

Minutes from 2021 Meetings

January 12, 2021

March 10, 2021

May 12, 2021

July 14, 2021

September 8, 2021

November 10, 2021

Bridging the Community was held as a Zoom meeting on January 12, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm featuring Virtual Host LCH (La Comunidad Hispana), 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. This is our 134th meeting with 37 attendees bringing their spirit to a new form of communing and "bridging."

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm featuring Family Promise, 1156 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com or there will be 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. (Until we have quarantine requirements lifted, we will continue to showcase a new site on each zoom meeting.)

Dave Haradon opened up the meeting with a moment of silence to bring healing to the challenging times of COVID and governmental unrest. daveharadon@gmail.com

Joan Holliday shared Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared the Guiding Principles. Email: dochollisv@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

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

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

Amanda Blevins and Laura Mackowicz from LCH (La Comunidad Hispana) told us about their expanded services and shared photos of the sites and employees. They have a Health Clinic in Kennett Square and in Oxford. In-patient care and telehealth. (They will be moving to a new site in the Spring in Oxford.) They have a Dental Clinic, a Woman's Center and Pediatrics Clinic in West Grove. They have Behavioral Health in all three areas including a psychiatric provider. They have Social Services which help clients with signing up for Health Insurance, SNAP and legal services.

They have been actively involved in doing COVID testing in an outside trailer at the Kennett site and in the mushroom farms. Email: ablevins@lchps.org; lmackiewicz@lchps.org

Attendees Were Invited To:

- 1) Present a need; 2) Provide information about a resource. Raise your hand if you want to bridge with the speaker and create a dynamic "bridge."**

Alexa Hart (Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) BRC works on preserving the Brandywine and Red Clay watersheds; provide environmental education to youth; and purchase land for preservation. They have posted summer job openings for high school students and for an Intern position. They also have scholarships for Summer Camp. Email: ahart@brandywineredclay.org
Job Opportunities: <http://www.brandywineredclay.org/about-us/job-opportunities/>
Scholarships: <http://www.brandywineredclay.org/summer-nature-camp/scholarships/>

Tom Hoehle and Virginia Maroun attended from their cabin in the Poconos. They recently got married and came back to say "Hi" to their Kennett friends. They also have a home in Landsdowne so will visit Kennett in the Spring. Email: tomhoehle@yahoo.com

Emma Di Pace (Community) told us that she recently graduated from college with an emphasis on Spanish, Religion and Education. She is looking for a job. Email: emma.dipace@gmail.com
BRIDGE: Cecilia Arce/Family Center bridged with her telling her of two job openings at her agency--One is a Parent Educator and the other is a Community Health Worker.
Email: carce@ccmhc.org

John Mirky (Bucknell University) told us that he was writing an article for a Publication about the health concerns of the Mexican population. He has interviewed LCH and MCH persons and is looking for more interviews. Email: jm091@bucknell.edu
BRIDGE: ACOLA and Casa Guanajuato Jorge Ducchini (jduchini@gmail.com) and Jeanne Searer (jeannecrew491@hotmail.com) agreed to be interviewed.

Kelly Quant (Wings for Success) told us that they provide apparel, advice and advocacy for the underserved, who are seeking employment. Their clothing is for all kinds of jobs---medical scrubs; professional; mushroom work etc. They provide workshops to help with employment and managing home budgets. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org

Workshops: <https://wingsforsuccess.org/events/workshops/>

Clothes Donations: <https://wingsforsuccess.org/donate/donate-clothing/>

BRIDGE: Jeanne Searer thanked Kelly for the bridge Wings for Success made with Casa Guanajuato and Peoples Light Theatre. They will be part of a production at this venue.

Laura Mackiewicz (LCH) told us that they are looking for art to be created in the new Oxford Health Clinic Waiting Area. She would like something that reflected faces, community spirit, warm and welcoming. She also would consider a mural.

BRIDGES: Kris Smith (Email: artwaves@hotmail.com) expressed an interest and Jim Mercante (vjmercante@gmail.com) offered Kendal residents as a group he would ask about this request. Phoebe Kitson pointed out that the mural that is done next to the West Chester Salvation Army would be an artist to check out.

Phoebe Kitson (Pastor) told us that she is the new pastor at Church of the Loving Shepherd, 1066 S. New St., West Chester, PA 19382. They have a Fellowship Hall that would permit a gathering of 10 (COVID Safe) could use for strategic planning or community meetings---high ceilings. Contact Phoebe at: <https://churchofthelovingshepherd.org/>

Rev. Marvin T Williams (2nd Baptist Church) told us that they still have services every Sunday and his wife is supporting many families with homemade food due to the food insecurity need during this pandemic. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Pastor Daniel Nicewonger (First Baptist Church) told us that he is attending to see what was happening in the community. He also would like to recruit some youth, who would like to work with their new technology experimenting and teaching how to use it. Email: pastor@ksqfbc.com
BRIDGE: Joan Holliday gave the contact information for Loretta Perna, who has high school students who are looking for community volunteer opportunities. Her email is: lperna@kcsd.org.

