Kennett Library

2019 Annual Report

January 1 - December 31

2019 Annual Report

Mission Igniting imagination, enriching lives, creating community.

Vision To be the catalyst for a community of lifelong learning and discovery.

Our Director

Megan Walters

All of us at the All of us at the Kennett Library believe wholeheartedly in the words of Keith Richards (of Rolling Stones fame): "**Libraries are the great equalizer**." To that end, the Kennett Library recently updated our Strategic Plan to reinforce what we believe is core to its purpose: to serve all in our community to the best of our ability. When I look at our Mission Statement I see reflected the library's best self. We make sure that patrons have access every day to services that are relevant to their lives.

We continue to provide the traditional items expected of a library, such as books, print, audio and digital, information resources, meeting space, and access to computers and printers. We increased our offerings by adding access to WiFi Hotspots for patrons needing internet connectivity at home. Recently, we introduced a new **museum pass to Longwood Gardens** and the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center. Programs such as author talks, book groups, and chocolate-tasting workshops (to name just a few) are always happening at the library. Our Adult Literacy Program has changed the lives of many dedicated students through tutoring, English language acquisition programs, US Citizenship and GED classes. These are just some of the ways we have responded to strengthen, create, and be part of our community.

Our Vision Statement is our promise to our future, whether that future is tomorrow or five years from now. Discovery can come in so many ways and we want to be part of that journey. A great example of this discovery was our summer Maker Camp. This year, teens designed, cut and created their own ukuleles and younger kids created robots from found materials. Our youngest patrons participated throughout the year in programs such as yoga, story-times, craft nights, Lego club, nature camp, music, and much more. Sometimes we even have special visitors such as Santa or the Berenstain Bears!

Author Rita Mae Brown once said, "**When I got my library card, that's when my life began**." We share her sentiment, and it inspires us to continue to grow in our mission to serve our communities.

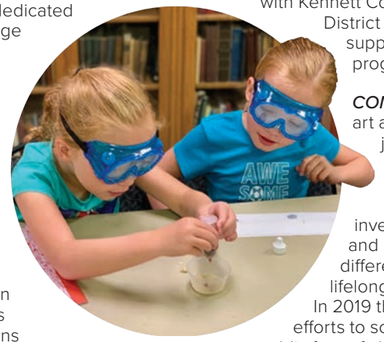
Programming

Alex Caliva

The Kennett Library continued its role as a community pillar offering a wealth of practical and fun programming to complement our already wonderful collection of books and materials. 2019 was no exception, as we improved on many of our hallmark programs and discovered new ones. Our programs support our patrons in at least one of three major ways:

ENRICHMENT programs support lifelong learning through the development of skills and knowledge. We see libraries as more than just a repository for knowledge, but also a tool to help our community use and understand the resources we offer to better itself. Our library has a history of offering award-winning programs featuring local historians like Gene Pisasale, as well as workshops on such topics as the Founding Fathers, the Beatles, gardening, and fine chocolate. Our Maker Camp, which celebrated its 5th Anniversary this summer, worked with our community partner, Upland Country Day School. Using the school's laser cutter, our teens designed and built their own ukuleles. Also, our Maker programs also expanded their scope by bringing robot-building workshops to elementary school students and introduced labs on topics, such as 3D printing and photo retouching software to adults.

LITERACY programs revel in the love of the written word. We're fond of reminding people that a library is more than just a place to store books. Introducing people to our collection and championing literacy at every turn is still one of our greatest missions. In 2019, we added "**Eat Your Words**," the lunch-rush short story book club, to our already diverse lineup, which includes reading groups focused on fiction, international authors, graphic novels, and poetry. We helped students with our new LevelUP after-school study program and with our partnership with Kennett Consolidated Schools District (KCSD) continued to offer supplemental summer reading programs.



