



Kennett Library

Building Community



2022 Annual Report
January 1 - December 31

About Kennett Library

Mission Igniting imagination, enriching lives, creating community.

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

Kennett Library is a regional public library open to all and serving the Townships of Kennett, East Marlborough, Pennsbury, Pocopson, Newlin, New Garden, West Marlborough and the Borough of Kennett Square. We provide a place for the youngest to the oldest and everyone in between and serve people of all incomes, ages, and needs - for free.

Kennett Library is on a mission to ignite imagination, enrich lives, and create community with a vision to be the catalyst for a community of lifelong learning and discovery. We connect people with reading, information and technology to expand curiosity, explore interests, and discover passions. We provide a friendly, helpful, stimulating environment that is built on free access to library resources and the exchange of information.

We are a place to meet, a place to learn, to teach, to share, to connect, a place to build, to expand horizons. In 2022 we offered 824 free programs for children, teens, and adults in person and virtually. Programs like ESL classes, art workshops, family storytime, nature camp, book groups, webinars, author talks, and beyond.



Chris Manna, Executive Director

Filomena Elliott, Adult Literacy Director

Lupe Ruiz, ALP Administrative Assistant

Debbie Kellar, Circulation Manager & Access Services

Lou Florence, Collection Development & Volunteer Coordinator

John Hendrix, Children's Services

Mary Hutchins, Development Director

Amanda Murphy, Director of Marketing & Communications

Laura Archer, Teen Services & Communications Specialist

Anna Linn, Library Assistant

Annie Mendiola, Library Assistant

Cliff Sink, Library Assistant

Gaby McKelligan, Library Assistant

Mavis Florence-Bushnell, Library Assistant

Natalie Lindner, Library Assistant

Paul Sapko, Bookkeeper

Rana Sakr, Library Assistant & Health Literacy Program Coordinator

Shawn Godfrey, Library Assistant

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Director's Report

When we think of “building community,” oftentimes we think of building relationships; however, for the Kennett Library in 2023, this carries a dual meaning. For the first time in over 60 years, a new library in Kennett will be opening and while we continue to build community in the traditional sense, we are also building a new library, which stands to heighten our work with the community. Never has “building community” meant so much to the Kennett Library.

As we look to close the book on the old Kennett Library, some highlights from 2022 are what bring to mind our theme of “building community.” To start, we launched the Imagination Library of Chester County in partnership with Arts Holding Hands and Hearts, the Justamere Foundation, and Chester County Hospital. This program provides books mailed home to every child under the age of 5 in Chester County. Every child born at Chester County Hospital is now receiving an application to enroll and an application for a library card. As we seek to grow capacity of our youth, this also grows their connection with the Kennett Library. Over 4,000 children have registered for this program since November! The new library will bring programming geared toward each month’s selection and an opportunity for make and take activities with our new makerspace!

Next, our Live Better initiative commenced with a goal of increasing community health literacy and health outcomes. Our programs with Penn Medicine, Kennett Community Grocer, and LCH Health and Community Services now occur in person, virtually, and with monthly days of recognition. Every month, our programs reflect the health goals of the season. Our new 110-seat auditorium will offer lectures on healthy living and our one-on-one tutor rooms can be used as a place to meet privately to discuss individual health needs with one of our healthcare partners.

Our Adult Literacy Program had 8 new US citizens in 2022 and 2 more GED graduates. The new building will see an increase in classes, as we went from 8 to 11 in 2022, and our goal in 2023 is to grow to 14 classes per week. The need for citizenship classes, GED assistance, one-on-one tutoring, and English as a second language remains, with over 3,000 in attendance for classes this past year. The new library brings classrooms designated for teaching these classes and more! Dual-delivery will be the teaching style, where if you cannot attend in person, you will still be able to attend via virtual connection.

“I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library.” This quote by Jorge Luis Borges accurately sums up what this new library and 2023 presents for this community. As we build this new library and build a better community, I hope you will all join me in supporting the Kennett Library for generations to come with generous financial support. 2023 is just the beginning of our new library paradise!

President's Report

2022 was a momentous year for the Kennett Library. Sitework began in earnest in January and the new Kennett Library & Resource Center began to rise at the corner of State and Willow Streets. By the end of December 2022, our new home was 80% complete with the Soft Opening at the end of June 2023 and the Grand Opening on August 27th, 2023. The dream of a modern library to serve our growing community is poised to become true!

Your new library has been over 20 years in the making, and it could not have been possible without the generous support of our community. One-third of our annual revenue comes from foundation grants, fundraising events, and private donations. For your new library to prosper, it will need increased support so we can expand our services to our community.

While much of the year was spent planning for and fundraising for the new building, it was also the first full year for Chris Manna, our Executive Director. Chris’s extensive background in large libraries became quickly evident as he and his energized staff rolled out many new programs and services for the community. Much of Chris’s time was spent in the community telling the library story and creating new partnerships.

2022 was my eighth year on the Board of Trustees and my third and last as Board President. Brad Peiper, Vice President for the last 3 years and Building Committee Chair is leading the Board in 2023. I am immensely grateful for all of the support and hard work that our donors and Trustees have invested to make the new Kennett Library & Resource Center a reality.

“I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library.”

Programs

The library doesn't end when you leave our doorstep. When you're attending a virtual book group discussion, a talk at the farmers market, a program in the park, calling us for help with your account or even listening to an audiobook on Libby - that is the library community with you. We have the ability to transcend our walls. You can take us, your Third Place, with you wherever you go.

