

Bridging the Community was held as a Zoom meeting on Wednesday January 10, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:20pm. This is our 152nd meeting with 22 interactive attendees. This meeting was one day after a serious rain storm and a good number of community members were without electricity, so could not attend the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm featuring the Good Samaritan located at 342 Birch St, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thank you for volunteering to be host for Bridging, Rebecca Villanueva.

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.com and 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 welcomed everyone and led us in a moment of silence to heal, and for peace from the ongoing wars. Joan then shared Bridging's Framework and shared the Guiding Principles. Email: dochollisv@aol.com.

Joan Holliday asked people to share stories that reflect our guiding principles. **Joan Holliday** shared a story about community residents sharing vegetables and helping low-income families receive fresh produce.

Jeanne Searer shared about Liliana Guzman getting more involved in the community and how great it is to see.

Janet Zeis shared seeing all the positive help with the fires on Union Street, Kennett; the holiday celebrations and how we all try in the community to unite.

Jeanne Searer talked about how people care and everyone plays a part in making the community a better place to: "Grow up in and grow old in."

Kevin Beck talked about the schools helping with the fires and the great work done on housing the families affected by the fires. Email: dochollisv@aol.com, jeannecrew491@hotmail.com, janet@kacsimpact.org, KBeck@chesco.org

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

Joan Holliday turned it over to **Kate Wickersham**, our new Bridging the Community facilitator. She asked people that have previously participated in bridging meetings to

share about why they are here and any bridges they hope to make (Kate explained we would ask for people to “bridge” right after they have spoken because of being on Zoom. Email: dochollisv@aol.com, kwickersham@lchservices.org

The Following persons offered their resources, needs and new ideas:

Liliana Guzman (The Garage Community and Youth Center) – join The Garage Community and Youth Center on Wednesday 1/17/2024 at the Kennett Library for Family Fishing Night (looking for volunteers) 6-8pm. Join the Garage Community and Youth Center Thursday 1/18/2024 at the center from 5:30pm to learn how to navigate the school system Skyward. This is an opportunity to practice your Spanish and English as you are working together.
Email: liliana.guzman@garageyouthcenter.org

Natalie Santiago (Kennett Trails Alliance) - introduced their newest employee, **Kymm Bontrager**. All are working towards fishing night at the library. Just had a very successful event, Three Kings Day, over 700 people attended, and the community was represented well. They are finalizing the yearly calendar. They support Casa Guanajuato who will be having a community day and giving back to the community, plus much more.

Kymm Bontrager is starting week two at her job and learning fast, she feels so fortunate to be here.

BRIDGES – Joan Holliday asked **Crystal Crampton** could Juneteenth committee connect with Square Roots ; she will get back to them. **Rebecca Villanueva** invited **Kymm Bontrager** to come see their space and they would love to partner. **Mayra R. Castillo** would like to connect about migrant families.

Emails: Nsantiagovazquez@ksqroots.com, kbontrager@ksqroots.com, dochollisv@aol.com, crampton.crystal@yahoo.com, rebeccav@goodsamservices.org and Mayrac@cciu.org

Sofia Soto (Bilingual Program Coordinator/CHW Maternal and Child Health Consortium)

- West Chester office is moving to 1475 Phoenixville Pike. Sofia shared that their Family Benefits program is co-locating at the Kennett Library every other Wednesday, helping the community apply for SNAP and Medical Assistance benefits. The second flyer is sharing the days that Lupton Law will be at our different offices offering free immigration consultations. This flyer is both in Spanish and English.

BRIDGES - Natalie Santiago asked about services open to the public or not, they are open you just need to make an appointment. She would like to connect.

Emails - ssoto@ccmchc.org, Nsantiagovazquez@ksqroots.com

Kevin Beck (Chester County Department of Emergency Services, Community Outreach

Coordinator) - Emergency Services of Chester County - highlighted all that helped with the Oxford fire and then talked about the past weather challenges and upcoming weather challenges. Kevin encouraged all to check out preparedness tips on their

website. They want to expand their services on how to be prepared and would like to attend more public events. Please reach out if you would like the ESCC to visit your organization.

BRIDGES - Kate Wickersham would like to get the bilingual cards and set up an emergency preparedness presentation (the presentation would need a translator but Kevin said they're more than welcome to do that, they do have slides too). Wanted to know if this is good for staff to do too? He said yes, he wants everyone to be prepared.

Natalie Santiago wanted to know about helmets, car seats, etc. but that is Lauren. Would like to host an emergency preparedness and get the info out to everyone.

Emails - kbeck@chesco.org, kwickersham@lchservices.org,
Nsantiagovazquez@ksqroots.com

Joan Holliday – Thursday 1/11/2024 the Kennett Community Grpcer will host a new member orientation from 5:00-7:00pm at Victory Brewing. She shared they are one of the best organizations in the community that will add value and benefit. Will anyone accept the invitation to attend with her? **Esther Rochester** and **Janet Zeis** will attend. Emails - dochollisv@aol.com, erochester@gmail.com and janet@kacsimpact.org

Janet Zeis (KACS) - doing a poverty simulation on Saturday, 1/13/24 - they need participants (last call). They set it up like a board game and set it up as you're assigned to a family group, which is broken up in four 15 minute blocks and it gives you the experience what it's like to live in Chester County - you go over all the things that you might need to do and then you feel the stress and then regroup and try another week and continue through that process. Gives you great insight into poverty. KACS will have their Annual meeting on 2/1 from 3-5. Contact Janet if you would like to attend.

BRIDGES - Asked **Kevin Beck** about using the fire as a springboard, he would love to connect. **Tatiana Florez, Chad Thomas and Joan Holliday** did the previous poverty simulation and found it very helpful.

Email - janet@kacsimpact.org and kbeck@chesco.org

Chad Thomas (Community Health Education Coordinator) – shared about the following (flyers attached) January 2024 Diabetes Virtual Programs in Spanish, 01/18 Revirtiendo la Prediabetes, 01/25 Prevenir La Diabetes Tipo 2, 01/31 Grupo de Apoyo para los Diabéticos, January-February Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Events, February 9th Mental Health First Aid at Chester County Hospital, February 21st QPR Suicide Prevention Training at Kennett Library and February 12th Heart Tracks Health Screenings at Chester County Hospital.

Email - Chad.Thomas@penmedicine.upenn.edu

Joan Holiday - recognized **Vicki Gehrt** (VP of the school board). She wanted to listen in and see if anyone had any questions.

Emails - dochollisv@aol.com, vgehrt@verizon.net

Alberta Landis- Outreach within the community for CVIM. She managed the dental clinic for many years and there still is a bus coming once a week to Kennett schools to bring students to CVIM in West Chester for dental care. She is listening and wants to

see what is available to help. She could do dental presentations. Giving free medical and dental treatment to those that qualify. Her passion is being out in the community. Please reach out any time.

