she enjoys coming to Bridging. She told us that the park offers a great walking trail, picnic areas and a dog park. It is open from dawn to dusk. They will start their programs with the Trout Rodeo on 5/4/19 from 8 to 2pm and they will have an 8-week free concert series in the summer. Check out their web site at: www.ansonbnixonpark.org Pam's email: pamelacarterf64@gmail.com

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 20 outdoor stations. This project involves funding from the Longwood Rotary and partnerships with the Kennett library, Kendal Communities, schools, The Garage Youth Center, and the Kennett Senior Center Re-Sale Book Shop, as well as others. 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. AHHAH will participate in Healthy Kids Day after the Run and have 350 bilingual books for Kindergarten Readiness to distribute. She praised the wonderful craftsman work of Kendal residents, making the P.U.L.L. in a cypress material. Email: jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.com

Jessie Cocks (Community) invited us to the MLK Advocates free presentation on "Subliminal Racism— Power and Privilege" on 5/2/19 at Friends Meeting, 125 W. Sickie St., Kennett Square, PA at 6:30pm. Pastor Ernie E. Stevens is the presenter. If parking lot is full at Friends, park in the Kennett garage on the corner of State and Union. She also invited us to the Rainbow Chorale (LGBT) on 3/23/19 at 7:30pm at 579 Polly Drummond Hill Rd, Newark, DE. Check out the web site at: www.therainbowchorale.org She is Chair of Hadley's free events. Check out their web site and grant opportunities. Application is on line at: www.hadleypresents.org Email: jessiecocks@gmail.com

Joan Holliday (Community) reminded everyone that she and Bob George are still selling their book, "The Kennett Story: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time." It has a wealth of information about Kennett and the programs that support the youth. And, Bob George made the correction that it took nearly two years to complete the book with a 2nd Edition revisions. We are writing weekly articles for The SCC Weeklies. We are interested in interviewing community members, who are helping the youth and Kennett a better town. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Kelly Sharp (Kennett YMCA) told us that they need 20-30 volunteers for Healthy Kids Day on 4/27/19. There will be booths and activities on South Broad St. Also, the Kennett YMCA will be conducting some classes in water safety and will need volunteers to help manage the group of participants. This would take place between noon and 2pm. Email: ksharp@ymcagbw.org

Karen D'Agusto (Girl Scouts and YCF) told us about the comprehensive projects that the Girl Scouts engage to receive their Gold Awards. They are always looking for project ideas from the community and partners. Our local Girl Scouts are engaging in a Community Service Project " Operation Cookie Drop" we have hundreds, perhaps thousands (we are still counting and collecting) of Girl Scout cookies we want to mail to military personnel overseas -primarily to those who do not have access to Girl Scout cookies eg Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Africa , Bahrain and those on ships. **WE NEED ADDRESSES** of those who are deployed military from their friends, relatives and neighbors from our community. If you know anyone please send their address to suzyknightly@aol.com and/or kdagusto@aol.com. She also told us about the grant that YCF received from the Kennett Run to produce Legal Right Handbooks in Spanish for migrants in the community and legal rights cards. Email: Kdagusto@aol.com

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. The hours are flexible and one needs a high school education and have child abuse clearances. Email: lherman@childandfamilyfocus.org

Courtney Taylor (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is a Program Assistant. This organization works with young moms to help them reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They currently serve 42 Young Moms and need volunteers for Club Night in Kennett and in Oxford. Please contact her to help with a meal, babysit on club night or administrative work. Email: Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com

Lauren Piotrowski (Family Services) told us about their ZOOM program, which provides volunteer drivers to medical appointments. They have supported CVIM in West Chester and now they are working

with LCH. They are looking for volunteer drivers. The program has her as the only employee, who recruits volunteers and facilitates the need with the driver. Transportation is a dire need in SCC. She is looking for volunteers. Email: lpiotrowski@familyservice.us

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 are recruiting member owners at this point. There will be a fundraiser on 4/17/19 at the Kennett Brewing company. Please come and support them. Email: mshaeffer916@gmail.com

Carol Vidal (Kennett Area Community Service) told us that they now have a 6-month loan program for \$500. Clients are assessed for their eligibility. They also have emergency assistance and monthly food distribution. They want to get the word out that eligibility for receiving monthly food has higher income guidelines, so more residents may qualify. Email: carol@kacsonline.net

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 just completed providing training at an interfaith event. Email: rbrittingham@chesco.org

Kelly Lynch (Wings for Success) told us that she is the new Program Manager. They provide apparel, advice and advocacy for employment and internships. Clothes may be donated by calling ahead of time at--610-444-1446. She also told us about the 7th Annual Single Mother's Conference on 4/27/19 at Henderson High School, West Chester. They are looking for participants. Free Admission. Online Registration at: <https://great-job-mom-attendee.eventbrite.com>; or email: singlemotherscc@gmail.com or call 484-402-4685. It is a full day of learning about resources, employment opportunities, pampering and free childcare, as well as door prizes and more. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.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 work with pre-schools and look for resources to support the schools, as well as support vulnerable families. Email: mtrubey@phmc.org

Claudia Turner (Path Stone) added that they are looking for teachers for Pre-K Counts. They must fit the PA State requirements for teachers. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

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

- Kelly Lynch "bridged" with Nancy Lopez to get the word out to migrant workers that the Wings for Success service is available to them.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with Linda Theis and will help out with the Student Art event on Friday night.
- Meggie Schaeffer "bridged" with Joan Holliday, who will be a guest bartender for the fundraiser event for the local co-op. Dave Haradon has agreed to join Joan.
- Karen D'Agusto "bridged" with Betty Warner about the Story Exchange and the Girl Scouts. She also "bridged" with AHHAH about signing up for the 5 K. She "bridged" with Arlene around the Laundromat League and building boxes for books. She "bridged" with Barbara MacDonald around the internship opportunities for some of the Girl Scouts at TLC.
- Jessie Cocks "bridged" with several people including Jan Michener, Marcie Trubey, Connie Carter, Harry Hammond and Rev. Marvin T. Williams to post flyers about Subliminal Racism.