We continue to plan engaging, diverse, and accessible programs for all. 2022 was a year of building. Not just the new physical building on State and Willow Streets but also creating new relationships and strengthening existing ones in our community.



Children's Programs

John Hendrix, Children's Services

We are delighted to report that reading is alive and well in our community. Circulation of our library books and other materials has increased over the last year. We provide early literacy skills through programs like Toddler Music Camp, Yoga Story Time, Art Classes, and Preschool Storytime.

Our music class developed as part of the expansion of early literacy programming. Children love music, and it helps develop language skills and creates a bond between caregiver and child. Currently

we offer our music classes every other week, but we plan to add more sessions due to its success and popularity.

Our Summer Nature Camps, designed for toddlers ages 3-5 years old, includes outdoor activities, developing a deeper connection with the natural world through fun and educational programs. We provide the materials for each camp and limit group size to 25 toddlers. Hiking woodland trails, playing games, making art and craft projects, exploring natural areas, and conducting experiments fill the campers' days with fun. Because our Summer Nature Camp was so well-attended, we launched a Fall Nature Camp as well.

Kennett Library is a place for everyone to grow.

Creative Space

Mavis Florence-Bushnell & Shawn Godfrey, Library Assistants

Creative Space was born out of the desire to provide flexible children's programming in the evening hours.

Open-ended materials are available for children (of all ages) to explore, usually accompanied by a general theme as a guide. Fiction and nonfiction books are displayed along with some open-ended materials that invite children to explore and create at the table. The evening staff interacts with the participants by encouraging them to tap into their imagination as well as providing supplementary materials as needed.

In an effort to be environmentally conscious, the materials for Creative Space are from nature



or repurposed materials donated by staff and the community. These materials are presented in an open-ended way with some loose suggestions for use. The purpose isn't as much to create a product as it is to engage in the process of creation. One of our favorite things is to hear the children joyfully exclaim, "I can do whatever I want?" When this happens, we know the space is successful. Their playful chatter is a lovely backdrop to the central activity of the library.

As we move into our new space, we will offer the creativity and flexibility of Creative Space in the new Children's Library and makerspace.

The purpose isn't as much to create a product as it is to engage in the process of creation.

FrancoFun

Rana Sakr, Library Assistant & Health Literacy Program Coordinator

Together with your little ones, we sing, read, count, and talk in French.

This was a big year for FrancoFun! In October, we celebrated our one-year anniversary. We enjoyed crepes and singing, with live music from one of our volunteers. We sang Joyeux Anniversaire in both English and French.



We took one of our sessions on a picnic on the side lawn of the library and even went for a hike in Anson B Nixon Park. Check out the pictures to see how FrancoFun that was!

Come sing, dance, read, and sing with us, and have some FrancoFun!



Anime After School

Laura Archer, Teen Services & Communications Specialist

This year we introduced Anime After School, a program that created a space for fans of anime and manga to hang out. While this program was designed with teens and young adults in mind, we welcomed participants of all ages. We watched favorite and classic anime movies, like Studio Ghibli films, while we worked on crafts like origami Lucky Stars. Our small group thrived into a caring community, composed of both patrons and staff.

Where Do Old Books Go

Rana Sakr, Library Assistant & Health Literacy Program Coordinator

Have you ever wondered what happens to old library books?

Inspired by a French artist, our very own Rana Sakr developed a crafting program that upcycles old library books and engages people of all ages.

Crafters explored many techniques, including origami, papier mâché, and book folding. They transformed old books into Halloween masks, stars and suns, favor boxes, holiday trees and ornaments, hedgehogs, pumpkins, and hearts.

Please stay tuned for more **Where Do Old Books Go?** workshops!



Programs



Juneteenth Slam Poetry

Amanda Murphy, Director of Marketing & Communications

Celebrating Juneteenth is an opportunity for our community to come to terms with how slavery and racism continue to affect our society today – it is something for everyone to engage in.

We were honored to partner with National Youth Foundation (NYF) for our first annual Juneteenth Slam Poetry celebration in Anson B. Nixon Park. This free program is one beautiful way to engage, listen, and learn from one another. Poetry and spoken word have long been effective and creative ways of self-expression and healing. Poetry slams inspire, uplift, and motivate people – we want to continue to bring that energy to Kennett Square in the form of an accessible program honoring Juneteenth.

We were overjoyed to have almost 200 attendees join us. We featured Roxanne Shante as our emcee, and local and regional poets including Kennett’s own Isabella Hanson (co-founder of NYF), Jay The Poet, Enoch The Poet, and Seraiah Nicole.

Meadowitos

Lou Florence, Collection Development & Volunteer Coordinator

What a year of community engaged achievement! We launched a flourishing project called Meadowitos, or small native plant gardens, which was a winner of the Kennett Placemakers competition and is now an initiative of the Kennett Library to establish pollinator pathways in public places around Kennett Square, PA.

These gardens, created through volunteered collaborative labor and plant sharing, restore connection for both humans and wildlife to the natural world. By establishing areas full of native species plants we provide vital resources for a wide variety of insects and birds. These “micro-meadows” are designed to be resilient, low maintenance and environmentally impactful.

The Meadowitos project encourages community engagement by inviting people into conversations that build interest in our natural surroundings. We hope that some may be inspired to install their own native pollinator garden in their yard or business landscapes!

