



London Grove Monthly Meeting Christmas 2013



Christmas Chorus

Our Chorus is planning to sing at the morning program on Dec. 22. We hope lots of you will join us. Rehearsals are scheduled for Dec. 8 and 15, following the First Day School program.

Christmas Newsletter – 300th Anniversary Committee



In celebration of the 300th Anniversary of London Grove Friends Meeting, the 300th Anniversary Committee is planning for 2014. Our major focus has been the development of a book reflecting how London Grove has contributed to the local community and an annual celebration marked by monthly public programs for the Meeting, our friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing Friends both familiar and new to us, from near and far throughout the year.

The events are listed below— a mix of speakers, music performances and an anniversary day – October 18, 2014. Please check our website for times and information – www.londongrovefriends.org

- 1 / 25 – Arthur Larabee, PYM General Secretary, The Future of Quakerism
- 2 / 8 (2/22, snow date) - Quaker quilts - Ellen Endslow, curator, CCHS
- 3 / 29 – Thomas Pandolfi, pianist – with the Hadley Foundation
- 4 / 27– Scott Wade – the London Grove Oak and Champion trees
- 5 / 10- Plant Sale
- 6 / 14 – Quaker Architecture – Meeting Houses – Seth Hinshaw, architectural historian
- 7 / 19 and 20 – Western Quarter Meetinghouse visits
- 8 – to be determined
- 9 / 21 – Native Americans in Southern Chester County, Adrien Martinez
- 10 / 18 – Happy Anniversary ! – 1:00 to 5:00 pm Mark this date!!!
 - Graveyard tours – Charlie Brosius – 1:00 and 3:00
 - Exhibits in the Meeting House
 - Continuous video running: Faces of London Grove – Drew Curry
 - Chris Densmore – 2:00 - London Grove Quakers and their Peace Testimony in the American Revolution
 - 4:00 - London Grove Quakers Confront Slavery
- DINNER** – 4:30 to 7:30 – tickets required
- 11 / 8 - Karen Marshall – Quakers and the early development of Chester County – the mark they left on the landscape
- 12 / 6 – Gillian Grassie – Celtic harp

Sandy Reber

Worship and Ministry

The London Grove Worship and Ministry Committee is alive and well! Although we are sorry to have lost some longtime members of our committee this past year, we also have new members who bring fresh energy and perspectives to our circle. As we consider what our desires are as a committee, we realize that we want to deepen our worship and our spiritual journeys. There is a desire to help each other recognize our gifts, and to somehow encourage each of us to open our hearts, to extend our hearts to each other. This intention brings hope and the possibility of healing differences.

We decided to host a day for people from London Grove and throughout Western Quarter to gather and practice and learn spiritual skills that could deepen our worship, as well as our connections to the Divine and to each other. Twenty-four people came on October 26, and with the help of facilitators, Connie Lezenby and Ruth Kinsey from Gwynedd Meeting, we shared our spiritual practices in a large group, then broke up into small groups, taking turns being listeners for each other and being listened to. We ate our lunch in Silence - quite a different experience! At the end of the day, there was a sense of connectedness, a lightness, a joyfulness. It is the Worship & Ministry Committee's intention to carry the experience forward through the formation of small spiritual nurture groups, to be formed in early 2014.

We are also sponsoring an evening of food, fellowship, and music on Saturday, December 7.

The Worship and Ministry Committee sends warm wishes to the whole London Grove Community - near and far, and many Blessings to everyone for a 2014 filled with much Peace, Love, and Light.

Ginny Green

Religious Education

This year creative members of the committee brought two new programs to Children's RE: In the spring Heather Sowers introduced and publicized "Peace Kids," and engaged Friends with special gifts to share those with the children. This fall Greta Rech has been offering "Yoga Calm" once a month. Our regular teachers are sharing Friends' Testimonies with classes for first-to-third grades. Fourth-to-sixth grade First Day Schoolers are learning about other churches' traditions as they relate to Quakerism.

Hoping to increase our teacher corps, we have been interacting with other monthly meetings' Religious Education programs. Last month several adults and children from First Day School enjoyed a "field trip" to Centre Meeting, to see a new "Faith and Play" story about Elizabeth Fry's work among women inmates at London's Newgate Prison. To broaden our teaching resources, we hope some London Grove Friends will attend a training in "Faith & Play" storytelling being planned through Western Quarterly Meeting.

This fall we decided to continue our Traditional Christmas programming during the month of December: Ornament making, decorating the Social Room and morning and evening programs on the First Day before 12/25. Recruitment for the cast and crew of the nativity pageant is on-going.