- Grayfred Grey “bridged” with Rev. Marvin T. Williams, Ron Turner, Mary Anne Piccard, Linda Theis and Carlie from Kendal to have a Listening Group about diverse opinions/positions/attitudes about the country’s issues and policies.
- Marcy Trubey “bridged” with Jessie Cocks around Hadley opportunities for her clients and Laura Herman around job opportunities for her clients in providing respite care.
- Rochelle Brittingham “bridged” with Karen D’Augusto about preparedness training for the Girl Scouts.
- Jan Michener “bridged” with Karen D’Augusto about Girl Scout involvement in AHHAH as well as with Christine McDonald from Friends, Nick Everhart from First Baptist, Marcy Truby from ELRC, Carlie from Kendal. She also “bridged” with Harry Hammond about the “Living Story Telling” at the Kennett Area Senior Center and ways to partner with Narrative 4.
- Anne Humes “bridged” with Rev. Marvin T. Williams and encouraged him to have a summer program with crafts for town youth, as they did in the past.
- Christine McDonald “bridged” with Barbara MacDonald at TLC about Friends residents participating in bird watching. She also “bridged” with Kristin Dolan about reading to the residents.
- Linda Theis “bridged” with Pam Carter, who will be a Greeter at the Student Art Show.
- Claudia Turner “bridged” with Carol Vidal to give information about loan program at KACS to Pathstone parents.
- Many flyers were passed out by Ruth Rochester for the narrative 4 KCC Story Exchange.

Bridging the Community was held on **Wednesday, May 08, 2019** at **New Garden UAME, 309 E. Linden St., Kennett Square, PA.** Thirty-two interactive community members attended the 125th Bridging meeting on a cool and cloudy 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 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.

Esther Rochester, a member of this church, led us in a prayer.

Peggy DeShields told us that this church was started in New Garden Township on Bucktoe Rd in 1813. The church had two fires. This church at 309 E. Linden Street, Kennett Square was built in 1910, using some of the bricks from the first church. There is an old cemetery at the first site, which the church still helps care for the grounds, along with TLC and high school and college volunteers. They have services every Sunday at 11am until 12:30pm. The pastor is Rev. Maxine Mao. All are welcome!
Email: deshseco@hotmail.com

Joan Holliday shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Dave Haradon facilitated the meeting.
Emails: daveharadon@gmail.com; dochollisv@aol.com & jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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.

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New Attendees introduced themselves:

Pete Kennedy (community) told us that he was invited to Bridging by Pam Carter and that he is a volunteer at the Anson B Nixon Park. He told us that the Chester County Astronomical Society will be putting on a Sky Tour on Saturday night, 5/11/19 at 8:30pm at Anson B Nixon Park at the Tino Lito soccer fields All community members welcome.

Sister Drew and Sue Datson, Missionaries from Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints were invited by Tina Butcher from His Mission to attend Bridging. They are doing volunteer work at His Mission and in Kennett Square and West Chester.

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

Lea Gummey (Land Conservancy of SCC) told us that their mission is the perpetual preservation & stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites, and working agricultural lands in SCC. They currently have 2,000 acres preserved. (Web site: www.tlcforscc.org) They have programs for all age groups and encourage people to bring groups to their events. They will have a Sky Tour in mid-June. They are recruiting 50 homeowners in Kennett Township to join the Audubon Pennsylvania- Bird Habitat, which involves maintaining a healthy yard, with food, nesting sites, cover and water that is natural and inviting to birds. For more information contact Lea Gummey at: education@tlcforscc.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 also told us about Bridges Out of Poverty workshops in Coatesville on 5/15/19 from 6-9pm and 5/22/19 from 9-12pm. Email: rbrittingham@chesco.org

Kate Uhler (Constellation Network) told us that Bridges Out of Poverty are also being offered in Kennett Square on 6/4/19 from 9-12pm at Willowdale Chapel, 675 Unionville Rd, Kennett Square, PA. Email Kate at: kuhler@theconstellationnetwork.com

Kecia McMillian (Community) told us that she is doing private in-home tutoring from Pre-K -12th grades in reading, writing and math. She also is attending school for her Masters in Restorative Practices. She is willing to put on a workshop in the community if requested. Email: keciamcm@me.com

Grayfred Gray (Kendal) told us that he shared his concern about how divided our country has become at our last Bridging meeting. He proposed starting a Listening Group consisting of members with diverse views. He has had two sessions with some folks that signed up from Bridging, however they are all like-minded. To create the dynamic that he thinks that is needed, he is requesting: 1) help in identifying persons, who are conservative and will offer a counter view to the liberal point of view of the current members; 2) help with setting up the meetings. Email: g.b.gray1956@gmail.com

Karen D'Agusto (Girl Scouts and YCF) told us that she now has the Legal Right Handbooks in Spanish for migrants that YCF (Youth Community Forward) has produced with the grant from the Kennett Run. She would like to give copies to anyone who has contact with the migrant community. She also told us about the comprehensive projects that the Girl Scouts engage to receive their Silver and Gold Awards. She has contact with 40 Girl Scout leaders, who are working with 500 Girl Scouts. They are always looking for project ideas from the community and partners and can help make a difference. Email: Kdagusto@aol.com

Brett Dolente (Voter Registration) told us that she belongs to the League of Women Voters and wants to help community members register to vote or learn information where they vote and their registration information. Check out votespa.com; vote411.org or palwv.org She is at the Kennett Library. Email: brettdolente@gmail.com

Nancy Ayllon Ramirez (Community) told us that she is a Kennett resident and has become an attorney. After working in Philadelphia for one year, she has joined the Eichman Law firm in West Grove, PA. They do estate planning and labor and employment law. They plan to get into immigration and family matters. She is interested in learning where she can help the community. Joan Holliday told the group that Nancy won the Chester County Youth Volunteer award when she was in high school. Email: nayllonramirez@gmail.com

Bob George (Kennett Education Foundation) told the group that he and Joan Holliday are writing articles for the Southern Chester County Weeklies. He is always looking for persons to interview for articles. He also told the group about the outstanding students that have been given \$1,000 scholarships, the past three

years, from the proceeds from the book, "The Story of Kennett: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time." Books are one sale for \$10.00. Email: georgert@gmail.com

Kelly Lynch (Wings for Success) told us that she is the new Program Manager. They provide apparel, advice and advocacy for employment and internships. The clothing may be medical scrubs or clothing for mushroom workers, along with professional wear. They will be moving to the New Garden Shopping Center. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org