Meadowitos also serves as learning labs through library programs. We have invited local schools, universities and community groups to adopt these living classrooms and use them as areas



to explore any number of citizen science questions.

Meadowitos started with three small gardens, and you may have seen the one on the side yard of the Kennett Library! By the close of 2022 we have expanded to six gardens that incorporate areas along trails, roadways, and parking lots. This network of flowering and berry producing gardens strengthens our habitat and community while creating little oases of beauty. Win-win!

Look for more to develop-- such as a booklet/guide to making your own Meadowito, a map to the gardens, information/data bases/guides on our website, and exciting invited speakers to present inspiring new information.



Franco Talk

Rana Sakr, Library Assistant & Health Literacy Program Coordinator

Based on popular demand, it became evident after the well-received experience with FrancoFun, that a conversation group in French would be an enriching addition to Kennett

Library programs and to the community as a whole. The program invites French speakers of all levels to come to the library to “FrancoTalk.” The aim is a cultural exchange between French enthusiasts (francophones et francophiles) en Français to practice the language in a casual atmosphere. We’ve had people join us from many cultures, including Belgium, Cameroun, Canada, France, Greece, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, and Switzerland.

Featured here is a group picture of the first meet and greet catered event with delicious “viennoiseries à la Française.”

Venez Bavardez! Ce qui nous unit c’est la Francophonie!

Live Better

Rana Sakr, Library Assistant & Health Literacy Program Coordinator

The Kennett Library was among the first in the Chester County Library System to launch a health awareness initiative in the summer of 2022 called Live Better.

Live Better predominantly partnered with the Chester County Hospital and the Kennett Community Grocer to offer free programs. Topics included: nutrition, suicide prevention, diabetes education, risky-driving awareness, identifying



choking hazards, and following safe-toy gifting guidelines.

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Live Better donated 24 Hope Kits to volunteers and cancer survivors through Unite for Her, a national nonprofit that supports women fighting breast and ovarian cancer. Live Better has appreciated the community’s collaborative efforts in creating Hope Kits. A special thank you to Candle Studio 1422, who donated 24 candles for the Hope Kits, and to our knitters from the Knit Knook, who donated time, material, and know-how to create chemo caps.

Kennett Library strives to continue to be a health literacy resource center accessible to the community it serves so that it, in turn, lives better.

Adult Literacy Program



The Adult Literacy Program (ALP) offers various levels of English as a second language (ESL) classes, classes in preparation for the high school equivalency diploma (GED), and a class in civics to meet requirements for the American citizenship interview and test. ALP Director Filomena Elliott and Assistant Lupe Ruiz also help newcomers to the Kennett area, offering them an orientation to our community and an introduction to our many resources. A team of five teachers currently provides ten weekly classes, some during the day and some in the evening, so as to allow working students to attend.

ALP teacher **Jennifer Waite** is one of the instructors who enriches our students' lives, not only with her excellent teaching skills but also with her kind and giving spirit. Here, in her own words, she speaks of the program, her students, and her work with them:

"I am a secondary education teacher who left the traditional classroom and thankfully found the opportunity to teach adults in the Kennett Library's ALP. Our students come from various educational backgrounds, ranging from students who did not receive an education past the sixth grade in their own country to those with college degrees from overseas universities. What they all have in common is a desire to improve their English language skills, the dedication to attend classes, and immense respect for the power of education. I teach ESL, US citizenship, and GED classes. It is not uncommon for me to have the same student in multiple classes.

The Kennett Library's ALP is a stepping stone for many of our students' life achievements. I have driven students to take their GED exams and celebrated their graduations. I have taken them to their U.S. citizenship interview and attended their naturalization ceremony. I have helped write notes to teachers about music lessons, missing homework, and disagreements between classmates. I feel honored to be a small part in helping them to adjust and succeed in the United States."

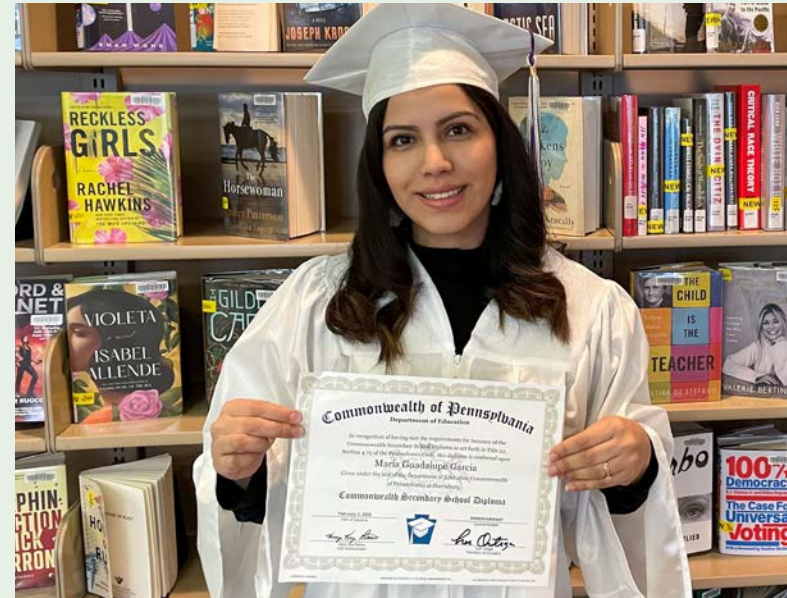
One of the unique offerings of ALP is the opportunity for students to have an individual

tutor to help them practice English and/or help with GED and American citizenship preparation. The tutors receive training workshops to prepare to give lessons weekly to a student. Each tutor commits to volunteering between one to three hours weekly on a day and time convenient for both tutor and student. ALP is grateful to our many tutors who give selflessly of their time and talent so that our students can more quickly reach their goals. Their valuable lessons help ALP students to achieve their many successes!