Kathy Hrenko (Project Cure) collects medical supplies and equipment for third world countries. During 2020 they provided PPE; masks & gloves as needed for essential workers. They are open to having family groups volunteer to help sort items. She said she keeps everyone in her heart and joined the meeting to feel the warmth of community. Email: kathyhrenko@projectcure.org

Alejandra Colon (Home of the Sparrow) They help homeless women. They have taken on the mission of building awareness of homelessness. Check out their project, "Decorate for a Mission For Valentine's Day". <https://www.homeofthesparrow.org/2021/01/12/decorate-for-a-mission-for-valentines-day/> Email : acolin@homeofthesparrow.org

Jim Mercante (SCCON Technology WorkGroup) told us that he, Joan Holliday and Whitney Hoffman are working on advocating for robust internet services for Southern Chester County. There have been many challenges for low-income students during virtual school with access and cost of Internet. There will be a meeting with SCC municipalities on 01/21/2021 to start working together towards a solution. Anyone interested in joining this effort and becoming a volunteer contact: vjmercante@gmail.com

Joan Holliday (Education Discovery Group) told us that there is a group now forming to help write grants and research scholarships so that low-income students, who want to go on to college have some help. Grant writers, retired teachers, college alumni, corporate partners are all needed to help with this cause. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary) told us about the GRUB GRAB Rotary Restaurant Raffle. \$20 will buy you one ticket (buy more if you'd like) to get a chance to win \$2,500 in gift cards to over 30plus restaurants in the Kennett area. Write checks to the Longwood Rotary Foundation and mail to: LRF/Lynn Nathan, 101 Fox Fell Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Tickets will be sent to you. Drawing is 2/13/2021. Check out Longwood Rotary Facebook page. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

Chris Anderson (Realtor) told us that the market is crazy and she is working on keeping buyers and sellers "grounded." Phone: 484-753-2692; Email: chris.anderson@foxroach.com
BRIDGE: Joan Holliday asked if Chris would like "The Story of Kennett" books to give to new homeowners in Kennett Square. She agreed, so Joan will contact Chris.

Keith Smithyman (Community) told us that he is an Adjunct Teacher at Delaware County Community College. He is a Substitute Teachers for Innovate Academy. If anyone would like to volunteer building stage sets for plays, he welcomes the help. He also is one of the candidates for Kennett Borough Manager. Email: Keithsmithyman@gmail.com

Brett Dolente (Kennett Square Co-op) told us that she became a member recently and encourages the community to become members. They hold the vision of the store being member owned and people working together for better food, stronger communities, and a healthier planet. Email: brettdolente@gmail.com

Karen D'Agusto (Girl Scouts) told us that she helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals. They are willing to offer virtual Girl Scout programs. **Youth Community Forward** just received two substantial donations for a person/s who are seeking asylum or dealing with immigration issues. . Email: kdagusto@aol.com
BRIDGE: Cecilia Arce will be in contact about the funds.

Arianna Denison (CCMCHC) told us that the Parent Mentor Training(Advocate) for promoting CCMCHC services went very well. They will help clients with signing up for health insurance, prenatal care and kindergarten readiness. Anyone over 18 years, who would like to volunteer would help expand awareness of CCMCHC and resources that the community needs. Email: adenison@ccmchc.org

Liliana Guzman (CCMCHC) told us that they serve families through the Family Center and provide Parent Education classes virtually. They accept donated children's clothing and furniture. Email: lguzman@ccmchc.org

Esther Rochester (Community) told us that she made a New Year resolution to lose some weight. She has been eating salads for lunch. Applause! Email: erochester17@gmail.com

Janet Zeis (CC Food Bank) said that the need is high for supplemental food in our County due to the challenges of COVID, They work with the community partners and she said, "You have an amazing food partner with KACS.) Email: jzeis@chestercountyfoodbank.org

Joan Holliday (Community) spoke about the good work the SCCON/Southern Chester County Opportunity Network is doing in SCC during the COVID pandemic. There is an open-forum bi-monthly network meeting with 40-50 attendees. They coordinate food, housing, educations needs in the community. Open for attendance. Next meeting is 1/21/2021 at 8am. Contact Kate Daneker for the Zoom link. Email: kdaneker@ksqroots.com
There is a General SCCON meeting for anyone interested in volunteering in the community on 1/19/2021 at 6pm. Contact Kate Daneker for the Zoom link. Email: kdaneker@ksqroots.com

Thanks to **Carlie Numi** from Kendal Communities for attending.

We ended the meeting singing the Bridging the Community Song.

BRIDGING COMMUNITY
Bridging Community
Building the Kennett family
A better place to live in
Where each and all are free
We live our land's philosophy
Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity
Our spirit comes forth from the land
Inspiring unity

We are guided by our principles
The starting point will always be community
We freely go about our work
With no infrastructural burden
Cause "coming from the heart" is free
We each have a role to play
Our eyes are on potential
We are Bridging Community

Bridging the Community was held as a Zoom meeting on March 10, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:20pm featuring Virtual Host Family Promise, 1156 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348. This is our 135th meeting with 32 attendees bringing their spirit to a new form of communing and "bridging."

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:15pm featuring Virtual Host First Baptist Church, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com or there will be 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. (Until we have quarantine requirements lifted, we will continue to showcase a new site on each zoom meeting.)

Rev. Marvin T. Williams opened up the meeting with a prayer for our community work and in respect for Family Promise's ministry.

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

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Host for the Evening

Renna Van Oot, Executive Director of Family Promise.

She told us about Family Promise, which is a 35 year-old national organization that helps homeless families. The local Family Promise non-profit started in Kennett Square 6 years ago.

It is supported by 13 Host Churches that provide a week of volunteers four times a year. They have 15 Support Churches who partner with the Host Churches. Volunteers set-up the beds, provide an evening meal and stay over-night with the guests at the church. The families are transported to the Day Center for the day at 1156 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348. A Case Manager works with families to help them find housing, employment and support to gain stability. They also mentor families after they leave the program. During COVID the 4 homeless families were first in a Delaware Hotel, then a benefactor in Kennett provided free hotel rooms for 9 months. Currently, because of COVID, Family Promise

Joan Holliday spoke about the editorial that Pastor Dan had written about Pastor Marvin T Williams celebrating his 30 years as a pastor. We applauded this significant community contribution.