COMMUNITY programs explore art and culture and sometimes just have fun. These programs let us share the things we love with each other, get our children invested in their local library, and bring together people from different walks of life to forge lifelong friends and partnerships. In 2019 the library redoubled its efforts to screen feature films to the public free of charge. We also partnered with Wizards of the Coast and The Games Keep to become an officially sanctioned tournament space for Magic the Gathering, offering monthly events with prizes. Our popular monthly program,The Arcade, remains a local pillar, bringing in over a 100 local kids at its height in the summer to play games and make the library their own. We also added a Virtual Reality headset to our cabinet of equipment, allowing patrons to try the cutting edge of experiential technology.

The best way to serve our public is an always uncertain and shifting target, but the Kennett Library remains committed to adapting to the challenges of the future, so that we can help our community be the best it can be.

Children

John Hendrix

Truly the Kennett Library has been "Growing Readers" year after year. The children's services concentrated our efforts this year in building a sense of community inside the library and outside the library. Library programs are designed not just to bring people into the library to check out books, but also to bring people together to engage with each other and their community. Community building connections are made in our library every day. Whether it is new moms meeting at story time or teens at our video game club, the Kennett Library is a place for community.

The Library's annual Summer Reading Program (SRP) was a great success this year, engaging community members, and growing readers. More than 1500 people attended the programs for nine weeks. Some of the highlight programs were:

Back to Nature Camp - encouraged toddlers to explore different skills to create self-directed projects. Activities range from on-going projects to mini workshops introducing new concepts and tools.

Culinary Literacy – Young Chefs followed the most basic recipes, followed directions measuring ingredients and preparing them accordingly and had fun creating fun recipes and eating their creations.

Children's Services hosted many fun events this year, adding some new ones that will become perennial favorites. Halloween, Holidays and our Easter egg hunt brought more than 200 children to the library on those three days. Story times, a vital component of early literacy with age appropriate stories, songs, and activities continued to grow this year. and are offered three times a week in English and once in Spanish, for preschoolers, toddlers, and families. More than 5,400 children and caregivers attended story times over the course of the year.

The library promoted family literacy by encouraging parents to read with their children. As a result of ongoing outreach to local elementary schools, over 200 library cards were issued, most of them to 3rd graders during class visits. The Tuesday Night Program continued offering children a chance to play board games, make crafts, read to dogs and build with Legos. The programs for elementary-aged children drew twice as many as the previous year. Following a national trend, the library emphasized STEM and STEAM programming for elementary-aged students. From coding to science explorers to LEGO clubs, there is an abundance of opportunities for creative play and learning at the Kennett Library.

The Children's library was transformed with a redesign of space, new toddler sofas, vinyl chairs, train table and kitchen set. The Kennett Library gives a special thanks to CCRES for providing a grant to create a brighter, more inviting space for patrons and programs.

Adult Literacy

Filomena Elliott

Our Adult Literacy Program (ALP) provides free English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction to community adults and improves the literacy of educationally-disadvantaged adults to levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family, and in society.

The program celebrated a 40-year milestone, having offered ESL classes and services to adults in Southern Chester County since 1979. In that time, more than **8,000 students from 55 countries representing five continents** have benefited from this program. There are both day and evening classes in Kennett Square, West Grove, and Oxford. Students can also request a tutor to further help them beyond the classroom.

Our tutors are community volunteers who work with individual students to help with English-language practice and with General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and American Citizenship study and test preparation. In 2019, 150 tutors selflessly gave of their time and talent to help our ALP students. A very special thanks goes out to the more than 40 residents of Kendal and Crosslands communities, who have partnered with ALP and trained to become tutors.

In 2019, our tutors helped **fifteen students earn American citizenship**; seven more students are readying themselves for the citizenship tests. One student earned a **General Equivalency Diploma**, (a total of four tests in Language Arts, Social Science, Science and Math), and nine students continue working on the series of tests. **Three students began their own business,** and **fifteen students found employment** because of their improved levels of English; some of those students have already moved on to better jobs as their language skills improve. By learning to communicate well, students are able to participate in school functions with their children, to be more independent and active within the community, and become contributing members of society.