BRIDGES - Chad Thomas would love to have a virtual presentation. **Tom Hoehle** invited Alberta to come see a live performance of Bridging the Community on 3/13. **Crystal Crampton** needs toothbrushes and dental floss. **Mayra R. Castillo** talked about dental health month and connecting. Call to ask for Alberta's contact number: (610) 836-5990 Ext. 122

Emails - Chad.Thomas@penmedicine.upenn.edu, tomhoehle@yahoo.com, crampton.crystal@yahoo.com and Mayrac@cciu.org

Rebecca Villanueva (Good Samaritan) - talked about single men in Kennett, Phoenixville and single individuals they were able to help them stay in the current housing or new housing.

Email - rebeccav@goodsamservices.org

Kate Wickersham (LCH Director of Development) - Esther Rochester is being highlighted in the annual report of LCH, please go to their website and view. They do a good news report. Highlighted that there is a challenge right now on digital literacy and so they are doing a bilingual presentation on 1/22 with the Avon Grove library at 5pm and how to navigate technology. They are open to anyone in the PA area.

Emails - kwickersham@lchservices.org, erochester@gmail.com

Bridging the Community was held at Good Samaritan Services, 342 S. Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm outside on the front lawn with fire pits for roasting marshmallows. The temperature was 68 degrees at the start.

Melissa Horst shared that Good Samaritan Services has five locations. She's been a part of the organization for twelve years. They offer many housing opportunities and can serve twelve people at their Kennett location. Currently, they have 5 emergency men; 3 men in transition and they will be welcoming a couple on 3/14, This is our **153rd** meeting with 38 attendees.
Email - melissah@goodsamservices.org

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at LCH located at 731 W Cypress St, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thank you for volunteering your organization, Kate Wickersham. Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.wordpress.com and 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.

Kate Wickersham and **Jeanna Searer** welcomed everyone and led us in a private moment of silence, then shared Bridging's Framework and shared the Guiding Principles. Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org, jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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Jeanna Searer asked people who would like to share after hearing about the Bridging's Framework and the Guiding Principles. **Kate Wickersham** said to focus on potential, it's a different way to look. **Cathy Brison** loves seeing everyone's willingness to help and how it comes from the heart. **Liliana Guzman** shared it feels like family support. **Tom Hoehle** shared there is no infrastructure burden to our meetings; we take notes, they get posted and that's it. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com, kwickersham@lchservices.org, liliana.guzman@garageyouthcenter.org, calorisonmm@aol.com and tomhoehle@yahoo.com

Kate Wickersham, our Bridging the Community Leader, asked NEW people at the meeting, to share about why they were here and what bridges they hoped to make.
Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

New Attendees Introduced themselves and made their requests or shared their offerings:

Rana Sakr (Kennett Library Assistant) was invited by Joan Holliday to attend the meeting. She is the head of the health literacy initiatives at the Kennett Library and is excited to be here to build the potential for the “Live Better” health initiative – public health matters. Join the library for the Spring Forward Event on Wednesday April 24th at the Library from 10-12 and 5-8 cohosted with AHHAH. Join her and her committee for Live Better Monthly Meeting on the first Thursday of the month. Emergent Abundance Farming Collective invites you to a gathering on Sunday April 14, 2024 11-2 at Spar Hill Farm. Email: rsakr@ccls.org

Victoria Pascoe (Home of the Sparrow) joined the meeting because of her passion for housing. They have a shared housing program for women. Email: vpascoe@homeofthesparrow.org

Shawn Holmes (Maternal and Child Health Consortium) covers the SCC area and goes to homes to talk with fathers about child development. Email: sholmes@ccmchc.org

Elisa Salinas (SILO Oxford) told us that she is the meal coordinator for SILO and always wanted to help the kids in her neighborhood – focusing on loving others. April 20th party like it is your birthday on April 20th at the Penns Grove Middle School Cafeteria from 2-4pm for pizza and cake. You are invited to Prom Night May 18th from 2-4 will have great food. Email: ellie@oxfordsilo.com

Crystal Ayala (ELRC) is new in her role and is here to build connections. Email: crystala@cciu.org

Trevor Pruitt (Clinical Herbalist/Mental Health) shared about the Community Herbal Garden Party on Saturday April 27th in Landenberg from 2-6pm. Email Trevor for more information and to RSVP. Email: trevorlpruitt@gmail.com

Cierra Walker (Recovery Coach) for LGBTQ about substance abuse. Has been networking on her own and wants to get to know the community better and what we need. Email: cierra89walker@gmail.com

Norma Ocampo (ReMax) here on behalf of the Real Estate company to make connections. Email: normaocamporm@gmail.com

Fidel Guadarrama (Citizens Bank) came to support his wife but also connecting with people. He is local and graduated from Avon Grove. Email: Fidel.Guadarrama@citizensbank.com

Others were invited to share their needs or resources, as well as new ideas to find partners

Melissa Horst (Good Samaritan) and team invited the community to join Love Pickleball Tournament benefiting Good Samaritan Services. Saturday April 27th, game play is at the

Kennett Highschool from 8am-2pm and the after party is at The Creamery from 4-6pm. They're collecting welcome baskets to neighbors in need, contact Brittany at brittanyt@goodsamservices.org for more information.

Rev. Marvin T. Williams (Second Baptist Church) invited everyone to join in the Gospel Celebration at the Kennett Library on April 13th from 13 (tickets \$20) and then he said to join for food at the church after the Library. Call Mrs. Ruth Williams at 610-384-3243 for tickets and more information. If you would like to sponsor, please contact Joan Holliday. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com and dochollisv@aol.com

Liliana Guzman (The Garage Youth Center) please let her know if you would like to have a youth intern this summer, as she has over 20 paid students, who are looking for an experience in the careers they are hoping to pursue. Email - liliana.guzman@garageyouthcenter.org

Stephanie Bernasconi (Stroud Water Research Center) will celebrate World Water Day FREE on Friday March 22nd from 4:30-7pm. Call Jess at 610-910-0049 for more information. Email – sbernascon109@gmail.com

Kathy Hrenko (Community) shared she is an art therapist who serves nonprofits. She also is a member of the Longwood Rotary and invites new members. Their motto is “Service Above Self,” so they fit with the Bridging philosophy. Email: khrenko@comcast.net

Jeanna Searer (Casa Guanajuato) said Casa Guanajuato will be holding Cinco De Mayo on Saturday May 4th on State Street. Contact her for more information for vendors and volunteers. Her number is 484-467-8011. They need sponsors. Email - jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Janet Zeis (KACS) shared about the Kennett Area Community Service, CHESCO Bridges Coalition, United Way of Southern Chester County, Oxford Neighborhood Service, SILO, Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness, and Chester County Community Foundation will host a Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 109 E Doe Road, Unionville, PA 19375. This learning tool has been created to help people understand the realities of poverty. During this simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families. Some will be designated as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients, some as disabled, and some as senior citizens on Social Security. All participants will have the stressful task of obtaining necessities and shelter on a limited budget during four 15-minute “weeks.” You will interact with human service agencies, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers, police officers, and other resources in the community. Email - janet@kacsimpact.org

Jim Mercante (Digital Alliance & Housing) told us that there is a Chester County Digital Alliance that has been endorsed by the Commissioners to bring awareness and resources to those in need to help the entire community have robust Internet service and digital literacy. There will be a presentation at the Kennett Library on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 from 10am to noon coffee with Joan Holliday, Michele Moll from RSVP and Jim Mercante making the presentation.

