

# President's Report

2015 Annual Report  
2016 First Half Report



Building LightSabres at a Library Maker Camp



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

Financials

Donors

Updates

January 1, 2015 -  
June 30, 2016



## The President's Report

January 2015 - June 2016 (18 Months)

**IN JANUARY OF 2016**, I was asked to return to the library as President to build a new Board of Directors and restore the public's confidence and trust after a year of enormous and widespread concern over several issues, including the name of the library, its future location, the composition of the Board, financial transparency and other issues.

**Nine months later, we have one of the finest Boards with whom I have ever served** – fifteen very qualified, committed and effective individuals representing seven of the eight municipalities served by the library. They work well together and have already resolved critical challenges, including restoring trust in the library, increasing financial controls and transparency, and preparing us to plan, raise money and finally build a new library center.

**You are holding the first Annual Report in a long time** and we prepared it to give you information about our progress, our health as an organization and our plans for the future.

**Please note this report contains both an overview of 2015 (before the present Board was formed), and the first six months of 2016.** There is much good news in it, although a long-running shortfall in operating funds continues, a challenge we are working hard to lessen in 2016 by cutting costs and improving fund raising.

**WE BEGAN 2016 FACING ENORMOUS CRITICISM OF THE LIBRARY**, a good bit of which was likely deserved. It was a huge barrier to moving forward – and we faced it squarely. I am pleased to report that together we have come a long way.

**Here are just seven highlights of what's been accomplished so far:**

- A strong, new 15-member Board has been formed and is working diligently, collaboratively and openly. Their progress has been superb.
- Library finances have been carefully reviewed and new systems, controls and budgets are in place, with more enhancements to come.
- The sudden and controversial name change away from Bayard Taylor Memorial Library which sparked community anger was addressed through a thorough 17-step process that included five community sessions and a comprehensive plan to adopt the community-friendly name *Kennett Library* and honor Bayard Taylor both in naming our future library site *and* inside the Library – a plan that has been extremely well received and is in motion.
- Talks are underway about a possible joint venture with the Borough of Kennett Square to build a combined Borough Hall and Library – as many other municipalities have done successfully and at great savings.
- The Library was awarded a significant planning grant by Chester County to gather community-wide input about a new library. Kennett Township provided support in obtaining the grant and the Municipal match funding. All eight of our municipalities supported the project.
- A respected library architect has been retained to guide planning.
- The Board adopted a long-term Vision to make every part of our Library stronger, more adaptable, and ready for its greatest century ever.

And that's just the first 9 months. There is more to come!

**Now, as President, I would be remiss if I didn't ask for your help – because we need it.** Here are three ways you can help the Library right now.

**First, visit more often.** Bring your friends and family and introduce them to the Library. Start taking out books and ebooks and teach your kids how to discover or re-discover reading, plus great new things – like Bayard Taylor's incredible life story. He was way ahead of his time and would have loved so much of what we have today – Twitter, blogs, email. Everything!

**Second, volunteer to help us now and then.** We are starting a brand new Friends of Kennett Library to help us do important jobs in serving our community, holding events and doing many important things that we can't always afford to pay for. In return you will have fun, see many old friends and make new ones, and learn a lot.

**And third, if you can, write the Library a check.** We'll use it wisely to buy more books, run great programs, and do some terrific things for the community.

**Thanks to all our donors who keep our doors open.** Look for your name in this report and if somehow we accidentally missed including you and your gift, please forgive us and let us know. We'll make it right.

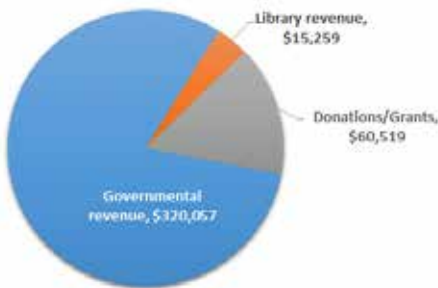
**To everyone in the community, including the eight municipalities and their leaders we serve, thank you for your confidence and support.** We are working hard to make you all very proud of Kennett Library.