Pam Carter (Anson B Nixon Park) told us to check out the web site: www.ansonbnixon.org The 2019 FREE 8-week Summer Concert Series begins June 19, 2019 from 7pm to 9pm and will run 8 consecutive Wednesday evenings, thru 8/7/19. Bring a blanket or folding chair. Email: pamelacarterf64@gmail.com

Courtney Taylor (YoungMoms non-profit) told us that she is the Program Assistant. This organization works with young moms to help them reach their life goals, develop life skills and learn parenting skills. They have moved to a house at 111 Marshall St., Kennett Square, PA. They have space for mentor-client sessions, offices and meetings. They are always looking for volunteers for child care on Club Night and also mentors and baby supplies. They are looking for three kinds of volunteers to join teams for: 1) Jack of All Trades Handiperson Team; 2) Donation Delivery Team; 3) YoungMoms House Team
Email: Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com

Rev. Marvin T. Williams (2nd Baptist Church) told us that at Bridging he learns about resources to offer to his church members and volunteer opportunities. The church is located at 132 S. Willow St., Kennett Square, PA. They are hosting their special event for mothers this Saturday for Mother's Day. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Claudia Turner (Pathstone) told us that their site on 421 McFarland Road provides Migrant Headstart, and Pre-K Counts programs and has programs for employment, housing, and child & family services. They will start up their child care programs in mid-August, so are recruiting now. She added that they are looking for teachers for Pre-K Counts. They must fit the PA State requirements for teachers. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

Ron Turner (Community) told us about an event at The Garage Youth Center, when families were photographed by professional photographers and even had cosmetologists fixing hair--all for no charge. He commented: "This is Kennett Square at its best." Email: Turner.Ronald@gmail.com

Tina Butcher (His Mission) told us that they are a homeless men's shelter at 342 E. Birch Street. She graciously welcomed us to the annual Bridging picnic at their site in July. She introduced her missionary guests. Email: tamikabutcher@yahoo.com

Carol Vidal (Kennett Area Community Service) told us that they now have a 6-month loan program for \$500. Clients are assessed for their eligibility. They also have emergency assistance and monthly food distribution. They have a job opening for a bi-lingual case manager. Email: carol@kacsonline.net

Marcie Trubey (Keystone STARS) told us that the Early Learning Resource Center provides guidance and support for high quality child care to preschools and day cares. They help families enroll their children in available programs and help vulnerable families find resources. Email: mtrubey@phmc.org

Theresa Bass (Carter CDC) told us that she lives on this street and has been a part of the revitalization of this neighborhood. She told us that the Study Buddies after-school tutoring program, that is held at Bethel AME Church basement, has been going on for over 15 years. Carter CDC is planning a summer Block Party. She had her 3-year-old granddaughter, Arianna with her. Email: trbass15@aol.com

Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) told us about the successful Cinco de Mayo festival held on Sunday, 5/5/19 in spite of the rain. She is looking for more photos of the event to put on the Casa Guanajuato face book page and web site. They need volunteers for upcoming events. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Jessie Cocks (Community) sent a flyer advertising the Rainbow Chorale performance on Friday, 5/31/19 at 7:30pm in Wilmington, DE. (\$25/adults & \$5 students) or Sunday, June 2nd at 4pm in Lewes DE. (no charge on this date.) Check out the web site at: www.therainbowchorale.org
Email: jessiecocks@gmail.com

Kelly Sharp (Kennett YMCA) sent information that the Kennett YMCA will be conducting some classes in water safety and will need volunteers to help at the pool. All 2nd graders in the Kennett Consolidated School District will be provided safety lessons around the water. This would take place between noon and 2pm. Please sign-up to help! Email: ksharp@ymcagbw.org

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

- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Bob George around how Casa Guanajuato could set-up scholarships for Kennett high school students. She also “bridged” with Pam Carter and Pete Kennedy about a Latino youth who was interested in astronomy. She “bridged” with Betty Warner, who had photos from Cinco de Mayo.
- Kecia McMillian “bridged” with Kelly Lynch about donating shoes to Wings for Success. She “bridged” with Karen D’Agusto “Know Your Rights” handbook and with Esther Rochester around GED tutoring.
- Claudia Turner “bridged” with Marcie Trubey, Nancy Ayllon and Carol Vidal about speaking to families at Migrant Headstart about their services.
- Brett Dolente “bridged” with Carol Vidal about providing information to the clients about voter registration at Kennett Area Community Services.
- Marcie Trubey “bridged” with Lea Gummey about bird watching, Claudia Turner and Tina Butcher.
- Nancy Ayllon “bridged” with Dave Haradon about attending a Longwood Rotary meeting. She “bridged” with Carol Vidal and Claudia Turner about legal consultations with clients.
- Kate Uhler “bridged” with Rochelle Brittingham about Bridges Out of Poverty. Rochelle also shared with Kate that we accomplish more at Bridging than she does at other meetings.
- Pete Kennedy said his first experience of Bridging was great! He looks forward to working with a bi-lingual/Latino interested in astronomy. He also bought one of The Story of Kennett books.
- Grayfred Gray “bridged” with Mary Anne Piccard and others from the Listening Group about places they could meet.
- Karen D’Agusto “bridged” with Harry Hammond around “Story-Telling” for the Girl Scouts. She “bridged” with Rochelle Brittingham about her daughter becoming a Girl Scout. She “bridged” with Kelly Lynch around Girl Scouts taking up a collection of clothing for Wings for Success. She also will “bridge” an 8th grad Patton student with Wings for Success as the student had earned her Silver Award in dress design.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Marcie Trubey about Kindergarten Readiness strategies. She “bridged” with Ruth Williams around the planned installation of a chairlift at her church.

Bridging the Community was held on **July 10, 2019** at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA. The Annual Potluck (No-infrastructure burden--a Tom Hoehle inspiration) started at 6pm, when everyone showed up with healthy food and joined in a community meal together. Thirty-eight engaging community members attended the 126th Bridging meeting on a warm, summer evening.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at The Family Center, 637 Miller Hill, Kennett Square, PA 19348; Phone: 610-612-4023.

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

Rev. Marvin T. Williams led us in a prayer in thanks for our food and coming together as community.