Pastor Marvin T Williams (Second Baptist Church) told us that his church will be providing a free spaghetti dinner on Saturday 3/13/2021. This time he will be making the sauce. Email him to sign-up or call: 610-384-3243. They need numbers. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary) told us that the Longwood Rotary has a committee that has worked out ways to help families with car repair issues. Call him for information if you know someone who needs help in this area. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

Rob Newman (Longwood Rotary) will be the incoming Longwood Rotary President and is attending Bridging to learn about the needs and ways to partner with the community. Email: captain_newman@usafa-grads.com

Shirlee Webster (Family Promise Case Manager) recently started at Family Promise. She helps families settle into housing and employment towards stability. Email: cm@familypromisesc.org

Kelly Quant (Wings for Success) told us that they provide apparel, advice and advocacy for the underserved for job readiness. Their clothing is for all kinds of jobs---medical scrubs; professional; mushroom work etc. They will have a *Better Than Bacon* virtual fundraiser on 3/18/2021 on Facebook. On 4/29/2021 will have their Wine and Wings fundraiser in person. They provide workshops to help with employment and managing home budgets. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org **Workshops:** <https://wingsforsuccess.org/events/workshops/>
Clothes Donations: <https://wingsforsuccess.org/donate/donate-clothing/>

Joan Holliday (Community) told us about the After the Bell SHINE ON fundraiser to be held at 6:30 pm on their website: afterthebell.org/special-event and on their Facebook page: facebook.com/kennettafterschoolassociation. It will be talent performances by 30 students and adults Master of Ceremonies will be Leon Spencer. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Christy Kane (Habitat for Humanity) told us that they offer affordable housing and are accepting applications for homes in West Grove. Please refer clients. Email: Christy@hfhcc.org

Jim Mercante (Technology Advocate) told us about the effort that Whitney Hoffman, Joan Holliday and he are engaging around "Bridging the Digital Divide" in SCC. Their hope is to have a lead county agency, along with a Coalition which will manage the project towards a robust Internet access in SCC. They also hope to gain funds for Internet literacy and volunteers may be needed to help with this part of the plan. More to come. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

Kim Dyer (Church of the Advent) is part of the Outreach Ministry and is attending Bridging to learn about the needs in the community. Email: kymberdyer@gmail.com

Esther Rochester (Community) told us that she received her first COVID vaccine and will be an example for others, even though she was afraid to get it. Email: erochester17@gmail.com

- Concern about migrant community's financial status because many will not receive the stimulus checks.
- Concern about migrant community receiving their vaccine.
- Concern about teachers having burnout---dealing with virtual and in-house teaching now.
- Concern about virtual schooled children having access to school lunches with transportation an issue for picking up food.
- Concern about the mental health of everyone, especially children and seniors.
- Concern about businesses suffering and not coming back.
- Concern about evictions and possible homelessness after COVID funds are gone.

We ended the meeting singing the Bridging the Community Song.

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We are Bridging Community

Bridging the Community was held as a Zoom meeting on May 12, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:15pm featuring Virtual Host First Baptist Church, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. This is our 136th meeting with 25 attendees joining to keep the spirit of community alive and well.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July, 14 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:15pm We will plan an outdoor gathering at His Mission, 342 E. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. If there is a prediction of rain, we will have a Zoom meeting, announced on the day of Bridging.

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Pastor Dan Nicewonger opened the meeting with a prayer as pastor of the meeting's Host Community location.

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

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Host for the Evening

Pastor Dan Nicewonger, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348 told us about the symbolic meaning of the Welcome Plaque as one enters First Baptist church. It was created by local artist, Neilson Carlin. It actually is a surf board serving as reminder to ride the waves that are inspired by the Spirit. With this they choose to not duplicate services in the community but to be a resource for the community in areas that needs are not being met.

There are 3 symbols painted on the surf board. In the middle there is a symbol for being a Christ-led, Spirit-led community. On the left, there is a sign of empowering people to become followers of Christ through sharing LOVE. On the right side is a symbol depicting meeting the wholistic needs of individuals and families. Email: pastor@ksqfbc.com

Attendees Were Invited To:

1) Present a need; 2) Provide information about a resource. Raise your hand if you want to bridge with the speaker and create a dynamic "bridge."

Arianna Denison (MCHC) told us that there will be a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Thursday, May 20, 2021. They will give the Moderna vaccine. The vaccine event will be on May 20th from 9am to 2pm for registration please call 610-344-5370 Ext 110 or email at Lguzman@ccmchc.org

Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) told us that Mighty Writers is hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on this coming Friday, May 14, 2021 at West Grove Methodist Church, from 4:00-6:00pm at the church, 300 W Guernsey Rd in West Grove. Contact:

Linda Lefevre (Delaware County Community College) told us that Pennock Bridge will be open next week for 5 days a week, until summer, then 4 days a week. Please get the word out. Email: llefevre@dccc.edu

BRIDGE per chat with Dave Haradon, who would like to give information about Vocational Education Scholarships. Contact Dave Haradon, Gundaker Foundation, www.Gundaker.org; Email: daveharadon@gmail.com; Cell: 484-883-3110

Deliyah Carrasquillo (WCU Intern) is spending her internship with MCHC. She offered to recruit college volunteers, who need to do community service. If there is an event, she could recruit a group of 10 plus. She is looking for study abroad and is asking if anyone has any connections for school or volunteering. Email: Deliyaha@gmail.com

Emily Bettencourt (Kaolin Mushroom) told us that she is currently in CA and will be coming to Kennett Square soon to work for South Mill Mushroom Farms as a liaison with the community. She would like to learn about resources and also help recruit employees for the farm, which range from office, mechanics to pickers. Email: bettn5@verizon.net

Alexa Hart (Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) BRC works on preserving the Brandywine and Red Clay watersheds; provide environmental education to youth; and purchase land for preservation. They have scholarships for Summer Camp. Email: ahart@brandywineredclay.org
Scholarships: <http://www.brandywineredclay.org/summer-nature-camp/scholarships/>
BRIDGE Joan Holliday and Liliana Guzman will get the information out to families. Joan was called recently inquiring about camps for high school boys.

