We are a regional library open to all and serving the townships of East Marlborough, Kennett, New Garden, Newlin, Pennsbury, Pocopson, West Marlborough and the Borough of Kennett Square.
Staying relevant in a digital world

Once upon a time, a library was a quiet, stodgy institution where you would search the card catalog for books, sit at a table in the reference area with an encyclopedia to write a research paper, or find an old newspaper article in a dimly-lit room using a microfilm reader. We can all still picture the stern-looking librarian sitting at the circulation desk wearing a cardigan with her glasses on a string, shushing anyone who dared to speak above a whisper. While this “old school” image may represent the traditional library that many of us still remember, the younger generations who are growing up in the digital age – where you can access almost any kind of information with a touch of a button – will quickly remind you that “the times they are a-changin.'” But what does that mean really? Have libraries become irrelevant in this digital world?

Not so fast. In fact, we would argue that public libraries matter now more than ever. Yes, we have books and databases and computers and WiFi and digital and audio resources…but that’s just the beginning. All of that information you now have at your fingertips…well, where do you start? How do you sift through all of it to find what you are actually looking for? Between 2017 and 2018, the Kennett Library circulation desk actually saw a rise in the number of research-related questions from patrons. Need to find a county map from the 1920s that will show you the layout of the neighborhood you grew up in? Our Reference Librarian, Paul Sapko, can point you in the right direction. Or are you looking for a book published 40 years ago that only has 2 existing copies in circulation in the US? Our Circulation Desk Manager, Debbie Kellar, can locate it and have it transferred to the Kennett Library through our InterLibrary Loan Program.

“A library could show you everything if you knew where to look.”
– Pat Conroy

There is something for everyone at the Kennett Library

Almost 21,000 members of our community attended one or more of our 1,074 programs in 2018. From Family Storytime to Tea & Boardgames Night to Chocolate Tasting Workshops to SCORE Business Seminars for Entrepreneurs, our patrons enjoyed the opportunity to gather, socialize, and explore new interests at the Kennett Library. Our children and teen programming inspired creativity, stimulated critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and encouraged literary exploration among the 14,500 students who attended programs centered around art, music, science, technology…and of course, books! 2018 saw a 20% increase in the number of adults who attended one of the 557 programs offered including our Reading the Classics lecture series, Solstice Faires, Library Book Clubs, World Series Watch Parties, Health & Wellness Seminars, and the Bayard Taylor Memorial Literary Open Mic Night.

The Kennett Library’s Adult Literacy Program (ALP) recorded another successful year of offering free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and tutoring for the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and American citizenship. Over 170 volunteers provided one-on-one instruction to ALP students, giving them the tools, basic language skills and encouragement to help improve their lives in a meaningful way. The value of this important program can be seen among its many success stories. In 2018, two students earned their High School diploma and 13 students continue to work on the series of four tests. Four students earned their American citizenship with the help of their tutors and another 6 students are readying themselves now for their citizenship test. Two students earned their driver’s license, one student started her own business, and 18 students found employment due to their improved levels of English. There is also an increasing number of students who volunteer in the Kennett Square area in an effort to give back to the community.

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.”
– Sidney Sheldon

The evolution of the traditional library

Beyond the books and the mountains of information that you can access through the Kennett Library, the reality is that we have needed to evolve with the times to best serve the needs of our patrons and the community. No longer is the Kennett Library just a repository of books and information… it is a community center reflecting the history, culture, and diversity of our region that provides access to a myriad of programs and services. A community center that brings together people from all walks of life to inspire a lifelong passion for learning and discovery. A community center that sparks creativity, fuels imagination, and promotes opportunities for literacy and education. And we offer all of this for free.
A community at its best