Tina Butcher told us that she and her sister, Bobbie Newman continue to keep His Mission running. They are both volunteers and also have help from their family. They have nine men at this time, who can stay until they find work and an apartment. They also help provide resources for women in transition. They operate with funds provided by the community. They appreciate donations, especially paper products and thanked the attendees for bringing a donation tonight. She said they are a 501C-3 non-profit and anyone can see their books to account for every dollar they spend. Email: tbutcher72@gmail.com,

Joan Holliday shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Email: dochollisv@aol.com & jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Guest Tom Hoehle gave an overview of a Bridging meeting and facilitated the meeting.

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New Attendees introduced themselves:

Amber Little Turner (Candidate for public office) told us that she is running for Recorder of Deeds for Chester County. She shared her personal story of moving through life's challenges, her strong experience in government and her request for everyone's vote. She promises to keep in touch with the needs of the community. Check out: republicanccc.com/republican-team/candidates/amber-little-turner

Clark Davis (LCH) told us that he has been with La Comunidad Hispana for one year. He works in Social Services; Work Force Development and Community Engagement. He told us about the exciting news that LCH has expanded their services to pediatric care. They will be moving the pediatric practice to their West Grove dental office building, 105 Vineyard Way, West Grove, PA 19390 and also will have a Case Manager at that site on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Email: cdavis@lchps.org

Jim Mercante (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that he has been Board President of the Kennett Y for the past two years. He recently has become involved in the Kindergarten Readiness Collaboration and also is part of the Constellation Affordable Housing and Transportation Committees. Email:

vjmercante@gmail.com

Anne and Bob Pounds (Welcome Neighbor) told us that they are part of the Welcome Neighbor service. After Welcome Wagon closed in 1999, this organization took on the same role. They greet new homeowners in the area and provide coupons from local businesses. They are looking for part-time employees who would work flextime hours and earn between \$6,000 to \$10,000 annually or more. Call: 610-742-0341 or email: anne.wnpa@gmail.com

Deborah Parrish (Community) told us she works out of her home for an IT company that serves legal companies. She has cut back her hours and is looking for volunteer work, another job, or community engagement that involves the elderly. Email: cndparrish@verizon.net

Anne Humes (Kendal Community) told us that she started to attend Bridging in September of 1999, which will make it 20 years for her. Note: She has been a strong bridge between Kennett and the Kendal/Crosslands Communities during these years. Thank you Anne for your many contributions to Kennett!

Estefani Sanchez (Community) told us that she is a summer intern through The Garage Youth Center program with Wings for Success. She will go on to college this fall. Email: sanchezestefani400@gmail.com

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

Kelly Lynch (Wings for Success) told us that she is the Program Manager. They provide apparel, advice and advocacy for employment and internships. The clothing may be medical scrubs or clothing for mushroom workers, along with professional wear. They will be moving to the New Garden Shopping Center in a week. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org

Carmela Contro (Community) told us that she attends the Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square. She promoted it as a great place to engage fun people and activities. Membership is 50 years on up and only \$35 a year. Call: 610-444-4819 to sign-up.

Jeanne Searer (Three hats) told us:

1) Casa Guanajuato is a nonprofit that promotes Mexican culture for Mexican residents and shares it with the broader community. Call Jeanne if you would like to attend a meeting.

- On 9/15/19 there will be a Mexican Independence Day Picnic at Anson B Nixon Park. Please bring a dish and join the fun of celebrating several Independence Days.
- On 9/28 is their fundraiser Dinner Dance.
- On 10/5/19 there will be a Soccer for All! Mini-World Cup.
- On 11/1&2/19 Dia de los Muertos Exhibition

2) Catrina Festival at the American Legion is a Dance held to benefit Veterans; the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 491. It will be held on 8/18/19 from 1-4pm at the American Legion. Entry fee: \$15.00 per Dancer. PayPal-Use Email: Kristen.auxillarypost491@gmail.com

3) Jeanne will hold a Trevoze Behavior Modification Program for weight loss. To register call the Senior Center or 484-467-8011 or Email: jeannecrew491@gmail.com

Milena Lanz (ED of Maternal Child Health Consortium) told us that they provide services throughout Chester County. They provide help with family health insurance and home visits for prenatal clients and

up to 2 years of age after birth. In Kennett, they have the Family Center, which provides parent educators in the home. Email: mlanz@ccmchc.org

Cecilia Arce (ED of The Family Center) told us that they are located at 637 Miller Hill, Kennett Square. (The location we will have our next Bridging meeting in September. It is next to Domino's Pizza.) They have been involved with the Kindergarten Readiness Project and are providing parenting classes and kindergarten transition camps at Mary D Lang, which have been funded by The Longwood Rotary. They also make home visits to provide Parents as Teachers education and are open for referrals. CCMCHC has the following current job openings for: Program Assistant; Program Outreach and Parent Mentor Coordinator; Community Health Worker, Family Benefits Program and Community Health Worker/Fatherhood program. Phone: 610-612-4023; Email: carce@ccmchc.org

Pastor Marvin T Williams (First Baptist Church) told us that he has been pastor at this church at 132 S. Willow St., Kennett Square, PA since 1991. He was happy to announce that the stair chair lift that he had expressed a need for two years ago at a Bridging meeting has been installed. He thanked Joan Holliday for the referral to Longwood Rotary, who funded the project. He also said that Dave Haradon power washed his church as a bonus on the day the chair lift was installed. He said his older women were very happy with this improvement, as they were struggling to get up to the sanctuary for services, and thanked the community for their support. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Roberta Eldridge (Community) told us that she will be moving from Kennett, but has been involved as leader of the Kennett Community Coffee Klatch for 5 years. She invited community members to attend any time. Coffee Klatch is held on Thursdays from 10:30am to 11:30am at The Market at Liberty Place, 147 W. State St., Kennett at the back tables. She expressed a warm appreciation to Joan Holliday for her work in the community and for being her friend and bringing her into activities. Email: robertae28@gmail.com

Esther Rochester (Community) told us that she works for Krapf Bus Company as an aide for Kennett Consolidated Schools. She likes her kids and is happy to be working. You can contact her on Facebook.

