Bridging the Community was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 7pm at The Garage Youth Center, 114 S. Union St., Kennett Square, PA. Fifty-two community members joined in an evening of celebration and appreciation, honoring Joan Holiday’s nursing retirement and her 68th birthday! This is the 95th Bridging meeting! (This community process has been vibrant and lively since May 1998 bi-monthly)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July, 09, 2014 at His Mission, 342 E. South St., Kennett. This will be the Annual Tom Hoehle Community Picnic. Please arrive at 6pm with a dish to share or hot dogs to grill with buns for the picnic. Bridging meeting starts at 7pm. For information contact: Joan Holliday at dochollisy@aol.com or cell: 610-717-2180.

Minutes of Bridging meetings are on the web site: www.bridgingcommunity.com or there is a copy of the minutes at the Kennett Library. Bridging the Community meetings are held at different sites every time---to provide exposure to all segments of the community.

Dave Haradon, Facilitator of the Meeting, Jeanne Searer and Joan Holliday welcomed everyone and gave an overview of a Bridging meeting. Email: daveharadon@gmail.com jeannecrew491@hotmail.com

Joan Holliday announced that she did not receive the same email sent to all the attendees (via David Haradon) with an invitation to celebrate Joan’s birthday and upcoming retirement on 5/30/14. This was the brainstorm of Esther Rochester, a long-time friend of Joan Holliday.

We started the meeting with a Moment of Silence for the problems in Nigeria---sending love and peace!

Information about the site where we were meeting tonight: The Garage Community & Youth Center was a vacant car garage until 2001, when a local business leader and youth pastor envisioned its roof sheltering something far more valuable than vehicles. The renovated building now is home to services for middle and high school students. Mikey Glass (Assistant Director of The Garage Youth Center in Kennett) told us that the site is open from Monday through Thursday from 3-7pm and on Fridays it is open 3-6pm. Their Mission is “Empowering youth to reach their potential.” They offer tutoring and mentoring and a host of activities, which also include sports. They have many volunteers, and always need more. The students engage in community events as volunteers, as well. Email: Michael.glass@garageyouthcenter.org

Kristin Proto (ED of The Garage) oversees both Garage Youth Centers. The one in West Grove is located at 122 Rosehill Ave. They meet Monday through Thursday from 3-7pm. Email: kristin.proto@garageyouthcenter.org

Jeanne Searer gave an overview of the Framework and Joan Holliday shared the Guiding Principles for Bridging. The overall context is our living philosophy, reflected by our land's energy/spirit - peaceful, progressive, inclusivity. “Bridging” reflects this living philosophy. Articles about Kennett’s work on The Path of Potential Web site: www.pathofpotential.org
Following are the 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----not focused on formal hierarchy

Dave Haradon announced that this would be an evening of expressing “thanks” to Joan Holliday for her community involvement. He handed the microphone around to each person, who gave heartfelt appreciation for the community work that was shared with Joan Holliday. The attendees also shared information about their role in the community, resources and needs.

A Citation from The Commonwealth of PA, The House of Representative was presented to Joan Holliday, PHN, through the initiation of State Representative, Chris Ross.

Joan Holliday will hold the genuine testimonies of appreciation in her heart ALWAYS, and will carry them forward in her retirement phase of life.

Below is the Bridging Information Shared:

New attendees introduced themselves:

• Jackie Maas (ED of Tick Tock Early Learning Center) told us that she will be stepping down in June as ED and introduced Jackie Gunter, the new ED. Jackie Maas will assume a part-time position of Development Director. Email: ticktock@kennett.net
  Jackie also told us that this is the 50th Year Celebration for Tick Tock. Contact Jackie for the Celebration Fundraiser on 5/31/14 at $75 a ticket for elegant dinner and dancing.

• Linda Mackiewicz (LCH Volunteer and Event Coordinator) told us that she is a new employee and looking forward to working with the community. LMackiewicz@lchps.org

• Rhoda McNitt (Community Member/Pass Kendal Employee) enjoys Kennett and wants to learn more about the opportunities. Email: rhodamcnitt@verizon.net

• Holly Poole (CCHD Public Health Nurse) told us that she works in SCC and makes home visits to teen mothers under the Nurse Family Partnership program. She is open for referrals. Email: hpoole@chesco.org

• Tom Payne (Community Developer) told us that he was involved in developing the vision of The Kennett Commons, which hasn’t been developed, however would like to get back into the community circle of information. Email: tpayne@theiriscompany.com