Adult Religious Education is enriched by regular Bible Study, led by Donald LaBranche; and a new monthly Quaker Studies program, for which Peggy Jones is enlisting other Friends to research and present selected historical events and the life and work of early Friends. We offer other meeting committees the opportunity to plan and present topics they choose during second hour. And we occasionally offer informal "Coffeehouse" sharing and discussion around tables in the Social Room.

Committee members Jim Brofee, Karen Conlan, Susanna Davison, Ginny Green, Mariah Matos-McIntosh, Leona Provinski, Greta Rech, Lori Ryan and Wyatt Thompson wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Susanna Davison

Clerk's Greetings

A little less than 12 years ago, I decided to follow my professional calling and move to Somerset County, Maryland. My husband not only agreed but was very supportive. The decision was not an easy one; it meant giving up our home of 30 plus years and leaving the closer proximity of our children and grandchildren. It meant leaving London Grove Friends.

When we began to think about retirement, we found ourselves back at London Grove's doorway one First Day morning. I knew we were "home." That was three years ago. Today I find myself serving as your clerk, honored by the responsibility, supported by the strength and love of the Meeting, and so grateful to be welcomed home.

Holiday seasons always speak of home, love, and family marking a time to give pause and realize the gifts that surround us. It takes many hands to make a house a home. I often stand in awe of the smooth and loving flow of our committees' caring for our London Grove home, spiritually and physically. Our Meeting stands as a sturdy and graceful structure that we cherish. (Thank you Property Committee; you maintain our home keeping it lovely and safe.) Each First Day, worship swells in our Meeting room and when we engage as adults and children in our continuing First Day School search for truth. (Thank you Worship and Ministry, Religious Education, and Library Committees; you lovingly shepherd our worship and tend to our spiritual wellbeing and growth.) Though miles and time separate us, we are kept informed of one another's struggles, passions, joys and efforts. (Thank you Care and Membership, Outreach, and In Reach Committees; it is the connections and love between and among us that sustains our Meeting.) We can confidently trust our Meeting family to nurture our social consciousness with programs, announcements, and presence. (Thank you Peace and Social Justice Committee; you open our minds and nurture our leadings with your commitment and perseverance.) Throughout the year our London Grove home hosts family and guests educating their children, witnessing marriages, and celebrating the lives of Friends' passings. (Thank you Kindergarten, Memorial, and Hospitality Committees; you are the feet on our prayers and the face of Friends to others.)

As we close this year with our traditional Christmas preparations and celebrations in worship, in fellowship, and intergenerational sharing of the nativity story, we are preparing to enter a very special year of celebration: our 300th Anniversary Year with many opportunities to celebrate our Quaker heritage and future. The year of 2014 promises fellowship, outreach, remembrances, learning, and new connections as we begin the next 300 years!

Do know that our London Grove doors and hearts are lovingly open to all, welcoming each person home.

In joy,
Karen-Lee Brofee, Clerk

Peace and Social Justice

The committee met monthly in 2013 to discuss issues of peace and social justice and to support activities and initiatives inspired by related leadings.

We coordinated the Helen Corson Awards and issued checks in the amount of \$300 each to students in each of the six local school districts.

The Modern Slavery initiative has "grown up" to be a group in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, named the End Modern Slavery Working Group. Working with other faith groups, the broader group has developed victim support packages and will be having a training workshop.

The Peace Vigil continues to meet in the center of Kennett Square every Friday afternoon.

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Contributions from the Alice Pennock Social Services Awards went to Habitat to Humanity, The Garage, and the Kennett Food Cupboard.

We hosted the annual Simple Meal. Contributions were collected for UNICEF and the AFSC in the amount of \$299. The committee matched contributions at half, bringing the total to \$448.

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) provided workshops in the Philadelphia school system where violence was rampant, resulting in a dramatic decrease in violence in those schools. Some of the elements of AVP have been integrated into teacher trainings. There was an article in the Atlantic Monthly reporting on this. David Watkins was one of the AVP facilitators. Also, David reports AVP may be able to go back into Chester State Correctional Institution (state prison at Chester, PA) soon. Please let David know if you would like to learn more about peaceful living by participating in a Basic workshop, or perhaps practice to be a facilitator.

The committee has become much more involved with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

David Zarembka, from The African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams, came to LGFMM and gave a very moving presentation in November about collective healing from violence. London Grove Library Committee has ordered a book, [A Peace of Africa: Reflections on Life in the Great Lakes Region](#) (published 2011).

As the stories in Pennsylvania and Africa illustrate, each of us can become open to the gift of Love, and every day it is possible to keep growing into healing and peace. May peace be with you.