Claudia Turner (Path Stone) told us that they are located on McFarlan Road. They have Pre-K Counts classrooms 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 will start earlier this year on 8/19/19 and they are looking for registrants. Path Stone has training for employment and has housing help. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

Nolan Morris (Community) told us that he will be conducting a free Yoga Class at Friends Meeting, 125 W. Sickie Street, Kennett Square, PA at 8:30am. Contact him by email. He also will host the *Working Title*--writer's group on 7/25/19 at 7pm at his home on 116 Magnolia Street, Kennett Square, PA. The process is one of sharing personal written pieces that each has composed and then receiving feedback and support in the creative writing process. Email: [morrisonj1010@gmail.com](mailto:morrisnj1010@gmail.com)

Kelly Sharp (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that they need volunteers for Shark Education week of 7/22-26/19. The Y also will be closed to the public the last week of August to enhance and revamp the Branch. They will need many volunteers; consider helping out. In the fall, they will offer Adult Enrichment Initiatives---fiber crafting; IT device help and other creative ventures. Email: ksharp@ymcagbw.org

Joan Holliday (Community) told us that she is selling the book that she and Bob George wrote about Kennett--"Kennett Square: Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time" and also has free books to hand out from The Path of Potential that had the article of "A Soup Kitchen or a Community Meal?" when we first

had a meal at His Mission in 2002. She expressed the importance of “seeing” ourselves as a community, sharing common human needs. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

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

- During the meal before the meeting, there were several “bridges” made.
- Nolan Morris “bridged” with Tom Hoehle and Virginia Maroun around joining his Yoga Class. He also “bridged” with Jeanne Searer around the Mini-World Cup.
- Deborah Parrish “bridged” with Anne Pounds about community volunteer opportunities. Craig Parrish also “bridged” with Anne Pounds around future “bridges” with New York Life.
- Rev. Marvin T. Williams “bridged” with Joan Holliday about having next Bridging meeting in November at 2nd Baptist Church.
- Clark Davis “bridged” with Cecilia Arce and also around the SCOOT stops that will be located at LCH, KACS and Cedar Woods starting in September.
- Bob Pounds “bridged” with Carmela Contro around joining the Senior Center.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with attendees around Path of Potential article and sold 3 books of “The Story of Kennett.” She “bridged” with Carley from Kendal about current events at Kendal.
- Rev Marvin T. Williams “bridged” with Nolan Morris inquiring about Grayford Gray’s “Listening Group” and when they would have their next meeting.
- Bob Nolan “bridged” with Joan Holliday around spreading the word of a part-time job with Welcome Neighbor service.
- Remaining food was left for His Mission and \$100 was collected to support this ministry.

Bridging the Community was held on September 11, 2019 at The Family Center, 637 Miller Hill, Kennett Square, PA 19348; Phone: 610-344-5370 extension 102 or 110. Twenty-five engaging community members attended the 127th Bridging meeting on a warm, humid evening.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 2nd Baptist Church, 132 S. Willow St., Kennett Square, PA 19348

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Dave Haradon led us in a moment of reflection---remembering 911 victims.

Joan Holliday read the following reflection by Deepak Chopra.

“Since 911, we have gone through a gamut of emotions: shock, numbness, denial, vulnerability, helpfulness, reaching out, anxiety, and anger. Now the time has come for a deeper understanding. Shared suffering gives birth to compassion. Out of compassion, love will be born and when love is born there is healing. For me and my family personally, September 11 was a reminder that life is fleeting, impermanent, and uncertain. Therefore, we must make use of every moment and nurture it with affection, tenderness, beauty, creativity, and laughter. We have since started a daily prayer, which is: "Today I will nurture every relationship with love, compassion, forgiveness, and understanding."

Cecilia Arce told us about The Family Center, which is a program of Chester County Maternal Child Health Consortium. CCMCHC makes home visits throughout the county to prenatal clients and visit until the child is 18 months old through the Healthy Start program. They have a Family Benefits program and just received 1.5 million grant for *Connecting Kids to Coverage*. The Family Center helps southern Chester County parents carry out their roles as “first teachers.” They use a nationally-recognized, evidence-based *Parents as Teachers* home visiting model which equips parents with the information, support, resources and encouragement they need to help children be successful in kindergarten/school. The Family Center recently received a grant from the Longwood Rotary, West Chester Rotary and District 7450 to provide parenting classes for families at Mary D Lang Kindergarten Center.

Email: carce@ccmchc.org

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

Email: dochollisv@aol.com & jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Dave Haradon shared an overview of a Bridging meeting and facilitated the meeting.

daveharadon@gmail.com

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New Attendees introduced themselves:

Allie Mazza (Brandywine Concierge) told us that she has started her own business of helping seniors find the right senior living option or coordination of services to allow a loved one to age in place. The services are free as she represents retirement communities and they pay her. Phone: 717-606-7281. Email: allie@brandywineconcierge.com

Jean O'Neil (After the Bell) told us that previously she was a Kennett high school teacher and taught classes in business education for 19 years and has lived in Kennett for 35 years. She now is volunteering with Family Promise and After the Bell. She comes asking for volunteers for After the Bell fall session, which starts 9/23/19 and runs 6 weeks. She needs help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Volunteers are needed to be an assistant for bus transportation or playing games with students. If interested email: grandava@gmail.com

Amanda Blevins (Community Engagement for LCH) told us that the agency accepts all clients (not just Spanish-speaking) in its health, dental and social services. They accept Medicare, Medicaid and other insurances. They have an upcoming 5-K, Family Walk and Kid Dash on 9/21/10 at Anson B Nixon Park. Go to the web site and sign-up at www.lacomunidadhisptana.org. Also, the SCOOT lime green bus will now have a bus stop at LCH. There will be several stops in the Kennett area, so please encourage clients to use the bus, because this is a pilot to see if there will be enough riders for the future. Email: ablevins@lchps.org

Cathy Binz (CCMCHC) told us that she is the Development Director for the CCMCHC non-profit and continues to look for funding to support the many programs they offer. Email: cbinz@ccmchc.org

Michael Snyder (Community) told us that he operates the Bancroft Manor Bed & Breakfast, 318 Marshall St., Kennett Square, PA, which opened in 2003. He is looking for some help with the morning routine of serving breakfast and making/changing beds and cleaning. The work would start at 7:30am and would be completed between 10am and noon. Email: innkeeper@bancroftmanor.com

Bridget Hahn (CCMCHC) told us that she is the community outreach person throughout the county, spreading the word about *Connecting Kids to Coverage*. Email: Bhahn@ccmchc.org

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

Liliana Guzman (Maternal Child Health Consortium) told us that she is a Healthy Advocate making home visits to prenatal clients and also is the director's assistant. She also asked for referrals to MCHC's Fatherhood Initiative. Liliana attended her first Bridging meeting at Kendal Communities in March. For referrals contact Liliana at: LGuzman@ccmchc.org