With warmest regards,

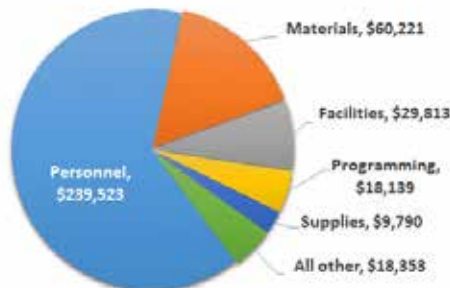


Thomas C. Swett  
 President  
 Past President 1988-1992  
 ThomasCSwett@gmail.com

**Revenue**  
 Jan-June 2016



**Expenses**  
 Jan-June 2016



**Financial Summary – January - June 2016**

■ Kennett Library revenue of \$380K is 98% of budget. 83% of the library revenue is derived from state & county assistance, and donations from the 8 municipalities in the library service area. Only a very small portion of revenue is actually derived from library services.

■ Library expenses are 96% of budget. Personnel services and the state-mandated purchase of library materials constitute nearly 80% of total library expenses.

■ Revenue and expenses for our very popular Adult Literacy Program, providing English as a Second Language (“ESL”) instruction to over 300 adults, is not included in the above discussion. Its revenue is considerably ahead of budget for six months due to greater donation and grant revenue and expenses are 4% below budget.

■ The library investment portfolio continues to do well with \$2.9 million invested in investment grade bonds and high income equities. Part of this portfolio is restricted for a new library building while the remainder can be used to support the library operating accounts.

■ During the last several years it has been necessary to supplement library revenue with income from the investment portfolio in order to meet expenses. This year’s budget included a challenging deficit of \$75K and, based on the six-month performance, there is a possibility of significantly reducing the deficit by year-end assuming no unanticipated large expenses.



## 2016 Always know what's going on at Kennett Library

Get quick updates anytime, anywhere at the *New Library* tab on our website

**HERE IS AN EXCERPT** of a new section just added to our library website entitled ***New Library***.

This section captures our progress in moving the library forward, especially towards our long-awaited goal of building a new library center.

**We invite you to visit our website at [kennettlibrary.org](http://kennettlibrary.org) and look for the tab entitled *New Library*.**

*Please note: This is only a sample of all that we have posted on the website, where many items also contain links to news stories and other locations for additional information.*

### August 2016

■ **Visioning Consultants Plan Community Outreach** ■ August 9, The Executive Committee met with State Representative Barrar to discuss applying for State grants. ■ August 16, The Kennett Square Historic Architectural Review Board unanimously approved new signage for the library. ■ August 22, The Executive Committee met with Kennett Square Borough officials to discuss our joint project. ■ August 24, The New Building Committee teleconference with VPP grant consultants to plan community outreach beginning in September. ■ August 29, Track lighting for new Bayard Taylor display installed in Library. ■ August 31, The Executive Committee interviewed a Library Consultant to consult on building design. ■ In the News: WCHE Radio: Kennett Square Borough Council authorizes new library study grant.

### July 2016

■ **New logo is approved and planning consultant is selected** ■ July 6, The Branding committee selected a final design for the new logo to recommend to the entire Library Board. ■ July 7, The VPP grant committee met and selected Lukemire Associates as the consultant to conduct the community visioning sessions. ■ July 19, The Board approved the new Library brand logo unanimously. ■ In the News: Kennett Live: Generous gesture resonates with library board.

### June 2016

■ **Architect for new building selected** ■ June 6, The Borough of Kennett Square announced at their public meeting that they were discussing with Kennett Library the possibility of building a community center that would accommodate both the Library and the Borough offices on the same site within the borough. ■ June 7, June 23, The Brand Task Force met and reviewed logo concepts. ■ June 7, The New Building Committee (NBC) met and voted to select Lukemire Associates as the architect for the new Kennett Library building. They also recommended that Lukemire be selected as the Visioning grant consultant. ■ June 19, Our treasurer reported that the Library has received a "Letter to Proceed" to submit an application for a \$250,000 Keystone planning grant. ■ Board Update: The board welcomed new trustee Jim DiLuzio, appointed by New Garden Township. ■ In News: Kennett Live: Library, Borough explores sharing facilities. ■ Chester County Press: Kennett Square officials, library leaders explore new building options. ■ Kennett Paper: Kennett Square and Kennett Library explore sharing facilities in new building.

