

A publication  
supporting:



# Great Communities Build Great Libraries

MAY 2020



## New Library Highlights

- Spacious first floor adult reading area
- Large, open children's area
- Dedicated teen area
- Reader and study seating spread around the library
- Flexible and various sized rooms for meeting/studying/tutoring
- Enhanced book and media collections
- Laptop and computer plugins around the library
- State of the art audio/visual equipment in all meeting rooms
- A 110-seat auditorium
- Second floor Maker Space

## A Great Team

**The Kennett Library has assembled a tremendous Campaign Cabinet to help build this new library:** Peter Kjellerup and Mandy Cabot, founders of Dansko shoes and Paul Redman of Longwood Gardens, have agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs. Matt Fetick, Bob Norris, Steve and Ann Hutton, Barbara Cairns and Buzz Hannum, Jr., have agreed to represent us in the community. John Baker, Professor Emeritus of West Chester University will organize a "Call for Artists" for proposed art installations. And Tom Swett continues as Chair Emeritus.

*This is an extraordinary team of civic leaders and the Library thanks them for contributing their time and talent!*

Imagine if we would be able use our space today — a Covid-19 Free Zone — how would our new library be used during such a crisis? We suspect we would have standing-room-only lectures and telecasts in the auditorium on the medical implications of Covid-19 and how the Jennersville and Chester County Hospitals are prepared to meet community needs. The classrooms would be filled with people trying to improve their skill sets for when the economy opens up again. The tutorial rooms would be used for coaching lessons or even mock job interviews. There would be a blood drive in the multi-purpose room. And using our 3-D printer, our young patrons would be busy making ventilators in the Maker Space. All of these activities would be in addition to our normal programming, for example offering ESL and citizenship classes, story times and craft lessons.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has altered all levels of our societal interactions, but it is temporary, and we at the Kennett Library are here to help you through this time. The new library being planned at State and Willow Streets will be so much more than a building — it will be a living and breathing community resource!

**Great Communities Build Great Libraries!**

*Collis Townsend*

Collis O. Townsend, Chair  
Capital Campaign Committee

*Jeff Yetter*

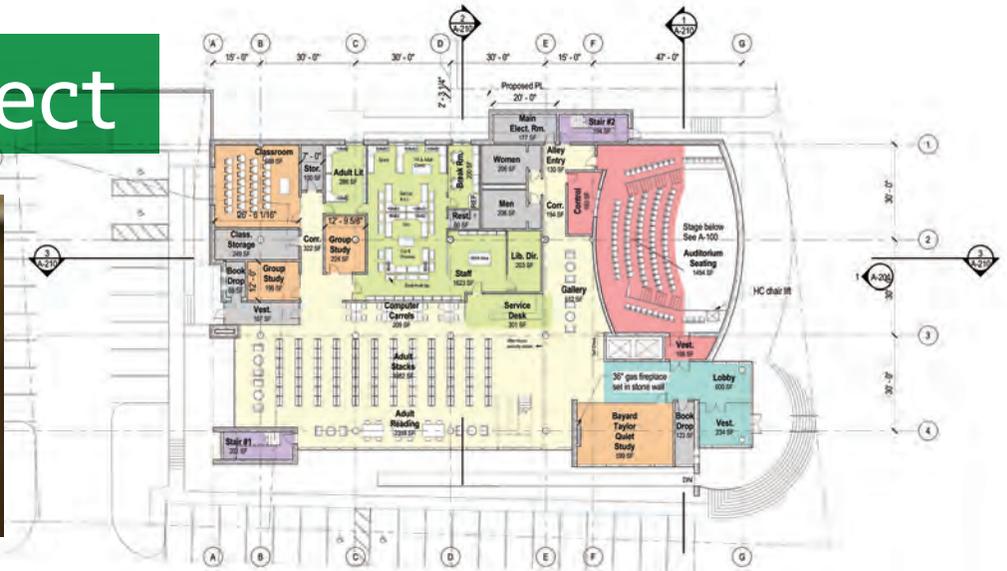
Jeff Yetter  
President, Board of Trustees

# A Great

# Architect



Greg  
Lukmire



**M**

ary Hutchins, Campaign Associate, came to the Library from Historic Kennett Square. Prior to that she was a reporter and then editor of *The Kennett Paper*, so we asked her to interview our architect, Greg Lukmire with Lukmire Associates.

**Mary:** *Tell us a little about yourself.*

**Greg:** I have a bachelor's in architecture from University of Virginia and a master's from Harvard University. In my youth, I worked in Boston for Perry Dean & Stewart, did an internship in Oxford, England and landed in Washington DC as an Associate for Cooper Lecky Partnership. I now work out of Alexandria, VA and purchased the firm which became The Lukmire Partnership in 1989.

**Mary:** *How many libraries have you designed?*

**Greg:** The first library I helped design was in 1980 — Reston Regional Library in Fairfax, VA. Since that time, Lukmire has programed and designed or consulted on about 50 public libraries in the mid-Atlantic region. These libraries have ranged in size from 4,500 square feet to 90,000 square feet. Recently, we added an addition of 150,000 square feet to the George Mason University library.

