

Dennis Melton was passionate about Kennett Square. His creative imprint is evident all over town, both architecturally and as a community leader. Many iconic Kennett landmarks, including the *Anson Nixon Park Pavilion, Philter Coffee, the Country Butcher, and the Chalfonte House* restoration, reflect the commitment to community that informed his architectural vision.

Dennis served as the current Architect of Record for the new Kennett Library & Resource Center. Upon filing the final development plans with the

Borough shortly before his death, he wrote, ***“It is an honor to participate in this important milestone.”***

“In response to Dennis Melton’s love and support of the Kennett Library, it is with respect and great appreciation that we are embarking on a campaign to name the outdoor terrace of the new building the Melton Terrace,” announced Library Board President Jeff Yetter.

Please join us in honoring Dennis and all that he contributed to the Kennett Community.

You can make a donation or a pledge for the Melton Terrace online at campaign4kennettlibrary.org



Drawing by Hannah LeVasseur

Donate

For questions about making a donation or volunteering for the campaign please email **Mary Hutchins, Campaign Associate** at mary@kennettlibrary.org or go to campaign4kennettlibrary.org

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Great Communities Build Great Libraries

JULY 2021

Thank you for your support!

As we emerge from our COVID slumber, there are many things that we look forward to, and many for which we are thankful. We are proud to say that during some of our most challenging times, the Kennett Library continued to serve our community. Kudos to Megan Walters, our Library Director, and her staff for a job well done!

The Campaign for the Kennett Library and Resource Center has also made extraordinary progress. Despite the fact that we were not able to meet personally with donors and friends to make our case for support, we are so pleased to tell you that we have reached the \$12 million mark. This wonderful achievement, thanks to our generous donors and so many community members working on behalf of this important cause, serves as another testament to the importance of this project to our community.

Building on this momentum and incredible support from the community, we are looking forward to exciting times ahead. In the not-too-distant future, you will see this dream of so many years begin to take shape as we break ground and begin construction. Over the coming months, you will be hearing about ways that you can become part of this important and exciting initiative. Stay tuned to the Library’s Facebook page and Instagram for updates!

We are incredibly thankful for all the support we have received from the community! Because of you, we have been able to achieve great things. We invite you to join with us as we move closer to the finish line. Your gift ... your participation ... and your ongoing advocacy and support of the campaign is needed and deeply appreciated.

On behalf of the Board, we want to thank all of our donors, friends and community advocates. The Kennett Library and Resource Center is visionary. It is impactful. And, it is going to change the lives of our children’s children.

More to come . . .

Collis

Collis O. Townsend
Campaign Chair

Jeff Yetter

Jeff Yetter
Board President



A publication supporting:



The Campaign for the **new** Kennett Library



Supporting Children Through the New Library

Michael and Nancy Pia are life-long residents of Chester County, a community they love and support. Through their charitable foundation, Michael and Nancy are well-known for their philanthropy and are continuing that tradition by sponsoring the Children’s Maker space in the new Kennett Library. “We direct our giving to programs and projects that are sustainable and have a positive impact on the lives of children. Our grant to the new Library is consistent with that mission,” Nancy said.

“Maker spaces are a great way for children to learn and explore. They help develop critical thinking skills, encourage imagination, and even boost self-confidence,” Nancy added.

“This new Library will be a tremendous asset to our community. It will offer traditional and innovative learning experiences for all children in southern Chester County,” Mike said.

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216 E. State Street
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Imagine a Place . . . *Where the community can gather to participate in educational and informative programs, to share ideas, and work together to build a strong and vibrant community.*

Where area nonprofit organizations and businesses can take advantage of the meeting space, technology, and resources to support services which strengthen our community today and foster an extraordinary tomorrow.

Included below are a few of the area nonprofit organizations that are looking forward to partnering with the Library to take advantage of the new building and the amenities it will offer. Working together, we can all advance our individual missions, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all who call the Kennett community home.



La Comunidad Hispana (LCH) Health & Community Services enthusiastically supports the proposal for a new, centrally located library in Kennett Square. "This new building is a way to increase community access to information and knowledge while providing a cultural gathering place for our diverse population. We look forward to having the ability to host classes, staff meetings and retreats and fundraising events in the new Kennett Library & Resource Center. We see the library as an essential asset in our community, and simpatico with our mission. The library brings wide-ranging educational and entertaining programs to multi-generational audiences throughout the year. It is a place that is safe and inclusive of all people in our community. LCH is looking forward to supporting our new library and collaborating in the new building on programs that benefit the hundreds of people that come to LCH for services." -Margarita Garay-Zarco



Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) is a nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to providing life-sustaining services of food and emergency assistance for over 66 years. Their mission is strengthening the community in Southern Chester County through food, housing and crisis services to create a community without poverty where everyone

can live well. "We inform our participants of the many services and vast resources offered by the library. The library brings wide-ranging educational and entertaining programs to multi-generational audiences throughout the year. It is a place that is safe and inclusive of all people in our community. In a library-loving town like ours, where people care about books, literacy and innovation, this building will offer us a place to serve our dynamic community. KACS is looking forward to supporting our new library and collaborating in the new building on programs that benefit the hundreds of people that come to KACS for services." -Leah Reynolds

