

Bridging the Community meeting was held on Zoom with the Kennett Library as the host on Wednesday, January 08, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 158th meeting with 25 attendees. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Kennett Library, 320 E. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348.

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 facilitated the meeting.

Joan Holliday 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: dochollisv@aol.com

Jeanne Searer went over the Guiding Principles. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.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

Participants reflected on the framework and principles and said that they see that the people attending the meeting are "coming from the heart." There is a sense of empowerment that occurs once one sees the possibilities of bridging and not being alone in one's work. There is a spirit of inclusivity that the living philosophy reflects.

Kate explained Zoom etiquette and the Bridging process, which would happen in the moment on Zoom and not at the last part of the meeting, as we do in person.

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

Kate Wickersham: Facilitator shared that Kennett Library is hosting a Volunteer Fair on Saturday, March 22nd. Contact Carol Crane at: crcrane@ccls.org to sign-up for a table or volunteer.

Esther Rochester (Community) said that she lost her Reading teacher in preparation for her GED. She would like help with reading and math and could meet on Friday mornings from 9:30am to 11:00am or Saturday mornings. Email: Erchester24@gmail.com

BRIDGES: Jeanne Searer has a teacher friend who just retired so will ask if she could help.

Joan Holliday will talk to Filomena Elliott at the Kennett Library to explore possibilities.

Liliana Guzman at The Garage said they have math tutors that she could explore.

Crystal Ayala told her that the Oxford library has GED classes.

LaNisha Cassell (Voices Underground) started at Square Roots Collective Underground Railroad Initiative. She provides storytelling programs locally for racial healing. There will be a Voices Underground free program in collaboration with Kennett Library on Saturday, January 18th at 10am in commemoration of MKL Day. It's a story time for 5–10-year-olds and their families. In addition to the story, they will giveaway copies of the book, have a craft, and a snack. Registration is on Eventbrite. Email: lcassell@ksqroots.com

Jim Mercante: Working on “Internet for All” with digital access, devices and literacy with Joan Holliday and the Chester County Digital Alliance. Does anyone want to be trained as a volunteer to be a digital navigator? There is training through RSVP Volunteers, and one could do training by Zoom if preferred. Email: vjmercante@gamil.com

Tom Hoehle (Community) said he had an idea for Esther Rochester’s desire to have a GED tutor. Are there any high school students at The Garage Community & Youth Center who would like to engage this process as a volunteer project? To discuss with Lilianna Guzman. Email: tomhoehle@yahoo.com

Rana Sakr (Live Better) told us that she has developed, along with a committee, health programming to educate the public and empower them to make better health decisions/health literacy at the Kennett library for the past year. She is now an independent community health coordinator, who will continue to provide services at the Kennett library and extend her consulting services to other Chester County libraries.

At the Kennett library there is a Live Better committee meeting every first Thursday of the month at 10am. (The next is 2/6/25 at 10am) All are welcome to bring new ideas and programs. She is especially interested in exploring how to address the challenges of good nutrition and will meet with collaborators in March 2025 to develop programming. She connects with the idea of health navigators and would like to explore how to implement. Email: rana.sakr.salem@gmail.com

Sara Wein (NAMI Chester County) told us that this is an organization that provides support to individuals and families who experience mental illness. They want to expand into Southern Chester County. They are offering at the Kennett library a “Family to Family” eight- week sessions, starting Wednesday, January 22 from 6pm to 8:30pm. It ends March 12. NAMI offers virtual and in-person support group. They are taking registrations. Email: swein@namichescopa.org

BRIDGES: Tyra Reeves and Laura Gonzalez would like to “bridge” with NAMI

Cristian Luna Valente (LCH Health & Community Services) told us that LCH. 732 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square, PA will be having a ribbon cutting on Thursday 1/20/25 with a new pharmacy opening at 5:30pm Everyone is invited. Board of Directors meeting to follow at 6pm and open to the public. Email: clunavalente@lchservices.org **BRIDGES:** Dave Nuttall and

Anabel Ocegüera will be attending. Dave asked if the pharmacy will be opened to the public. Kate explained that initially it will be for patients. LCH takes all insurances, Medicare and Medicaid and has a sliding scale fee for those who cannot pay. It helps if an insured person becomes a LCH patient because it helps subsidize those who have no medical insurance. Dave considering this option.

Debbie and Adrian Burston (Underground Railroad) told us that 723 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, PA 19348 (near the Fairfield Inn hotel) is going to be renovated. It is at the Gateway of Harriett Tubman and the Brandywine Scenic Highway. This site housed 2,000 runaway slaves seeking freedom. They are seeking grants and are receiving support from Kennett Township and other organizations. They are pleased that this is becoming a reality and will be a "Forever House." Email: dlburston@gmail.com

Crystal Crampton (President of the Underground Railroad; life-long member of New Garden Memorial church and board member of KACS) told us that she appreciates Debbie and Adrian Burstons' role in helping, as well as John Haedrich, who helps with grant writing. She promoted the KACS capital campaign for a new building on Cypress Street that will support all of SCC for food and social services. She spoke about the value of history and giving more attention on the UGRR. Email: crampton.crystal@yahoo.com

Chad Thomas (CC Hospital) said that CC Hospital is also hoping to expand more services in SCC. There will be a Clinic event in Coatesville on Monday, January 13th with a \$10 GIANT gift certificate. There will be a Clinic in Kennett on February 24 in English and Spanish. He will recruit at Kennett Area Community Services. **BRIDGES:** Crystal Ayala; Crystal Crampton and SILO in SCC would like to explore ways to help CC Hospital expand into SCC with Chad.

