



The Friendly Times

Intergenerational Relationships Keep a Town Vibrant



Local author Joan Holliday with her grandson Nicky.

In writing the book, "The Story of Kennett — Shaping Our Future One Child at a Time" Bob George and I told stories of the many after-school programs. We attributed some of the success to volunteerism. One of the side benefits of volunteering was the

interaction between different generations. Teens are volunteering with middle school students; adults are tutoring students in areas they have the expertise and senior citizens are signing up to be mentors and readers in preschools.

Seeing the value of intergenerational relationships, the Kennett InterGen Coalition was born in 2008. It advocated for the active participation of all age groups in community life. The group identified the core process for each cycle of life and promoted the unique value each brought to the whole.

Seniors help make life wise. Adults help make life fruitful. Teens help make life real. Children help make life whole. The premise is that a community needs the expression of these four cycles of life to stay current and vibrant.

One concern that arose was the realization that seniors were moving out of the town of Kennett Square to retirement homes. While this was understandable when

aging presented the need for supportive services, the fact was that the community still wanted our seniors to participate in the broader community and to share their wisdom from the long lives they've lived.

Sad to say, our many efforts to support Lou Wonderly in finding a location for affordable senior housing in Kennett Square, such as Luther House in Jennersville never worked out. It wasn't for a loss of passion, hard work and advocacy. Today, we have more senior apartments close to the Kennett Area Senior Center yet still need more.

At that time, Dennis Melton, a respected architect in town developed a model for "Comfortable, Purposeful, Independent Living." As an architect, he shared ideas of how a current Kennett home could be set up for a senior that was safe and manageable. He suggested that if someone is building a home during their earlier years, they might consider incorporating these ideas into their home plan to address the future. Thoughtful home construction will help a senior "age in place."

Dennis Melton, architect; Erin Kershaw, Brandywine Elder Care Management, LLC and Joan Holliday, public health nurse and community organizer went on the road presenting a wholistic model that would help keep seniors in town. From learning about how to create a safe home, to understanding the home care services that were available and identifying the many community activities which seniors could still participate were presented. The model was advocated as an alternative to believing that retirement communities were the only answer.

Continued on page 2

Signs
of
Spring!



Planting pansies



Fresh spring blooms



Ed is helping get us ready for our garden!

All Around Friends Home and Linden Hall



This past weekend we had our Bunny Hop Social! We also had the honor of enjoying homemade empanadas that Betty made. We love it when our residents share their recipes with us!



Congratulations to Carol McHugh, the winner of Friends Home Wii Golf Master's Tournament!



Enjoyed a beautiful afternoon yesterday at Anson B Nixon Park. We are so fortunate to have this in our little borough of Kennett Square!



We love it when the weather invites us outside for Education Hour!



Janet shared her baking skills with us last week! She made her famous chocolate chip cookies! We love friends that bake and share!!

Intergenerational Relationships - Continued from page 1

If a senior couldn't reside in town, the Kennett InterGen Coalition learned there were ways to bring the community to the retirement communities and ways to bring seniors to town. Kendal-Crossland's Communities took the lead and brought English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to Kendal and students met on the senior campus and were "bridging" generations. Friends Home on State Street invited and still invites community groups to join with the residents in activities.

The Kennett Community Coffee Klatch, which is alive and well meets every Thursday at The Market at Liberty Place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome! This was started as a way to provide a community space to commune with different generations.

Today, the Kennett Area Senior Center continues to promote its site within the Kennett borough as a community gathering place. They welcome different age groups to their activities, while they provide a safe and stimulating place for seniors who live in the area. On Friday, April 29, they will host a Senior Prom with Kennett high school students. This was an idea that came out of the advocacy for more intergenerational experiences years ago and it is now being revived.

The new Kennett library has spaces for all age groups from young children, to teens, adults, and seniors. Because of this careful planning, it is destined to become an active community communing place that area residents will be drawn to because of the diverse learning opportunities and exposure to the whole community.

Studies have shown that for seniors, communing with different generations helps keep the mind sharp, the body active and the heart engaged. As for the younger generation; perspective, affirmation and words of wisdom are all fruits of spending time with an elder. Many seniors have grandchildren as part of their families. This presents a golden opportunity to be intentional about creating experiences and dialogues that enrich both sides.

From our Kennett history, we have learned the importance of intergenerational relationships keeping the vibrancy of our town. We have seen creative ways for bringing this about. Now the challenge is for every organization to get on board and participate in this win-win experience.

