

Bridging the Community meeting was held at The Gathering Place at Kennett, 427 S. Walnut Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348 on **Wednesday, July 08, 2026**, from 6pm to 7:00pm. A potluck dinner with hot dogs was enjoyed by all. Meeting was held from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This was our 167th meeting with 27 attendees.

Our next meeting will be on September 9th, 2026, at Path Stone Corporation, 421 McFarland Rd, Kennett Square, PA from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

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

Joan Holliday told us that Kennett Square Roots has agreed to send out notices for our bi-monthly meetings one week before and the Monday before the Wednesday meeting. Because it is a new address the notification email notices sent this month may have gone into Spam. She encouraged everyone to check their Spam folder and bring back to Inbox, so it is recognized for September notices.

Tom Hoehle facilitated the meeting with **Trevor Pruitt**.

Tom initiated a moment of silence to honor our 250th USA anniversary and asked us to reflect on the question, "What will I bring to the future starting the next 250 years?"

Stephanie D'Amico, ED of The Gathering Place at Kennett told us about the site we were meeting. The Kennett Area Senior Center was rebranded at the beginning of the year to remove barriers to participation. The number of people attending the health and wellness programs has greatly increased and more groups are renting the site for family and personal events on the weekends and evenings when they are not open as an adult community center for 55+ seniors. Because of their stretched budget and increased numbers of attendees they are creatively adjusting some programs. They serve lunch Monday through Thursday and bring a bag lunch on Friday.

Tom, Co-Facilitator welcomed everyone. Trevor Pruitt and Cierra Wlaker presented the framework of Bridging and the Guiding Principles bringing out the spirit of "everyone belongs here" and "keeping it a heartfelt dynamic process."

The tetrad framework starts horizontally from the GROUND coming from the heart moving towards the GOAL of creating community. The vertical line starts below as the MEANS with taking on a Role and moving upward towards the VISION: "Kennett Square: Every day a better place to grow up in and grow old in" and drawing on our living philosophy: peaceful, progressive, inclusivity.

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

Tom Hoehle asked for a couple of Bridging stories.

Tom shared his first experience at “Bridging” 27 years ago when everyone pitched in and helped a family who had just had a house fire. At one meeting all furnishings and supplies were delivered to the new home.

Karen D’Augusto shared about the Girl Scouts who have gained so many ideas for their gold and silver badges at Bridging meetings---her favorite was the book libraries that were place all around town when a Scout “bridged” with Jan Michener from AHHAH.

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

NAME Deni Tobin

He is a Supervisor at Crime Victims Center, which serves all of Chester County and wanted to get the word out to Southern Chester County that they are available to help. Their Mission: To foster healing, hope and empowerment through free, confidential and compassionate support for victims of sexual violence and other crimes. They guide individuals through trauma, recovery and legal processes.”

NAME Immac Bruce

She works as an educator for Crime Victims Center. She has done prevention classes for Middle School students at Kennett and Unionville Chadds Ford School Districts.

NAME Joanne Hunt

Joanne’s sister Esther Rochester invited her to attend. She is an active Second Baptist Church member and helps her husband, Michael Hunt with his ministry

NAME Michael Hunt

Lives with Joanne Hunt in Kennett Square. He serves as Assistant to Rev. Marvin T. Williams at Second Baptist Church. He came to Bridging to see how the community works.

NAME Henry Cabrera

He is in the West Chester University Public Health Master’s Program. He is an Intern with Penn Medicine Community Health & Wellness at Chester County Hospital. He would like to provide a Hands Only CPR class in Spanish and English for groups in Southern Chester County. He would like ideas and connections from the group.

NAME Jacie Sparacino

Jacie interns along with Henry Caberra, Chad Thomas, Community Health Education Coordinator for Community Health & Wellness Services at Chester County Hospital is their preceptor.

Others shared their needs and resources

NAME Dr. Wanda Davis

Affiliated/describe: (RAD) Robert A. Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund:

<https://radmemorial.com/>

Wanda is a retired professor, recently relocated back to Kennett Square where she originates from. The RAD scholarship seeks to keep the legacy of Robert A. Davis who was the first soldier to be mortally wounded in the Vietnam War. The fund works in many areas, including a literacy project in partnership with the Oxford Education Foundation. They are looking for applicants for scholarship interested in careers in agriculture. Wanda is wanting to reconnect to

the community again after many years away. The RAD is looking for potential students to award scholarships to advance farming and community and “Bobby’s” legacy. She asked for a silent prayer that the legacy will be brought back to Chester County through the CC Community Foundation. Email: sydonia06@gmail.com

NAME Joan Holliday

She reminded everyone that the Kennett Community Intergenerational Coffee Klatch is held every Thursday from 10:30 to 11:45am in the Kennett Library upstairs in the Chestnut Room and all community members are welcome. Dialogues about the broader community, learning of resources and from each other happen here.