Patrick Chase

Community Outreach

We thank each of the London Grove committees and its members who partnered with the Community Outreach Committee to present 7-8 interesting Forum programs this year.

The many events planned for the 300th Anniversary will be the focus of our work in 2014. This creates the opportunity to update many of our technical capabilities in an effort to be as open and accessible as possible to members beyond our meeting community. So look for new and improved website and communications methods coming your way soon.

While we use many different forms of media and communication to reach out to non-meeting members the most effective way to get new people involved is for each member to reach out and personally invite an interested party to experience some aspect of our meeting.

Please look at the array of events that are planned for next year. Think about whom you know who might enjoy and benefit from attending one of them – and reach out to them personally to join you. May the spirit of this season of Light be with you and yours.

Claire Birney

Library

This last year has been a struggle with our small committee. Thankfully we now have two more members and up to 6 to work on keeping the Library current and a good standard.

Our big news is that Nic Arnold, a grandson of the meeting, is planning to *build a touch screen computer* for the Library and any other committees interested in using *our wireless system*. Yes, we are at last becoming modern and more attractive to the younger generations coming (continued next page)

up in this meeting. Our main collection of over 1200 books is next to the front entrance to the meeting room and open to any age reader.

We have a smaller collection back in the kindergarten area. This group is for our little members and for our older members (**which we are about to separate into a more prominent Young Adults section**). We will arrange them to be separate and much more visible to our TEENS and other more advanced readers.

There are many books to be sorted through and catalogued, that have been left in the library, to be dealt with soon. We ask that anyone leaving books in the library for consideration should put their name on the box or bag. That way we can thank and reference any books accepted. We also would like to hear your ideas of new books to add to the library. Thanks to our committee, and enjoy our Christmas festivities in London Grove and with your families and friends.

June Yeatman, with much help from Denis Newbold

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten has had a successful first half of the school year. The classrooms are full of happiness and joy! Teachers Kate Perkins and Deni-Lyn Lane are working well together, along with long-term Assistants Cindy Patton and Lori Ruggieri.

There are 31 children in the program this year. They are a friendly, social group – which you experience in person at Kindergarten Meeting for Worship. There have even been instances of students sharing their sweet and loving thoughts during Meeting for Worship. All are welcome, Thursday mornings, 11:30.

Last year the Committee began to make changes to Kindergarten operations and Committee oversight to ensure the Kindergarten continues to thrive. These changes address financial sustainability, student recruitment, Committee efficiency and effectiveness, maintenance of classrooms and playground, and staff development.

We encourage Meeting members and attenders to seek a comfortable connection with the Kindergarten. Please contact our head-of-school, Deni-Lyn Lane, if you have a talent or lesson to share with the Kindergarten. All are welcome to the Kindergarten Christmas Program: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Property

The Property Committee wishes the London Grove Friends community holiday greetings. We support the spiritual and social life of London Grove Friends by enabling the active use of its buildings and grounds by their good maintenance. We have a beautiful, historic meetinghouse and grounds which enable our ministry to the meeting members and attenders and to the greater community. The London Grove Meetinghouse provides for our worship as a spiritual community, as well as a place for marriages, memorial services, family reunions, recitals and public forums. This past year, the Keeper of the Calendar reports that our Meetinghouse had scheduled 428 events involving 182 days of school, 96 committee meetings, 80 community events, and 70 meetings for worship. Added to these numbers are the hundreds of community people that come to our annual plant sale held on the meeting grounds.

During this past year our work has had three principal areas of focus: preparing the meeting facilities to be part of the Meeting's 300th anniversary celebration in 2014; supporting the needs of the London Grove Kindergarten program's use of the facilities; and providing the constant maintenance that a building intensively used requires. The work of the Property Committee is well served by an active group of dedicated members and attenders.

The Meeting supports the Property Committee with about a third of its annual budget to do this work. These resources cover the caretaker's salary, fuel and furnace maintenance, lawn care, snow removal, taxes, trash removal, tree care and facility repair and improvement. It is the latter area which requires the committee's greatest attention. We are custodians of wonderful historic stone buildings, which are approaching 200 years in age.

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The major projects undertaken this year have been the repaving of the driveway, the replacement of floor joists in the half day kindergarten room, tree trimming and removal, new upper front gutters and downspouts, new smoke detectors, a new well pump and the replacement of the front storm doors. Our major focus this coming year will be to complete window and masonry repairs to the caretaker's house to complete work started in a preceding year.

We invite all members and attenders who are distant from the area to come for a visit to this beautiful place.