Tyra Reeves (Founder of *Just My Reflection*) in honor of her son, Jordan Michael G Reeves Foundation. They hold a support group – every third Thursday of the month. Join this month's Wellness Group, which deals with grief related to loss on Thursday, January 16 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Galilee Union American Methodist Episcopal Church in Avondale, PA., 311 E. Third St. Avondale, PA 19311. Special Guest is Kathy Hrenko, an Art Therapist ATR-BC. She said they are also looking for sponsorships. Email: Tyrareeves@justmyreflection.org

Edie Burkey (President of Kennett Community Grocer) told us that their plans to have a store at 600 S. Broad did not work out. They are looking at several other options, one being that Kennett 460 members would combine with West Chester's new food co-op for a year or so and then determine if having a store in Kennett area is desired. The Board is still looking for a suitable site in the Kennett area along the Baltimore Pike corridor. If anyone has a possibility, please contact Edie. Email: eburkey@comcast.net

Joan Holliday (Community) reminded the group that we have two active Human Need life-lines available to us thanks to the work of Chester County Department of Human Services. Dialing 211, you will learn about resources available to meet human needs and dial 988 for Crisis. The term "crisis" is intended for however you experience a crisis. Get the word out to your clients and employees to draw on the help of these resources. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Anabel Ocegüera (CCMCHC) told us that since 1991 they continue to provide their services to prenatal clients through Healthy Start. They also have a Kindergarten Readiness program and the Family Center and help with signing up for medical coverage for families. Email: aocegüera@ccmchc.org

Jeanne Searer (Community) told us that there will be a MLK Eve service on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 4pm at **St. Michael's Lutheran Church**, 109 e. Doe Run Road, Unionville, PA

19375. The Kennett Community choir along with high school students from Unionville and Kennett and the Mt. Horeb Guatemalan choir will be singing, Several faith communities will be represented in the service. Everyone is invited. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Natalia Santiago – Kennett Collaborative/Square Roots - Voices Underground, Kennett Trails Alliance. The Three King's Day event at the Creamery that had live camels was well attended and enjoyed by many Latino families. Kennett Collaborative helps nonprofits through events at the Creamery and wants all cultures to feel welcomed. Email: nsantiagovazquez@ksqroots.com

Crystal Ayala (Chester County ELRC) In attendance but did not speak. Her agency helps with financial support for day care for low-income. Email: CrystalA@cciu.org

David Nuttall (Friends Meeting) told us that they have Kennett Friends Fund for Immigrant Support <https://kennettfriends.org/friends-for-immigrant-support/> This is intended to meet the need when an immigrant doesn't fit into any of the non-profit requirements for service. He also spoke to the importance of supporting our immigrants, beyond their status, as they are victims of a broken immigration system. He is attending monthly meetings organized by Leah Reynolds, CEO of KACS to develop approaches to provide support with the actions that will be taken by the new administration. Email: barbdave1@msn.com

The last ten minutes of the meeting was devoted to talking about the difference that attending a Bridging the Community makes in one's work and community life.

David Nuttall from the community spoke about how in one meeting, he is brought in contact with a host of organizations. It is not only very efficient, but it also helps him experiences a "sense of community" when we promote "bridging."

Kate Wickersham from LCH said she feels more a part of the broader community after attending a Bridging meeting and has developed caring, community relationships because of Bridging. She admits it is difficult to come out to an evening meeting, yet always leaves feeling, "It was worth it."

Joan Holliday said that Bridging helps her experience the evolution of the community and the emerging new faces and voices. She is happy to refer people to resources, in the time between meetings, because she has learned about the resources at Bridging.

Tyra Reeves "bridged" with Kathy Hrenko, art therapist, at the meeting in November 2024 and now Kathy will be the Presenter at Tyra's next Wellness Group meeting. This is an example of how organizations can leverage each other's strengths and contributions.

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Kate Wickersham facilitated the meeting. **Lou Florence** shared about The Kennett Library. All are welcome, the library has your back no matter what and the library is here for you. Their mission is to serve the community. **Email:** lflorence@ccls.org, kwickersham@lchservices.org

Kate Wickersham led us in a moment of reflection. Kate 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:** kwickersham@lchservices.org

Jeanne Searer went over the Guiding Principles. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

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Participants reflected on the framework and principles and said how open the meeting is, coming from the heart and how welcoming it feels at Bridging. There was reflection on returning to Bridging and the power of the guiding principles.

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

Judy Fishkind (Community Member) - Moved here recently – wanted to know more about the community. Did recently write about the library – Heard about us on Facebook. Email: judy.b.fishkind@gmail.com

Todd Fishkind (Community Member) – newly retired and wanting to connect with the community. Two weeks ago, he started the Romeo Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out) which meets on Tuesdays at 10:30AM at The Market at Liberty Place for men to socialize and have a place to go. A great group to have in the community. Check out the Face book page. Email: judy.b.fishkind@gmail.com

Betsy Ballard (Community Member) – Retired Mom who saw about Bridging on FB and then went to the website – wanted a group to connect, volunteer and maybe something that meets more often. Email: joyfulspirit2007@yahoo.com

Chelsea Wirth (Community Member) – Local Mom with 3 Kids – Volunteers often and wanted to meet and connect with different energies in the room. Email: wirthmomchels@gmail.com

Meg Patterson (Community Member) – moved here 2023 – Seeking employment – looking for a new job and came to see what this group was about. Email: mpattersonas@yahoo.com

Christina Johnston (Friends Home Marketing) – nonprofit looking for volunteers and how to get people involved with their residents. Email: CJohnston@fhkennett.org

Sarahi Gutierrez (Maternal and Child Health Consortium) – home visiting programs – soon will be able to provide doula services – always looking to connect with others. Email: sgutierrez@ccmchc.org

Joan and Kent Spinger (Community Member) – 20 years in education and health care and now retired. Wants to help the community. Email: joanspringer81@gmail.com

Daniel Embree (Kennett Collaborative) – hold many events in Kennett. He is here to learn about the community and what is happening. Working on changing over the spring planters in town. Ready for spring! Email: daniel@kennettcollaborative.org