Jim is also involved in promoting affordable housing with KACS and a County-wide Coalition. If you'd like to help with digital equity or housing contact Jim at: vjmercante@gmail.com

Joan Holliday (Bridging Community) is looking for someone to take on the Bridging manager/"glue" role that she has held for 26 years for Bridging the Community. Someone that sees it as "his/her" child with commitment & care, and when not able to continue, finding a new person, who will be faithful in carrying on the Bridging process. Email – dochollisv@aol.com

Molly Hampson (Mighty Writers) shared about signing up to receive their Kennett e-newsletter. Sign up here <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/TaZoAQg> Email – mhampson@mightywriters.org

Kate Wickersham told us about Fishing Night at the library on March 20th from 6-8pm. Come out and learn how to fish! Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

The group then mingled and “bridged” and made the following bridges.

- Rana Sakr stated this is where magic happens. Kathy Hrenko and Rana talked about Art Therapy and working with veterans, Shawn Holmes and Rana connected about a collaboration on breast feeding for the community and Trevor Pruitt and Rana Sakr connected about a sensory garden.
- Joan Holliday collected \$100 for scholarships for Rev. Marvin T. Williams Gospel Music Celebration at the Library. She “bridged” with Karen D’Agusto from Girl Scouts, hoping to develop a project for a digital literacy program at the Kennett Senior Center.
- Melissa Horst “bridged with Fidel Guadarrama from Citizens Bank
- Mighty Writers and Silo “bridged” – Latinos resources needed – great connections
- Kathy Hrenko and Melissa Horst “bridged” with Ellie from the Oxford Rotary.
- Karen D’Agusto will be connecting the Girl Scouts about computers for The Garage.
- Susan Dunn-Lisuzzo – community member is asking how can we make these resources more easily accessible? Ellie said we do have a way to do this!
- Esther Rochester is looking for books for New Garden AME church. She “bridged” with The Garage Youth Center and LCH, who will give her books for children.
- Jim Mercante, Victoria Pascoe and Ellie from SILO will be connecting about housing.
- Janet Zeis and Lilianna Guzman “bridged” about the donated kitchen space and youth program idea.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with The Garage offering another macaroni and cheese casserole for a meal.

Thanks to Good Samaritan for your hospitality! Everyone enjoyed the s’mores and the hot chocolate and coffee at “bridging” time and the tour of Good Samaritan after the meeting.

Bridging the Community was held at LCH, 731 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, May 08, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 154th meeting with twenty conscientious attendees present. There was a mix-up with the first email announcement being 6pm, so some had left.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at First Baptist Church, 415 W. State St., Kennett Square, Pa. Before the meeting at 6pm, we will meet for our annual picnic. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Everyone is encouraged to bring a healthy salad or dessert and enjoy getting to know the broader community.

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Kate Wickersham and **Jeanne Searer** welcomed everyone and led us in a moment of silence in appreciation for nurses (this is Nurses' Week), Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org, jeannecrew491@hotmail.com Kate gave information about the structure of a "bridging" meeting.

Esther Rochester, Kate Wickersham and Tom Hoehle recognized Joan Holliday's May birthday with balloons, signs, cake and a birthday tierra. Cake was enjoyed when everyone "bridged."

Kate Wickersham shared information about LCH. Our meeting was held in the Education Room where Nutrition and other classes are held. There is a Primary Care Practice in Kennett and Oxford. They have Integrated Behavioral Health and Social Services at both sites. They also serve pediatrics, OB/GYN and dental. (They currently need a bi-lingual dentist.) Mental Health services are available in the Pia Center Behavioral Health at LCH West Grove, LCH Oxford, and LCH Kennett Square locations and via Telehealth. They take Medicare, Medicaid, Insurance and have a sliding scale fee for uninsured. They are accepting new patients. Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

Kate shared Bridging's Framework and Jeanne the Guiding Principles.

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Attendees Introduced themselves and made their requests or shared their offerings:

Lois Weyer (Girl Scouts) told us that since her retirement, she has been working with Kennett/Unionville Service Unit elementary school Hispanic girls, who without volunteers "would not otherwise be Girl Scouts." They are involved in many activities, and she sees this as an opportunity to expose the girls to career possibilities. They meet for one hour, on the first Monday of the month at First Baptist Church. She is looking for an assistant for one hour a month. She also is looking for occasional volunteers, who would attend field trips, help with crafts etc. and share a special skill or interest. Email: GSBVSU610@gmail.com or lweyer2@verizon.net

Karen D'Agusto (Kennett Area Girl Scouts Administrator) told us that she distributes Bridging minutes to 45 Girl Scout Leaders totally 500 girls in their troops. This helps provide ideas for service projects.

Girls are working on their Bronze (elementary school), Silver (middle school) and Gold (high school) awards. Always feel free to email Karen with ideas. Email: kdagusto@aol.com

Crystal Ayala (ELRC) told us her role at the Early Learning Resource Center is Family Engagement, helping low-income families with resources and signing-up for Child Care Works and Early HeadStart. CCIU CARES will have a “Connecting with the Community Fair”---Rain or Shine at Ash Park, 300 Kersey St., Coatesville PA on Thursday, May 23, 2024 from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. There will be Early Education Resources, Outdoor Play, Raffles/Prizes, Snacks, Free Books and more. They are looking for donations for raffles and prizes. For more info: elrcregion19@pa.gov Email: crystala@cciu.org

Yessica Luna (CCMCHC) told us that they make home visits twice a month to families with small children and help parents become their child’s first teachers in preparation for school. They will be recruiting new enrollments from birth to 5 years old starting in July. Yessica looks to network as this meeting. Email: yluna@ccmchc.org

Trevor Pruitt (Clinical Herbalist/Mental Health) is hosting *Meet Ups for the Plant Nerds and The Plant Curious*. The next meet up will be on Sunday, May 12th 9am to 2pm in Landenberg, PA. On a biweekly basis, join us for a get together for those of all experience levels to share in herbalism, plant stewardship with foods, and ethnobotany! Share in knowledge and garden abundance, harvest together, adopt plants, nerd out and enjoy tea. Leave with a fuller cup, however that looks. Email TrevorPruitt@gmail.com for Address and Additional Details.