Keith Smithyman (Community) told us that he will be helping with Waterway Vacation Bible School the first week of July. The theme will be Rocky Rail Way. If anyone has train memorabilia or stories that he could use, he would appreciate the help. Email: keithsmithyman@gmail.com

Kelly Quant (Wings for Success) told us that Mighty Writers has brought a couple of groups of migrant Guatemalan women to pick out clothing. They were so appreciative. They provide clothes for jobs for mushroom workers, health care workers and professional. They will have an

in-person fundraiser in June---<https://wingsforsuccess.org/wine-with-wings-2021/>They also receive donations once a month. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org
Clothes Donations: <https://wingsforsuccess.org/donate/donate-clothing/>

Pastor Marvin T Williams (Second Baptist Church—originally Mt. Calvary Baptist Church) told us that his church hopes to open by the end of this month. They want to make-up for Mother's Day. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Casey Jones (New York State) told us that they are working on creating a cyber church that will bridge with conventional churches. He also alerted us to check out the Emergency Broadband funds to help with internet services and funds towards devices. Web site: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-493A1.pdf>
Email: bps461@msn.com

Bob George (The Story of Kennett) writes an editorial bi-weekly for the Southern Chester County Weeklies alternating with Joan Holliday. This week his article speaks about the importance of voting in the Primary on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. He pointed out that there are four constitutional amendments that are included in the ballot and it is important to be informed.
Email: georgert@gmail.com

Chris Anderson (Realtor) loves to work with buyers and sellers. She would be happy to take referrals. Phone: 484-753-2692; Email: chris.anderson@foxroach.com \

Rob Newman (Longwood Rotary) will be the incoming Longwood Rotary President in July. He shared that The Longwood Rotary partners with the broader community that need support in housing, education, health and transportation. They are working off a 3-year plan of "One Community of Needs." There are 3 Kennett Area Rotaries. Longwood Rotary meets early morning at 7am; Kennett Rotary meets at lunch time and Kennett Light meets once a month. Please contact them if you have people looking for Community Service Opportunities
Email: captain_newman@usafa-grads.com
BRIDGE Invitation to Emily Bettencourt to become a Rotarian and bring back Toastmasters.

Karen D'Agusto (Girl Scouts) told us that she helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals. Please contact if you have a service project.
Youth Community Forward—They provide funds for legal fees for migrants seeking asylum.
Karen also has formula to donate. Email: kdagusto@aol.com

Shirlene Webster (Case Manager for SCC Family Promise) told us that they continue to help families facing homelessness. She always is looking for housing and employment for clients.
Email: cm@familypromisesc.org; Phone: (484) 473-3972.

Carlie Numi, Anne Humes and Karen Halstead said that Kendal-Crossland's Communities stays involved in the broader community.
Carlie Numi told us that they are working with a Refugee Project. If anyone in the community would like to help with this or house a family Contact Carlie. Email: carlie313dick93@aol.com
Anne Humes told us that residents are planting a garden and the fresh produce will go to KACS and the knitters have been busy making 31 scarves for 3-4 year old's and 16 sweaters.

Betty Gordon (First Baptist Church) attended to support Pastor Dan Nicewonger.

Joan Holliday (Community) continues to promote the good work the SCCON/Southern Chester County Opportunity Network is doing in SCC during the COVID pandemic. There is an open-forum bi-monthly network meeting with 40-50 attendees. They coordinate food, housing, education needs in the community. Open for attendance. Next meeting is 5/27//2021 at 8am. Contact Kate Daneker for the Zoom link. Email: kdaneker@ksqroots.com

She also told the group that there will be a meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7pm by Zoom to start forming a Digital Literacy Coalition. This summer there will be an assessment of digital connectivity both for wire and cell throughout 4 SCC school districts within 22 municipalities.

Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) made a "bridge" with Kelly Quant, who connected Jeanne with People's Promise. There is an event with Playback Theatre about the migrant experiences on 5/16/2021 from 2:00 to 3:30pm at Willowdale Chapel outside. It is limited to 50 attendees. Contact Mayra Castillo: Email: mayrarcr@gmail.com

Dennis Melton passed away with a brain aneurysm on May 5th. He was a local architect and musician and was deeply loved by many for his many contributions to the community and his caring nature. There will be a future music service in his honor.

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary) showed a 2-minute video for Wings for Success that he appreciated for its simplicity. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

We ended the meeting singing the Bridging the Community Song.

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Bridging the Community was held on July 14, 2021 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm for the Annual Tom Hoehle Community Picnic and 7:00pm to 8:30pm for the first in-person meeting in 18 months. This is our 137th meeting with 30 attendees joining to keep the spirit of community alive and well.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 08, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at The Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.

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Craig Parrish said a prayer before the picnic dinner, as this site has a Christian mission.

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

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Tom Hoehle facilitated the meeting and thanked His Mission for hosting the event and for the wonderful meal everyone contributed healthy food to add to the grilled hot dogs and buns.

Thanks to Tom and Craig Parrish for grilling the hot dogs.

Tina Butcher told us that she and Bobbie Newman have been operating His Mission, a homeless shelter for men for many years. His Mission was founded by their mother Margaret Valentine about 40 years ago. They now are turning it over to Good Samaritan to operate, hoping to keep the same spirit of the founder. Email: hismission342@yahoo.com

Nate Hoffer from Good Samaritan Services told us about their non-profit organization. They provide a full continuum of care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. They offer Emergency Shelters, Residential Housing, and Housing Support Services across Lancaster and Chester Counties. They serve around 400 men, women and children every year. They also offer many financial stability and personal development resources that holistically and

effectively address the needs of participants who are enrolled at Good Sam. They have locations in Phoenixville, Coatesville, Ephrata, and Lancaster and now Kennett.

Nate told the story of how Good Samaritan Services got started with the founder, William Washington. He responded to a spiritual call to start a homeless mission in Phoenixville. Nate expressed how Good Samaritan thought this matched the story of Mrs. Margaret Valentine becoming the founder of His Mission. He emphasized that Good Samaritan "walks with their clients without judgment and meets them where they are and helping them move forward."