Nanci Hersh (Community Member) - Working with different materials, working with different projects and people. She was working with bringing art to Delaware. She is now back in Kennett and would like to connect. Email: nancihersh@gmail.com

Dirya Desai (Community Member) - Looking for volunteer opportunities for her and her children. Looking at the Library and Senior Center. Read the minutes and felt like she knew people from the minutes. Email: desaifamily001@gmail.com

Carol Crane (Kennett Library) – runs the Volunteer fair and all volunteers. Volunteer Fair happens twice a year – 3/22/2025 10am – 2pm, open to public. 40 people coming right now and talk with the community and work on getting volunteers. Email: ccrane@ccls.org

Elena Hadley (Community Member) - came here 7 years ago to train horses – managing Brandywine Creek. Trying to spend more time in town. Wants to keep the community resilient and strong. Email: ehadley@brandywine.org

Tina Skinner (Community Member) - Career in writing and editing. Ready to connect with the broader community and looking for venues to engage. Email: Tina.Skinner@rocketmail.com

Other Attendees shared their needs and resources

Jim Mercante (Community) – working for 4 years on digital equity. Pleased to announce \$75,000 grant from Longwood Foundation and able to hire two part time digital navigators for helping with the internet and all that comes with that. Working on “Internet for All” with digital access, devices and literacy with Joan Holliday and the Chester County Digital Alliance. Does anyone want to be trained as a volunteer to be a digital navigator? There is training through RSVP Volunteers, and one could do training by Zoom if preferred. Email: vjmercante@gamil.com

Lou Florence – Spring at the Library – Meadowitos (Pollinator Gardens) will be installed at the library. There is a large one at Kennett YMCA. Need volunteers to tend and help with gardens. New project (not quite ready) Tree Share – as you look at all the tree seedlings in your yard, dig them up, repot them, hold them and then come to the Kennett Library on Saturday, May 3rd from 10am to noon to offer to someone who would like to plant a tree in his/her yard. Seed library is up and running and please know you can start a garden with just three seeds. Lou has a need for help packaging seeds. Email: Lflorence@ccls.org

Trevor Pruitt (Clinical Herbalist/Mental Health) – 3/30 Event. Working on an event for the summer to be more integrated with mental health and access to nature. Looking for some leads about large kitchens in West Grove/Landenberg area. He has a Community Herbal Garden. Email: trevorpruitt@gmail.com

Cierra Walker (Recovery Coach) – Coatesville Events – Coatesville Voices March 19th and April 16th from 6-8pm – Wants to focus on Community Capacity Building (hopefully will have childcare) gathering for Coatesville to find out what they need. Black Women of Chester County – Learn how to bring in healing through moving our bodies. First event is April and will be doing a “Walk it Out.” Book club held at the Library – focus on Queer authors. Last time Cierra attending a bridging meeting she wanted to find a space for Queer recovery support meetings and she bridged with Susan, who offered her a free space with a key and had their first meeting in December and are still going strong. Email: cierra89walker@gmail.com

Tina Skinner (Community Member) - Women in Recovery – Need help with gardening/looking for volunteers. This non-profit is in Wilmington, DE. Email: Tina.Skinner@rocketmail.com

Joan Holliday (Bridging Community) – the Kennett Community Grocer – wonderful concept, you are a member and they’re promoting healthy locally grown food. Need to have 400 members to open. They will meet on April 10th from 7-8:30pm at the Kennett Area Senior Center. Anyone may attend to learn more. Need more membership. They will do education on nutrition too. Joan also announced that every Thursday in the Library, Kennett Community Coffee Klatch meets from 10:30am to 11:45am. Email – dochollisv@aol.com

Daniel Embree (Kennett Collaborative) - Kennett Square Memorial Day Parade – if you would like to be involved – go to their website memorialdayparade.com. Email: daniel@kennettcollaboarative.org

Molly Hampson (Mighty Writers) – looking for camp space for younger kids from Mighty Writers this summer. Email: mhampson@mightywriters.org

Laura Wiechecki (County) – free resources open to all related to Narcon and other first aid items. She has a ton of free resources. If you want to learn more about anything – please let her know. Also, with Master Gardeners. Master Gardner is a national organization. It is a group of very enthusiastic gardeners. Participating in the Mushroom Festival. Email: lwiechecki@chesco.org

Jeanne Searer (Community) – 4/12 – Casa Guanajuato (a non-profit that promotes culture through events and education) There will be a cultural Tenochtli Dance Troupe at the Kennett Highschool – April 12, 2025 1pm English and 6pm Spanish. Beautiful dances and now working to raise money for the dances. Tickets are \$20. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Kate Wickersham (LCH) – Health and Social Services in three locations in SCC. In Kennett, 731 w. Cypress St. They serve the underserved, take all insurances and have a sliding scale fee. Bi-lingual Services include--Primary care, pediatric, OBGYN; and behavioral health with individual and group therapy. They opened a pharmacy and are thrilled to share! Young adults group therapy in Kennett is Tuesdays at 4pm. **Email:** kwickersham@lchservices.org

Chad Thomas (Penn Medicine) – wanted to thank LCH, KACS and Library – recruited 33 people for heart healthy screenings and wanted to thank that they were able to help. Email: Chad.Thomas@pennteam.upenn.edu

Rana Sakr (Live Better) was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following links to check out for community resources:

<https://ccls.libcal.com/event/13682144>

food access panel discussion

<https://ccls.libcal.com/event/12892680>

mental health for youth movie screening and QnA

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

- Molly Hampson and Susan Rzucidlo – “bridged” about Summer Camp at Avondale Borough Building or having it at the Garage (for their bathrooms) and then using the 2nd Street Park. We’re more than welcome to use the Avondale Park across the street. Susan will reach out to Zion Church and one more.
- Molly Hampson and Sarahi Guterrez – “bridged” about using space at Mighty Writers for a coworker to have a space to help families with medical forms.
- Molly Hampson and Joan Springer – “bridged” about Joan volunteering at Mighty Writers.