In addition to the 10 full-time and 12 part-time Library Staff and ALP teachers, the Kennett Library is fueled by the tireless effort and endless support from our dedicated volunteers, ALP tutors and Board of Trustees who collectively logged in 7,726 hours in 2018. From shelving to tutoring to fundraising and community engagement, these volunteers serve as the backbone of the Kennett Library. In addition, our strategic partnerships and collaboration with over 40 community organizations, including The Garage, Arts Holding Hands and Hearts Inc. (AHHAH), Bike Kennett, La Comunidad Hispana, Operation Warm, and Historic Kennett Square, enable us to leverage our collective resources to further our mission of promoting literacy and enriching lives by creating programs to meet the needs of our community. For example, our partnership with AHHAH for the P.U.L.L. program, a grassroots campaign to place free lending libraries throughout Kennett Square, ensures that every child in our community has access to books year round. A new series of these “Pop Up Lending Libraries,” known as P.U.L.L. stations, will be unveiled in our community in Spring 2019. These stations are handmade and painted by local artists, stocked with book donations through the Kennett Library and maintained by AHHAH volunteers... a true community effort!

“What is the value of libraries? Through lifelong learning, libraries can and do change lives, a point that cannot be overstated.”
– Michael E. Gorman

In order to keep our patrons and community members up to date on the progress of building a new library in Kennett Square, the Kennett Library published the first edition of a quarterly newsletter entitled “On the Same Page” in January 2019. This newsletter serves as an important tool to not only communicate information on key project milestones for the new library, but will also be a means by which we can address important topics such as government funding and highlight services and resources that the Kennett Library offers to enhance the daily lives of people in our community. In an era where transparency is imperative, this newsletter provides a new line of communication into the community that we serve.

“The library is an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door onto the world”
– Rita Dove

Public libraries are the sole community centers left in America. The degree to which a branch of a local library is connected to the larger culture is a reflection of the degree to which the community itself is connected to the larger culture.”
– Russell Banks

The path to a 21st century library

The path to building a new facility achieved significant milestones in 2018, namely the conclusion of a feasibility study conducted from June – September 2018 and the approval of a $15 million architectural design in December 2018. The approved 25,000 square feet floor plan boasts a 110-seat auditorium, a total of 16 classrooms and conference rooms to house our Adult Literacy Program classes as well as provide much-needed meeting space to businesses and organizations in our community, a Maker Space with state-of-the-art technological resources, and dedicated parking spaces for our library patrons. The Kennett Library will kick off a capital funding campaign in 2019 with a goal to raise the $12 million still needed to begin construction by 2021. While this is an aggressive goal, the feasibility study conducted by Fairmount Ventures of Philadelphia, PA concluded that raising the necessary funds is achievable given the culture of philanthropy in Chester County coupled with the need for a new 21st century library in Kennett Square.

“When I was young, we couldn’t afford much. But, my library card was my key to the world.”
– John Goodman

CONTINUED ➔
A value proposition

While we eagerly await the construction of the new facility, we must continue to operate using every nook and cranny of our existing, outdated building to meet the needs of the 45,000 residents living within eight municipalities. Through the course of 2018, the Kennett Library saw over 112,000 visitors walk through its doors. With a catalog of 55,000 volumes plus the additional materials accessible through the Chester County Library System, our patrons can access a vast inventory of books, DVDs, magazines, periodicals, digital and audio materials, courses, and databases. This amounted to over 188,110 items in circulation in 2018!

So what is the true value of a library? If we were to put a dollar amount on the materials and digital resources that our patrons borrow from the Kennett Library for free every day for the year 2018, we are talking over $2,008,947 million of savings! If you factor in the free programs for children, teens, and adults, free ESL classes through our Adult Literacy Program, free WiFi and computer access, and free meeting space for community organizations, this would bring the estimated value of the cost savings for the Kennett Library users in 2018 to $4,049,747!

But money savings, access to technology, and free programs are just the tip of the iceberg. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to see firsthand the significant impact that the Kennett Library has on our community every single day because of our staff, our programs, our services, our resources, our partnerships, our outreach efforts, our volunteers, and our Board of Trustees. From the unbridled joy of our preschoolers at storytime, to our middle school students who attend the free homework lab after school and receive the additional guidance and mentorship they need to achieve their potential, to our middle-aged patrons who discover new interests through our programs and workshops, to our migrant families who attend our ESL classes to improve their language skills so that they can move on to better jobs, to our elderly patrons who need assistance using the computer to set up an e-mail account so that they can keep in touch with loved ones...It’s these “little things” that are so meaningful in the lives of our patrons. We are honored to be able to be a part of it. Thank you for your continued support of the Kennett Library, without which, none of it would be possible.