NAME Rev. Marvin T. Williams

He told us that he recently celebrated his 35th pastoral ministry celebration. Joan Holliday wrote an article on this event and Tom Hoehle presented him with a copy of the article. See link: <https://www.dailylocal.com/2026/07/07/story-of-kennett-rev-marvin-t-williams-trusts-in-the-lord-to-lead-his-ministry/?share=lwtwoa7id2tsirveteoo>

NAME Cierra Walker

She told us about the Queer Craft Program at the Kennett Library, which will take place on 7/13/26 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. There is a Queer Book Club held on the first Monday of the month at the Kennett Library. Books are purchased by the library, and recipients may keep the book. Check the library’s web site.

NAME Rana Sakr

She told us that a Bridging Core Team has formed this past year to keep the process of Bridging going on for years to come. If anyone would like to learn how to become a facilitator of the meeting; help with site management; contribute technology expertise for announcing meetings; take minutes at the meeting, please contact Rana. These roles could be shared among several community members.

NAME Jeanne Searer

She told us that Casa Guanajuto is getting ready for their September celebration of Mexico’s freedom, which will be held at the Creamery. They also are working on craft items for Dia de los Muertos, which will occur on Halloween this year. If anyone wants to learn how to color sawdust with tempera paint as a medium for sand art, classes are held on Saturdays. She also teaches how to make crepe paper flowers. Contact Jean for more information.

NAME Derrick Watkins

He told us that he has now retired from his teaching job. He is currently working on bringing Arise United to the Southern Chester County area that helps homeless move on to self-sufficiency. The model will be taken from a pilot that has been completed at Virginia Beach. He also has completed a second music album—He is a vocalist and piano player—The album will be out in October. Joan Holliday had forwarded a link that he sent for last meeting to attendees to hear his “Smile” song from his first album. She will resend it this month.

NAME Susan Rzucidlo, Avondale’s Mayor

She told us that she enjoys coming to the meetings to discover “bridges” to be made with her community. She said this was by far her most favorite meeting to attend.

NAME Kathy Hrenko

She is an art therapist and has worked with several agencies in the area. She also is a member of the Longwood Rotary Club, whose motto is: "Service Above Self." She continues to take referrals for both.

Attendees then mingled and "bridged" for a half-hour**Bridges made:**

Jeanne Searer "bridged" with David Nuttall around him learning how to create sawdust art for Dia de los Muertos.

Rana Sakr "bridged" with Henry Cabrera about Hands Only CPR for her church, The Kennett Presbyterian Church. She also "bridged" with Derrick Watkins around a multilingual caroling on the Kennett Square streets this coming Christmas. She also "bridged" with Joan Holliday about a non-profit that would hold government funds for a health and wellness community outreach program. She "bridged" with Henry Cabrera has a background in strategic AI use and could help support Bridging's digital presence.

Deni Tobin "bridged" with Esther Rochester around mental health/music and grieving. He also "bridged" with Joan Holliday about setting up an interview for a Daily Local newspaper on Crime Victims.

Kathy Hrenko "bridged" with Henry Cabrera around SCC non-profits to offer Hands Only CPR—St. Rocco's; Young Moms' Club Night' The Garage Community & Youth Center; Mighty Writers; Kennett Library.

Karen D'Agusto "bridged" with Henry Cabrera around CCHospital offering a class for new grandparents and caring for a grandchild. She also "bridged" with Immac Bruce, whose daughter was in Girl Scouts with Karen's daughter.

Joan Holliday "bridged" with Kathy Hrenko who is providing another art therapy class at LCH. Joan would like to do an article on this event for the Daily Local newspaper. She "bridged" with Wanda Davis about the success of her outreach at the last Kennett library volunteer fair.

Trevor Pruitt "bridged" with Virginia Maroun on growing herbs.

Cierra Walker "bridged" with Deni Tobin about her counseling programs and Crime Victims.

Tom Hoehle & Trevor Pruitt closed the meeting encouraging everyone to keep attending and "bridging" during the interim.

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