He introduced Cheryl Miles and Hannah Miller as other member of Good Samaritan staff, who are pleased to become acquainted with the Kennett Square community.
nate@goodsamservices.org; cheryl@goodsamservices.org; hannah@goodsamservices.org

Attendees Were Invited To:

1) Present a need; 2) Provide information about a resource 3) Offer a new idea or 4) Share a miraculous mushrooming of care story.

Christina Norland (Kennett Trails Alliance) told us that their mission is to develop walkable and safe trails for recreation and for walking and biking. She pointed out that Kennett area has great designated open space that more people can enjoy. She is open to hearing ideas and issues that residents may have for the trails. She showed us the trail map and passport booklet for families with the theme, "Nature is Our Teacher." She has a supply in English and Spanish that she can take orders to handout to families. Email: cnorland@ksqroots.com

Emma Garner (CCMCHC) told us that she is a new hire for outreach. The CC Maternal Child and Health Consortium non-profit serves pregnant women through home visits; they help sign-up families for benefit programs and have the Family Center in Kennett Square, which has just moved to 385 Starr Rd, Suite 204, Landenberg, PA 19350. The Family Center prepares children for kindergarten and have the Parents As Teachers curriculum. They serve families with children 0-5 years old. Email: egarner@cmchc.org

Christy Kane (Habitat for Humanity) told us that she has brochures marketing the 40 new homes in West Grove. They are looking for potential low to middle income home owners, who will put in 200 hours of work/adult as sweat equity to purchase the homes. She also spoke about the expanded direction Habitat will be going in October with the Critical Home Repair of rental properties. They will approach landlords to buy properties, then revitalize the rental complexes and be the landlord. Email: Christy@hfhcc.org

Claudia Turner (Path Stone) told us that they are located on McFarlan Road. She is the Education Coordinator. 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. They have 6 classrooms. They have openings for Pre-K Counts, which is open to the broader community for 3-6-year-old. Path Stone has training for employment and has housing help. They are looking for 2 bus monitors; 2 teachers with a BS or AA and another Education Coordinator with a BS or BA. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

Anne Humes (Kendal) learned about the nursery schools that serve low-income families at Bridging. For many years, she has been donating knitted clothing items to Tick Tock Early Learning Center and Path Stone. Tonight, Anne shared a photo of Tick Tock Early Learning Center students wearing the knitted sweaters that they received from Anne and her colleagues at Kendal. She reports that they kept on knitting during COVID and delivered these sweaters at Christmas 2020. The photo with children wearing masks reflect the time period.
Phone: 610-388-1199.

Deb Parrish (Kennett Senior Center) told us that she experienced a "miraculous mushrooming of care" when her dream of serving seniors has come true through her new assignment as Program Director for the Kennett Area Senior Center. **Note:** In Bridging minutes in July 2019, Deb asked for some volunteer opportunities with seniors, as she felt it was her calling. Joan Holliday let her know when she heard the position opened up at KASC and the wish has become a reality. Email: debparrish@verizon.net

Emily Bettencourt (Kaolin Mushroom) told us that she works for South Mill Mushroom Farms as a liaison with the community. She works on recruitment and retention and reminded us that South Mill has four farms---in West Grove, South Street, Kennett, Cochranville and Landenberg. Beyond harvesters, they have truck driver, administrative and office positions. There will be a new administrative building at 175 Willow St., Toughkenamon, PA. They will have an Open House Job Fair on Sunday, 7/18/2021 from 2-7pm. There will be a Taco Truck and Ice Cream, Email: ebettencourt@southmill.com

Renna Van Oot (Family Promise) told us that there are over 200 Family Promise affiliates around the country that serves families with children. The model involved churches housing homeless families in the evening for dinner and overnight. The families went to the Family Promise Day Center, during the day. During COVID they housed families at Birch Inn. Now they are serving families in crowded homes helping them develop the stability to move out and be on their own. Currently they are looking for Real Estate to have a permanent shelter where faith communities would still volunteer and help. Email: ed@familypromisescc.org

Keith Smithyman (Community) told us that he made a "bridge" with Melanie Weiler, who is selling campers and has access to campers that need to be repaired. He continues this ministry for the homeless in the winter. Email: keithsmithyman@gmail.com

Joan Holliday (Community) shared information about Handyman Services that Pam Eppinger will schedule an estimate for the work. Call 484-888-1764 to contact Jimmy Coldiron, who works on home improvement, tree trimming, snow removal, landscaping etc. There is no job too small for him to respond to the call. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

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

- Mary Anne Piccard "bridged" with an attendee to do editing work for her.
- Jeanne Searer "bridged" with Christina Norland on the trail map and passport, and Deb Parrish about being a Program Director at the KASC, as Jeanne served in that role in past years.

- Claudia Turner “bridged” with Cheryl Miles from Good Samaritan; Emma Garver about CCMCHC services; and Christina Norland about maps and passports for the Path Stone students.
- Virginia Maroun “bridged” with Bobbie Newman and learned about her work at His Mission gaining tremendous respect for the time she has devoted to this calling.
- Emily Bettencourt “bridged” with Renna Van Oot about Family Promise: Good Samaritan staff about their mission; Christy Kane about Habitat’s available homes for refugees that she has contact with at South Mill. Emily will share all the above information with employees.
- Ruth Rochester and Esther Rochester “bridged” with Deb Parrish about Ruth returning to the Senior Center when they open in September.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Christy Kane about the work Habitat will be doing with landlords and offered to introduce her to Jim Mercante, who is working on a mediation process with tenants and landlords. She also “bridged” with Grayfred Gray, who offered to drive Anne Humes home.

Don’t forget to be singing the Bridging the Community Song until we meet again.