### May 2016

■ **Board approves new name, commissions new logo and starts talks with Kennett Borough to build a multi-use building** ■ May 3, The two public Library name change meetings received more positive input and the stage was set to formally approve the new name — Kennett Library — at the May 17th board meeting. ■ May 17, the New Building Committee met with two different architectural firms specializing in designing libraries: Ikon 5 and Lukemire Associates. Both presentations were impressive and it was obvious that both firms are well qualified to design our new library. ■ May 17, The new name, Kennett Library, was approved unanimously by the Board with thanks to the many community leaders, library users and area citizens who attended our five name change sessions and provided invaluable input and support for our process and the new name. ■ May 17, The Board approved a motion to honor and incorporate Bayard Taylor into the new library grounds/building in a meaningful, imaginative and lasting way, to be decided when the new library location and plans become clear. ■ May 17, The board approved hiring EnvisianStrategic's recommended design firm to create a new logo and design structure for the library's brand.

■ On May 19, the Vision Partnership Planning Grant committee, which includes representation by all 8 municipalities, met to finalize the Request for Proposal needed to hire the grant's planning consultant. ■ Members of the New Building Committee (NBC) have been meeting with members of Kennett Borough Council to discuss the possibility of building a multi-use building on the Weinstein lot in Kennett Square. The Borough proposed that the Library and Borough jointly build a 3-story building on the property with underground parking, and with the Library occupying two floors and the Borough occupying one. The Borough's floor would house the Borough offices, the police station and municipal courts. This proposal could result in significant cost savings for the library in constructing a new building, greatly improve access and parking, and would keep the Library in the center of the Borough near its present location and even increase its visibility and accessibility. ■ Board Update: The board welcomed new trustees, Brad Peiper, appointed by Pocopson Twp. and Chris Larsen, an at-Large member from Pocopson Twp. ■ In News: Kennett Live: Library name comes with vow to honor Bayard Taylor; Kennett Times: Taylor No More: it's Kennett Library; The Unionville Times: Kennett Library to offer full-time Wi-Fi hotspot service.

## April 2016

■ **New name receives overwhelming support from meeting attendees, Library receives \$36,000 planning grant** ■ The board attended a second retreat on April 9th to preview the public presentation regarding the name change. On April 12th, Carl Francis made 3 back to back presentations to over 50 community members. The reaction to the naming process and the new name was immediate, overwhelmingly positive and virtually unanimous. Attendees were extremely supportive and appreciated seeing the care and attention the board had gone through to resolve the issue. ■ The next day, the board scheduled two more presentations open to the public on May 3rd. ■ On April 14th, the Library was informed that they had received the Vision Partnership grant from Chester County for \$36,000 to help the community collaborate on envisioning the new library. ■ At the April 19 Board meeting, the Board affirmed their support for moving forward with Phase 1 of branding plan including changing the name to Kennett Library, integrating Bayard Taylor, and proceeding to the design phase, all subject to approval by the Board at their May meeting. ■ On web: Download naming presentation prepared by EnvisianStrategic.

## March 2016

■ **A new name is selected, Bayard Taylor to be honored and public meetings are planned** ■ On March 2nd, the Library submitted a request to the Chester County Vision Partnership Program to fund a major grant to help our region envision a new facility that will serve the needs of the library and the community for many years into the future. The grant would partially fund Step One of building a new library – engaging the community to get its input and support. The grant request was supported by all 8 municipalities served by the library with Kennett Township taking the lead and providing the municipal financial match. ■ On Saturday, March 12th, the Board of Trustees attended a board retreat led by Carl Francis of EnvisianStrategic to help the board begin to resolve the controversy over last year's unsuccessful name change. Carl presented his research and recommendations and listened to trustee input. The trustees approved inviting community leaders and supporters of the Library to a series of three back to back presentations on April 12th to share the results of the board's research. ■ The board welcomed new trustee, Dr. Barry Tomasetti, an at large member from New Garden Township.

### MORE ON THE WEBSITE

*Please note: This is only an excerpt of all that we have posted on the website, where many items also contain links to news stories and other locations for additional information.*



## 2015 Year In Review

**OVER 116,000 PEOPLE VISITED OUR LIBRARY IN 2015. Together they borrowed more than 178,000 items. Attendance at library programs surpassed 18,000.**

**2015 brought successes in several areas of library services.** Our children's department was thrilled to receive two major grants: one allowing us to purchase an early-literacy AWE computer, and a Curiosity Creates grant furnished by Disney, which allowed us to hold a five-week, diversity-driven art and movement class, which is now being used as a model for libraries around the country.