- Nick Everhart “bridged” with Christina Johnston (Friends Home) and Todd Fishkind – he will be recording them for a Podcast on “A Place in The Conversation.”
- Lou Florence “bridged” with Susan Long about all the nature projects at the library and she will volunteer with the Meadowitos.
- Danielle “bridged” with Christina Johnston for Friends Home for Senior Living Guide Photos. And Derrick Watkins to come in for Art and Music
- Joan “bridged” with the Springers about becoming volunteers for digital literacy tutoring. Bridged with Lou Florence about interviewing her for a SCC Weeklies article and with Carol Krane about the library’s volunteer fair on 3/22/25 from 10 to 2pm.
- Jim Mercante “bridged” with Dirya Desai – her son wanted to volunteer in digital literacy tutoring.
- Jeanne Searer “bridged” with Dirya Desai – her son wanting to volunteer for Casa Guanajuato
- Community Food Advocate from Chester County Foodbank and Crystal Ayala (CrystalA@cciu.org) from CCIU “bridged” about distribution center. Food prep and workshops. Jeanne Searer “bridged: and connected too. Having enough food is tough right now.
- Derrick Watkins – He has a company and works with nonprofits to be self-sufficient – Helps them define their vision and how to get there. Will be reaching out.
- Kate Wickersham “bridged” with Kathy Hrenko (khrenko@comcast.net) for helping with Art Therapy
- Kate Wickersham “bridged” with Meg to link up with LCH’s social work services to receive support in finding a job.
- Laura Wiechecki “bridged” with Cierra Walker and her work in Coatesville and public spaces and Trevor with commercial kitchens.

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.

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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

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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

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Our ext meeting will be at The Creamery, 401 Birch Street on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

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.

Stephanie D'Amico, Executive Director of the Kennett Area Senior Center welcomed us and told us about the site. She said, "This place is also your community home, and you are always welcomed." She said the Center is active with many activities during the week from 9am to 3pm. Community members may also join the members for lunch. Please call and make a reservation. Consider signing up to become a member for \$40/year. This site may be rented for community and private events. You may bring in your own food and drink for these events. Contact: sdamico@kennettseiorcenter.org

Tom Heohle and Kate Wickersham facilitated the meeting. We started with a moment of silence for the people affected by the Texas flood. Kate: kwickersham@lchservices.org Tom: thoehle@yahoo.com

Tom Hoehle and Kate Wickersham shared the framework and guiding principles. The motivation starts from coming from the heart and the goal of contributing 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, inclusive.

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

Kate Wickersham shared that each person is here because everyone has a role. Some have needs and some want to help. Our focus is on potential, not a problem. No officers, no infrastructure. There is a web site where you will find the notes www.bridgingthecommunity.org We meet bi-monthly. September is next meeting and will be at the Creamery. Let us know if you would like to host us in November. Meetings are always the second Wednesday of every other month. kwickersham@lchservices.org

Attendees were asked to share how they connected with the Guiding Principles of Bridging the Community

Corinne Yost likes the focus on potential, not a problem. cyost@accessservices.org

Tom's wife, Virginia Maroun. (now Lansdowne residents) shared that Bridging is inspiring to her. marounv@gmail.com

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

Kristina Lapp, Good Samaritan Services, Licensed therapist. Serves individuals who are at risk or homeless. Provides free counseling. kristinl@goodsamservices.org

Lee Davis, manager of Good Sam in Kennett Square. Currently there are 12 men in emergency and transitional housing. leed@goodsamservices.org

Catarina Folken – Good Samaritan Services. Attended Bridging one other time at Good Samaritan Services. Needs delivered cooked meals, mentors. She can connect you with Community Engagement coordinator who can talk with interested people about volunteer and donation opportunities. catarinaf@goodsamservices.org

Steve Baker – Works for UNTO, a Christian organization that provides food, water, shelter and other essentials to people in the toughest places on earth. Unto partners with Cru's global network to share hope and relieve suffering. They partner with groups to pack rice and beans to be shipped. If your church or agency are interested in hosting an event contact Steve: steve.baker@unto.com

Carlye Odovisio shared that she is the Resource Coordinator at Good Samaritan Services. carlyeo@goodsamservices.org

Corinne Yost – Chester County told us about a free teen talk line that is available from 3 to 7 pm every day. Supervised teens offer support and active listening. Call: Call 855-852-8336; Text 484-362-9515. They are looking for teen volunteers. Email: teentalkline@accessservices.org or cyost@accessservices.org

Vision Corps--- Angela Lauer & Carol Gifford told us about their services for vision impaired. Their goal is to keep the client independent and in their own homes. – Would like to identify groups for Vision Corps to make presentations in Southern Chester County. (www.eyedrop2025.org) Need volunteer drivers for doc appointments, shopping.