Ron Turner (Kennett Area Democrats) told us that they are now located at 115 Marshall St., Kennett Square, PA. The office is open every day during the week from noon to 8pm. Week-ends they are open less hours. Help residents get registered. There are 9 county-wide offices to be voted on for 11/5/19 election day. Turn out to vote! Email: info@KennettAreaDemocrats.com Turner.Ronald@gmail.com

Christine McDonald (Friends Home) told us that they provide independent, assisted and skilled care at their site on State St. There are a variety of ways that community members can volunteer. She has residents who would like to play board games with mature community members. She also has two retired educators, in independent living, who drive and are looking for volunteer opportunities. Email: CMcDonald@fhkennett.org

Beverly Bach (Community) told us that she has two volunteer engagements that she highly recommends to others. She volunteers at Study Buddies after school program on East Linden Street and helps with tutoring. She also volunteers for Together for Education, which involves the volunteer as a helper in the elementary classrooms. Email: beverlyb123@verizon.net

Luis Benites (Community) told us that he is now working as a realtor for REMAX. He is eager to help families buy first or second homes. He also told us about three scholarships that REMAX awards. It is a simple application with a survey, 2 references and proof of post high school education enrollment. The amounts are \$1,000, \$500 or \$350. Contact Luis to learn how to apply. Email: BenitesLuisF@gmail.com

Grayfred Gray (Kendal) told us that he is very concerned about how divided our country has become. He has formed a group of persons to listen to each other. They have met twice. He is looking for participants who have conservative views, as most everyone in the current group have liberal views. He also is looking for someone to help him convene the sessions. Email: g.b.gray1956@gmail.com

Courtney Taylor (YoungMoms Community) told us that she is the Volunteer Coordinator. They need volunteers for child care on club night and also donation of meals for club night. She promoted the mentoring program, which matches a volunteer with a young Mom. It is a one-year commitment that involves contacting the young Mom once a week and sharing time together twice a month. There also are mentor/mentee events. There will be an "Introduction to Mentoring" gathering at YoungMoms new office, 111 Marshall St, Kennett Square, PA on Monday, 10/7/19 at 7pm. To learn more contact Joan Holliday to attend Email: dochollisv@aol.com or Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com

Jeanne Searer (Community) told us:

1) Casa Guanajuato is a nonprofit that promotes Mexican culture for Mexican residents and shares it with the broader community. Call Jeanne if you would like to attend a meeting.

- On 9/15/19 there will be a Mexican Independence Day Picnic at Anson B Nixon Park. Please bring a dish and join the fun of celebrating several Independence Days.
- On 9/28 is their fundraiser Dinner Dance.
- On 10/5/19 there will be a Soccer for All! Mini-World Cup.
- On 11/1&2/19 Dia de los Muertos Exhibition
- On 12/14/19 Posada Navidena/Mexican Christmas at 4pm at West Grove Garage Youth Center.

The Kennett Area Senior Center is having an Indoor Garage Sale on 9/21/19 and their Christmas Bazaar on 11/15/-16/19. Please attend! Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Phoebe Kitson (Kennett Rotary and CC Food Bank) told us that the Kennett Rotary will be sponsoring a Bingo Night at the Kennett Area Senior Center on 10/19/19. The proceeds will go to Family Promise. As Director of Agency and Community Partnerships with the Chester County Food Bank, she told us that they are working on preventing food insecurity. The definition for Food Insecurity is: Lack of food for a consistent healthy life style. She is asking for information about any areas we observe as needing food support. Food drives are always needed. Email: pkitson@chestercountyfoodbank.org

Joan Holliday (Community) shared the information of an upcoming event on addictions at First Baptist Church, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA. There will be presentations by Rev. Donald G. Coombs Jr. Ed.D. on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. For more information and to sign-up go to: www.ksqfbc.com/conference. Call 610-444-5320. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary) told us that the Habitat for Humanity organization is building 40 new \$225,000 homes that will cost the buyer \$170,000, as they participate in the building. They will be in West Grove. Please inform the community and check out web site at: www.hfhcc.org. He also

encouraged attendees to become Rotarians---Longwood Rotary, Kennett Rotary or join the organization for adults under 30 years old called Rotaract. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

Claudia Turner (Pathstone) told us that they are located on McFarland Rd and are expanding their occupation in the current building, as Pathstone has purchased it. They provide free daycare/preschool for families, who work in the agricultural industry. They now have 34 slots for PreKCounts, which is free for all residents with income guidelines. They have a Migrant Headstart program and are applying for funds for a Headstart program for 17 slots, targeted to open in October. They have teacher positions open. Special Note: Phoebe Kitson shared that she had visited the site recently and now has a new word for the children attending---“adorables.” Email: ctumer@pathstone.org

Cathy Brison (Community) told us that she is an employee of the YMCA, member of the MLK Advocates and Breakfast Committee. The MLK Breakfast will be at the Red Clay Room on 1/20/20 at \$25 a ticket. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com

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

- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Allie Mazza about making a presentation about her free service to the Kennett Area Senior Center. She also “bridged” with several people with the flyer around Casa Guanajuato’s upcoming events.
- Allie Mazza “bridged” with Luis Benites, who will help her as a realtor with one of her clients. She also “bridged” with several others around her services.
- David Haradon “bridged” with Luis Benites around his real estate business and plans to set-up a meeting with his son-in-law, who also is a realtor to learn from each other
- Marsha London “bridged” with Christine McDonald about starting a Scrabble Club with Friends Home residents. She also “bridged” with Joan Holliday, who is setting-up an opportunity to work with Tick Tock ECL after school youth on an artistic expression project.
- Beverly Bach “bridged” with Jeanne Searer around the Senior Center and also with Christine McDonald about seniors interested in volunteering at After the Bell and Together for Education.
- Liliana Guzman “bridged” with Claudia Turner about positions for Healthy Start clients at Pathstone. She “bridged” with Dave Haradon about joining Rotoract.
- Bridget Hahn “bridged” with Dave Haradon about joining Rotoract.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Courtney Taylor about having a Bridging meeting at YoungMoms new office. She also “bridged” with Christine McDonald, who would like Friends to host a Bridging meeting. Joan passed out flyers about the addictions workshop at First Baptist. She “bridged” with Grayfred Gray about helping convene the “Listening” sessions.
- Michael Snyder “bridged” with Amelia Blevins about listing his job opportunity at LCH. He “bridged” with Joan Holliday and will send specifics of position and salary to Joan and LCH.
- Claudia Turner “bridged” with Jeanne Searer about passing out Casa Guanajuato flyers to her families at Pathstone and with Cecilia Arce and Liliana Guzman about referrals to their Fatherhood Initiative.
- Jean O’Neill “bridged” with Christine McDonald about the Friends independent seniors volunteering at After the Bell.
- Grayfred Gray “bridged” with Joan Holliday with the addiction workshop flyer, to be posted on Kendal’s bulletin board. He also “bridged” with Phoebe Kitson about the SCOOT bus coming to Kendal as one of its stops.