Here below are the words of volunteer **Ted Farraday**, who shares his experience as an ALP tutor:

"My entire career was spent in the field of education, first as a teacher of French and Spanish and then as an administrator in arts high schools. As I approached retirement, one of the things I knew I wanted to do was use my teaching experience to help immigrants who were learning English. Finding the ALP program at the Kennett Library and tutoring the students assigned to me is, without a doubt, the most rewarding thing I do each week.

I have five students who cover a very wide age range and whose English skills vary from beginner level to advanced.



Some sessions last an hour, and some an hour and a half. We use books, games, and current events as fodder for conversation and language acquisition. It is very rewarding to see each student make progress and develop confidence in his or her ability to use English. The time we spend just conversing in English has also allowed me to learn so much about all of them, their lives, experiences, and challenges. The conversations can be serious or funny or even sometimes sad, but no matter what the topic, they always provide great opportunities for new vocabulary and grammar. We learn together, and I always try to make what we do relevant to the students' situations and needs. Every time I have a tutoring session, I leave

feeling uplifted because I love teaching and because I find my students' dedication inspiring.

I know from my own experience how hard it is to learn a foreign language, and I have deep admiration and respect for what these students are working to achieve. I know that I benefit from the time spent with them. Seeing the world through the eyes of people who have different cultural backgrounds and helping them find ways to express what they want to say and write is truly rewarding. I hope I make the lives of my tutees better, and I know working with them each week enriches my life.

I commend the Kennett Library for offering this important and meaningful program for so many people."

ALP STATISTICS

10 classes were taught weekly: 7 ESL classes leveled from Beginning to Advanced, one citizenship class, and two GED classes.

377 individual students attended classes. Some of them took two, three, or even four classes throughout the academic year.

502 hours of classes were taught by ALP teachers

1450 hours of individual lessons were provided by our volunteer tutors

785 clients were served in the ALP office by the two full-time staff members.

Congratulations are in order!

8 ALP students earned their American citizenship. Eleven more are studying to prepare for the interview and test.

2 ALP students passed all four subject tests for the high school equivalency diploma and earned their GED. Thirteen more are attending class to prepare, and some of these students have passed one, two, or three tests thus far.

... from the ALP Director

ALP is a non-profit program supported by the Kennett Library. Other funding comes through grants from the United Way of Southern Chester County, The Dollar General Foundation, The Mushroom Festival, The Kennett Run, The Chester County Community Foundation, and Chester County Regional Education Services (CCRES). We are grateful for all of our grantors and also for the generous donations from our tutors and private citizens. Community support allows us to continue to offer classes that make a positive change in our students. Thank you to all!

A very unique program added this year to the ALP repertoire is a partnership being established with Migrant Education. This collaborative effort aims to offer ALP services to Migrant Education clients, who are underserved young people between the ages of 18 and 22.

My staff and I are very excited about the possibilities which will become available to us with the new Kennett Library & Resource Center. There is always demand for literacy and ESL classes and GED and citizenship classes, but our plans for the new library include the offering of many more opportunities, such as digital literacy, numerical and financial literacy, and health literacy. Our community partnerships will allow us to have many artistic, cultural, and educational programs which will benefit children, young people, and adults not just within ALP but in the whole community. The possibilities are endless!

We are so excited and we look forward to continuing to serve our community in our new space.

Maria Gaytan

My name is María Gaytán, I am from Guanajuato, Mexico. I came to the United States when I was 17 years old. My goals were to have a better future and help my parents. Not knowing English became a roadblock to getting a good job. However, I love to read, and I started going to the Kennett Library. There I met Lupe Ruiz and Filomena Elliott, who introduced me to ALP, an English program for adults. I was lucky to get a tutor who became essential for my learning.

I developed the skills I needed and began applying for better jobs. Until two years ago when I decided to have my own business in Agriculture. Currently, my business, Alfa Mushrooms LLC, is successful in cultivating and growing mushrooms. I was able to expand my business with customers who do not speak Spanish. I am very grateful to the team at the Kennett Library. Without their help in teaching me English, I would not have surpassed my goals. As with my business, I continue to grow and will keep learning. I thank the teachers at the Kennett Library for allowing me to be one of their students. Their help is life-changing.



Friends of the Library Report

Here is what we did in 2022 to support this mission.

- We ran the Shop and Dine Raffle and raised \$20,000 for adult literacy and children's programming. Many of our volunteers were involved in soliciting sponsors, selling tickets, marketing, and organizing the drawing.
- Our volunteers worked with the first annual Kennett Arts Festival to benefit the Kennett Library. Carolyn Mostyn, one of our members, worked closely with the Kennett Arts Festival Committee to pull off this successful inaugural event. Many of our Friends volunteered at the event and supported the marketing efforts.
- We had our annual meeting in January 2022. At this virtual meeting members were able to meet the new library director, Chris Manna, and hear plans for the new library.
- Our Friends board delivers a staff appreciation treat to the library staff every month to thank the staff for their service to the library.
- Our able Communication Committee, led by Gail Bowden, sent email newsletters every quarter and updates as necessary. We strive to keep our Friends informed.
- We had a Beam Signing event for all Friends members where we had the opportunity to sign the final beam on the new library before it was lifted into place.