Janet Zeis (KACS, ACE and VA) told us about KACS having a partnership with the KSQ Farmer’s Market every Friday 3-6pm at 600 S. Broad Street. Buy extra food for the food cupboard and place it in designated donation bins. All donations will be distributed at KACS Food Cupboard site. She also invited non-profits to set-up a table sharing information about their services at the Kennett Food Cupboard on Tues. and Thurs. between 12 and 6pm and Wednesdays 12 to 7pm. She has flyers to pass out about services for Veterans and asked attendees to post on bulletin boards far and wide. Email: janet@kacsimpact.org

Joan Holliday (Community) told us that the Kennett Community Grocer (KCG) will have their store at 600 Broad St., Kennett Square after the site is renovated. They are still recruiting member/owners. Joan also shared that the Kennett Area Senior Center is looking for a part-time Activities/Program Director. Please get the word out. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Cierra Walker (Recovery Coach) told us that she offers “Conscious Connections,” a recovery coaching service offered to those community members who have “fallen through the cracks.” She brings her diversified Recovery Coaching training along with her personal experience as a queer black woman and a person in long term recovery to her new practice. She offers a Queer Crafting Group/ “They/Them Mayhem” at the Kennett Library the 2nd Monday of the month from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. On the first Monday bi-monthly she hosts a Queer book club called “Over the Reading Rainbow,” however, in June it will be on the 24th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Register for the book club through the library’s website. Email: cierra892alker@gmail.com

Kathy Hrenko (Art Therapist) told us that she works with organizations on mental health through art therapy. She informed us that May is National Mental Health month. She works with AHHAH. She also is a member of the Longwood Rotary and they welcome new members. Their motto is “Service Above Self.” Email: khrenko@comcast.net

Rebecca Villanueva (Good Samaritan Services) told us that the homeless shelter on Birch Street previous His Mission is going well. She is Lead Resource Coordinator. She invites referrals and explains that they also do case management for residents who are facing homelessness. They work with all of Chester County. Email: rebeccav@goodsamservices.org

Esmeralda Carrillo (The Garage Community & Youth Center) told us that she is the Program Coordinator in Avondale. They will have a summer camp for 6 weeks starting June 10th from 11am to 4pm Monday through Thursday for 6th to 12th grades. They have transportation for Kennett and AvonGrove but not Unionville, who may attend. They are looking for someone to manage the Lunch Program in the summer. This would be a great part-time job. Esmeralda was happy with the Cinco de Mayo that the students put on for 5/5/2024. Email: Esmeralda.carrillo@garageyouthcenter.org

Tom Hoehle (Community) told us about The Wardrobe, which has integrated the New Garden, Wings for Success into their organization. Kennett's site has clothes for sale and the returns go back to the mission. This organization helps those looking for employment with counseling services along with clothing that matches the need. Tom was showing off a shirt he purchased there. Email: tomhoehle@yahoo.com

Jeanna Searer (Casa Guanajuato) said she was very pleased with the way the Cinco de Mayo turned out on 5/4/2024 on the streets of Kennett. Even though it rained there was a good turnout, and attendees really had a great time with the entertainment of singers and dancers, as well as enjoyed the vendor's food. Many youth were involved in helping. Email - jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Lilianna Guzman (Kennett's Garage Community & Youth Center) provided information that the youth will put on a Talent Show on 5/9/2024 from 6 to 8pm in honor of Mother's Day at The Garage in Kennett. Everyone is welcome. Email:

The group then mingled and "bridged" and made the following bridges

- Karen D'Agusto "bridged" with everyone with flyers to share with the Girl Scouts for projects. She also found out that at a previous meeting the Girl Scouts promised to donate Scout cookies to The Garage and they did, as well as collected food for the Food Cupboard three different times with a truck outside of GIANT. They also have helped with gardens in the area.
- Leticia Cruz from YoungMoms "bridged" with Esmeralda Carrillo around The Garage activities.
- Kathy Hrenko "bridged" with Kate Wickersham about mental health services at LCH.
- Kate Wickersham "bridged" with Joan Holliday about Train the Trainer from RSVP and also the news that she recruited WSFS Bank to join in this effort so their clients can do online banking as well as use the LCH portal.
- Janet Zeis "bridged" with many with the flyer for Veteran's health and human services.
- Yessica Luna "bridged" with Crystal Ayala about filling out a form for subsidized childcare.
- Kate Wickersham "bridged" with Cierra Walker around her services for a family member.
- Joan Holliday "bridged" with Karen D'Agusto about High School Girl Scouts helping with a digital literacy training project. She also "bridged" with Lois Weyor around a potential volunteer for her Girl Scout troop.
- Esther Rochester "bridged" with Kate Wickersham, who had children's books for the Kennett laundromat, which Joan and Esther delivered after the meeting.

Thanks to LCH for hosting with a great room set-up. A special thanks for the birthday cake, tangerines and water! It was a special celebration!

Bridging the Community meeting was held at First Baptist Church, 415 W. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. A picnic was enjoyed beforehand from 6:00pm to 7:00pm with grilled hot dogs in buns and fresh fruit. The event was held inside due to the intense heat index warnings. This is our 155th meeting with 25 attendees.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm featuring New Garden Memorial U.A.M. E. Church located at 309 E Linden St, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Thank you for volunteering your organization, Esther Rochester.

Email: erochester024@gmail.com

Information about the meeting site: Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins (Pastor Ace) has been at First Baptist Church of Kennett Square for three months as the “Intentional Interim Pastor.” He is very excited that we are here. Nancy Nicewonger and Nick Everhart welcomed us as well.

Pastor Ace came to serve and extend the good work that the former pastors had started. First Baptist Church began to distinguish itself as a church that also worked beyond the church walls making community connections. JAM is their preschool, which is incredibly inclusive. Mid-Day Miracles, Pastor Dan started, meets at noon 5 days a week and in the evening to help with sobriety. Dave Haradon asked what Pastor Ace meant by “intentional interim pastor.” He said that it is an active pastor and a coach to a church team, to work through the stages of recruiting for a permanent pastor. He served for 25 years as a military chief officer pastor, served a 1,200-member congregation and many more roles. He serves as Mayor of Collegeville. Email: revace@ksqfbc.com

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.org and 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.