"You build a thousand castles, a thousand sanctuaries, you are nothing; you build a library, you are everything!"
–Mehmet Murat ildan

“Libraries will get you through the times of no money better than money will get you through the times of no libraries.”
–Anne Herbert

The Kennett library is grateful for the support of the State, Chester County, the 8 municipalities served by the library and certainly our patrons and donors. This support enabled the library to achieve a record revenue which was 10% greater than 2017 and created another bottom-line surplus. Without this financial support, the library would have difficulty continuing to offer the many free programs and services so enjoyed by the more than 122,803 visitors each year.

The figures to the right contain the revenue and expenses of the library and the Adult Literacy Program segments combined. The library also maintains one other segment, the Capital Reserve Fund, which contains the library investment portfolio of approximately $3.2 million and captures capital expenses for the new library building project which is not reported in this table. During 2018, $291,000 was spent on fees (architect, legal, construction mgr., consultants) for the new library building project and $350,000 for the property at 120 S. Willow St.

Governmental funding increased 16% over 2018 with significant increases from New Garden Township and Kennett Square. This funding accounts for 67% of overall revenue. The remaining funding is split between revenue generated by library fees and charges (4%) and funding generated by donations, events and grants (29%). The financial results from donations and events during the last two years was only possible with the dedicated time and expertise of staff, volunteers and library board members. In addition, the library is so appreciative to those foundations and granting organizations, such as the United Way of Southern Chester County and the Chester County Community Foundation, for their continued support.

Five expense categories noted in the chart account for 95% of total expense. Personnel Services represent 69% of overall expenses followed by the cost of materials at 12%, the “inventory” which created a “circulation” of 188,114 items in 2018. Maintaining the 58-year-old library building continues to be expensive.

During the year, cash was carefully managed. It continues to be the intent of the Library Finance Committee to consider transferring any excess short-term cash into the investment portfolio to recoup some of the drain on the portfolio over the last many years.

THANK YOU to all who have generously supported the library through their donations or their attendance at library-sponsored events. Donations and event revenue continue to be a significant part of the library total revenue. This support is very encouraging and certainly comforting that the library has such a huge network of people so dedicated to the success of the Kennett Library.

- William C McLachlan, Treasurer
**2018 Net Revenue**

**$44,806**

Annual excess revenue is added to the investment portfolio in order to recoup drain from previous years.

### Revenue

- **2018**
  - Kennett: $156,800
  - East Marlborough: $125,458
  - State: $99,265
  - New Garden County: $80,271
  - Kennett Square: $78,028
  - Pennsbury: $57,000
  - Newlin: $35,500
  - Pocopson: $10,800
  - West Marlborough: $2,000

- **2017**
  - Kennett: $150,300
  - East Marlborough: $122,203
  - State: $102,440
  - New Garden County: $15,900
  - Kennett Square: $80,261
  - Pennsbury: $38,200
  - Newlin: $35,500
  - Pocopson: $10,500
  - West Marlborough: $9,000

**Total Governmental Revenue:** $656,122

**Total Library Revenue:** $323,184

**TOTAL REVENUE:** $979,306

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Services: $645,093</td>
<td>$541,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Materials: $112,675</td>
<td>$101,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities &amp; Maintenance: $57,089</td>
<td>$55,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising: $44,784</td>
<td>$28,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming: $25,753</td>
<td>$25,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Expenses: $47,560</td>
<td>$61,409</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses before Capital Outlay:** $932,953

**Capital Outlay:** $1,564

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $934,500

**Expenses before Capital Outlay:** $814,958

**Capital Outlay:** $16,553

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $831,511
2018 Usage Statistics