**Attendance at teen programs skyrocketed an amazing 300% in 2015,** and our young adult librarian Ivy Weir was honored as an American Library Association Emerging Leader for her work with teens.

**2015 also saw the renovation of the upstairs library,** allowing for more multi-use space, including a study bar and new Young Adult section.

**Our website also got a fresh new look with help from Delpino Design,** and now highlights user-focused features and is fully mobile-friendly.

**A goal for 2015 was improved communication,** and we sent over 40 weekly emails newsletters to our list of 2,300 patrons and friends, in addition to reaching over 2,500 parents through KCSD's Bottom of the Book Bag.

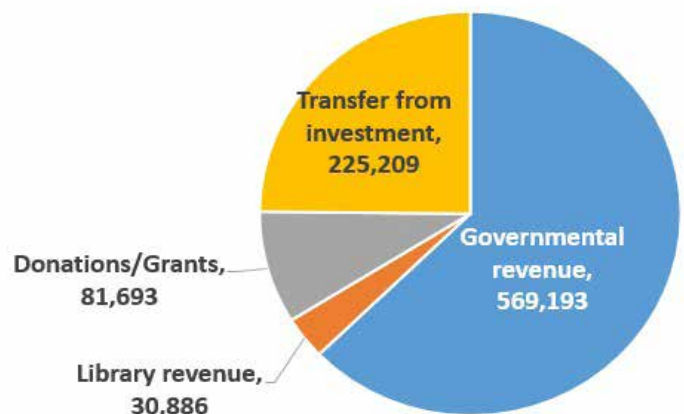
**These results, along with the high level of activity, are a testament to the value of this library in the community.** Many thanks to our users, our supporters and our donors for helping us to serve so many people throughout Southern Chester County and beyond.

### 2015 Bayard Taylor Home & Garden Day Tour



A perennial community favorite, our 2015 Home and Garden Day Tour raised over \$27,000 for children's and adult literacy programming, thanks to the work of our tireless volunteers from the Special Events Committee.

### 2015 Revenue



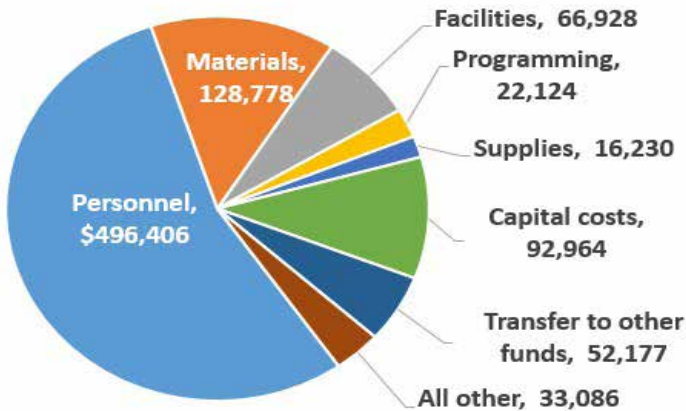


### 2015 Library Usage Facts

- 116,217** Total visitors to the Library in 2015
- 491** Free programs, classes and events offered for all ages
- 21,160** E-books checked out by Kennett Library cardholders
- 178,484** Total number of Kennett Library materials circulated in 2015



### 2015 Expenses



■ Expenses in 2015 were \$909K vs. \$871K in 2014. Included in these totals are capital costs (for building renovations) in both years of \$93K and \$80K respectively.

■ Not included in the totals above are costs related to the Adult Literacy Program. This program had revenue of \$79K and expenses of \$92K resulting in a loss of \$13K. ALP is supported through a very generous donation from the United Way of Southern Chester County and individual grants and donations.

■ Revenue totaled \$907K vs. \$713K in 2014. 63% of the library's revenue is from state, county and our supporting municipalities.

■ The Library has a long-term reserve fund consisting of four funds heavily weighted to investment grade bonds and high income equities. The portfolio had a value of \$2.74M at end of 2015.