Kate Wickersham and **Jeanna Searer** welcomed everyone and had **Pastor Ace** lead us in a moment of thanks, then shared Bridging’s Framework and shared the Guiding Principles. Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org, jeannecrew491@hotmail.com, aldstad@gmail.com

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

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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

Kate Wickersham, our Bridging the Community Leader asked NEW people at the meeting, to share about why they were here and any bridges they hope to make

Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

New Attendees Introduced themselves and made their requests or shared their offerings:

Thalia Medina (CCMCHC) told us that they help with Snap Benefits. There is a need to go into the homes and provide the Parents as Teachers curriculum. This helps parents become more involved in their children's lives, help with clothing, and rent. We focus on the kids but also the whole family, there are families with no relatives here. Loves seeing the kids grow. Flyer- 7/29-8/8 Kindergarten transition program at Mary D Lang Kindergarten Center from 9-1 and will ride the bus, breakfast and lunch provided. If interested call 610-344-5370 x. 122. Email – tmedina@ccmchc.org

Racquel (Community Member) – lives in the Kennett Borough – wanted to see what is going on. Email – not provided

Derrick Watkins – interested in serving the community. Moved to Lansdale and is currently a schoolteacher, military, 20 year teacher, started a business in Virginia Beach – works with organizations (specifically United Way) to help them secure grant funding to keep them financially stable. Wants to take people from homelessness to homes, wants to help get rid of people's debt. Email him for more information. Email – dwatkins1926@gmail.com

Rana Sakar (Kennett Library Assistant) – this is her second meeting. Leads health awareness through the library but also attends from the heart. Organizes "Live Better" at the Kennett Library. Anyone interested may join in the planning process on the first Thursday of the Month 10-12pm. July 27th – will be talking about substance abuse (smoking, alcohol, opioids). Please share and join. July 29th will share a movie about childhood trauma, movie will be about recovery. August 3rd about women's health. Open and free to everyone.

[Education & Resources on Substance Use Disorder - LibCal - Chester County Library System](#)

["Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope" film screening & panel discussion - LibCal - Chester County Library System](#)

In August – women's health

[Intergenerational YoQi with Jan - LibCal - Chester County Library System](#)

[Menstrual Health and Medicinal Plants - a library talk and a garden walk - LibCal - Chester County Library System](#)

[Milk & Cookies: Q&A Session On Lactation - LibCal - Chester County Library System](#)

Email: rsakr@ccls.org

Others were invited to share their needs or resources, as well as new ideas to find partners

Janet Zeis (KACS) told us that she wants us to visit the Farmers Market from 3-6pm, every Friday. KACS and Home of the Sparrow is hiring, please see her if you're interested. Join for Bridges of Poverty training on September 13th from 9-12:30pm for an in-person workshop. Email janet@kacsimpact.org

Susan Rzucidlo (Mayor of Avondale) told us that they are working to make Avondale better – please let her know if you need anything. They will have an ADA approved playground, first ever, by the end of the year. Email – mayorsusan@avondaleboro.net

Jim Mercante (Community Volunteer) told us that he is on the Advisory Board of MCHC and learned that their clients struggle with transportation for appointments and workshops. He is in conversation with Tim Phelps – they talked about some creative ways to use TMAC – if anyone has events that are transportation hindered, please let Jim Mercante know. As for becoming digitally literate, please connect with Jim or Joan Holliday if you have a smart phone and would like to learn how to use it better. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

Joan Holliday shared the information that Pastor Dan Nicewonger had passed on. He was the first to suggest this location for the July meeting. Please share a word that reminds you of him and write it on the chart pad at “bridging” time. She also reminded attendees that the Artelo boutique hotel will have an Open House on Thursday, July 11, 2024 from 6 to 8pm. All fourteen rooms will have murals painted by 14 different artists, celebrating community diversity. Come meet the artists and enjoy the artwork! Email - dochollisv@aol.com

Nancy Nicewonger (Caring Conversations) – created a book about the conversations you should have before you die or are going through difficult times. The book is on Amazon. She and Nick Everhart bring people together through a podcast called, “A Place in the Conversation.” Her full-time job is at First Stop in Philadelphia, which provides education for Early Learning teachers. Email – nnicewonger@gmail.com

Nick Everhart (member of this church and Board Member of A Place and a Conversation). Nick read the mission statement. Held a lot of these conversations with many organizations. Wants to give everyone a voice. He is looking for persons or organizations to interview for the podcast. Email – nickeverhart@verizon.net

Bob George (Kennett Highschool Alumni Association) told us that he is the President of the Board. They give out 4 scholarships. They support the arts and theater. The Alumni cares about Kennett. We must get the kids right and then they will take care of the community. Support and help do more for the students. \$10 to become a member friend. Email – georgert@gmail.com

Jeanna Searer (Casa Guanajuato) – 600 S. Broad Street – July 27th – will have vendors and many other things. September 14th Mexican Independence Day – pictures and all kinds of things. Day of the Dead 11/1-2 will hold workshops. New members are coming in but also always need new members. Email – jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Brett Dolente (Legal Women Voters of PA) – will be at the library on Tuesdays – ask where the voter lady is! Email – brettdolente@gmail.com

Dave Haradon (Longwood Rotary Club) – service above self – three rotary clubs in the area. Each club meets at different times. They are building a new playground! Please get in touch if you want to join. They have money, energy and fun! Email – daveharadon@gmail.com

Molly Hampson (Mighty Writers) told us to save the date for New Garden Township Community Day Saturday October 5th – if you would like to be a vendor, please let Molly know and save the date. Email – mhampson@mightywriters.org

Kate Wickersham (LCH) She told us that LCH turns no one away, insurance or no insurance. LCH provides quality care for anyone interested in attending. Fundraiser will take place on 9/19/2024 Paradox Vineyard – fun night with salsa lessons, taco truck, wine tasting, something fun this year. LCH needs funds for supplies; for diabetes strips and health care screenings. August 4th -10th – National Health Center Week – share your organization’s information so LCH can then share information at their fair on August 1st. Email - kwickersham@lchservices.org

The group then mingled and “bridged” and made the following bridges.

- Jim Mercante “bridged” with Nick Everhart providing 5 names of persons who are podcast possibilities for “A Place in the Conversation.” Jim also “bridged” with Susan Long, who he will connect with RSVP Volunteers to help her with her smart phone
- Dave Haradon “bridged” with Kate Wickersham and has two good sources for LCH.
- Kate Wickersham and Molly Hampson “bridged” about the LCH community event, and Mighty Writers will participate.
- Nick Everhart “bridged” with Molly Hampson about Mighty Writers.
- Susan Rzucidlo and Dave Haradon bridged about the playground and talked about the foam later.
- Derrick Watkins “bridged” with several non-profits about financial stability consultation.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Racquel, who would like a salt water public pool in Kennett giving her contact information for Kennett Borough Council President. She also “bridged” with Bob George to become a KHS Alumni Friend. Joan took a video of Derrick and Susan for the website. Joan will “bridge” Derreck Watkins with Terry Vodery, CEO of United Way of SCC.
- Jeanne Searer shared about KACS reusable bags at the Farmer’s Market – color the pictures on the bag and continue to reuse them please!
- Rana Sakar “bridged” with First Baptist Church about substance seminar. She “bridged” with Derrick Watkins about veteran’s mental health. Talked about transportation with Jim Mercante. She “bridged” with Nick Everhart about using the library AV room for the podcast and will try and get it approved.