- **10,045 LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS** (Patrons from all 8 municipalities)
- **2,934 OPEN HOURS** (Hours the library was running in 2018)
- **122,803 VISITORS** (Library & off-site program attendees)
- **1,074 FREE PROGRAMS** (Programs, classes, and events for all ages)
- **188,114 CIRC** (Total number of Kennett Library materials circulated)
- **822 ALP CLIENTS** (Patrons helped through the Adult Literacy Program via office visits and ESL Courses & Tutoring)
- **7,726 VOLUNTEER HOURS** (Time logged by Circulation & Program Volunteers, ALP Tutors, & Board of Trustees)
- **37,526 WEBSITE VISITS** (KennettLibrary.org)
- **2,266 FOLLOWERS** (Social Media Followers on Facebook and Instagram)

**THE BOOKIES** (your favorites in 2018)

- **MOST HOLDS:** A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
- **TOP ADULT FICTION:** The Identicals by Elin Hilderbrand
- **TOP CHILDREN’S BOOK:** Silverlicious by Victoria Kahn
- **TOP DVD/BLURAY:** Dunkirk
$208,677
9,937 HOURS OF COMPUTER USE
(valued at $21/hour)

$402,408
50,301 HOURS OF WIFI USED
(valued at $8/hour)

$15,000
60 PUBLIC MEETING ROOM BOOKINGS
(valued at $250 each)

$132,204
11,017 REFERENCE NEEDS SOLVED
(valued at $12 each)

$314,895
20,993 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
(valued at $15 each)

$18,000
360 VISITS TO THE ALP OFFICE
(valued at $50 each)

$182,880
4,572 HOURS OF ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING
(valued at $40 per/hour)

$233,600
292 ESL STUDENTS (2 SEMESTER COURSE)
(valued at $400 per course semester)

$8,586
318 INTERLIBRARY LOAN REQUESTS
(valued at $27 each)

$512,410
51,241 E-BOOKS DOWNLOADED
(valued at $10 each)

$12,140
2,765 CHILDREN’S DVDS BORROWED
(valued at $20 each)
January

The Kennett Library hosted the Bayard Taylor Memorial Literary Open Mic Night to celebrate the birthday of our patron, Bayard Taylor; American poet, travel author, literary critic, and diplomat from Kennett.

February

First ever Bad Romance FUNdraiser was hosted and a new Kennett Library tradition was born!

New bike racks were installed at the Kennett Library thanks to a generous donation from BIKEKENNETT.

April

The Kennett Library hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children between the ages of 2 – 7 had fun looking for eggs throughout the stacks of the children’s area.

In honor of National Poetry Month, the Kennett Library hosted a Poetry Open Mic Night attended by poetry fans in the community.

May

Children’s DVDs were now FREE to check out!

June

Tickets for the 28th annual Bayard Taylor Home & Garden Tour sold out raising over $35,000 for children’s and adult literacy programs.

Video Game Club started the summer with a new record attendance of over 100+ participants.

July

The Kennett Library hosted children’s activities during Historic Kennett’s Third Thursday summer event.
August
The Kennett Library formed a partnership with Arts Holding Hands and Hearts, Inc. to place Pop Up Lending Libraries around Kennett Square.

September
Classes started back for the Adult Literacy Program with more students than ever before.

October
The annual Fall Fundraiser, Through the Looking Glass, raised $39,138, exceeding the success of the year prior.

November
The Kennett Library was selected to give out coats to children in our community for Operation Warm.