BRIDGING COMMUNITY
Bridging Community
Building the Kennett family
A better place to live in
Where each and all are free
We live our land’s philosophy
Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity
Our spirit comes forth from the land
Inspiring unity
We are guided by our principles
The starting point will always be community
We freely go about our work
With no infrastructural burden
Cause “coming from the heart” is free
We each have a role to play
Our eyes are on potential
We are Bridging Community

Bridging the Community was held on September 08, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:15pm by Zoom. This is our 138th meeting with 28 engaging attendees joining to keep the spirit of community present and living.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at The Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com or there will be 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 in honor of the flood victims in the area and country, as well as the country of Afghanistan and for those who are still requesting to leave. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

Joan Holliday shared the Bridging song, which reflected the Bridging's Framework and **Jeanne Searer** shared Guiding Principles. Email: dochollisv@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; each has a role to play--not focused on hierarchy

Stephanie D'Amico (Kennett Area Senior Center) told us that they are going through a major renovation supported by a generous donation of a past board member and Longwood Foundation. They hope to be back in operation in late fall. They have rooms for 100 people and another for 50 people and are open to hold community meetings at their site. They are having a book sale on 9/10/2021 from 4pm to 7pm and Saturday on 9/11/2021 from 9am to 2:00pm. Email: sdamico@kennettseiorcenter.org

Joan Holliday facilitated the meeting and asked attendees to share resources, events, needs and ideas that they had for the community. If someone sees a connection, raise your hand and you may dynamically "bridge" with that person.

Eddie Burkey (Kennett Community Grocer) told us that she is a board member and they continue to recruit members. They have 200 members and need 200 more before they can secure financing for a site. They will be presenting to the Longwood Rotary on 11/18/2021 and are hoping they will provide guidance around membership recruitment. The Grocer will be an

inclusive place that will bring people together around local, affordable and healthy food and other activities. The membership fee is \$309 one-time membership or can be paid monthly for a year. Email: eburkey@comcast.net

BRIDGE: Stephanie D'Agusto suggested that the KCG share their information on the Kennett Square PA Community Message Board. They have 16,000 members. Postings are on the 1st and the 15th and can be found on the web.
Beverly Bach suggested that they post information in the Historic Kennett Square email news.

Beverly Bach (Community) told us that The Land Conservancy of SCC is sponsoring a *Birds, Books & Brews* trail to view native plant pop-up gardens around town. This starts on 9/8/2021 and goes until 9/18/2021 with a Closing Ceremony at Braeloch Brewery from 4:30 to 6:30pm.. On 9/24/2021 there will be a Pollinator event at The Kennett Square Farmers Market from 3-6pm. 6:30pm. It will focus on butterflies and a representative from Casa Guanajuato will discuss the significance of the monarch butterfly to the Mexican culture.

Email: beverlyb123@verizon.net

BRIDGE: Laura Gonzalez requested information on the native plants that attract butterflies, as she is working with Casa Guanajuato families and would like them to be educated. Simple drawings and information. Beverly will send information to Laura at; , gnzlzlr@gmail.com,

Amanda Blevins (LCH) told us that they continue to provide their health, social and education services. They have a virtual fundraiser, "Amigos of LCH" on Friday, 10/15/2021 at 7pm. \$50/person. To register: <https://lchcommunityhealth.org/event/amigos/> or contact: LeeAnn 610-444-7550 x220 or LRiloff@LCHservices.org

Jim Mercante (Digital Literacy Coalition) told the group that volunteers are needed to help train staff members in a pilot "Train the Trainer" project. Volunteers need to sign-up as RSVP volunteers at www.rsvpmc.org/form-builder ---this is the agency that is conducting the training. Basic computer and digital device skills are needed. Volunteers can work on Zoom or in person. For more information contact Jim at: vjmercante@gmail.com or Joan at: dochollisv@aol.com

Emma Garner (CCMCHC) told us that CC Maternal Child and Health Consortium non-profit serves pregnant women through home visits; they help sign-up families for benefit programs and have the Family Center in Kennett Square, which has just moved to 385 Starr Rd, Suite 204, Landenberg, PA 19350. The Family Center prepares children for kindergarten and have the Parents As Teachers curriculum. They serve families with children 0-5 years old. They just distributed book bags and school supplies to 600 children. They now will be moving into a winter coat drive. They have a hybrid fundraiser to celebrate their 30th anniversary on 10/21/2021 from 6-9pm. In-person it will be a dinner and silent auction. They have 3 job openings. Please check out their web site for fundraiser and job openings at: www.ccmchc.org
Email: egarner@cmchc.org

BRIDGE: Debbie Parrish asked for more information about the Coat Drive. They need 300 coats. More information on the web site: www.ccmchc.org

Anne Humes (Kendal) told us that Kendal facility is on lockdown again because one staff member has COVID. They still continue their telephone ESL tutoring and also are donating their garden produce to KACS once a week. Phone: 610-388-1199.

Carlie Numi and Dick (Kendal) said they like to attend to see what is going on in the community. They also pass on the information to other Kendalites. She will share information about the Community Grocer with one of her friends. Email: carlie313dick93@aol.com

Karen D'Agusto ((Girl Scouts) told us that they are recruiting girls 5 years to 17 years to join the Girl Scouts in Kennett Square and Unionville. She also helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals. She introduced Debbie Lewis, who also is working with the Girl Scouts and looking for arenas for projects. Email: kdagusto@aol.com

Chrissy Romano (KACS) told us that she is working as the Bridges Out of Poverty Coordinator. There is a Getting Ahead program for those in poverty and a community program to learn about how to relate to poverty with new understanding. There is a community training on 9/24/2021---it is for ALL community members to attend. Email: Chrissy@kacsonline.net
BRIDGE Chrissy "bridged" with Karen D'Agusto about being an agency for Girl Scout Projects. Karen shared that one Girl Scout recently fundraised and donated \$1,200 to KACs.

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary) told us that the Longwood Rotary has a fundraiser EAGLES SEASON TICKET RAFFLE. Drawing is this Sunday !!! To purchase tickets:
<https://eagletickets.charityraffles.org/> 25% of Raffle Ticket comes back to Kennett community.