"Words that describe Dan Nicewonger as his spirit lives on:

Committed friend; Passionate; Kind; Happy; Grateful person; Caring; Servant; Faithful; Leader; Encourager; Activator; Community organizer; Community promoter

Bridging the Community meeting was held at New Garden U.A.M.E Church, 309 E. Linden Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 156th meeting with 30 attendees.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at Kennett Presbyterian Church, 211 S. Broad St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Rev. Beverly Bell, Pastor of New Garden U.A. M. E. led us in a prayer and offered Information about the meeting site: After giving a warm welcome to attendees, she told us that New Garden Memorial U.A.M.E. Church had its beginnings in 1825 as the African Union Church on the border of New Garden Township; it moved to Kennett Square in 1910.

The church supported Harriett Tubman's efforts around the Underground Railroad. She shared that they have a small but mighty congregation that works inside and outside the church. She recognized Esther Rochester and Crystal Crampton, who were in attendance as strong contributors.

She reported that a bathroom was recently installed downstairs, which was needed for social and meal gatherings. She welcomed everyone to a brunch on Sunday, 9/15 after the 10:30am service, which is open to the community every Sunday. Email: bgbell231@aol.com

Joan Holliday led everyone in a Moment of Silence in honor of the 911 victims and families and for peace in our world. She passed out seed packets as a symbol, because since the start of Bridging, the broader vision is that "We are seeds for world peace."

Minutes of *Bridging* meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.org and there will be a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library in the Bayard Taylor Room. *Bridging the Community* meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Kate Wickersham, Jeanna Searer and Liliana Guzman welcomed everyone. Kate shared Bridging's Framework and Jeanne shared the Guiding Principles. Liliana served as Spanish interpreter. Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org, jeannecrew491@hotmail.com; Liliana.guzman@garageyouthcenter.org

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Kate Wickersham (Bridging the Community Facilitator) asked NEW people at the meeting, to share about why they were here and any bridges they hope to make
Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

New Attendees Introduced themselves and made their requests or shared their offerings:

Maurice Corporal (Community) said he is new here and has financial difficulties with a family. He lives across the street from the church and wanted to see if could get help. Email: topsnottc.boiz@gmail.com

Alejandra Orozco (CCMCHC) told us that she is the Manager of Life Skills Family Group Decision Making model and is getting the word out. This model brings together families and their support people to develop a plan to address concerns of child well-being and safety. MCHC currently receives referrals from Children Youth and Families and invites other organizations to make referrals. They help facilitate issues with a social worker for 3 sessions—pre-conference: main conference and post-conference. Email: aorozco@ccmchc.org

Rikki Bardzik (Delaware Technical Community College) has been there for a year and one-half and works with the Open Access Program Services. She is attending to learn more of what the community would like to have available. Email: rbardzik@dccc.edu

Tina Ayala (Realtor) told us that she is running for State Representative in the 158th District. She is attending to learn more about the community. She shared the information that Mighty Writes needs donated clothes for children birth to high school age. Email: tayala12@gmail.com

Others were invited to share their needs or resources, as well as new ideas to find partners

Sofia Soto (CCMCHC) told us that MCHC also provides home visiting for child development. They have a case manager working with fathers. They are receiving referrals. They also have a lawyer that is available to help with immigration issues. Email: ssoto@ccmchc.org

Janet Zeis (KACS) told us that 4 local Fire Companies held a food drive and collected 973 pounds of food. She also reported that Chatham Financial bought over 1,000 pounds of rice and beans and employees sorted them into one-pound bags as volunteers. She is looking for organizations that are willing to organize a food drive for Thanksgiving for the meal staples that support the turkeys that KACS provides.

Bridges Out of Poverty training will take place this Friday 9/13 at the Kennett Library Chestnut Room and a Poverty Simulation workshop on 10/25/2024 from 10am to 1pm at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 116 Lancaster Pike, Oxford, PA 19363. Contact Janet to sign-up. Email: janet@kacsimpact.org

Paola Rosas (After the Bell) told us that they will starting their after-school programming for middle schoolers at the Kennett Middle School starting September 24th for 6 weeks. They are in session Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Volunteers are needed to share a talent, skill or offer support as volunteers, who may offer any amount of time to help. Email: paola.rosas@afterthebell.org

Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) told us that there will be a Fiesta at 600 South Broad Street in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month this Saturday 9/14 from 1-7pm and After Party at the Creamery. Everyone is welcome. They also will participate in Third Thursday. Dia de Muertas will also be celebrated at the same location and will take place the first weekend in November. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Jim Mercante (Community) told us that he and Joan Holliday continue to work as Co-Chairs of the Chester County Digital Alliance (CCDA) to help Chester County residents develop digital skills, as well as have access to Internet and devices. Grant proposals are being written to support digital navigators. Please get the word out that we will be looking for Spanish-speaking Digital Navigators. He also gave the example of technology---a hearing aid to be used through EarPods and a Bluetooth hook-up that would be available with one's I-Phone. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

Susan Long (Community) told us that at the last Bridging meeting she "bridged" with Jim Mercante, who contacted RSVP Volunteers. Susan has a RSVP digital navigator by Zoom who has helped her with several digital tech issues. Email: susandlong15@gmail.com

Rev. Marvin T Williams (2nd Baptist Church) told us about the "Gospel Celebration" honoring Pyerce Oates (accomplished pianist, who started in Kennett churches at 10 years old and now is a college graduate and an organist for a church in Philadelphia.) Other choirs will be present; First Baptist Church Choir; Mt Zion AME Choir Atglen; Gwen Jones of Mt. Zion U.A. M.E. Newark DE and Evangelist Lisa Jackson. It will take place on Saturday, 10/12/2024 from 1pm to 4pm at the new Kennett Library. Tickets are \$20. Call 610-384-3243. No tickets sold at the door. Email: drwilliams9812@gmail.com

Derrick Watkins (Community) told us that he is interested in serving the community. Moved to Lansdale and is currently a schoolteacher, military, 20-year teacher, started a business in Virginia Beach – works with organizations (specifically United Way) to help them secure grant funding to keep them financially stable. Wants to take people from homelessness to homes, wants to help get rid of people's debt. He also represented The **Mission Continues** organization which is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization^[2] that aims to empower military veterans to apply their skills and leadership abilities to benefit under-resourced communities. He would be able to bring a group of veterans to our area to work on a community project. Email him for more information. Email – dwatkins1926@gmail.com

Susan Rzucidlo (Mayor of Avondale) told us that Mighty Writers needs three donated desktop computers. Email: mayorsusan@avondaleboro.net

Joan Holliday (Community) told us about the Kennett Community Coffee Klatch, which meets every Thursday from 10:30am to 11:45am at the Kennett Library, Oak Room. All community members are invited to learn more about the upcoming events; volunteer opportunities in the community and to make new community friends. dochollisv@aol.com