Our plans for 2023 include:

- An annual Friends meeting, including a tour of the new library, in June 2023.
- Volunteering opportunities to help with the many logistical activities involved with the new library. Watch your email for newsletters and calls for help.
- The Shop and Dine Raffle will be back with ticket sales and marketing in the spring and the raffle every day in July.
- The Kennett Art Festival return in September, and Friends will be an integral part of the volunteer effort.

Friends of Kennett Library is now 81 members strong and growing. Our mission is to support the Kennett Library through advocacy, volunteer services, and fundraising.

Our current board consists of:

Annette Bowers, President

Carol Yetter, Secretary and acting Vice President

Gail Bowden, Liaison to the Kennett Library board

Sue Soraruf

Judy Diner

Carolyn Mostyn

Sandy Cumbaa

We look forward with hope and excitement to the opening of the new library. We thank you all for the support of the efforts of the Friends of Kennett Library. Happy 2023.



New Building Report

Brad Peiper
Incoming President

2022 was quite a year for our new building project! It has been thrilling to see our new Kennett Library facility rise up out of the ground at the corner of State and Willow Streets in Kennett Square as well as to feel the community anticipation and excitement for our June 2023 opening.

Of course this has not been a short journey. Over 20 years ago, the community could see that the then 40-year-old building that housed the Kennett Library was falling short of our patrons' needs. Not only was the space too small for the many Library programs offered to the public, but it lacked ADA handicap access, meeting rooms, and public parking. The building layout and design was limiting the digital learning and communication capabilities that 21st century technology had enabled.

Planning was begun with a capital campaign which was launched in 2004 to raise the needed funding to build a larger building just outside the Borough. However this early effort failed to gain community support primarily because the public wanted the Library to remain in the Kennett Borough. After another ten years of

searching for a Borough location with adequate space, the Library Board secured a one acre development lot at 320 East State Street fronting on the heart of Kennett's retail and restaurant district through a combination of land purchases from Kennett Borough together with two adjacent private parcels.



This 320 East State Street lot has become the blank canvas upon which we have designed and are now building this new Kennett Library and Resource Center. A project team that collectively brings some 500 years of experience to our project was assembled which includes RRMM

Architects, EDiS Construction Management, CBRE/HEERY Owners Representative, Riley Riper Hollin & Colagreco legal services, WSFS financial services, and the Tri-M Group Building and Electrical Systems.

The result is a spectacular design focused on accessibility

and integration of gathering spaces and technology which will re-define for our community the concept of a 21st century library, bringing into focus the many resource center possibilities.

Highlights include the following

- Fully ADA compliant
- 110-Seat auditorium with stage
- Adult and children maker spaces
- 15 Flexible public meeting rooms
- Two floors, encompassing 33,425 square feet
- Surface parking for 84 cars
- An outdoor terrace
- Space to grow the free programs appreciated by so many
- The community center for our region

The new facility has nearly 3 times the space of the current library. The design has focused much of that added space as gathering and meeting rooms to meet the needs of our community. New space resources available to the public include:

- The auditorium with 110 seats organized over 5 tiers will provide unimpeded visibility to all participants. Accessibility has been a central focus of the design with capabilities to broadcast events within the library, stream via webcast to the community outside of the Library, as well as enable

digital archiving of these events for later reference. For our participants within the library, an elevator will provide ADA access to the upper and lower levels of the auditorium, while a hearing assistance system will provide audio amplification to individuals with hearing loss.

- Both Adult and Children's Makerspaces have been designed and equipped to enable STEAM activities for individuals of all ages. A combination of graphic computers, 3-D printers, wide format printers and scanners, engravers, sewing, and embroidery equipment will enable countless projects and enable individuals to explore their interests, talents, and potential career pursuits.
- An Audio/Visual Studio will be available to the public and support A/V documenting of family history, recording audio blogs, step-by-step programming to create movies, or even semi-professional demo tape recording for aspiring musical artists.

- The library design includes 4 classroom spaces to support our renowned Adult Literacy Program (ALP) that is a model within Chester County for providing ESL, GED, and

citizenship classes to adults within our community. Again, the latest technology has been integrated within these spaces to enable live participation within the library class or at home participation via webcast streaming.

- The remaining meeting spaces that round out our 15 gathering spaces include the Bayard Taylor Room, an outdoor terrace to enable our public to enjoy the fresh air on good weather days, a reading and reflection room, and tutor rooms to supplement our ALP Program and other class activities.

The 2022 construction milestones that have been substantially completed include excavation and underground systems, foundation and retaining



walls, steel structure erection, interior concrete flooring, interior framing and drywall, and mechanical/electrical/plumbing rough-in's. Collectively, this work has provided the already eye-catching landmark on State Street.

Imagine Campaign Sprints to the Finish

The Capital Campaign for the new Kennett Library raised \$4.5 million dollars in 2022 bringing the total amount raised to \$18.5 million, leaving \$3.5 million yet to raise to reach the \$22 million goal.

We are grateful to all our friends and donors who hosted parties, bought tickets, attended private dinners, all while supporting the Capital Campaign and our community.

Highlights from the 2022 campaign activities include two events at Longwood Gardens, the Patti LaBelle fundraising concert and a private dinner for our major donors. There was also a wine tasting dinner hosted by Peter Weygandt at Armisted and a crab feast hosted by Gail and Mark Bowden.