Mark Myers

Memorials

Holiday greetings from the Memorial Committee. We as a committee are responsible for the care and oversight of Memorial Meetings for Worship, offering assistance to London Grove Meeting members and regular attenders in planning the details and carrying out the service and, if requested, helping with a reception afterwards.

So far this year the Memorial Committee has had under their care the following:

On November 24th 2012, a memorial service under the care of the Meeting was held for lifetime Meeting member Artie Yeatman, husband of Meeting member June Yeatman and brother of Meeting members Betsy Walker, Bobby Yeatman, and Jimmy Yeatman.

On April 27th 2013, we had a memorial service for Meeting member Mary Larkin Dugan. Mary's sons provided all of Mary's family favorites for the reception that followed in the social room. Barnard cake, shoo-fly pie and coffee ice cream.

On October 3rd 2013, there was a memorial service for Meeting member Judith Paschall Montague. Her mother Dorothy Paschall and brother Edwin Paschall are also members. A reception followed in the social room.

On October 4th 2013, Meeting member Harold Miller died at his home at Crosslands. His memorial service was held October 12th with a reception that followed in the social room.

On January 12th 2013, the committee held a memorial service for Abigail "Abbie" Wylie, wife of William Wylie. Abbie and Bill were active London Grove parents when their children were enrolled in London Grove Kindergarten. Abbie and Bill were attenders for many years.

The Memorial Committee members are Bill and Grace Pfeifer, Marjorie Samero, Byron Thompson, Elinor Thomforde, Pat Mooberry, Denis Newbold, Eileen Hickman, John and Leona Provinski and Louise Price. Committee member Anna Myers' term has ended, and the committee wants to thank her for all the time she spent answering questions and taking phone calls to help guide us along the way. Anna is fountain of knowledge that we depended on. The Memorial Committee members are a great group to work with, and they come together, sometimes with short notice, to perform their duties.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who make the wonderful cookies that we serve at the receptions. The families are always so thankful for them. Also, a thank you to those who offer to stay and help put Kindergarten playthings back into the social room as this is a huge job.

We appreciate the portable microphone that was donated by June Yeatman in memory of her husband Artie. It has proven to be very helpful.

Pat Mooberry and Grace Pfeifer

Care and Membership

The members of the Care and Membership Committee send our love and hope for the well being of the community of London Grove in this Christmas season - be you near or far. Our committee is looking forward to hosting a couple of soup luncheons this winter in our continuing quest to find ways and places for Friends to come together in fellowship. On January 19 we will be assisting with the luncheon that London Grove will provide in its role as host for Western Quarterly Meeting. In addition, we will host soup luncheons after First Day School on February 16 and March 16.

In education the winter months have traditionally been referred to as optimal learning time. For the Meeting, similarly, the winter is a time that lends itself to quiet and reflection and anticipation of the warmer days ahead when we can get outside and dig in the dirt again. 2014 promises to be a particularly exciting year for all of us in that we will be celebrating together the 300th anniversary of this meeting. In closing our holiday greeting, we remind Friends to please share with this committee, needs or concerns that one has or observes within our community, so that we can do best what we are charged to do in service to the Meeting.

Jill Benjamin

Nominating

The work of our meeting, both spiritual and worldly, is done by committees. With hearts full of the gratitude and appreciation that go with the Season, we are especially grateful to all of you who give of your time and talent to serve on committees. We are pleased to report that all committees are fully staffed and functioning as intended. Whatever the issues facing us, we have an abundance of energy and intelligence to deal with them. Nominating Committee wishes everyone a joyous holiday and prosperous new year.

Sam Cypressi, Clerk

Meeting Inreach

The coming of Christmas reminds us of the warm feelings we have toward all of you and each other. Our committee produces the monthly *London Grove Bulletin* and the Christmas newsletter. This year we have a change of tradition for the Christmas newsletter. If we have an email address for you, you will receive this newsletter by a link in an email link to the newsletter on the web. You can read it on line or print it for saving. Only if we do not have an email address for you will we create a label for a printed copy. This should make it easier for those people to find theirs, and, if they don't, much fewer to mail.

We welcome all of you to write articles for the *London Grove Bulletin*.

Our committee also prepares the child care calendar for volunteers who assist in the Children's First Day School and those who care for children during Meetings for Worship for Business and the Adult First Day School.

Barbara Draper and Gail Newbold proofread and make excellent suggestions for *The Bulletin* and the Christmas newsletter. We appreciate them beyond words and would like them to know that from this article.