Nick Everhart (member of this church and Board Member of "A Place and a Conversation") Nick was in attendance looking for potential interviewees for the podcasts he

and Nancy Nicewonger conduct for “A Place in the Conversation.” Email – nickeverhart@verizon.net

Kate Wickersham (LCH) told us that LCH provides a safety net for the vulnerable population and offers health and social services to all community members. They take insurance and have a sliding scale fee. They are ready to give flu and COVID vaccines at their Health Clinic and the CC Health Department has several clinics in SCC. Practice. Check out their web sites and make an appointment. Remember LCH has Behavioral Health services, as well as dental, OBGYN and Family Medicine. Email - kwickersham@lchservices.org

Nolan Morris (Community) told us of his interest in Environmental Education especially about the plant community. He is open to work with any age group about nature---rivers, timber, clay etc. Email: morrisnj1010@gmail.com

Karen D’Agusto (Girl Scouts) told us that she is recruiting Girl Scouts. The first year is free until 9/21/2024. There is a fun movie night at the Kennett Library featuring Troop Beverly Hills on 9/25/2024 from 6-8pm. Open to the entire community.

Local Girl Scout Service Unit is having an Introduction to Girl Scouts on 10/18 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Mary D. Lang. RSVP at: gsvsu610@gmail.com

Welcome back to Girl Scouting on Sunday 10/06 at the Brandywine Valley Red Clay Alliance Contact Karen for free tickets. Contact Tiffany Stockton at tstockton@gsep.org or 267-965-6180. Karen’s email: kdagusto@aol.com

Crystal Ayala (Early Learning Resource Center) told us that they have assistance for childcare and for qualifying families pays from 6 weeks to 13 years. They work with HeadStart’s; Early HeadStart; Early Intervention; Pre-School Special Education; Pre-K Counts and others. Please get the word out about their support for young children. Email: crystal@cciu.org

Announcements:

The Chester County Bar Association is offering a \$5,000 Hon. Charles B. Smith Scholarship to a Chester County high school who plans to pursue a law-related career. Deadline is 3/23/2025. www.chescobar.org/scholarships

The United Way of SCC is conducting an AI Skill Athon for money prizes. Check out the registration at www.unitedway.org and instructions. This is only being held through the month of September. Contact: development@unitedwayscc.org for questions.

Chester County Drug & Alcohol will host a Free Admission to Treehouse World, 1440 Phoenixville Pike, West Chester, PA 1938 on 10/12/2024 from 10am to noon. Register: <http://scheduleme.link/5753/> All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The group then mingled and “bridged” and made the following bridges

- Jim Mercante “bridged” with Sofia Soto about digital skills with MCH and with Susan Rzucidlo about Mighty Writers need for 3 desk top computers. Jim and Joan to follow-up.

- Nick Everhart “bridged” with Nolan about him being a guest interviewee for “A Place in the Conversation” podcast about the environment and nature.
- Kate Wickersham “bridged” with Nick Everhart about interviewing Margarita Garay-Zarco for “A Place in the Conversation.”
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Rev. Marvin T. Williams around the Gospel Celebration buying 3 tickets. Tom Hoehle also bought 4 tickets. She “bridged” with Susan Long about the AI Skill-Athon registration and process.
- Janet Zeis “bridged” with Rev. Williams and Joan Holliday about possible organizations or companies that would manage a food drive for Thanksgiving dinner items to compliment the turkeys given out by KACS.
- Maurice Corporal “bridged” with Crystal Ayala about financial support for childcare and Pre-K Counts and Kate Wickersham around LCH services.
- Susan Long “bridged” with Rikki Bardzik around art classes at Delaware Community College and Nolan Morris about his interest in nature and ways to bring that to the community.
- Derrick Watkins “bridged” with Jeanne Searer about volunteers for Hispanic Heritage month and other Casa Guanajuato events.
- Alejandra Orozco passed out flyers about Family Group Decision Making.
- Karen D’Agusto passed out flyers to recruit Girl Scouts.
- Keith Smithyman “bridged” with Joan Holliday asking her to get the word out that he needs electrical extension cords, lights to hang in a garage to work on old cars for those in need. (The Garage does not have electricity, so will need to connect with the house.)

The attendees thanked New Garden U.A.M.E. for their warm hospitality. Five church members were present.

Bridging the Community meeting was held at The Kennett Presbyterian Church, 211 S Broad St, Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 157th meeting with 30 attendees. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Kennett Library or Zoom if the weather is bad.

Darcie Ward, an elder, at the Presbyterian Church led us in prayer and offered information about the meeting site. They are looking for a new pastor. They have a history of providing many programs for the community--Study Buddies, The Senior Center and Boy Scout meetings started here and much more. Services are Sunday at 10:30AM. They have Bible study, a wonderful choir and adult studies. Everyone is welcome to attend. Email: darcieward44@gmail.com

Minutes of Bridging meetings are posted on the web site: www.bridgingthecommunity.org and there will be a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library in the Bayard Taylor Room. Bridging the Community meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Joan Holliday and Jeanne Searer led the meeting. Joan shared about the vision and roles. No one must be in an official role to make a difference in the community. Jeanne went over the Guiding Principles. Email: dochollisv@aol.com and jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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Joan Holliday asked the NEW people to share first and share an elevator speech/short and sweet!

New Attendees Introduced themselves and made their requests or shared their offerings:

Tyra Reeves – Founder of *Just My Reflection*, in honor of her son, Jordan Michael G Reeves Foundation. They hold a group – every third Thursday of the month. Join this Wellness Group, which deals with grief on Thursday November 21st at 6:30pm at the Galilee Union American Methodist Episcopal Church in Avondale, PA. Help and assist! Email: Tyrareeves@justmyreflection.org

Yajayra Nunez – Development – KACS – collecting toys. Drop off NEW unwrapped toys for ages 2-11 now through December 12th at KACS Food cupboard. KACS is fund raising for their new site on Cypress Street and trying to reach \$10 Million for the building. Email: Yajayra@KACSimfact.org

Lynn Brown – Intervention Specialist – Jordan Michael Reeves Foundation. Email: See Tyra Reeves.