Stephanie D'Amico (KASC and Longwood Rotary) told us that the Rotary started a program of taking older used car donations. They will have them repaired and their goal is to develop a fleet of cars that can be loaned to persons in need of a car for transportation to work, if their car has broken-down. They also are working on a collaboration with KACS, UWSCC and the Longwood Rotary to provide Short-Term Micro Loans. If you have a car you would like to donate, contact Stephanie. Email: sdamico@kennettseiorcenter.org

Kelly Quant (Wings for Success) told us that they provide apparel, advice and advocacy for the underserved, who are seeking employment. Their clothing is for all kinds of jobs---medical scrubs; professional; mushroom work etc. They provide workshops to help with employment and managing home budgets. They are starting a five-week series called "New Choices," which teaches interview skills, resume building etc. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org

Kris Smith (Community) is happy to have found a friendship in Emily Bettencourt and will be helping her do a cooking demo at The Flats. She is single and always is looking for avenues for single gatherings. She also has a spare bedroom that is available for rent.
BRIDGE Joan Holliday may have a potential renter and will discuss with Kris later.
Email: artwaves@hotmail.com

Lara Herman (Child and Family Focus) is the Chester County Respite Coordinator. They always are looking for persons, who would like to work part-time and help give families respite, who have family members that have a mental health diagnosis. No extensive training is needed; the role is companionship and only a high school degree is required. If interested please contact:
Lherman@childandfamilyfocus.org

Laura Wiechecki (Compass Mark) is the new Chester County Drug & Alcohol Providers and Laura is the Prevention Coordinator. September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month. On 9/16/2021 there will be a FASD general awareness and education presentation. On 9/23/2021 there will be more extensive information about the disorder. Compass Mark is providing DeTerra Medication Disposal Bags, which can be used to deactivate medicines with charcoal. For more information about workshops and DeTerra Bags check out the web site; <https://www.compassmark.org/upcoming-events/intro-to-fasd-2021/> Email: lwiechecki@compassmark.org

Mary Ann Piccard (Community Volunteer) “bridged” with Laura Gonzalez, offering to provide photos and information about milk weeds for her students learning about butterflies. She also told us that she knits and that there is a Knitting Group that meets at The Market at Liberty Place, 147 W. State St., Kennett on Tuesday mornings at 9:30am. Email: hobbyist2037@verizon.net
BRIDGE: Mary Ann asked Emma Garner if they could use knitted mittens, scarves, gloves and woolen scarves to go with the coat donation this fall and Emma agreed this would be great.

Dave Haradon (Community) told us that he working with the Memorial Day Parade Committee and they need volunteers. Planning meetings will start soon. Please consider becoming a part of a long-time Kennett event that is attended by many. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com

BRIDGING COMMUNITY SONG

**Bridging Community
Building the Kennett family
A better place to live in
Where each and all are free
We live our land’s philosophy
Peaceful, progressive, inclusivity
Our spirit comes forth from the land
Inspiring unity
We are guided by our principles
The starting point will always be community
We freely go about our work
With no infrastructural burden
Cause “coming from the heart” is free
We each have a role to play
Our eyes are on potential
We are Bridging Community**

Bridging the Community was held on November 10, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at The Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. This is our 139th meeting with 28 engaging attendees joining to keep the spirit of community present..

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7pm and it will be a Zoom meeting.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com or there will be 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 in honor and appreciation of the Veterans who have served our country.

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

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Stephanie D'Amico (Kennett Area Senior Center) welcomed us and told us that they are in Phase II of their renovation project. The kitchen is now being brought up to code; previously it had been grandfathered in. She is hoping for a soft opening on 12/7/2021 when seniors will use the Wendel Room with box lunches. Capacity is 65. Email: sdamico@kennettseniorcenter.org

Jeanne Searer and Joan Holliday facilitated the meeting and asked attendees to share what they needed or what they brought to the community, as well as any new ideas.

New Attendees

Sara Dickens-Trillo (Mighty Writers non-profit & Casa Guanajuato) told us that her organization tutors middle school girls in writing in both English and Spanish. During the pandemic she started a food and diaper drive for the vulnerable community. Every Friday there is a distribution at the West Grove Methodist Church to over 330 families.. She needs volunteers to help with distribution, as well as donations. Email: sdtrillo@mightywriters.org

Laura Gonzalez (Casa Guanajuato) told us that Sara Dickens-Trillo as President of Casa Guanajuato has been a great leader in getting Latinx youth involved in learning and expressing their culture in many community events. Email: ganzlzl@gmail.com

Lori Holcomb (Kennett Area Senior Center) told us that she is the new Information and Assistance employee. She encourages us to send information to her to share information about the broader community resources. Email: Lori.Holcombe@kennettseniorcenter.org

Glen Marshall (Kendal) told us that he is a new resident of 5 months at Kendal. He brings a knowledge of Health Care Information Technology Security and Record Keeping. He also is a skilled photography and offers the opportunity to attend a Zoom meeting on Spirituality. Email: glen.f.marshall@gmail.com

Brooke Seeger (Habitat for Humanity) told us that they have homes for sale in West Grove and Coatesville. They use USDA funding, so a family of 1-4 can make \$45,000 to \$75,000 to qualify. They also will be starting to rehab homes in the area for low-income.

Selma Faulkner (Development United Way of SCC) told us that she brings knowledge of quilt-making and fundraisers for United Way of SCC, which provides funds for 23 local non-profits. There will be a raffle for a Year of Chocolate from local bakers and chocolatiers. Tickets are \$10 (3) for \$25. A winner will be selected on 2/14/2021. Purchase tickets online: www.unitedwayscc.org/raffle

Dine at Hood's in Unionville on 12/7/2021 from 4:00-8:00pm and 15% will go to your local United Way. Email: development@unitedwayscc.org

Nikki Laws (KSCD) told us that her new role is to connect student's family needs with non-profit services in the community. Please share information with her. Email: nlaws@kcsd.org

Repeat Attendees

Ann Humes (Kendal) told us that she will be delivering hats, gloves, scarves and sweaters to agencies that will be receiving coats. She told us of a 103 year old woman who has been knitting scarves and sends her best wishes. Ann also announced that Kendal needs kitchen/waiter help and if any 17 year and older youth would like to work, please contact Kendal. They must be vaccinated. Phone: 610-388-1199.