In July we celebrated “topping off” the building with the last steel beam. Hundreds of community members came out to sign a ceremonial beam that was then installed on the building. VIP guests included U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, State Sen. John Kane, State Rep. Craig Williams, County Commissioners Michelle Kichline, Marian Moskowitz and Josh Maxwell, and several local municipal officials.

For information on how you can leave your mark on the new Kennett Library & Resource Center visit the campaign website at www.Campaign4KennettLibrary.org for details on giving levels and naming opportunities.

Total Raised to Date

\$2,477,442 from the eight municipalities we serve

\$2,092,962 Library contribution that includes the sale of the property on Ways Lane and the anticipated revenue from the sale of the current library building

\$2,400,000 RACP Grants received from the State of Pennsylvania

\$750,000 from a Federal Earmark

\$10,779,596 from private philanthropy, including foundations, corporations and individuals.

2022 Capital Campaign Cabinet

Campaign Chairs

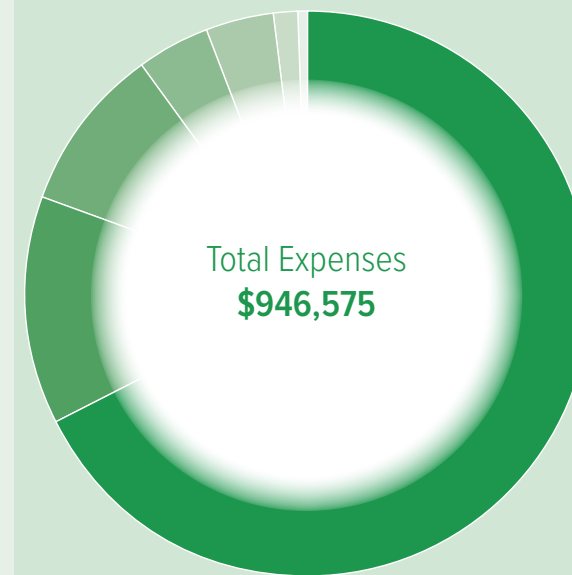
Mandy Cabot
Peter Kjellerup
Founders of Dansko and Silk Grass Farms

Paul Redman
President and CEO of Longwood Gardens

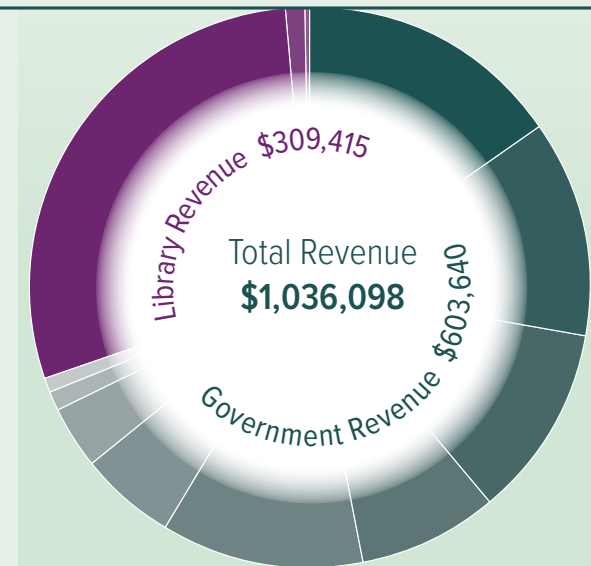
Collis Townsend
Larry Bosley
Barbara Cairns
Robert Fenza
Matt Fetick
Phoebe Fisher
Barbara Forney, *Trustee*
Buzz Hannum, Jr.
Steven Hutton
Ann Hutton
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Year-End Financials

+\$89,522



EXPENSES	2022	2021
Personnel Services	\$641,340	\$591,418
Library Materials	\$121,561	\$124,641
Facilities & Maintenance	\$89,135	\$63,416
Fundraising	\$41,517	\$26,936
Programming	\$36,639	\$17,879
All Other Expenses	\$13,100	\$53,146
Expenses before Capital Outlay	\$943,291	\$876,418
Capital Outlay	\$3,284	\$1,018
Total Expenses	\$946,575	\$877,436



REVENUE	2022	2021
Kennett	\$159,270	\$160,337
East Marlborough	\$128,000	\$131,079
State of PA	\$112,923	\$109,842
New Garden	\$82,350	\$81,290
Chester County	\$119,600	\$113,905
Kennett Square	\$58,820	\$58,820
Pennsbury	\$35,600	\$35,500
Newlin	\$11,000	\$11,000
Pocopson	\$9,000	\$9,000
West Marlborough	\$0	\$1,500
Total Government Revenue	\$603,640	\$712,772
Donations, Events, Grants	\$296,981	\$221,756
Fees, Charges, Misc	\$10,683	\$22,100
Investment Income	\$1,751	\$87
Total Library Revenue	\$309,415	\$243,943
Total Revenue	\$1,036,098	\$956,215



Benefit concert with Patti LaBelle

It was a magical night for all who attended the Patti LaBelle Concert on September 13 in Longwood Gardens to benefit the new Kennett Library & Resource Center. The Godmother of Soul performed all of her hometown favorites in Longwood's beautiful Open Air Theatre.

LaBelle defied her 78 years and performed a 15 song, 90 minute set of unforgettable music. She was accompanied by four back-up singers and a 16-piece orchestra.