Heather Young Kessler – Motivational Wellness Coach – Rescue and Recovery and recently joined the JMR Foundation. Here to help others. Reach out if you would like to be happier with less stress. Email: Hez55@verizon.net or heather@wakeupwyse.com

Enes and Team – Migrant Education – Provides academic support to migrant children and their families. Contact Mayra Castillo at: mayrac@cciu.org

Alondra Sanchez – Migrant Education Student Support Specialist. Email: Alondras@cciu.org

Mayra Castillo (not new to Bridging) attended the Migrant Education Program as a youth and now is an employee. Her Dad worked in the Mushroom Farms and Mom in an orchard. She is also with Casa Guanajuato, cultural spaces. Day of the Dead event held on 11/2/24 is a part of the healing process with losing someone. They will be holding a Posada (Christmas Caroling) – December 15th There is pinatas, food, a lot of kids 17-22 are here alone and they will adopt these children to get gifts for the holidays. Email: mayrac@cciu.org

Natalia Santiago – Kennett Collaborative/Square Roots - Voices Underground, Kennett Trails Alliance (just finished the trail that connects the town of Kennett to Anson B Nixon Park) and soon will be connecting the 14 miles loop. They help other nonprofits through events at the Creamery and want all cultures to be welcome. Will be holding Three Kings' Day. Email: nsantiagovazquez@ksqroots.com

Shawn Holmes – Father Coordinator – MCHC – helping fathers in Chester County in fatherhood and fatherhood groups. Email: shawnlogy@gmail.com

Sophia Jutzi Beris - Nursing School student, here to learn about the community's needs. She has written her thesis on the Hispanic culture in SCC. Email: sophieju@hotmail.com

Others were invited to share their needs/resources, as well as new ideas to find partners

Nick Everhart – Board Member *A Place in A Conversation*, which Nancy and Dan Nicewonger started (Dan has passed.) This process is intended to include the unheard voices in the community and to assist people talking to one another. They have podcasts so people can have a voice. They've talked to many members of Bridging. KACS, Good Neighbors, Square Roots Collective, Mighty Writers, Joan Holliday and Jim Mercante, Pastor Williams, Kacie's Cause and Kennett Community Grocer. Nick is asking for volunteers to be interviewed for the podcast. They also interviewed a Kindergartner! Email: nickeverhart@verizon.net

Susan Rzucidlo – Avondale Mayor – December 14th will have the Santa Train from Kennett all the way to Oxford. Free event! Santa will make a stop at each spot, and everyone can say, "Hi!" Email: mayorsusan@avondaleboro.net

Cierra Walker – Substance Recovery Coach – told us that she also is in recovery and shared about therapy. She facilitates a LGBTQ+ Book Club at the library, sign up and you will get the book for free. It is a safe place! They meet on Mondays for crafts. Wants to start a LGBTQ AA meeting, needs a space for the meeting. Email: Cierra89walker@gmail.com

Trevor Pruitt – Landenberg – Clinical Herbalist – Mental Health and Chronic Pain – dreaming up expanding and starting an employee-based business. Email: trevorpruitt@gmail.com

Kathy Hrenko– Art Therapist and member of Longwood Rotary Club – always looking for ways to help with art therapy for non-profits or groups. Email: khrenko@comcast.net

Bob George – Member of Kennett High School Alumni Association – 60 years ago attended Boy Scout. Meetings in this same room. He is a member of the Alumni Association in Kennett. We have a new Kennett Superintendent, Kimberly Rizzo Saunders. Kennett cares about the kids and the rest of the town want to take care of the kids. He reports that we have an amazing Superintendent whose vision is that Kennett will have 80-90% of kids graduating will be bilingual. Email – georgert@gmail.com

Esther Rochester– New Garden Memorial U.A.M. E. Church – need people to help get food to people that can't get out to get food. They have five turkeys just need the sides and such. Email: erochester024@gmail.com

Crystal Ayala – ELRC of Chester County – sharing a flyer with QR codes to apply and share a flyer about financial support for day care for low-income. Email: CrystalA@cciu.org

Joan Holliday – 11/24 at 4pm at First Baptist they will have a service on gratitude. Reverend Williams is a part of the Thanksgiving Services. Will be in English and Spanish. Very inclusive. Will be caroling on 12/14 at 6pm. Meet in front of Letty' restaurant, corner of Broad and State Street, Kennett and carol at the stores and restaurants. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Jim Mercante – Co founder of the Chester County Digital Alliance (internet for all). So many have no internet and are missing out. If you know anyone that needs help with their phones, they also need help with finding trainers, they have a whole program. Working closely with education, health and work force development. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

Derrick Watkins – Funder Consultant – Works on helping non-profits manage their month-to-month funding. He worked with "Rise United" that started with homelessness. They realized they could apply what they learned to non-profits. Email – dwatkins1926@gmail.com

Karen D'Agusto – Over 500 Girls, a program for each month. They are looking for community service projects from 1st grade to 12th grade. Please think of them, as needs arise in the community. Email: Kdagusto@aol.com

Tom Hoehle – served as a facilitator of Bridging and has been attending for many years and wanted to say "Hi." Traveled from Lansdowne to attend the meeting. Email: tomhoehle@yahoo.com

Susan Long from the community is a retired nurse and received help at the last meeting from Jim Mercante, who contacted RSVP Volunteers, who assigned a digital navigator volunteer, who helped her with problems she was having with her computer. Email: susandlong15@gmail.com

The group then mingled and "bridged" and made the following bridges:

- **Jim Mercante and Darcie Ward** “bridged” to talk about using the Kennett Presbyterian Church site for digital literacy classes.
- **Crystal Ayala** “bridged” with **Sophia Jutzi Beris** to use the church site for Migrant Ed parenting classes.
- **Esther Rochester** “bridged” with **Susan Rzucido** who will bring food to New Garden UAME Church on E. Linden Street, Kennett Square. **Tyra Reeves** also offered a food donation and **Darcie Ward**.
- **Mayra Castillo** “bridged” with **Kathy Hrenko** about art therapy and with the youth
- **Tyra Reeves** “bridged” with **Derrick Watkins** about a consultation around fundraising.
- **Molly Hampson** “bridged” **Tyra Reeves** about attending her Wellness Group.
- **Susan Rzucido** “bridged” with **Cierra Walker** and offered her keys to an empty room that Cierra could conduct AA meetings for LGBTQ+ community.
- **Susan Rzucido and Joan Holliday** “bridged” with **Trevor** about a free group score and **Mayra** and **Trevor Pruitt** about SCORE, which are retired business persons, who can serve as mentors for his desire to start a new business and about his gardening project.
- **Kathy Hrenko** “bridged” **Tyra Reeves**, who would like to explore the possibility of art therapy for her Wellness Group.
- **Joan Holliday** “bridged” with **Mayra Castillo** about having her high school students fill out the Workforce Development survey that Kennett Library is conducting.
- **Bob George** “bridged” with **Joan Holliday** to provide a frozen turkey to Second Baptist Church.
- **Nick Everhart** “bridged” with **Tyra Reeves, Crystal Ayala and Kathy Hrenko** about interviewing them for “A Place in the Conversation” podcast.
- **Crystal Ayala** “bridged” with **Alondra Sanchez** and **Enes** from Migrant Ed about funding for childcare for low-income families.
- **Natalia Santiago** “bridged” **with Joan Holiday** about meeting with Kennett Collaborative about community projects next year.

The group closed at 8:30pm with Esther Rochester saying, “God is good!”