Angela Lauer alauer@visioncorps.net & Carol Gifford cgifford@visioncorps.net

Upcoming Events and Immediate Needs were shared

Jim Mercante shared that for the past 3 years, he and Joan Holliday have been leading the Chester County Digital Alliance. They are working with RSVP who has contracted with two bi-lingual digital navigators, who work at the Kennett library and local agencies to help learn how to use computers and become digitally literate. They would like more bi-lingual volunteers. He explained that Filomina Elliot at Kennett library teaches ESL and some financial literacy. As a future plan, they are working to meld digital literacy with financial literacy. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

Joan Holliday introduced the Kennett Community Coffee Klatch that meets at the Kennett library every Thursday from 10:30am to 11:45am.– a group whose goal is to learn about the happenings in the community, become invested and help build community. Joan also writes a weekly newspaper article for The Daily Local and will be requesting an interview from some attendees tonight for an article. Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Lou Florence of Kennett library – told us that she believes we need more trees for our environment. She will be planting small trees in a wooden box at the library and would like help building the box and planting. Later the trees will be given out to plant in yards and community spaces. lflorence@ccls.org

Karen D'Agusto – former lead for Girl Scouts. – Wants to expand scout programming with a hired bi-lingual individual (Program Implementer) with pay at \$18/per hour. Please help her recruit. kdagusto@aol.com

Derrick Watkins, of Arise United, shared information about the org, which helps people go from homelessness to home ownership. Derrick summarized his programming, which gives clients' money and helps them invest and eliminate debt. dwatkins1926@gmail.com

Kathy Hrenko – Member of Longwood Rotary Club – contact her if you need help from volunteers at the club. She is also an art therapist and is doing sessions for groups and would like to recruit others. khrenko@comcast.net

Jeanne Searer of Casa Guanajuato– September Hispanic Heritage Month is coming up – Casa Guanajuato is a Hispanic non-profit geared to expose Mexicans and the broader community to the Hispanic culture through sponsoring cultural events throughout the year. Jeanne described the dance troupe, Danza Tenochtli.. Jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Esther and Ruth Rochester were introduced, and Esther shared the re-scheduled Juneteenth celebration being held on July 19th from 11 to 4 at the Kennett Library. erochester24@gmail.com

Sofia Soto, from CCMCHC, described the Maternal and Child Health Consortium's Doula program which assists mothers before and after birth. Check out their web site at: www.ccmchc.org ssoto@ccmchc.org

Kate Wikersham described programs of LCH – Local Community Health Center – Kennett West Grove and Oxford Primary Care; Pediatrics; Behavioral Health; Women's Health, Chiropractic Health. LCH is part of the breast-feeding task force. On August 12th from 6 to 8 pm LCH West Grove Event. They recently opened a pharmacy at their Kennett location. kwickersham@lchservices.org

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

Sofio Soto “bridged” with Vision Corps for eye screenings with MCHC preschoolers.

Kathy Hrenko “bridged” with Vision Corps Staff. She also “bridged” with Good Samaritan to provide a homemade dinner.

Steve Baker “bridged” with **Janette Grieb** from the Kennett library about some of her programs in the schools and learning about his mission. jgrieb@ccls.org

Janette Grieb “bridged” with Vision Corps about eye screenings for four elementary schools.

Joan Holliday “bridged” with Vision Corps services and the Teen Talk Line and will write articles for the Daily Local about them. She also “bridged” with Susan Rzucidlo, who will contact a person about lawn work for a West Grove senior resident.

Susan Long “bridged” with **Kate Wickersham** on their upcoming breast-feeding event and will be attending. Susan is former lactation consulting. Susan.longaetna@comcast.net

Kate Wickersham “bridged” with **Good Samaritan Services team** to give them a tour to learn about LCH services. She also “bridged” with Vision Corps staff about adult vision screening.

Corinne Yost shared a flyer about Teen Talk Line with several attendees asking them to promote this service for teens.

Lou Florence (Kennett library) bridged with **Karen D’Agusto** on gold awards and building of the wooden box for the trees.

Tom Hoehle “bridged” with Salvador Villicana, a “bridger” from years back and exchanged information about the current state of Kennett in the Spanish language.

Bridging the Community meeting was held at The Creamery, 401 Birch Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 162nd meeting with 32 attendees.

Our next meeting will be on November 12, 2025 at Wings for Success, 345 Scarlet Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348 (This is in the New Garden Shopping Center near the old Big Lots.) Please bring a folding chair to add extra chairs.

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.

Natalia Santiago Sanchez (Square Roots Community Engagement & Program Director) told us about the site where we were meeting; Square Roots Creamery, which was founded in 1902 was “re-imagined in 2016 by Michael Bontrager to become a community gathering space. The Creamery’s tag line is: “We seek to immerse our guests in local arts, history, culture, food, drinks, and fun.” Natalia said Square Roots Collective is a for-profit and all the proceeds go to non-profits in the area. The goal is to have an inclusive space that invites multi-cultural events and many are held here.

Kate Wickersham facilitated the meeting with **Jeanne Searer**.

Kate: kwickersham@lchservices.org shared the framework and Jeanne jeannecrew491@hotmail.com the guiding principles. Attendees especially resonated with the idea of building community through making “bridges” and coming from the heart as essentially starting from love.

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

The group then engaged a Moment of Silence.

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

Perk Musacchio (Community) told us that she is a retired educator since 2015 from Unionville Chadds Ford School District. She now is an Education Consultant and a writer. She is concerned about the mental health of our youth. She invites everyone to a Meet the Authors at the Primrose Clubhouse, 200 Primrose Drive, Kennett Square on

9/25 at 6:30pm to 8:00pm STRUGGLE IS REAL--“Red Roadmap to healing our Children.” RSVP by 9/19/24 at perkmus@gmail.com She also is looking for a short-term partnership involving local high school students and community members. The project would be a fun, real-world culminating activity following a course on communication, soft skills, and self-presentation—giving students the chance to practice these skills with support from local professionals. Email: skills2soarllc@gmail.com

Naydi Avalos Silva (CCMCHC) told us that she makes home visits to families with children up to 5 years old helping parents prepare their children for school. Email: navalos@ccmchc.org

Leah Gower (Community) is attending to learn more about the community and opportunities. Email: srewog@comcast.net

Susan Hankin (Kennett Human Relations Commission) told us the Commission was established in 2017 ordinance that prohibits discrimination in the Borough of Kennett. Their charge includes providing public education and promoting diversity and inclusion in the borough. They are open to giving presentations. If you have a question, concern, or would like to file a complaint, you may contact the Commission at: HumanRelationsCommission@kennettswq.org Email: SHankin28@gmail.com