**Mary:** *What is your number one priority when designing a library?*

**Greg:** It is to create a vibrant community resource that is:

- Multigenerational
- Multicultural
- Center for information
- Flexible to adapt to the needs of the community
- Life-long learning center
- Place of comfort and safety
- Reflection of community values

**Mary:** *What was the overarching concept your team had in mind when designing the Kennett Library?*

**Greg:** That's a tough one because there were public meetings, programmatic and aesthetic issues, urban planning, and financial considerations that went into the design. So, the overarching concepts were to insert a new, exciting, public amenity into downtown Kennett Square, one that will inject new activity, and work in synergy with retail businesses to reinforce Kennett as a destination for residents in the regional service area. The library should serve as both a cultural and economic stimulus to Kennett Square and its surroundings.

**Mary:** *What is most exciting to you personally about this project?*

**Greg:** We at Lukmire are excited about the design because it will be such an impressive milestone for

the community as it recovers from Covid-19. It's beautiful and will be a tremendous boon to Kennett Square for generations to come!

**Mary:** *How do you see libraries changing over the next five years?*

**Greg:** Libraries have evolved and will continue to evolve as the way we receive information evolves. Obviously, the printed word will still be there, and people will continue to read books. However, in addition, libraries are changing to become:

- THE center of public information
  - Places of collaborative learning and interaction
  - A quasi social services center
- People searching for employment
- Educational and information resource for immigrant communities
- Life-long learning centers
- Community meeting places with sophisticated audio/visual capabilities
- More open, flexible spaces to enable them to adapt to changes in community needs
- "Safe place" of choice for a wide range of citizens

**Mary:** *Anything else you would like to add?*

**Greg:** Architecture matters and you're really going to like having this building in your community.

# Great Trustees

## RuthAnn Deveney



In February 2017, I started volunteering at the Kennett Library. I soon learned that shelving is a huge help to the staff because it frees them to assist patrons. Sign me up! Ever since, I have been coming in for an hour every week to tackle packed book carts of returned materials. It's a wonderfully tangible task that makes me feel accomplished and calm. Oh, and it helps the staff! Win-win!

Before I started volunteering, I probably only spent about two minutes per library visit. I put my books on hold online, and then I breezed in and out when I picked them up. It was very convenient, but I never really saw what the library was doing. However, once a week, I had the chance to eavesdrop — I mean, see what goes on at the library. Here's a sampling of what I heard:

- Thoughtful engagement with students of all ages, like science experiments, discussions about graphic novels, and Maker Space projects
- So much learning going on! One-on-one tutoring and ESL classes
- Welcoming groups for anyone who wanted to join, including book clubs, a writing group, poetry club, and board game night

Today's library is much more than books, and I don't just mean technology. Libraries are true gathering places with no barrier to entry. The incredible library staff embodies this philosophy with consistency, creativity, and compassion. They build connections and promote literacy with everyone who steps through the door. The more time I spent in the library, the more I realized its important value in our town, and I was happy to shelve books to enable that work.

During my volunteer hours, I saw the impressive work of the library, as well as the challenging constraints. Running out of tables and space due to demand might be "a good problem to have," but it's still a problem. The Kennett Library serves thousands of patrons in our area, and in order to do so with excellence, we need more space and resources! As a patron, volunteer, and now Trustee, I am so excited to dream alongside the staff about what the new library building can be in our community. When we aspire to cultivate Kennett Square as a place where people can grow, learn, and connect, the library enables all of those good things.

I can't wait to see what's next for the Kennett Library and Kennett Square!

## The Kennett Library in 2019...



- The Kennett Library Adult Literacy Program helped 761 clients through tutoring, ESL classes and office visits. Library tutors helped 15 students earn American citizenship. Also, the program celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2019!
- In 2019, the Kennett Library had 110,545 visitors.
- Kennett Library partnered with Arts Holding Hands and Hearts to place Pop Up Lending Libraries all over town.

## New Library Time Line



## Campaign Details

Square Footage:  
**29,257**  
square feet

Estimated Building Cost:  
**\$15 million**

Estimated Start Date:  
**March 2021**

Estimated  
Completion Date:  
**December 2022**



## more from 2019...

- The Kennett Library offered 1,069 FREE programs, classes and events for all ages including English and Spanish story times.
- The library offered 4,731 hours of one-on-one tutoring.
- There were 10,911 library cardholders.

## At Home Kennett Library offerings during Covid-19

Just because our building is closed it doesn't mean you can't still be getting the most out of your local library! Here are some things you can do with us while sheltering in place.

**Free books!** Hurting for some good old fashioned print books to read? Check out this **NEW SERVICE**: weeded books, free for you to keep, which can be found on our doorstep.

**Pop Corn Flicks** Join us on Thursdays at 7:00PM to discuss classic films with Program Director Michael Kelly. The Library offers links to watch the movies free on YouTube.

**Facebook Storytime** with Mr. John

**Library Book Club** and **Graphic Novel Book Club**, both on Zoom

For more details and links, visit [www.KennettLibrary.org](http://www.KennettLibrary.org).

## Donate

For questions about making a donation or volunteering for the campaign please email **Mary Hutchins, Campaign Associate** at [mary@kennettlibrary.org](mailto:mary@kennettlibrary.org) or go to [campaign4kennettlibrary.org](http://campaign4kennettlibrary.org)

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