December
The annual Winter Solstice Fair marketplace showcased wares from local artisans and shops.
Library Staff (2018)

Full Time Staff
- Milly Caez
  Technical Services Coordinator
- Alex Caliva
  Graphic Designer & Program Coordinator
- Veronica Chavez
  Communications Associate
- Filomena Elliott
  Adult Literacy Program Director
- Laura Florence
  Collections Development Coordinator
- John Hendrix
  Children’s Librarian
- Linda Herrera
  Communications Associate
- Debbie Kellar
  Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Manager
- Lupe Ruiz
  Adult Literacy Program Assistant
- Paul Sapko
  Reference Librarian

Part Time Circulation Assistants
- Zac Baker
- Jen Blab
- Laura DiNovis
- Anna Linn
- Rachel Owens
- Chris Rodriguez
- Karina Tate
- Shane Zandotti

Part Time ESL Teachers
- Mary Gannon
- Spencer Gates
- Josie Gutierrez
- Joe Murphy
- Merwin Soash
- Jennifer Waite
- Kari Wolf

Other Part Time Staff
- Dan Pennacchia
  Program Assistant
- Mary Plumely
  Custodian

Library Director
Megan Walters

board of Trustees (2018)

Board Officers
- Jeff Yetter
  Vice President
- William McLachlan
  Treasurer
- Margaret Egli
  Secretary

Board Members
- Karen Ammon
- Barbara Bolton
- Gail Bowden
- Chris Britt
- Henry Brown
- Jim DiLuzio
- Cathy Elder
- Chris Larsen
- Barbara Necarsulmer
- Dr. Loren Pearson
- Bradley Peiper
- Dr. Barry Tomasetti
- Dr. Brenda Mercomes
2018 Donations

Our sincere thanks to the many patrons who supported the library this year. We would not be here without you. Board Members listed in Bold.

$25,000 - $49,999
United Way of Southern Chester County

$5,000 - $24,999
Karen W. Spencer
RRMM Architects, PC

$1,000 - $4,999
Carlos and Sarah Weil, Jr.

$300 - $499
Beverly McCausland

$100 - $149

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Edward S. and Susan Brown
Marta C. Brown
Daniel and Dorothy Buttlogo
Patricia Carpenter
Joan I. Cobb
Anne Coleman
Richard C. and Therese Corkran
Matt P. Varholia and Suzanne D. Cornell
Ethan and Michelle Cramer
Frank G. and Joan M. Daresta
Richard F. and Charlotte J. Denenno, Sr.
Barbara D. Desjardins

**James and Linda Diluzio**

Bruce and Judith Diner
Barbara DiSabatino
Brett Dolente
Ruth Domkosski
Reka Doraiswamy
Richard and Stephanie Dorooba
Margaret Draeger
M. Conlin and Martha C. Drake
Priscilla du Pont
Clifton Edgar
Edward Jones
Paul and Mary Ehrlichman
Michael and Janet Elling
Leighton Everton
Raymond R. and Pamela H. Firmin
Kim Flanagan
Ronald P. and Carolyn S. Fiegel
Richard G. and Theresa A. Forte
Carrie Freeman
Sarah W. French
FX McCraghan Estate Services
The Gables at Chadds Ford
Mary Jane Gerbron
James M. and Mary Gibson
Jim and Deborah Gillespie
David and Suzanne Goehringer
Harold Goodall
Walther and Carla G. Grot
John L. Gugilemetti
Jordan D. and Renee M. Gushurst
Alma Jane Haas
Barbara G Hallowell
John S. and Elizabeth Haisted
Richard P. S. Hannum, Jr.
Seth S. and Tara D. Haplea
Matthew and Kimberly Herkins
John Hess
Charles and Sara G. H. Hill
Arthur and Jacki Horveck
Harry S. and Jeanne C. Hughes
Suzanne Hughson
Barbara M. Hurd
Mary Hutchins
Gary L. and Barbara L. Irwin
Jing Jin and Tako Shimomura
Janet K. Johnston
Gary & Athena Jolly
Ann Jones

Henry J. and Julie Karchs
John Kasper and Jan Markham
James C. and Elisabeth S. Kauer
Peter and Bridget Kehoe
Stephen J. Kelly and Robin Krug
Kennett Center for Advanced Dentistry
Jim and Pat Kermes
Thomas J. and Theresa Kerns
Cary Kerrigan and Nancy Barakat
Michael A. and Ellen G. King
Robert and Katharine King
Lewis and Terry Timberlake-Kinter
Peter and Miriam Kroon
Herbert L. and Marie A. Kunke