Other attendees introduced themselves and shared information about their community work and requests for volunteers:

• Esther Rochester (Community) told us that she was the person, who had the idea that each person brings a photo of his/her family, current, or grandparents, grandparents to
this meeting, so that we can learn more about each other’s families. We can view the photos at “bridging time.” Esther’s Phone for Text Messages: 610-335-5917

- **Clara Vasquez** (Domestic Violence Center) told us that they need Spanish interpreters for court. Email: cvazquez@dvccc.com

- **Lucero Benites** (HR for Kaolin Mushroom) told us that she came to the US from Mexico as a teen-ager; graduated from KHS and college and now is working in HR at Kaolin Mushroom, which has job openings for harvesters. Email: lbenites@southmill.com or emarnell@southmill.com

- **Lorraine Anderson** (Retired Community Leader) told us that, after one year of retirement is looking strategically for an area to become a community volunteer. Email: lorrainemarieandersen@gmail.com

- **Cynthia Fannon** (Community Resident) told us that Esther Rochester invited her and she would like to support the community work. Email: Cynthia.moriarity@us-resources.com

- **Claudia Turner** (Pathstone) told us that she is the Education Coordinator for the Migrant Head start Program. They will open again in September for seasonal farm worker families. They provide child care and pre-school from 7am to 5pm. Email: cturner@pathstone.org

- **Beverly Bach** (Community Resident) involved in many volunteer activities including the Kennett Area Arts Coalition and Study Buddies after-school tutoring. Email: beveryb123@verizon.net & https://www.facebook.com/KennettAreaArtsCoalition

- **Mary Lou Thomas** (Crosslands Resident) told us that Crosslands residents have conducted three food drives for the Kennett Food Cupboard this year and encouraged others to do the same. Email: mlthomaspa@aol.com

- **Phil Gilbert** (Crosslands Resident) told us that he has been involved with After the Bell Program for Middle School Students. He encourages everyone to volunteer. Email: plgilbert@aol.com

- **Jessie Cocks** (Community Resident) told us about the workshop on Rank and Privilege that she will be providing at Kennett Meeting Sunday, 5/18/14 at 9:30am. All are welcome. She will give information about Katrina Bank’s Empowerment Workshop. Email: jessiecocks@verizon.net

- **Cathy Brison** (Kennett YMCA) asked us to support the Kennett Run on May 17th. This is a great activity for the community and a fundraiser for non-profits. Email: Cabrisonmm@aol.com

- **Roberta Eldridge** (Community Resident) told us that she has helped develop a Community Coffee Klatch. Every Thursday from 11-noon there is free artfully brewed
coffee for community residents to join around the large wooden tables and get to know more community residents and become a more integral part of the town. For more information contact Joan Holliday at dochollisv@aol.com

- **Georgia Delaney** (London grove Friends Meeting) told us that this group is looking for areas to compassionately volunteer support. Email: PUGMOTHER@aol.com

- **Sue Ruzudlio** (Candidate for PA State House Congress) told us that she continues to be an advocate for families and children with disabilities. She also is looking forward to the election and serving our community. Email: srzrzrz@gmail.com

- **Fran DeMillion** (Victoria Gardens) is enjoying volunteering in the community and encourages others to do the same. Email: fran@demillion.com

- **Diana Raríg** (Community Resident) told us that she is has been connected with supporting the mushroom industry in the capacity of HR. Email: dmrarig8844@gmail.com

- **David Heckman** (Crosslands Resident) shared his volunteer involvement with Martin Luther King Breakfast Committee. Email: dbheckman1@verizon.net

- **Cecilia Arace** (MCH Healthy Start) told us that their Healthy Start Advocates will be moving the end of June to The Family Center location at 637 Miller Hill, Kennett. They are staying strong in advocating for access to health care. Email: carce@ccmchc.org

- **Courtney Fahndrich** (La Comunidad Hispana) told us that she serves as a Behavioral Health Counselor, which is an extended service at LCH. Email: cfahndrich@lchps.org

- **Kathy Hrenko** (ED After the Bell) told us that they are recruiting volunteers for the 3rd week of September for the after-school program for middle school students. Commitment is one hour a week for 6 weeks. Email: khrenko@comcast.net

- **Rob Ellis** (Good Neighbors Home Repair) told us about Good Neighbor’s Mission: To keep homes, warmer, safer, dryer and healthier. They can use volunteers for prayer, active home repair work or make donations. Email: rwe@comcast.net