Continued ➔

Reference

Paul Sapko

The library answered 9,821 reference questions in 2019, helping patrons locate and use the library's resources and materials. These transactions included locating and reserving books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other materials for library patrons. A typical request might have involved research to determine the first (or second, or last) book in a series by a particular author, and then locating a copy for the patron. Another request might involve finding books or DVDs on a particular subject, such as dog-training, or the history of the Civil War.

Additionally, library staff assisted library patrons with the public computers, printing, and copying. Library users often needed help accessing their email accounts, applying for jobs online, and printing various documents, such as airline tickets or school reports.

The popularity of the library's eBook collection continued to grow in 2019. Patrons came to the library with questions on how to access the collection and how to read and listen to eBooks on their various devices.

Reader's advisory was another reference service provided by the library. Patrons came in looking for books to read on vacation or listen to on long drives. Depending on their reading and listening preferences, library patrons were guided with recommendations by the library staff.

The library staff also assisted with many other general reference inquiries and questions throughout the year. These often involved questions about the Kennett area by visitors from out of town, such as the location of any antique stores in town or restaurant recommendations. Our reference resources pertaining to local history were also heavily used in 2019. These include our collection of local history books, monographs, and pamphlets, as well as our archive of the Kennett Paper.

Great Communities Build Great Libraries

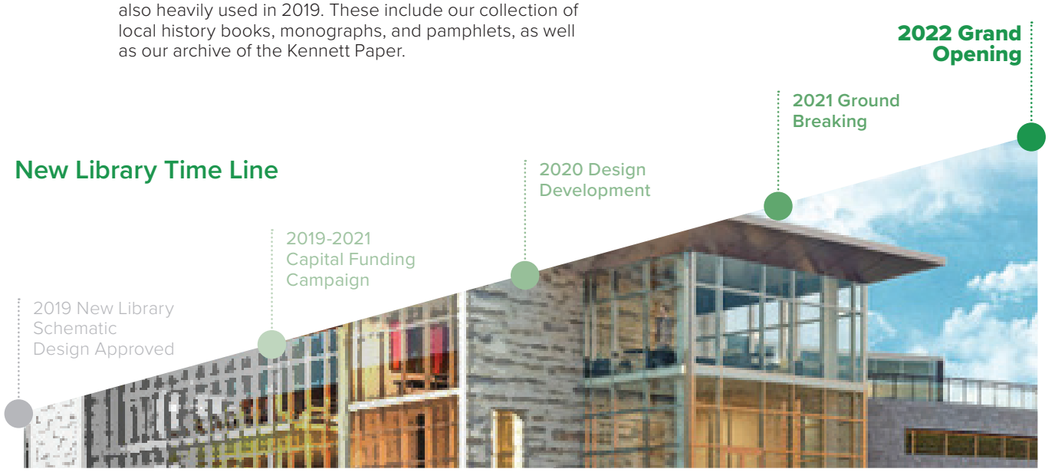
Mary Hutchins

The Kennett Library Board of Trustees and library staff and capital campaign staff have been hard at work planning for the **new library at the corner of State and Willow Streets**. Money is being raised, pledges are being tallied and architects and trustees are putting together the final design for the state of the art facility.

The library now owns three parcels at the site, which will accommodate the building and on-site parking. The 29,257 square foot design will include space for the adult, children's and young adult collections of books and videos. The 16 meeting rooms will include a maker space, 2 classrooms, 4 tutor rooms, 3 programming rooms, 3 group study rooms, 2 quiet reading rooms and a 110-seat auditorium.

The new library has been projected to cost $20 million: $15 million to build and another $5 million to be held as operating endowment to cover increased operating costs once the library opens. **To date, $8.3 million dollars has been raised**. The capital campaign has just started and will run through 2021. Please visit the campaign website www.campaign4kennettlibrary.org for updates and for information on how you can help make this long-held held dream a reality.