Juan Tafolla (Candidate for Kennett Borough Council and Digital Navigator) told us that he is running for Kennett Borough Council and encouraged us to vote on 11/4. He is open to discussions about the borough and welcomes conversations. He also serves as a part-time digital navigator with RSVP Volunteers and is helping teach digital literacy classes and giving one-on-one help to anyone that needs help with basic digital skills at the library and at several non-profits. Email: Juantafolla80@gmail.com

Upcoming Events and Immediate Needs were shared

Annalie Korengel (Pastor of Unionville Presbyterian Church) told us that she is looking for “Menders.” Mending will take place at the Kennett Area Senior Center and all materials including sewing machines are provided. Volunteers are requested a couple of hours a month. It involves simple sewing: hems, buttons, zippers, patches. Contact Annalie at: pastorannalie@gmail.com

Rana Sakr (Community) told us that she is advocate for community health and mental health with youth. She invites us to **Faith & Wellness—Expanding Access.**

Embracing Hope on October 7th, 2025, from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Christian Life Center, 125 Saginaw Rd, New London Twp. PA 19352. Learn how to help when someone in your faith community is facing hardships, experiencing a mental health crisis and struggling with alcohol or drug use. Practical tools and resources will be provided. There will be presentations from county departments; real-life scenarios to

practice applying what you've learned and a resource table highlighting local services and support. Email: rana.sakr.salem@gmail.com

Joan Holliday (Community) told the group that she is working with a Core Team that is being passed the baton from previous members. Essentially, we are setting up a succession plan, so Bridging continues. Rana Sakr is shadowing Joan to take on a supportive role, which involves making sure that everything is in place for a meeting—email reminders happen; site preparations; facilitators and minute takers are in place and assuring minutes get out to attendees and are posted on the web site. Joan is also looking for a person, who will report to the SCCON (a meeting of non-profits) attendees the second Thursday of the month at 8am by Zoom on the key information from Bridging meeting. SCCON will then identify volunteers needed to be shared at the next Bridging meeting. The Email: dochollisv@aol.com

Jessie Cocks (Community) told us about the International Day of Peace, Sunday, September 21st from 3-5:00pm at Kennett Friedns Meeting, 125 W. Sickle Street, Kennett. The goal is to build community with others who want to create positive change in a chaotic world. She also said that the Hadley fund will be sponsoring a Non-Violence Training in late fall. Email: jessiecocks@gmail.com

Nick Everhart (A Place in the Conversation) told us that he continues to conduct interviews with community members with his partner Nancy Nicewonger. The goal is to assure everyone has a voice in the community. Check out “A Place in the Conversation” and listen to several years of podcasts and learn more deeply about the community. He will be recruiting candidates for the podcast at this meeting. Email: nickeverhart@verizon.net

Jan Michener (AHHAH) told us that she has received funding for the Chester County Imagination Library, which provides free books delivered to the home for children under 5 years old who live in Chester County. (Dolly Parton inspired.) Over 10, 300 plus children have been enrolled in Chester County. SCC is below the average of registrations. Please encourage eligible families to register. Visit ahhah.org/cell to register. She also works at Chester County Youth Center teaching Restorative Justice processes. She will be an active participant with “Catching Dreams Over the Edge” with funds going to AAHAH and Camp Dreamcatcher on 9/27/2025. Please donate. Email: jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.com

Shannon Amspacher (Community) has lived in Kennett for 10 years. Working on Potluck, an app. It will match neighbors to help each other neighbors with getting a meal on the table every day. She is looking for a partner to take on this project. She is trying to survey the community to see what they would like. Email: info@joinpotluck.app

Jeanne Searer (Casa Guanajuato) invites EVERYONE to the Hispanic Heritage Festival on Saturday, 9/13/25 at 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square from 12pm to 6pm. There is an After Party at The Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square, PA 19348. It is all FREE. She is conducting workshops for making gladiola paper flowers. Email: jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Jim Mercante shared that for the past 4 years, he and Joan Holliday have been leading the Chester County Digital Alliance. If you need help with digital navigation or literacy, please contact him. Volunteers are always welcomed. Email: vjmercante@gmail.com

David Nuttall (Community) told us about the meeting for Community Crisis Response that meets by Zoom the first Wednesday of the month at noon. The purpose is to keep everyone updated on the ICE Raids; what is happening in the schools; to share the cards that list the rights for the undocumented and to participate in peaceful demonstrations supporting the workers in our area. If anyone wants to attend the calls contact Melissa Pacella at: melissa@oxfordsilo.com Jessie Cocks added that there is a non-partisan protest, organized by the Quakers at the corner of State and Union every Saturday from 4-5pm. Make your own sign with message you want to give. Email: barbdave1@msn.com

Esther Rochester (New Garden Memorial UAME Church) said they will have a luncheon for their bishop and is looking for aprons for the church cooks and waitresses. Email: erochester24@gmail.com

Kate Wickersham (LCH Director of Development) told us that they are inviting the broader community to attend an event called Heart Tracks to be conducted by Penn Medicine for twenty community members. A myriad of tests will be done free to track heart health. Announcement to community will take place soon. Screening at LCH West Grove campus on 10/13/2025. Check out the web site at: www.lchcommunityhealth.org Email: kwickersham@lchservices.org

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

- Annalee Korengel “bridged” with Besty Ballard, Cathy Brison and Jessie around workshops being offered and to obtain menders for KASC project.
- Cathy Brison “bridged” with Jessie Cocks around the International Day of Peace; with Annalie Korengel and with Juan Tafolla to have one-on-one digital literacy help.
- Joan Holliday “bridged” with Perk Musacchio about a contact with the Longwood Rotary working with her idea of a youth project. She also “bridged” with Esther Rochester about providing 3 aprons for her church; and with Shannon Amspacher and Jan Michener around contacting the Kennett Library as a partner for “Working on Potluck App.”