Karen D'Agusto ((Girl Scouts) told us that they are recruiting girls 5 years to 17 years to join the Girl Scouts in Kennett Square and Unionville. She also helps match volunteer projects with Girl Scouts looking to earn their silver or gold medals. Several girls are involved in upcoming Christmas programs. She said that she made some "bridges" at the last Bridging meeting with Mighty Writers. She said that there is one Scout Troop at Church of the Advent that provides transportation. Email: kdagusto@aol.com

Grayfred Gray (Kendal) During this era of questioning Grayfred offers the following: Spiritual Oasis is a support group for individual spiritual life regardless of religious thinking. We do not support, study or teach any particular religion. As an oasis we welcome anyone who

wants to have support and give support to individual spiritual life. We come regularly or as we feel the need. **We meet each Sunday night at 7 to 8:30 by Zoom.**

We help each other and ourselves in these ways:

1. We speak honestly about our own spiritual lives.
2. We listen with an open heart so we can learn from each other.
3. We ask no questions of one another.
4. We make no judgments of one another's spiritual lives.
 - Each of us has a chance to share whatever we wish of our own spiritual life. No one has to talk at any time.
 - In our meetings we tell briefly about our current spiritual lives, share spiritual life in more depth as we want to, take time for individual support if asked for, and have discussion if there is time.
 - Personal information that is revealed in the Oasis stays here.
 - Our principles and practices make the Oasis a safe place to explore and share spiritual life. Each of us applies them in our meetings.
 - If you are interested in coming to a meeting or have questions about Spiritual Oasis, please write to Grayfred Gray at g.b.gray1956@gmail.com or call at 610-388-0361.

Amanda Blevins (LCH) told us that they are involved in strategic planning and would like input from the community about their services and what are community needs to be met. Survey is online and on Facebook. Let us support this effort. www.lchcommunityhealth.org

Jim Mercante (Bridging the Digital Divide) told the group that an internet connectivity assessment will be started in the next month, conducted by a vendor and managed by CCIU. In the digital literacy phase of this effort, volunteers are needed to help train staff members and assist in classes with staff member's clients in a pilot "Train the Trainer" project. Volunteers need to sign-up as RSVP volunteers at www.rsvpmc.org/form-builder ---this is the agency that is conducting the training. Basic computer and digital device skills are needed. Volunteers can work on Zoom or in person. For more information contact Jim at: vjmercante@gmail.com or Joan Holliday at: dochollisv@aol.com

Chad Thomas (Chester County Hospital) told us that he is in charge of Health Community Outreach. The hospital offers 12 screening programs; 11 Support Groups and online health education. They offer an online class in Spanish on Diabetes 2. To get on the email list for announcements of classes email: chadthomas@pennteam.upenn.edu

Stephanie D'Amico (KASC) told us that the best way to reach a large audience with announcements for a 15 mile radius around Kennett become a subscriber to Kennett Square PA Community face book. She also invited everyone to the Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square from 6:00-8:00pm for the Paul Harris Fellowship award to be given to Joan Holliday, Nancy and Mike Pia and Lewis Benard. Email: sdamico@kennettseiorcenter.org

Kelly Quant (Wings for Success) told us that she made a "bridge" with Emily Bettencourt from South Mill Champs and provided clothing for 80 women. They also worked with 6 Mighty Writers volunteers. Wings for Success provides apparel, advice and advocacy for the underserved, who are seeking employment. Their clothing is for all kinds of jobs---medical

scrubs; professional; mushroom work etc. They provide workshops to help with employment and managing home budgets. They provide a New Choices workshop that is 5 two-hour sessions for employment readiness. Email: kelly@wingsforsuccess.org

Liliana Guzman (MCHC/The Family Center) told us that they are looking for a man to play Santa on 12/22 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. They have the suit.

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

Jim Mercante “bridged” with Glen Marshall and Alexa Hart about helping with the digital literacy trainings, as they both have technology experience.

Liliana Guzman “bridged” with Alexa Hart who thought she knew a man who would play Santa. Jeanne Searer also offered Jose Colon as another person to ask.

Emma Garner “bridged” with Amanda Blevins, as she has met her on Zoom, but never in person and they do have mutual clients they serve. She also “bridged” with Nikki Laws about the vaccine clinic to be held at the KCSD to get the word out to the families MCHC serves.

Sara Dickens Trillo “bridged” with Edie Burkey about her son-in-law, Chepe Espinoza being a Salsa Dancer and ways Sara could bring him into events with Casa Guanajuato. Sara also “bridged” with Beverly Bach, who is helping with donations with Mighty Writers.

Joan Holliday “bridged” with Edie Burkey about the Kennett Community Grocer (Co-op) and learned how she was framing her pitch for membership. It is a way to fight climate change buying local. She also said that there will be a video in Spanish and English that will market the Grocer to the Latinx population. If needed, they will be offered scholarship.

Joan “bridged” with Brooke Seeger about Habitat and the number of homes they would like to sell at this time in West Grove and she said 6 in the new year.

Grayfred Gray “bridged” with Stephanie D’Amico about posting the Spiritual Oasis invitation on the Kennett Square PA Community Facebook page to get the word out.

Karen D’Agusto “bridged” with Emily Bettencourt about a Girl Scout taking on a project of creating a Pollinator Garden on Starr Rd/Alpine mushroom farm.

Liliana Guzman “bridged” with Chad Thomas about promoting CC Hospital’s Diabetic 2 online course in Spanish. She “bridged” with Esther Rochester who met her when she was a small girl at the Kennett Laundromat, when Esther worked there.

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