- **Theresa Bass** (Historic East Linden Street) told us that they are hosting their annual fundraiser on Saturday, June 7th at 10:3am. There will be a brunch, rededication ceremony, and silent auction. Tickets are $50 with one-half being donated to community resident ticket. They are changing their name to Carter Community Development Corporation---they are moving forward with advancing the lives of East Linden St. and broader Kennett area. Email: trbass15@aol.com or lmyers@historiceastlindenproject.org

- **Laura Gonzalez** (Anthropologist and Social Advocate) is currently employed at La Comunidad Hispana to support the cultural transitions. Email: gnzlzlr@gmail.com
• **Peg Baker** (Jenners Pond Resident) is also an original “bridger” from 1998. Peg praised the Kennett community for staying with its *peaceful, progressive and inclusive* philosophy. Email: *Sb29stnj@aol.com*

• **Ken Schreffler** (Neighbors in Action) told us that this program out of the Kennett Area Senior Center is set-up to provide a system of care for seniors and others, and that the program is supported by volunteers. They have a growing membership and a bank of volunteers. When home services are more demanding, he would refer to Innovations Home Care. He is looking for individuals and groups, who would be willing to generate volunteers for this service. Email: *kschreffler@kennettseniorcenter.org*

• **Salvador Villicana** (Retiree from CCHD) expressed appreciation for his work in the SCC community.

• **Jeanne Searer** (Casa de las Culturas) told us that Cinco de Mayo was a great success. Her group is now promoting an organization that celebrates ALL cultures in the area. She also told us about the Kennett Area Senior Center “Indoor” Yard Sale on 6/7/14 from 8 to 3pm at 427 S. Walnut St., Kennett. Email: *jeannecrew491@hotmail.com*

• **Tom Hoehle** (Kennett Area Senior Center and Previous Bridging Facilitator) told us that he has enjoyed being a part of the Kennett community since 2000 and promotes membership at the KASC and volunteerism. Email: *thoehle@kennettseniorcenter.org*.

• **Janice Taylor** (Jenners Pond Resident) told us that she values the Kennett community and the volunteer work. She was previously involved with the Anson B Nixon Park.

• **Pam Carter** (Anson B Nixon Park) Check out the Concert Series for the summer. Email: *pamelahcarter@comcast.net*

• **Anne Humes** (Kendal Resident) told us that she loves to volunteer with youth and is interested in providing an after-school craft for teen-agers. This also is her 13 year of organizing the Kendal Food Drives, which produced 544 pounds of food last time. Phone: 610-388-1199

• **Wright Horne** (Senior Advancement Officer at Friends Home) told us that he started this job recently. He will be helping with the planning and assuring that Friends Home is providing the services most needed. Email: *whorne@fhkennett.org*

• **Casey Jones** (Transformation Initiative) told us about the weekly E- Update and Calendar of Events and the Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/TransformationIni “Like” the page to receive email updates. Community non-profit groups may email Casey to have free event announcements included. If you would like weekly email notices, or want to inform Casey of upcoming events, email: *bps461@msn.com*

• **Kristin Proto** (West Grove Garage Youth Center) asked us to support their special fund raising challenge: First Click the link below, then Click Vote Now, Select PA, Select
Summer Workforce Program, and Vote 10x
https://apps.facebook.com/sf_neighbor_assist/ Ask your friends, family and co-workers to vote. Vote 10x Daily between now and May 16th!!!
If you have questions about the State Farm privacy policy, it can be found here: https://www.statefarm.com/customer-care/privacy-security/privacy/

- Melanie Weiler (Kennett Area Community Services) told us that they always need more food donations to the Food Cupboard; fresh fruits and vegetables are also welcome. Email: Melanie-kacs@comcast.net

- Larry Bosley (The Market at Liberty Place) reflected on his years as Kennett Superintendent and now invites us to partake in community building at The Market. Email: lbosley@lgbproperties.com

Joan Holliday responded:
We, Each and All, are needed to create community harmony and each person through his/her comments to me reflected the unique contributions each and collectively have made and continue to make. I deeply appreciate that the community is reflecting the living philosophy of the land---peaceful, progressive, inclusivity, and that this has been our higher order guidance since 1998! I will continue to shine light on the potential that is emerging.

The group then mingled and “bridged” enjoying cake and lemonade together; donated by Esther Rochester and Tom Hoehle.