

Bridging the Community meeting was held at the Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 S. Walnut Street Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 160th meeting with 30 attendees. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from 7:00-8:30pm at Good Samaritan Services, 342 E. Birch Street Kennett Square, PA 19348, with our community picnic at 6pm, please bring healthy food to share, and our meeting will start at 7pm.

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 facilitated the meeting. We started with a moment of silence and especially prayed for Reverend Marvin T. Williams **Email:** dochollisv@aol.com; jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Jeanne Searer shared the framework. The motivation starts from coming from the heart and wanting to contribute to the broader community. The way we do this is adopt a community role that takes its direction from the Vision: "Kennett Square: Every day a better place to grow up in and grow old in" and our living philosophy: peaceful, progressive, inclusivity. **Email:** jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Joan Holliday went over the Guiding Principles. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

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

Jeanne Searer said the Senior Center is the best kept secret for people over 50. People come for so many reasons and the many, many activities. There is a lot of information that must be captured when seniors come in. This weekend there is the garage sale on Saturday 8am-2pm. All activities are indoor, and people are very excited about the Senior Center. This room is also available for rent, wedding reception, baby showers, birthday parties. Bring your own food and alcohol, can accommodate up to 120. Looking for a front desk assistant/greeter. **Email:** jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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

Shannon Annsbacher – Community Member - lived in Kennett for 10 years. Working on Potluck, an app. It will match neighbors to help other neighbors expose each other to food and help with the load of meals. Looking for a partner to take on this project. Email: info@joinpotluck.app

Evelyn Fonseca – LCH Health Services – local health services, in house pharmacy, dental health, women's health and much more. Accepting new patients. Email: efonseca@lchservices.org

Jeanne Thompson – Community Member - here to learn and bring new information to West Grove, New London, etc. for a Bridging Group. Email: jeanlady1234734@gmail.com

Peter Doehring – Community Member - been here for 25 years. Looking to connect with helping people with development disabilities. He wants to help people with the food pantries at the YMCA and Church of the Advent. How do we sustain the food pantry at the YMCA? Email: pjdoehring@gmail.com

Martha Perez Serio – Young Moms – Case Manager with 15 girls. Mission is to help young, pregnant teen moms. In a program for 5 years. Most clients are Hispanic. 4 case managers with the same caseload. They make sure to connect the girls to resources they need. Email: martha.serio@youngmomscommunity.com

Revered Rodrick J Joey – Pastor in Avondale (new this past year) – been commuting from Baltimore MD. He believes in this community. He is speaking on the church and community and would like to launch a summer feeding program. When school is out the kids have no food to rely on. This will bridge the gap – meals Monday – Friday! From late June – August. The church is working on food handling and safety. Asking for resources and community partnerships. Looking for meal sponsorship, volunteers, aid, etc. Email: rjosey@mttaboramez.org

Sharing about Upcoming Events and Immediate Needs

Susan Rzucidle – Avondale Borough Mayor – has a pantry at the garage. People can drop off food at their pantry and drop off at the borough or The Garage. Email: mayorsusan@avondaleboro.net

Nick Everhart – A Place in the Conversation – has done over 30 podcasts. There is no set script, they sit and talk and learn about their backgrounds. Nancy and Nick are now doing the podcast together. If you would like to get the word out about your organization, please reach out. Email: nickeverhart@verizon.net

Sarah Wein – NAMI Chester County PA – office is based in Exton but cover all of Chester County. Held their first class of Family to Family, largest class held at Kennett. Free support groups and they know there is a need. Just one staff member and volunteers. Need to work on their community relationships. Need help with support group leaders and need help with a work group that reaches out to faith-based organizations that accommodate 50-60 people and the workshop would share about the resources and need to target faith based because that is DaD families turn to. Email: swein@namichescopa.org

Damaris – Maternal & Child Health Consortium – new updates coming up, Landenberg and Coatesville will be closing and moving to West Chester Office, will be serving southern Chester County families. June 1 – August 1st will do a back-to-school drive. Email: damarisN34@gmail.com

Janette Grieb – Kennett Library – been there 4 months – looking forward to work together with everyone. Email: jgrieb@ccls.org

Carol Crane (Kennett Library) – Juan T. comes to the library and does a digital literacy, problems with computer, want to take a course, will help with setting up any and all software. Email: ccrane@ccls.org

Shawn Holmes – Maternal & Child Health Consortium - fatherhood program. SCC and NCC – helps with all resources. Looking for more fathers, at 13 would like to be at 18. Please spread the word! Email: sholmes@ccmchc.org

Claudia Turner – Migrant Education Program/Head Start – been with Bridging for a long time. Here because their Migrant program will be starting in August and enrollment is open for all the programs. Kids from 6 weeks to 6 years, looking for 2 teachers. Email: claudiaturner@gmail.com

Rana Sakr – Community Member – speaks different languages. Needs some help with a web design and needs a digital platform for what is happening with the French Community. Email: rana.sakr.salem@gmail.com

Keith Smithyman - Part Time in Maker Space at the Library – have people to use their hands, head, heart and hands. Email: keithsmithyman@gmail.com

Stephanie D'Amico – KASC – local social media – West Grove Message Board (fly eagles fly) and Kennett Square PA Community (mushroom in the picture) – underutilized by nonprofits. You can reach out once a week and share your needs and ask the community. Email: sdamico@kennettseiorcenter.org

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

- Peter and Molly connected about play writing and working on rice and bean bundles
- Sarah and Jeanne connected with Kennett Ministry about the faith-based leaders in October and helping with getting people in the door. Sarah and the Library. Sarah and Nick with getting the word out about Mental Health.
- Reverend Josey connected with Stephanie with more knowledge and steps and be able to have food in the community and what it entails
- Susan, Joan and Jennie will meet and talk with 142 people to come to the first meeting
- Nick and Martha (Young Moms), Shawn, Jennette (Library), Kathy (James working on his PHD), Sarah (NAMI), and Peter about podcasts.
- Rana under the French umbrella, talked with Martha and invited her to join and talk more. Peter said Monic (his wife) might be able to help with the website. Rana shared we need support with breastfeeding
- Claudia with Shawn and Damaris, lots of young parents and could connect to help and talk with parents