After the meeting, many stayed to continue their “bridging” experience. Thanks to MCHC Family Center for hosting our meeting.

Bridging the Community was held on November 13, 2019 at 2nd Baptist Church, 132 S. Willow St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thirty-four enthusiastic community members attended the 128th Bridging meeting on a cold, brisk evening.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 08, 2020 at YoungMoms, 111 Marshall St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays 2019!

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

Rev. Marvin T. Williams (Pastor of 2nd Baptist) led us in a prayer. He told us that the church was started in August of 1891. They had a fire in 1994 and the current building is the restoration. They hold weekly Sunday worship services. One of their best enjoyed events is Mother's Day, when they honor the women in the congregation with a showering of gifts and a meal prepared by the men. He thanked the Longwood Rotary for their new chairlift, that Dave Haradon had help facilitate and offered rides at the end of the meeting. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Joan Holliday shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. They helped facilitate the meeting because Dave Haradon was visiting his new grandson in Colorado. Email: docholliv@aol.com & jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by 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:

Alejandra (Ale) Colin (Home of the Sparrow) told us that the agency helps women and mothers in Chester County, who are in danger of losing their housing. They are open to referrals and Allie is at KACs on Tuesday, 9am-5pm and Thursday 9am-12pm for appointments. She is also looking for home providers who are looking to supplement their income and have a private bedroom and a home to share with a renter. Home of the Sparrow makes the match and screens all participants to ensure safety and the best possible match. Contact Ale at: acolin@homeofthesparrow.org or 610-647-4940.

Elisa Cooney (Student at Haverford College) told us that she is majoring in anthropology and is writing her thesis on Kennett Square. She is attending Bridging to learn about the community. She would like to meet with people to learn more about the town. Email: ecooney@brynmawr.edu

Veronica Gillen (Intern at LCH) told us that she is a student at West Chester University in Social Work and has an internship at LCH. She is attending Bridging to learn about the Kennett area community. Email: vgillen@lchps.org

Rev. Lilieth Baugh (Pastor at Bethel AME) told us that she recently was assigned as pastor to Bethel AME Church, 301 E. Linden St., Kennett Square, PA. She is attending to learn more about the community. Email: baughlil72@gmail.com

Joan Sharp (Member of Bethel AME) told us that she has been a member for over 60 years. She is attending Bridging to learn more about the community. Email: glojsharp@yahoo.com

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

Grayfred Gray (Kendal) was unable to attend the Bridging meeting, but wanted to continue his work with Bridging folks who were working on "Listening Through Differences." He offers the opportunity to join with *Better Angels*, a group around the country that has a similar goal to his, who is having a 3-hour workshop that may help to heal the Red-Blue divide this Saturday at the Haverford Friends Meeting in Haverford, PA from 10am to 1pm. He plans to attend and has been in touch with the local coordinator. This is an open invitation and you don't need to register. Please let Gray know if you want to come and you could carpool. Email: g.b.gray1956@gmail.com

Jessie Cocks (Community) told us about four community opportunities:

1) 1/20/20 MLK Community Breakfast. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Harold D. Trulear, National Director Healing Communities. Theme: "Building a Beloved Community in the Face of Adversity." There also will be a community choir. Tickets \$25. Call 610-444-6020 x108. Online purchases visit:

www.MLKCommUNITY.org. There also will be a Day of Sharing, Change for Change and a Food Drive. For more information email: info@mlkcommunity.org or www.facebook.com/MlkCommunity.

2) There will be a meeting on Tuesday, 11/26/19 at 6:30pm (location to be announced) to discuss how to honor Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad at the new library, as the mural on the barbershop may be blocked due to the new library building location. Email: Brenda Mercomes at: bijou291@comcast.net if you would like to be part of this task force.

3) Hadley Presents has a line-up of free family events for next year. Jessie brought boxes of brochures to be placed in town locations. To view offerings: www.HadleyPresents.org or call 610-696-0501.

4) The Rainbow Chorale has a holiday *Deck the Halls* 20th Anniversary Concert on 12/14/19 at 7pm at The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 Shipley St., Wilmington, DE. Tickets are \$25. Jessie is a member of this choir. Contact Jessie at: jessiecocks@gmail.com

Nefta Erroa (LCH) told us that LCH is having a coat drive for children on 12/6/19 at their West Grove office, 105 Vineyard Way where they have a dental clinic and a Women's Health Center. No need to register, but children need to be present to receive the coat. First come; first served. New donated coats are appreciated and could be dropped off at LCH's Kennett office, 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett, PA. Email: nerroa@lchps.org

Lizabeth Connors (Kennett Senior Center) told us that they are holding their Christmas bazaar this coming Friday, 11/15/19 from 9am to 6pm and Saturday, 11/16/19 from 9am to 3pm. They have clothing, crafts, gifts, antiques & collectibles, books, gift baskets, baked items and other treasures. Breakfast and lunch served all day. Email: lconnors@kennettseiorcenter.org

Karen D'Agusto (Girl Scouts) told us that she has 40 leaders and nearly 600 girls involved in Girl Scouts. She helps match projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their bronze or silver medals. Ideas for projects are always welcome. She also works with the new organization, Youth Community Forward, which provides Rights Cards to protect against profiling. She has free booklets in Spanish that explains that a notary is not a lawyer, as some notaries have portrayed this image in the area. Finally, she is encouraging community members to formulate a petition and solicit signatures to return the right to a driver's license to all families in PA, even the undocumented. The right to mobility, to move freely, is

inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Petitions can be brought to CATA, 220 Birch St., Kennett Square. They have a small emergency fund for legal needs. Karen's email: kdagusto@aol.com