- Jessie Cocks “bridged” with Annalie Korengel around Menders; She also “bridged” with Juan Tafolla around Borough Council campaign; Davie Nuttall around Protest March and Cathy Brison around event at Kennett Friends Meeting.
- Jan Michener “bridged” with Nick Everhart to be featured in a podcast for A Place in the Conversation; with Naydi Avalos Silva from MCHC to help with enrollments for the Imagination library; with Shannon around her food program; with Janette Grieb from the library; Perk around her event on 9/19/24 and with Betsy Ballard who attended her Tai Chi class at the Kennett Library.
- Nick Everhart “bridged” with Shannon Amspacher; Juan Tafolla; Jan Michener; Susan Hankin and Betsy Ballard and Jessie Cocks as future persons to be featured on A Place in the Conversation.
- Susan Hankin “bridged” with a non-profit to make a presentation about Kennett Human Relations Commission.
- Kate Wickersham “bridged” with Good Samaritan around a shared project and with Annalie Korengel around jokingly starting a comedy series.
- David Nuttall “bridged with Juan Tafolla around his campaign and the heart screening to take place on October 13, 2025 at LCH West Grove campus.
- Esther Rochester “bridged” with Megan Patterson since the last meeting about a job opportunity and Megan got the part-time job.
- Betsy Ballard “bridged” with Joan Holliday. Betsy has agreed to be the person to convey key information from Bridging meetings on SCCON meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 8am.

Announcement: For Southern Chester County, there will be a second Bridging the Community meeting on Thursday, September 18th, 2025, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Penn London Township, 260 Lewis Rd, West Grove, PA 19390. This is for the Southern Chester County folks. We will continue with the Kennett Bridging, which has been going on for 28 years. **Feel free to attend both.** SCC will take place the third Thursday of every month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm until the new year, then will decide if they will move to bi-monthly.

Bridging the Community meeting was held at The Wardrobe, 345 Scarlet Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348 on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This is our 163rd meeting with 28 attendees.

Our next meeting will be on January 14, 2026, at The Kennett Library, 216 E. State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348

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.

Carol Vidal, site Manager for The Wardrobe (previously Wings for Success) and support services coordinator, **Persephone Ulysses**, described the mission of The Wardrobe is to offer clothing security to anyone in need. They offer a 1-hour free consultations up to 4 times a year. Those needing clothing for any reason can come in and browse like a customer for what they need. The Wardrobe reserves the last Wednesday of each month for specific communities – such as veterans, LGBTQ+, those re-entering the workforce, parents & caregivers, etc. This November is open to all. The public can shop in the store and get 70% off retail prices. 10% goes to support the organization. There are several locations besides the Kennett store: Philadelphia, Norristown, and Upper Darby. The Wardrobe is always happy to welcome new volunteers. They are always accepting donations – currently they are accepting fall and winter clothing and especially men’s clothes size small and medium. Anything they cannot use are shared with other agencies or are sustainably repurposed—nothing ends up in the landfill. The Wardrobe also offers support services, such as career coaching, resume building, interviewing, and on-line workshops.

Kate Wickersham facilitated the meeting with **Jeanne Searer**. Kate shared the framework and Jeanne the guiding principles. Attendees especially resonated with the idea of building community through making “bridges” and coming from the heart as essentially starting from love.

Guiding Principles:

- We will come from the heart---not an obligation
- We will work for community---not personal agendas
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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

The group then engaged a Moment of Silence.

Kate passed an image of the proposed new “mascot” for Bridging the Community so the group could give feedback. **Rana Sakar** and **Joan Holiday** asked that attendees reflect on the image and offer a good name for it. The image is an effort to connect us via a visual. After some back and forth the group decided on the name **Bridge-It**.

Kate then opened the floor for newcomers to introduce themselves:

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

Barb McIlvaine Smith (Community) of Kennett Friends Meeting. She shared a project call Community Rising which invites the community to build community and connect with others to create positive change and build trust through sharing community concerns. Meeting on November 16 and January 18 from 2:00-4:00 at Kennett Friends Meeting, 125 W. Sickle Street. bms450@gmail.com

Lucy Rosado of Kennett Friends Home and Culinary/Montessori facilitator is looking for volunteers to engage with the residents and interact in projects such as crafts, games, making seasonal gifts, helping with community projects. lrosado@fhkennett.org

Nefta Erroa from RSVP is looking for volunteers. He is a digital navigator helping individuals to learn basic digital skills. Some workshops are coming up and being offered at Kennett Township building on 11/18; 12/5/ and 12/12 from 6-7pm. All community members are welcome. RSVP offers tech tutoring to teach basic skills and ways to stay secure on the internet. n.erroa@rsvpmc.org

Janet Cleaver is a community member since 1980. She came to learn about possible volunteer opportunities. (no email)

Annabel Ocegüera from Chester County MCHC shared they are starting Doula Services coming in January 2026. There is a high need for doulas—especially bilingual. They will offer Full Spectrum Doulas. aocegüera@ccmchc.org

Le Tonya Wilson from The Wardrobe, shared there is always a need for volunteers. letonya@wardrobe.org

Elia Flores and **Maria Juarez** are recruiters for Migrant Education. There is a need for donations to help newly arrived families—especially clothing for youngest to 20yo. There is a need for jackets, small men's sizes are particularly needed. elias@cciu.org, mariajl@cciu.org

Persephone Ulysses of The Wardrobe says there is need for better communication and awareness of their services to potential clients. There is a need to connect and work with other organizations to better provide and share resources and services. Please get the word out. persephone@wardrobepa.org

Rana Sakr (Community) is looking to create opportunities for French language immersion for her family and others. She is working with the non-profit Alliance Francaise de Philadelphia to offer French for beginners. They will establish a satellite course in the coming year in Kennett Square. rana.sakr.salem@gmail.com