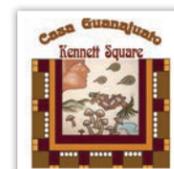


The Garage Community & Youth Center provides youth development programs for middle and high school students in the southern Chester County community. "Our Kennett Square location is just blocks away from the current Kennett Library and new library site, and we are eagerly awaiting their new space! All of us at the Garage are looking forward to a 21st Century Library that will be able to provide more and enhanced programming to the Kennett Community, focusing especially on our community members who struggle economically and socially. This new Kennett Library & Resource Center provides the structure, space, and infrastructure needed now and for the

future. It will not only enhance the traditional role of a Library, but it will serve as a gathering place, a hub for community meetings and activities, and will be a vital, welcoming resource to all." -Kristin Proto



Mighty Writers is a nonprofit organization that teaches children to think clearly and write with clarity. It has Mighty Writers programs in nine locations in the city of Philadelphia, Camden N.J. and one in West Grove. "In addition to teaching language English/Spanish to children in the Avon Grove School District, we also provide lunches, groceries, diapers, formula, books and clothes to farmworker families. Overall, we saw 3,500 kids a year before the pandemic; currently, we have several afterschool programs in Avon Grove and Oxford School Districts. Additionally, we are in the process of working with New Garden Elementary School. We would love to have the opportunity to offer more services to more children in the new Kennett Library." -Sara Dickens-Trillo



Casa Guanajuato is a local nonprofit whose mission is to share our Hispanic culture, art and traditions with our younger generations and with the wider community. "Our events center on the arts and are a way to connect to our community and break down barriers. The Kennett Library has held English as a Second

Language classes for many years, and volunteers from the community have taught hundreds of new residents English. These classes have been crucial to the integration of these newly arrived families; friendships have been forged and barriers broken. Hispanic children and families have been coming to the Kennett Library for years and a new Kennett Library & Resource Center will be able to offer so much more to our families. Casa Guanajuato, as well as other organizations, will be able to partner with the Kennett Library to host events, workshops and other programs. Students and adults alike will have a better place to research, complete projects, and find technical support, if needed." -Kathleen Snyder



The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) ensures the perpetual preservation and stewardship of open space, natural resources, historic sites and working agricultural lands throughout southern Chester County. "TLC has a history of partnering with the Library on programming and the increased amount of meeting space options will be a great help as we look forward to new programs in a post-pandemic world. We especially look forward to continuing our partnership on Longwood Community Read programming to highlight the ability books have to connect readers to nature. Being able to hold programming within the Borough will allow us to continue our outreach to the underserved who are often unable to get to our office and nature center at our Chandler Mill Nature Preserve. Additionally, TLC looks forward to continuing our Bird Town collaboration with Kennett Township during which we co-hosted a popular standing room only program at the current Library. We can't wait to host such popular programs in the new 110-seat auditorium!" -Abbie Kessler

Supporting Libraries is a Family Tradition



Ann and Steven Hutton are serving on the Library's Capital Campaign Cabinet and are generously donating their time and resources to this project. Together, with the Hutton Family HELP Fund, they have supported the Library and the Adult Literacy Program over the years and recently gave a major gift to the Capital Campaign.

The Huttons are particularly excited that the new facility will be both a first-class, modern library, in the traditional sense, and a much-needed resource center for the community. There will be abundant space for learning and for gathering,

welcoming the individual as well as non-profit organizations and other groups in need of a place to meet.

Ann and Steven's commitment to the Kennett Library and Resource Center follows a history of family ties to local library systems. Steven's grandmother, Laura Hutton, for decades, was one of the volunteer leaders of the West Grove library, and his mother Anne was on the board of the Chester County Library, at one point serving as its chair. The Huttons are pleased to be the third generation to carry on this important support of libraries in Chester County.

Ann said, "The new Library will have dedicated office space, classrooms and study areas for ALP instead of tutors meeting with students under the stairs as they do in the current library. We're so pleased this program, and those of other non-profits in the community, will now have a facility that will enable it to build on that significance."

"And," said Steven, "we're also so pleased to continue our family's commitment to libraries in Chester County, especially Southern Chester County."

Please Join Us



The Kennett Library will be taking a major step in the decades long journey of building a new Kennett Library on **Thursday, August 12.**

The Library Board of Trustees will host a formal groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new building at the corner of **State & Willow streets.**

President of the Trustees Jeff Yetter said, *"We want to start by saying, it's about time and thank you for your patience. For over 20 years community members have planned, worked and dreamt about a new regional library and now in 2021 that dream will become a reality."*

The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. as local dignitaries celebrate with us as we mark this major milestone for the community

Everyone is welcome to attend.