Marianne Whitlock, Carolyn Muller, Susanna Davison, Karen-Lee Brofee, Margaret Walton

Burial Grounds

The committee oversees the upkeep and care of our two burial grounds—the main burial ground to the southwest of the Meeting House, and the smaller one east of the intersection of Spencer & Newark Roads.

Our activities include the preparation of deeds for those who purchase burial sites, make arrangements for casket and ashes burials, and the construction of foundations for the installation of headstones. We provide information and help for families who are seeking sites and guidance and support during the burial process.

There have been no burials at the Lower London Grove burial ground for many years. As of November 15, there have been seven burials this year in the main burial ground:

Members of London Grove Meeting: Mary L. Dugan, Judith A. Montague, Harold E. Miller, and Ian L. McHarg.
Non-members: William Evans Hicks, Sr., Naaman W. Smoker, Ruth T. Seegers.

This year, three deeds for the purchase of five burial sites were issued. Only one of these deeds was to a member of London Grove Meeting.

Gary E. Myers and his family have once again meticulously maintained the main burial ground. The Lower London Grove burial ground continues to be cared for by Gerald W. Harris and his family.

Burial ground income is primarily earnings of the restricted burial ground reserve fund held by the Meeting's Trustees and invested in the Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Other income is from a Perpetual Care Fee paid at the time of burials, and contributions from individuals for the care and upkeep of the main burial ground.

In response to frequent requests, following is the current fee schedule:

	Members of LGMM	Non-members
Casket burial sites	\$ 200 each	\$1000 each
Ashes burial sites	\$ 200 each	\$ 500 each
Burial fee for Casket	\$ 500	\$1000
Burial fee for Ashes	\$ 200	\$ 500
Headstone foundation	\$ 200	\$ 200
Perpetual Care Fee (once per site)	\$ 500	\$1000

Burial sites for caskets and ashes are available. Each casket site will accommodate not more than one casket and one ashes burial. Each ashes burial site will accommodate not more than two ashes burials. Fee for casket burials doubles on week-ends or holidays. Burials required in difficult weather and ground conditions may be adjusted.

Additional information is available from co-clerks, Leo R. Daiuta, 610.444.3058 or Charles C. Brosius, 610.869.9235.

Charles Brosius

Hospitality

The hospitality committee is a small committee of women who organize social, non-social, and the special or extra events of the Meeting. Our committee does not have regular meetings, but everyone helps when called and needed. We are so fortunate to have a giving, generous, and willing meeting who assist us each time we ask for help, for example baking homemade cookies for events.

Each Easter we give a pansy plant to every attender to take home and enjoy. We send around a sign-up sheet for members or attenders to sign to bring flowers to beautify our front table each First Day. A reminder phone call helps people remember the date they chose. Each bouquet is beautiful and much appreciated. At Christmas we organize the punch and cookies brought by members and attenders for a wonderful social after our annual pageant. We also provide after First Day School snack for guest speakers. The success of our committee depends on the generosity of the members and attenders of our London Grove Meeting.

Baz Powell

Recorder

Membership (as of November 2013) 282 Adults and 35 Children

LOSS OF MEMBERS:

By death:

Mary Larkin Dugan 4/8/2013
Mary Jane Stabley Tomlinson 4/10/2013
D. Gordon Roehrs 5/8/2013
William T. Wickersham 9/22/2013
Judith Paschall Montague 9/26/2013
Harold E. Miller 10-4-2013

MARRIAGE IN THE MANNER OF FRIENDS:

Emma K. Podolin and Joshua Gould in Hardwick, Vermont on September 14, 2013

Betsy Walker

Plant Sale

The Plant Sale was held this year on May 11. It was a cool, misty, humid day and though the crowd arrived more slowly, we had steady sales throughout the day.

The Plant Sale committee, some 24 of us, work all year long preparing for the sale.



The wonderful support we get from Meeting members and friends during the last two weeks before the sale is truly inspiring. This sale couldn't be held without this support and generosity of folks like the Myers family for the use of their field for parking, Allen Thomforde for the use of his tent, Elinor who digs and pots thousands of plants from her gardens, Doug Mooberry who loans us his truck for hauling plants all week long. The entire Meeting is grateful for everyone's help and support.

We are happy to be able to contribute the proceeds of over \$15,000 to the following Quaker and Community organizations: American Friends Service Committee, Friends Home of Kennett, London Grove Friends Kindergarten, Kennett Area Community Service, Tick Tock Early Learning Center, His Mission, Kennett Senior Center, Friends Journal, Friends Committee on National Legislation, La Comunidad, and Path Stone (Alliance for Better Housing).

Betsy Walker