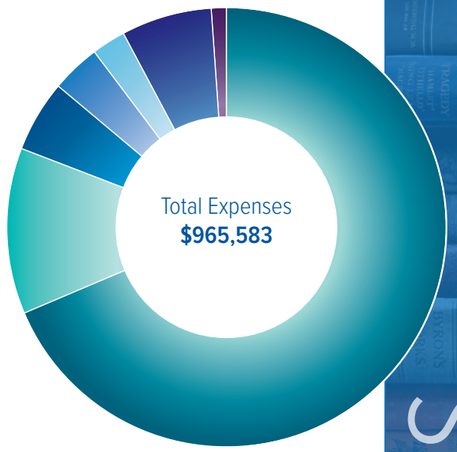
New Library Time Line

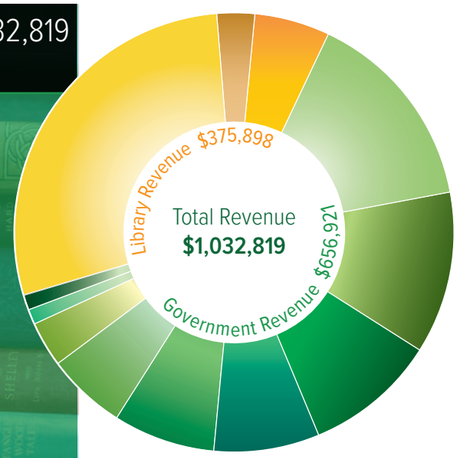


$67,236
2019 Net Revenue

$965,583

$1,032,819





EXPENSES	2019	2018
Personnel Services	$665,086	$645,093
Library Materials	$116,181	$112,675
Facilities & Maintenance	$51,017	$57,089
Fundraising	$35,023	$44,784
Programming	$24,438	$25,753
All Other Expenses	$64,382	$47,560
Expenses before Capital Outlay	**$956,127**	**$932,953**
Capital Outlay	$9,456	$1,546
Total Expenses	**$965,583**	**$934,500**

REVENUE	2019	2018
Kennett	$155,000	$156,800
East Marlborough	$125,896	$125,458
State of PA	$98,763	$99,265
New Garden	$80,353	$80,271
Chester County	$77,159	$78,028
Kennett Square	$60,450	$57,000
Pennsbury	$35,500	$35,500
Newlin	$11,000	$11,000
Pocopson	$10,800	$10,800
West Marlborough	$2,000	$2,000
Total Government Revenue	**$656,921**	**$656,122**
Donations, Events, Grants	$291,737	$288,180
Fees, Charges, Misc	$29,508	$35,004
Investment Income	$54,653	$46,955
Total Library Revenue	**$375,898**	**$370,139**
Total Revenue	**$1,032,819**	**$1,026,261**

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

	Reserves & Endowments	Capital Campaign Funds	Total Investments
12/31/2019	$2,107,771	$2,097,046	**$4,204,817**
12/31/2018	$1,827,253	$1,369,756	$3,197,009

2019 Usage Statistics

10,911
LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS
(Patrons from all 8 municipalities)

761
ALP CLIENTS
(Patrons helped through the Adult Literacy Program via office visits and ESL Courses & Tutoring)

$26,500
530 VISITS TO THE ALP OFFICE
(valued at $50 each)

110,545
VISITORS
(Library & off-site program attendees)

36,985
WEBSITE VISITS
(KennettLibrary.org)

$189,240
4,731 HOURS OF ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING
(valued at $40 per/hour)

178,076
CIRC
(Total number of Kennett Library materials circulated)

$162,435
7,735 HOURS OF COMPUTER USE
(valued at $21/hour)

$158,400
396 ESL STUDENTS (2 SEMESTER COURSE)
(valued at $400 per course semester)

7,717
VOLUNTEER HOURS
(Time logged by Circulation & Program Volunteers, ALP Tutors, & Board of Trustees)

$381,440
47,680 HOURS OF WIFI USED
(valued at $8/hour)

$11,367
421 INTERLIBRARY LOAN REQUESTS
(valued at $27 each)

5,132
FOLLOWERS
(Social Media Followers on Facebook and Instagram)

$23,250
93 PUBLIC MEETING ROOM BOOKINGS
(valued at $250 each)

$665,610
44,374 E-BOOKS DOWNLOADED
(valued at $15 each)