Kristen A Kutz
William O. LaMotte
William R. Landmesser
Nancy Lathem
Philip D. and Sandra H. Lee, Jr.
Sanford Leff
Charles B. Lewis
Matt and Susan Lillard
Wendell and Marilyn Lofland
Joseph M. Luetgert
Maffe Landscape Design, LLC
Danilo Maffe
Michael J. Magee
Stephen Maguire
Martha Makanna
Carol and Samuel Malovrh
Bob and Alice Mantel
David P. and Ulrike Martin
George W. Martin
Robert R. Maxwell
John N. McCauley and Valerie A. Grant
Frank and Margaret F. McCown
Diana R. McCulloch
Christine McDonald
Michaela and Barbara M. McPherson
Dennis and Donna Metton
Beverly Miller
William and Barbara Miller
Eunice and Margaret Milner
Ellis S. Mitchell
Donna E. Moe
Steve and Carolyn Mohr
Shahrokh and Ruth Morovati
Mushrooms Cafe
Latoya M. Myers
Nancy Jammer
Pfeifer
David and Judith Nelson
Delores H. Nelson
Betsy Niedzjko
Thomas and Marla N. Norton
Barbara O’Connell
Kunie and Angela Ogunde
Pati N Olenich
James L. and Wendy H. Ozimek
Milan and Reshma Patel
Richard and Jean B. Pesce
Phillips Mushroom Farms/The Woodlands at Phillips
Donald P. and Suzanne D. Phillips
Charles and Kathryn Potter
Gerald Powell
Edward A. and Patricia W. Quinlan
Thomas and Marilyn Quinn
Thomas P. and Susan J. Racobaldo
Charles and Sally Ravert
Robert and Elizabeth Reich
Sally A. Retzko
Joel and Paula T. M. Rind
Richard and Laura Robidoux
Robert Rodgers and Ellen Pierson
Briar Roselli
Frederick and Marsha Rosenberg
Rep. Chris and Cecilia Ross
John K. and Cynthia L. Salmon
Mortezza and Patricia J. Sazegar
Gregory W. Schwing
Raziaulhaq A. Khwaja and Pamela Scott
William M. Sharp
William and Jeanie Shin
Lynn Sinclair
David and Lynn Smiddy
Rodman and Amy W. Smith
Matthias and Petronella Sonneveld
William D. and Sheila A. Briggs-Steuteville
Mark Stokey and Lisa Chismire

Kevin and Sherry Sullivan
Taylor Oil & Propane
Francis W. and Joanne Taylor, Jr.
Laura R. Taylor
Roy and Susan Tedesco
Judith Tilles
Adelbert T. and Sally A. Tweedie
Twelves Grill & Cafe
Steve and Mary Beth Verget
Janet H. Waddell
Michael and Cynthia Sterling
Fran and Marianne R. Wallitsch
Wayne D. and Sally Warren
Michael and Susan Wendle
Philip and Ann Marie Wengloski
Chris and Julie Wolfe
Robert and Lynn Woods
Mark E. and Jamie E. Woodward
William and Suzanne Woomer
Ed and Lynn Wyatt
Philip L. and Joan P. Wylie
Penrock J. and Sandy Yeatman, Ill
Scott and Martha Young
John S. and Vicky L. Zajac

$75 - $99

B. K. Scheerer Floors
Back to Health Chiropractic
Beiler-Campbell Realtors
Bob’s Window and Cleaning Service
Sandra K. Brown
J. Stephen and Ann Bryce
Allison Butler
Thomas H. and Barbara A. Cahill
Richard D. and Janet M. Carlin
David Crawford
Kevin and Kathryn Davenport
Barry and Cecilia Davidson
Mc Iver W. Edwards
Ann Einstein
Bruce R. and Lynn H. Evanco
John and Marilyn Flannery, Jr.
Elaine F. Froest
Robert T. Garrett
Sharon Glaiser
Dorothy Huf
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