This article was reprinted with the kind permission of Joan Holliday and the Daily Local News. "The Story of Kennett – Shaping our Future One Child at a Time" is Joan Holliday and Bob George's book on Kennett and may be purchased on Amazon and at the Mushroom Cap. You may contact Joan at: dochollisv@aol.com

Easter Egg Hunt Fun



Poetry Corner - In May

By Alice Baker

*The rain that's falling soft and slow
Has set the tulip bed aglow,
A flaming mass of color.
And oh, the yellow and the red
Against the blackness of the bed—
The garden seems enchanted.*

*And how the tiny rose leaves shine,
So new and wet, and on the vine
A tiny yellow warbler.
And in my heart I bend my knee
To Him who made such things to be—
So exquisite and tender.*

Happy Birthday

May 14 - Carol McHugh

May 17 - Helen Curran

May 26 - Joanne Patton

Word Search



Word Search List

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Acres | Festival |
| Flowers | Gazebo |
| Grounds | Museum |
| Poinsettias | Swamps |
| Tourist | Tropical |
| Waterfowl | Florida |
| Buttterflies | Ginger |
| Gardens | Old |
| Mums | Topiaries |
| Roses | Tulips |
| Trees | |

May Highlights



May 1 is May Day

May Day marks the halfway point between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. In the Northern Hemisphere, particularly in Europe, it is a celebration to welcome summer. Dancing around a Maypole and wearing crowns of flowers are two picturesque traditions associated with the celebration.

May 14 is Mother's Day

Celebrations honoring mothers and motherhood have been celebrated in various ways worldwide for Centuries. The American version of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1907, when Anna Jarvis held the first Mother's Day service of worship at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War. She and another peace activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe had been urging for the creation of a "Mother's Day For Peace." As a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers. Ironically, Anna Jarvis ended up boycotting Mother's Day because she felt it had become too commercialized.

May 29 is Memorial Day

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day[1]) is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Mary Ann Williams is credited with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers - Union and Confederate" with flowers. Today, many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

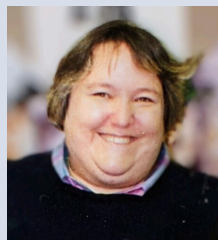
In Memorium

Dr. John Abramson who lived in the past on Brintons Bridge Road and recently in the Friends home in Kennett Square sadly passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2023. He was 80 years old. He is survived by his sister, Carol Meshon and nephew Aaron Meshon. He was a talented Diagnostician and had a great sense of humor. John loved being at the beach and watching his favorite team, the Eagles, win and lose. His family and friends will miss him, and hope he has found peace.



Orrel Mae "Petey" Funk, age 98, passed away peacefully in her home in Linden Hall at Friends Home in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by her high school sweetheart and husband of 68 years, W. Harley Funk. She is survived by her three children: Allison Funk of Edwardsville, Illinois; David Funk (Barbara) of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania; and Jeffrey Funk (Betsy) of Bigfork, Montana; as well as her six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her three siblings, Rolland Peet, Brainard Peet, and Marian Peet Kelleher.

Petey was born in Milford, Delaware in 1924, but spent most of her life in Wilmington, Delaware. There she held various jobs in state government and served on many educational and community related committees. In both her professional and personal relationships she will be remembered as a remarkably warm and compassionate person, generous in every way. Although Petey outlived most of her lifelong friends, she was always making new friends and will be dearly missed by those fortunate enough to have known her.



Grace Ann Walton, 66 years, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, April 8, 2023. She was born at the Chester County Hospital, West Chester on January 31, 1957. She was predeceased by her parents, Grace Marie Rineer Walton and Howard J. Walton II. Grace Ann grew up on the family farm, Green Acres, in Kennett Square. She graduated from Kennett High School in the class of 1975 and worked as a certified nursing assistant at the Chester County Hospital for many years.

Grace Ann loved traveling, reading, watching Jeopardy and playing games. Her travels included trips to Bermuda, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico and many places in the United States. She especially enjoyed spending time at the family's home in Stone Harbor, New Jersey.

She is survived by her brother, Gary Michener Walton; her sister, Jennifer Lee Walton Streich and husband, Jonathan; all of Denver, North Carolina. She also leaves behind a nephew, Matthew Karl Streich and wife, Meg of Corpus Christi, Texas; and a niece, Rebecca Ella (Streich) Stolorena and her husband, Michael of Denver, North Carolina. She was very proud of her niece and nephew, and the great nieces and nephews.



Victor Leto passed away on Monday, April 24. We will post his obituary in the next issue of The Friendly Times