2,961
OPEN HOURS
(Hours the library was open in 2019)

$118,572
9,881 REFERENCE NEEDS SOLVED
(valued at $12 each)

$12,660
2,532 E-MAGAZINES DOWNLOADED
(valued at $5 each)

1,069
FREE PROGRAMS
(Programs, classes, and events for all ages)

$305,610
20,374 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
(valued at $15 each)

Estimated value added to our community by the Kennett Library in 2019 $4,964,578

$825,300
39,300 ADULT FICTION BOOKS BORROWED
(Valued At $21 Each)

$474,192
19,758 ADULT NON-FICTION BOOKS BORROWED
(Valued At $24 Each)

$363,216
7,728 ADULT AUDIO BOOKS BORROWED
(Valued At $47 Each)

$4,930
986 MAGAZINES READ
(Valued At $5 Each)

$1,073,888
67,118 CHILDREN'S BOOKS BORROWED
(Valued At $16 Each)

$45,180
1,506 CHILDREN'S AUDIO BOOKS BORROWED
(Valued At $30 Each)

$95,228
3,401 CHILDREN'S DVDS BORROWED
(Valued At $28 Each)

$27,560
1,378 SPANISH BOOKS BORROWED
(Valued At $20 Each)

The Bookies

(Your Favorites In 2019)

Most Holds:
"Where The Crawdads Sing" *By Delia Owens*

Top Adult Fiction:
"Nine Perfect Strangers" *By Liane Moriarty*

Top Adult Non-Fiction:
"Becoming" *By Michelle Obama*

Top Children's Book:
"Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days" *By Jeff Kinney*

Top Dvd/Bluray:
"Green Book"

2019 Highlights

January

The Kennett Library hosted the Bayard Taylor Open Mic Night to celebrate the 194th anniversary of our patron, Bayard Taylor; Kennett Square poet, travel writer, literary critic and diplomat.

February

The Second Annual Bad Romance FUNdraiser celebrating romance novels delighted local fans of the genre.

Our meeting room got a makeover! The shag carpet is no more and the a fresh coat of paint brightened up the room.

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 library.

May

Kennett Library partnered with AHHAH to place Pop Up Lending Libraries all over town!

June

The Home and Garden Tour had another hugely successful year with all houses in Kennett Square Borough.

Kennett Library hosted the national program StoryCorps to interview local residents to tell their tale.

July

The library partnered with Upland Country Day School to have an awesome Maker Camp!

August

Victoria Wyeth was a great pirate for storytime. *Arghhhh!*

September

The Adult Literacy Program at the 2019 Mushroom Festival.

October

The Adult Literacy Program celebrated 15 of their students receiving their American citizenship.

November

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

December

Santa Claus left his workshop to visit the Kennett Library!

2019 Library Staff

Megan Walters Library Director

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

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

Simon Comanda

Ann Linn

Laurie Linton

Gabriela Mckelligan Hernandez

Rachel Owens

Chris Rodriguez

Shane Zandotti

Part Time ESL Teachers

Mary Gannon

Spencer Gates

Elizabeth Mercante

Joe Murphy

Merwin Soash

Jennifer Waite

Other Part Time Staff

Dan Pennacchia
Program Assistant

Mary Plumely
Custodian

Board of Trustees
(2019)

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Thomas Swett
East Marlborough Twp

Vice President
Jeff Yetter
Kennett Twp

Secretary
Margaret Egli
East Marlborough Twp

Treasurer
Tori Gilrane, CPA
At Large

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Newlin Twp

Barbara Bolton
New Garden Twp

Gail Bowden
At Large

Chris Britt
At Large

Henry Brown
At Large

Jim DiLuzio
New Garden Twp

Cathy Elder
Pennsbury Twp

Dr Shanyn Fiske
Kennett Square

Michael Guttman
At Large

Chris Larsen
Pocopson Twp

Will Majarian
At Large

Bill McLachlan
Kennett Twp

Dr. Brenda Mercomes
Kennett Square

Barbara Necarsulmer
Pennsbury Twp

Dr Loren Pearson
Newlin Twp

Bradley Peiper
Pocopson Twp

David Sleasman
Longwood Gardens

Dr Barry Tomasetti
At Large

Collis Townsend
Kennett Twp

2019 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
Henry I. Brown, III
CCRES, Inc.
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Exelon Generation Company
Glenmede Trust Company
Charles P. Schutt, Jr.