The Kennett Library thanks Kennett Square Mayor Matt Fetick in partnership with Longwood Gardens CEO Paul Redman and Longwood Gardens staff for all of their help and support for the concert, which served as a fundraiser for the Imagine Campaign, the capital campaign for the construction of the new Kennett Library & Resource Center.

Development Report

Thank you to the Kennett Library Donors

The Kennett Library is very grateful to our community of donors who supported the library in 2022.

Nearly 1,400 donors showed support in a variety of ways: the Annual Appeal, Capital Campaign, Shop and Dine, the Kennett Arts Festival, Patti LaBelle Concert, the Legacy Society, direct contributions, memorial gifts, in honor of and stock contributions.

We invite you to meet some of the wonderful donors who make the library's work possible. We couldn't do it without all of you!

Sharing a Passion for Libraries

Long before moving to Kennett Square, Pandora Young specifically frequented the Kennett laundromat because of its proximity to the library. "Not many people look forward to doing laundry, but I did! It was time for me to lose myself in the Kennett Library's collection," they said.

As a member of the Graphic Novel Club, Pandora says, "I have enjoyed a wide range of books that I probably wouldn't have picked up on my own, sparking engaging conversations, and friendships within the group."

Pandora is a land stewardship technician at Longwood Gardens and has a passion for ecologically-rooted landscaping. "I had a lot of fun last year helping Laura Florence with the installation of tiny pollinator gardens (AKA "Meadowitos") around town and sharing knowledge of the local plants on seasonal nature walks organized by the library at Anson B Nixon Park," they added.

Pandora supports the library because they believe that public libraries play a vital role in achieving a more equitable society.



Book Recommendations:

Pandora said there are too many great books to pick one favorite, so they gave us five in different categories:

Humanist Masterpiece: The Murderbot Diaries,
by Martha Wells

Graphic Novel: Finder, by Carla Speed McNeil

Wittiest Book of All Time: Pride and Prejudice,
by Jane Austen

Young Adult Book: Snapdragon, by Kat Leyh

Technical Book on Conservation, and Landscaping: Pennsylvania Naturally: A Gardener's Guide to Sustainable Landscaping,
by Geoffrey L. Mehl

Library Lover and Supporter



Eric McKinley has lived in Kennett Square for 5 years and already feels like he is a fixture in the community.

"I love it here and I love the library," he said. People can see him running through town, at the local coffee shops or at the Kennett Library on a Saturday

afternoon teaching chess to kids of all ages.

Eric is truly a renaissance man. He has written three books, was a public defender in Philadelphia, is currently a regulatory advisor at Chatham Financial, and has his Master of Fine Arts from Rosemont College.

He was raised in West Philadelphia, and libraries were pivotal in his childhood. There were three that he remembers distinctly: a local library in his neighborhood, a larger one on 52nd street, and the Logan Square Library. So, when he moved to Kennett the library was

one of the first places he visited.

One Saturday afternoon in September 2022 he was the featured author for the Local Author Series, and he ran the first Chess Club program, which now meets on the third Saturday of each month at 11am.

Eric's three published books are *Blessed Sons*, *Intrusion* (a collection of short stories), and *1991*.



Book Recommendation:

To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee

Library Weekend Warriors



For the McCann family, reading is fundamental, which makes the Kennett Library one of their favorite places in town. They live in the borough and on most weekends, they walk their two children, Ada and Milo, up the street to the library.

"The Kennett Library has been an integral part of our children's

lives since they were born," said Pia McCann, adding that Saturday mornings are often spent at the Library. "I loved reading as a kid. I was one of those kids you would find hiding under a blanket with a flashlight," she said. Her grandmother gave her a set of 50 vintage Nancy Drew books that she loved. She read all of them followed by the Boxcar Children.

She and her husband, Ryan are longtime supporters of the library. She said she can't express how important she thinks a library is for children, especially for those that don't have books in their homes.

The family is looking forward to the new Kennett Library & Resource Center where the kids can have fun in the new children's library and she and her husband can attend lectures and events in the auditorium.



Book Recommendation

from Pia:
Dutch House
by Ann Platchett

Book Recommendation from Ada:

The biography series,
Little People, Big Dreams

Development Report

Her Love of Libraries is a Family Thing



Libraries have been a source of curiosity, motivation, and tranquility for Carolyn Mostyn starting with her first memory of visiting her hometown library in Chicago at about age seven.

When traveling she looks forward to a stop at the local library. Some of her favorites are on Martha's Vineyard, which has six libraries on the island that is only 23 miles long by 9 miles wide.

Carolyn's interest and support of the Kennett Library will always be linked with her sister Susan Mostyn Antos. As a new graduate from Immaculata University, Susan began her career in education as a teacher at Mary D. Lang Elementary School in Kennett Square when it first opened. She had a multi-faceted career path that included being a librarian in the DC Metro area. Susan died too early at the age of 71 in 2019.

"When I read there will be a 110-seat auditorium in the new library, I realized this would be a perfect way to honor my sister and her husband. I love my image of them sitting in the Kennett Library & Resource Center auditorium enjoying

a stimulating Ted-x talk or being inspired by a local artist or author," Carolyn said. She has arranged for two seats to bear their names in the new auditorium.

Carolyn was a Gold Star Volunteer who helped create the Kennett Arts Festival. She said, "It has been a delight to work with everyone that is involved in this community resource. They all share a level of commitment that is wonderfully fulfilling."