## Thank You to Our 2015 Donors

We offer  
our  
sincerest  
thanks  
to the  
individuals  
and  
organizations  
who help  
keep our  
library  
going  
strong!

### **\$1,000 and Above**

Henry I. Brown, III  
Gary and Donna Brown  
Ian and Mary Mackinnon  
Aaron J. Martin  
Mark A. Martin  
Sam and Lornie Slater  
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Gretchen Wright  
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Karen Yoder  
Pandora Allison Young  
Betsy A. Young  
John S. and Vicky L. Zajac

## 2015 Municipal Support

*We are very grateful for the much-needed annual support provided by the municipalities we serve.*

East Marlborough Township  
Kennett Square Borough  
Kennett Township  
New Garden Township  
Newlin Township  
Pennsbury Township  
West Marlborough Township

## 2015 In-Kind Donations

*Besides monetary contributions, the library depends greatly on donations of professional services and equipment. We would like to thank those individuals and companies who contribute their time, expertise and resources to make our library programs both possible and successful.*

American Library Association  
Collier's of Centreville  
Game Forge  
Chatham Financial Corporation  
Eclat Chocolate  
Goat Kitchen & Bar  
Hrabal Creative  
Kate Larkin  
Luke Foster  
Talula's Table  
The First State Potion Masters  
Greg Pak  
Brooke Allen  
Joshua Heake  
Special Events Committee  
The Comic Book Shop!  
Tim Woo

## 2015 In Memoriam Donations

Bonnie Bahel, in memory of Roger Regester  
Dick & Kathleen Cotton, in memory of Bill Lotter  
James & Anne Diamond, in memory of Robert L. Regester  
Lori Griffin, in memory of Robert L. Regester  
Donald & Suzanne Phillips, in memory of Stefanie Jackson  
John & Maliya Piergalline, in memory of Robert L. Regester  
Rosalind Spigel, in memory of Jon Olson  
Dick & Kathleen Cotton, in memory of Stefanie Jackson  
Dick & Kathleen Cotton, in memory of Jon Olson  
Audrey & Michael Donohue, in memory of  
Matthew J. McDermott Jr.  
Michael Keefe, in memory of Jon Olson  
Donald & Suzanne Phillips, in memory of Jon Olson  
Michael Rissinger, in memory of Jon Olson  
Alan & Claissa Willemsen, in memory of Jon Olson



Friendly competition at Video Game Club



## 2015 Donors Continued

Your  
gifts  
enabled us  
to give  
tens of  
thousands  
of people  
access to  
worlds of  
reading,  
knowledge  
and dreams.  
Thank you.

### UP TO \$100

Dixie Abbott  
Doug and Andrea Albertson  
Stephen Allaband  
Richard Lyons and Pamela  
Allenstein  
Nancy H. Aller  
Michael F. and Tamara N. Altman  
Paula A. Rogers Appleton  
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Arthur and Jackie Holveck  
Charles and Elizabeth Horton  
Fred and Vanessa Howery  
Kathleen Howley  
George and Kathy D. Hrenko  
Suzanne Hughson  
Patricia Hunt  
Andrew and Elizabeth Johnson  
Melvin and Allene Johnson  
Ronald Fenstermacher and  
Edythe Joines  
Gary & Athena Jolly  
Dot Jones  
Donald E. and Ivy Jost  
Chris Julian  
Eugene L. and Doris S. Kane  
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Thomas J. and Theresa Kerns  
Carolee W. Kiernan  
Mary J Kiffney  
Grete Klingenberg  
James D. and Marybeth Knox, Jr.  
Herman W. & Arlene M.  
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Amy Law  
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Sonia Leighton  
Elsa Russell Lichtenberg  
Judy Liersch  
Ian Lindvig  
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Kyriakos and Susan Mackey- Kallis  
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 Francis M. & Marianne Maye  
 Amanda Grant McAuley  
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 Joan L. McClintock  
 Francis J. and Marie McCourt  
 Theresa A. McFadden  
 Pat McKeon  
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 Christopher and Donna Murray  
 Anthony J. and  
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*Each  
separate star  
seems nothing...  
but a  
myriad  
of scattered  
stars  
breaks up the night  
and makes it  
beautiful.*

*Bayard Taylor*



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