$1,000 - $4,999
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Wesley W. & Annette Bowers
Chris & Catherine Britt
Bryn Mawr Trust Company
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Robert E. & Josephine B. Delaney
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Hutton Family HeLP Fund
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Razaullah Khwaja & Pamela Scott
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Charles & Mary E. J. Miller
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The Mushroom Festival, Inc.
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Rotary Club of Kennett at Longwood
Sandford School
The Tri-M Group, LLC
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West Marlborough Township
Walter J. & Carol M. Yetter

$500 - $999
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Andrew & Priya Baraniak
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Harvey Reisine
Riley Riper Hollin & Colagreco
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Lewis & Sharon Sears
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Joy Slater
L. Peter & Susan Soraruf
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Tree Huggerz Inc.
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Umbreit, Wileczek & Associates, PC, CPA
Upland Country Day School
Anne Verplanck
Eva L. Verplanck
Frank & Marianne Wallitsch
Waywood Beverage
Wegmans Food Market Inc
Scott & Kim Wilkinson
Pandora Allison Young

$300 - $499
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John R. & Carlene Jackson
Than Thi Kennedy
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London Grove Monthly Meeting
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Beverly McCausland
Louis & Megan Minella
Barbara K. Necarsulmer
Bradley & Marina Peiper
Phillips Mushroom Farms, LP
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Ann Schlitz
Joseph & Maureen Seilus
Edson & Silvana Silveira
David Sleasman
Star Roses & Plants
Collis O. & Catherine B. Townsend
John & Julia Trout
Edward Westerman
John A. Yeatman

$150 - $299
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Andrew R. Yetter
Mike & Dina Appleby
Bartlett Tree Experts
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Anthony Beiler
John S. & Brenda J. Beitler
Debra J. Beley
George & Barbara Bennett
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Whitney Hoffman
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Albert & Mary M. Iacocca
Robert C. & Alice A. Jackson
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Jing Jin & Takao Shimomura
Russell O. & H. Donnan Jones
James C. Kauer
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Kennett Glass Company
Kennett Amateur Theatrical Society, Inc.
Kennett Copy & More
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Hedvika L. Knoth, Jr.
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William O. LaMotte
Kerry M. & Beth W. Lankenau
Christopher T. & Karen Larsen
Sanford Leff
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Amy Lieberman
Richard W. & Sally Lighty
Connie K. Logan
Longwood Performing Arts
Maffei Landscape Design, LLC
William R. & Lynn B. Majarian
The Market at the Liberty Place
Jack L. & Kathryn Massau
Clark & Kari Maxwell
Maria & Michael McCabe
Frank C. & Margaret F. McCown
William & Christina McDougall, Jr.
Marilyn McLaughlin
John R. & Judith M. Merhar
Mexican Table
Michael & Amy Miguel
John D. & Nancy L. Mohr
Charles R. & Sharon S. Mulligan, Jr.
Joellen Muntz
Mushrooms Cafe
Thomas & Ann Nale, III
David & Judith Nelson
George & Bette Neuman
New Garden Monthly Meeting
Betsy Niedziejko
Julie A. C. Noolan
Thomas & Marla N. Norton
Kevin J. O'Dowd & Robin Howell
Leonard & Wendy Cotton-Orlando
Sarah Ann Palmer
Lee & Courtney Peterson
William & Grace Pfeifer, III
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Robert L. Roessler
Charles D. & Andra Rudershausen
John & Kellie Saraceno
Edgar Scott, Jr.
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Peter Silva
D. Lynn Sinclair
Sinton Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc
Dennis & Patricia Smith
Steven & Tracy Smith
Merwin & Margaret Soash
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Zyng Nails Inc.

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