Esther Rochester (Community)— people looking for work should see KRAPF bus company. They have positions and training for bus drivers. erochester24@gmail.com

Jeanne Searer of Casa Guanajuato, they are preparing for December 14 Las Posadas celebration. It will start at El Chapel in West Grove at 4:00 until the group gets tired. There will be dancers, singing, and food. We are asked to prepare cooked food to share. Roasted peanuts for pinatas would be welcomed as well. jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Joan Holiday shared that the Kennett Area Ministerium is hosting an interfaith Thanksgiving service at Second Baptists Church the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd. Also, the Community Choir is asking for those interested to joining. Contact Joan for more information. They will be walking through Kennett and singing for the holidays. Date to be announced. dochollisv@aol.com

Karen D'Agusto shared that the Girl Scouts will be helping KACS with a Thanksgiving Food Drive. A truck will park in front of Giant Grocery stores and donations will be accepted. kdagusto@aol.com

Cathy Brison says KACS is having a Thanksgiving Food Drive. Food donations can be delivered to KACS between Nov. 17-21. Please see KACS website for details. cbrisonmm@aol.com

Nick Everhart is the producer of A Place in the Conversation podcast highlighting the voices in our community. Individuals of all kinds are invited to tell a story or share a service or need. About 30 podcasts have been produced and are available for listening. Check out the web site for the YouTube interviews. Conversations are recorded at the Kennett Library's Audio/Visual Lab. Conversations are easy and low key. nickeverhart@verizon.net

Cierra Walker shared the formation of a group particularly for young Black youth to address suicide awareness: JMR Presents: A Meeting of Minds Wellness Group – a mental wellness group open to the community where we can help each other find solace while dealing with loss. Meeting is Nov. 20th, 6:30 – 7:30 at Galilee Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, 311 E Third St. in Avondale. Subsequent meeting held every 3rd Thursday of the month. These are group led sharing space. cierra89@gmail.com

Kate Wickersham from LCH says they offer many health services for whole health. They strive to build connections with other organizations. Nov. 13 there is a children's coat drive and distribution. Mostly coats for 2T to small adults. They have several hundred coats to give out from 4:00-7:00. Some local knitters have made things for babies. kwickersham@lchservices.org

Lou Florence (Kennett Library) shared that volunteers are always welcome at the library. Also, the community is invited to submit ideas for programs of interest to the library. There is a form for submitting on their website: www.kennettlibrary.org, lflorence@kennettlibrary.org

Lou also shared on behalf of **Jan Michener** of AHHAH that West Chester University student interns are working in collaboration with the West Chester University Literacy Club to have a Holiday Book Drive for AHHAH PULL libraries. jan@artsholdinghandsandhearts.com

Salma Perez, office manager for Family Promise and **Megan Kaufmann**, volunteer coordinator for Family Promise—serves families with school age children who are experiencing homelessness. They do intake to help families with rental assistance, security deposits, house set up, resources, and more. They help house some families for up to 120 days and help with case management meetings. In southern Chester County Promise Kept program follows with support for up to a year. There is a need for volunteers. They also have a mentoring program in development. admin@familypromisesc.org, volunteercoordinator@familypromisesc.org

BRIDGING:

Kate Wickersham bridged with **Carol Vidal** from Wardrobe and **Persephone** to see how they can introduce LCH services to the clients at Wardrobe. Carol had ideas but no promises! . She bridged with **Elia Flores** for the coat drive for Migrant Ed. Carol asked if any coats are left to please donate to The Wardrobe.

Joan Holliday bridged with **Salma Perez** and **Megan Kaufmann** of Family Promise. And bridged with Barbara McIlvaine Smith about Community Rising. She invited those in Community Rising to come to a Bridging meeting. She also “bridged” with Lucy Rosado, who requested that the carolers stop at Friends Home in December when they are caroling.

Nick Everhart bridged with **Elia Flores** from CCIU and **Carol Vidal** from Wardrobe and **Barbara McIlvaine** as possible guest for podcast.

Nefta Eroa bridged with **Elia Flores** to build some shared workshops – Jan. 9th for a technology day for parents. **Carol** from Wardrobe will post flyers for RSVP and Nefta will help clients sign-in for appointments.

Others “bridged” after the meeting about organ transplants and helping with donations. Chairs that were brought to the event to add seating were picked up.

Minutes submitted by Lou Florence

November 12, 2025, EMAIL SIGN-IN LIST:

Carol Vidal	Carol@wardrobepa.org
Persephone	Persephone@wardrobepa.org
Trevor Pruitt	TrevorLPruitt@gmail.com
Nefta Erroa	n.erroa@rsvpmc.org
Tom Hoehle	tomhoehle@yahoo.com
Maria Juarez	mariajl@cciu.org
Elia Flores	eliaf@cciu.org
Esther Rochester	erochester24@gmail.com
Jeanne Searer	jeannecrew491@hotmail.com
Karen D'Agusto	kdagusto@aol.com
Betsy Ballard	joyfulspirit2007@yahoo.com
Lou Florence	lflorence@kennettlibrary.org
Kate Wickersham	
Le Tonay Wilson	letonya@wardrobepa.org
Barb McIlvaine Smith	bms450@gmail.com
Anabel Ocegüera	aocegüera@ccmchc.org
Lucy Rosado	lrosado@fhkennett.org
Nick Everhart	nickeverhart@verizon.net
Rana Sakr	rana.sakr.salem@gmail.com
Cathy Brison	cabrisonmm@aol.com
Salma Perez	admin@familypromisescc.org
Megan Kauffman	volunteercoordinator@familpromisescc.org
Ruth Williams	drwilliams9812@gmail.com
Joan Holliday	dochollisv@aol.com
Ruth Rochester	