Book Recommendation:
The Ride of a Lifetime
by Robert Iger

First Annual Kennett Arts Festival — www.KennettArts.com

In 2022 the Library hosted the First Annual Kennett Arts Festival to benefit the operations of the Library. It was held on October 15 and 16 in the Kennett Square Borough Hall parking lot.

The event showcased 100 local and regional artists in an array of media, including fine painting, wood, jewelry, ceramics, photography and more. Over 2,000 people attended the event that included live music, food trucks and kids' activities.



Up Front

Total Cardholders: 11,781
(up from 11,658)

Door Count: 76,067
(up 26% from 2021)

Reference & Tech Help Questions: 5,242

Wireless/Internet Sessions: 9,173

Circulation Total Items Circulated: 193,738

Of that, 58,515 were Children's Materials and 1,922 were Teen Materials

Inter-Library Loans: 296

Museum Pass Checkouts: 250

Social Media Website Visits: 25,376
unique visitors (up 19,653 from 2021)

Facebook Page Visits: 2,882
(up 9.2% from 2021)

Facebook Page Likes: 323
(up 5.2% from 2021)

New Instagram Followers: 300

Instagram Page Visits: 3,339
(up 53.3% from 2021)

Library Stats

Saving Patrons Money!

ALP Classes: with an average of \$400 per course semester, we saved students **\$301,600**

ALP One-on-One Tutoring: with an average of \$40 per session, we saved students: **\$58,000**

Items Circulated: with an average price of \$20 per item, we saved patrons **\$3,874,760!**

Inter-Library Loans: with an average of \$27 per request, we saved patrons **\$7,992!**

Museum Passes: with an average of \$50, we saved patrons **\$12,500!**

Programs: with an average of \$15 per attendee, we saved program attendees **\$216,150**

Reference and Tech Help: with an average of \$12, we saved patrons **\$62,904!**

Wireless/Internet Sessions: with an average of \$25, we saved patrons **\$229,325!**

Total Savings: \$4,763,231

Top Checkouts

Adult Books

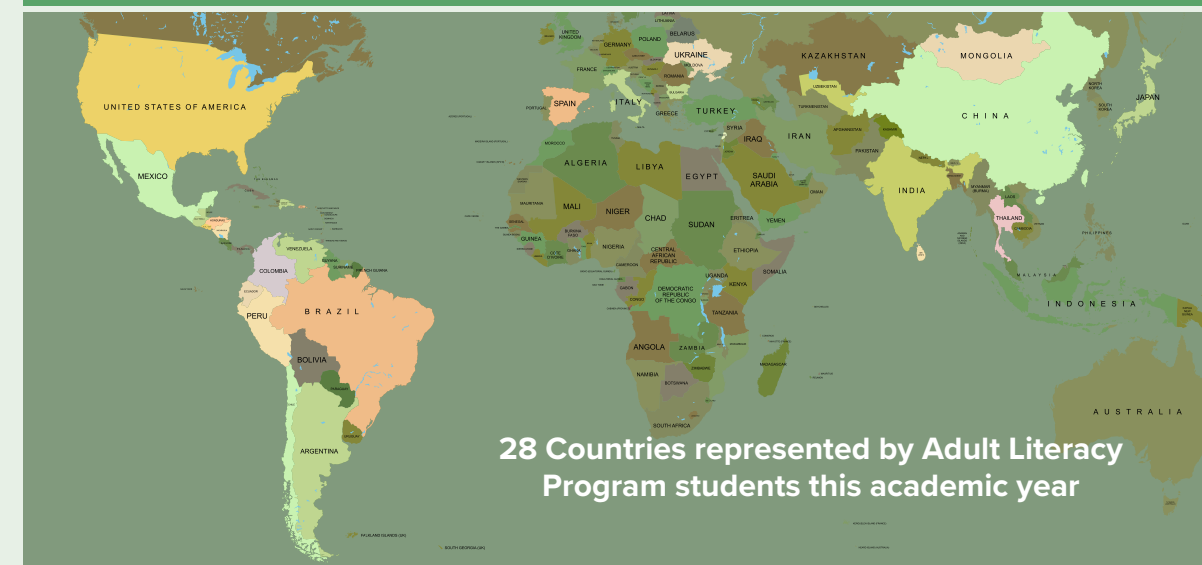
- The Lincoln Highway - Amor Towles
- Apples Never Fall - Liane Moriarty
- The Last Thing He Told Me - Laura Dave

Childrens Books

- Dog Man: Grime and Punishment - Dav Pilkey
- Dog Man: Mothering Heights - Dav Pilkey
- I'm a Frog! - Mo Willems



Imagination Library: Launched in November 2022, we were able to register almost 4,000 children in Chester County!



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Capital Campaign Donors through 11/1/22

Over \$1,000,000

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The Library is on track to welcome over 250,000 visitors a year and offer additional enhanced programs to people of all ages in the new Kennett Library & Resource Center.

What better way to honor this incredible community and the wonderful resources offered

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The Kennett Library Legacy Society has been established to honor those who have considered the Library in their estate or charitable gift plans. Gifts made through your will or estate, and planned gifts can provide significant tax benefits for the donor while helping the Library to have greater impact on the community.

Supporting the work of the library ensures our shared

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For more information about the Legacy Society and other opportunities to give to the library please contact our Development Director, Mary Hutchins, at mhutchins@ccls.org

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