Jeanne Searer (Community) told us that Casa Guanajuato was very happy with the outcome of Dia de los Muertos event at the American Legion. Their next event will be held on 12/14/19 with the Posada Navidena/Mexican Christmas at 3pm, starting at West Grove Chapel. All are welcome. Email Jeanne to learn how to join the fun. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Jean O'Neil (After the Bell) told us that she volunteers with After the Bell. She comes asking for volunteers for After the Bell winter session, which will run 6 weeks. She needs help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. She also is looking for persons who would like to be a "judge for a day" for a Future Business Leaders event on 12/5/19 from 3:30pm to 7pm. If interested email: grandava@gmail.com

Rev. Carin Bonifacino (Community) is looking to develop a Grief Support group, as well as a group that will explore the range of options around end of life and burials. Email: summersun33@verizon.net
Phone: 610-998-5164

Kelly Sharp (Kennett Area YMCA) told us that there are many volunteer opportunities at the Kennett Y. There is a Girls on the Run and YMCA STRIDE 5K Challenge on 12/7/19; Family Fun Night from 5-7pm on 12/22/19; Noon Year's Eve, 12/31/19 and MLK—Day of Service, 1/20/20. There is also Saturday Night Lights. All of these events need volunteers. They are looking for a youth mentor employee (high school graduate), who would help with school age children childcare from 7-9am and 3-6pm. Contact Kelly at: ksharp@ymcagbw.org; Phone: 610-444-9622 ext. 2338.

Rochelle Brittingham (Community) lives in the area and is also a member of the Longwood Rotary. She previously attended Bridging meetings with her job at CC Emergency Services.

Dr. Antoinette Gomez (Harmony Counseling Services) works at New London Counseling Center at The Christian Life Center (CLC), 125 Saginaw Rd, Lincoln University, PA 19352; Phone: 484-746-3112. Email: info@newlondoncounselingcenter.com They have a sliding scale fee. Email Antoinette at: harmonycounseling709@gmail.com

Kelly Lynch (Wings for Success) told us that they have their new site in the New Garden Shopping Center. Come visit and tour the site. They provide apparel, advice and advocacy for employment and internships. Clothes may be donated by calling ahead of time at--610-444-1446. *Do You Have 2020 Vision?* This will take place on Thursday November 21st from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM and pre-registration is required: <https://wingsforsuccess.org/events/workshops/> They are looking for Spanish speaking volunteers. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org

Esther Rochester (Community) told us that she attended the *Getting Ahead* workshop, which has helped her have a "better life" through learning how to develop and draw on her resources. She still has the dream of completing her GED. She is a bus aide for the Kennett School District.

Courtney Taylor (YoungMoms Community) told us that she is the Volunteer Coordinator. She promoted the mentoring program, which matches a volunteer with a young Mom. It is a one-year commitment that involves contacting the young Mom once a week and sharing time together twice a month. There also are mentor/mentee events. Email: Courtney.taylor@youngmomscommunity.com

Joan Holliday (Community) invited everyone to come to a Kennett Intergenerational Coffee Klatch every Thursday from 10:30am to 11:30am at The Market at Liberty Place, 142 W. State St., Kennett

Square. This is another forum to meet community members and learn about what is happening in the community. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Jim Mercante (Community) is President of the Kennett YMCA Board and is involved in Opportunity Network. He is attending to learn more about the community. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

Judge Al Iaocca (District Court 15-3-04) told us that he is part of the community and was coming to see what was going on. He is part of the Longwood Rotary and Opportunity Network. He arrived incognito with a full grow-in beard and it took time for all of us to recognize him.

Lauren Piotrowski (Family Services) is from the ZOOM program, which provides volunteer drivers to medical appointments. They have supported CVIM in West Chester and now they are working with LCH. They are looking for volunteer drivers. The program has her as the only employee, who recruits volunteers and facilitates the need with the driver. Transportation is a dire need in SCC. She is looking for volunteers. Email: lp Piotrowski@familyservice.us

Cathy Binz (CCMCHC) is the Development Director for the Chester County Maternal Child Health Consortium. She is attending on behalf of the agency to learn about community connections. The Family Center is under their umbrella and tonight their staff is completing Parenting Classes at Mary D Lang, sponsored by the Longwood Rotary. Email: cbinz@ccmchc.org

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

- Lizabeth Conners “bridged” with Jessie Cocks around Hadley events; Sister Ruth Williams in making a Sweet Potato Pie for the KASC’s Christmas bazaar and with Esther Rochester to sign-up Ruth Rochester to the Senior Center, as she has lonely days since her husband passed. She also “bridged” with Jeanne Searer around bringing items to the bazaar.
- Kelly Sharp “bridged” with Esther Rochester about volunteering at the Kennett Y on Family Fun Night.
- Nefta Erroa “bridged” with Karen D’Agusto around Youth Community Forward and books available for LCH clients.
- Sister Ruth Williams “bridged” with Rev. Carin Bonifacino around starting a Grief Support Group. She also “bridged” with Jessie Cocks about attending meeting around integrating Underground Railroad at the library. She also is going home to bake the Sweet Potato Pie for the bazaar with Lizabeth Conners.
- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with several people around MLK breakfast; giving Hadley display boxes to Lizabeth Conners; Rev. Lilieth Baugh; Esther Rochester; Rev. Marvin T. Williams and Rev. Carin Bonifacino for their respective churches.
- Karen D’Agusto “bridged” with Elisa Cooney about attending a Youth Community Forward board meeting; Nefta Erroa around materials for LCH; Kelly Lynch with Wings for Success for volunteers.
- Kelly Lynch “bridged” with Karen D’Agusto around Girl Scouts providing socks and leggings for agricultural women workers.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Elisa Cooney and will meet with her about the community. She “bridged” with Jim Mercante around the Kennett Area YMCA future strategic plan and his idea of giving Elisa Bob George and my book about Kennett. She “bridged” with Rev. Carin Bonifacino about contacting Matt Greico about starting a group around end of life and burial options.
- Courtney Taylor “bridged” with Joan Holliday around hosting Bridging at YoungMoms office in January and about several potential mentors.

After the meeting, some attendees stayed to ride the new chairlift. We “Facetimed” with Dave Haradon in Colorado and he shared the following screen shot of Bella Gomez riding the chairlift. Dave’s comment, “Just seeing her laughter made my evening!”