

# London Grove Monthly Meeting

## Christmas 2014



Dear Friends,

How do I begin to count the ways this year has graced our lives at London Grove Monthly Meeting?

Together

- \* We have marked 300 years as a place of worship: a point of pride, reverence, delight, and awe;
- \* We have welcomed new and attending folks into our membership and the London Grove family as well as bid farewell to several Friends whose passing caught us unprepared to part and whose absence we continue to mourn while we rejoicing in their spirits;
- \* We have gathered for study following worship in Adult First Day School seeking to gain more understanding, to share thoughts with one another, to face hard truths, and to assume new personal challenges;
- \* We are reaching out to our youngsters and young people in hopes that London Grove and our Quarter will become a meaningful part of their lives;
- \* We have continued our traditional community outreach through Kindergarten and our Plant Sale, and stretched to a new form: London Grove Cares; and
- \* We have nurtured our internal connections with one another through winter soup luncheons after First Day School, summer refreshment gatherings after worship, adult covered dish suppers, technology-supported communication, the 300<sup>th</sup> year activities and celebrations, and our committee work.

Do know that each one of you is an important and critical part of London Grove's heart; we cannot fully beat without you?

Let us all: near or far, young or old, joyful or saddened, come together as one in this moment to spiritually share the love of the Christmas season as it glides into our souls and actions.

With joy and best wishes for 2015,  
Karen-Lee N. Brofee,  
Clerk of London Grove Monthly Meeting

### London Grove Adult Dinner Dec. 13, at 6:00 PM at Georgia Delaney's

Hi Folks, it's that time again. I have changed the day this year because my house is going to be on the Kennett Christmas Tour on the 14th. Hope this does not cause any problems. I welcome everyone to my home to share some Christmas cheer and a warm fire. Some things are a tradition and for me opening up my home to Friends is something I treasure. I will have ham and ask for side dishes to go with it. Light on the desserts please. Please call to RSVP by Dec. 10th. Georgia [610-444-0650](tel:610-444-0650) or email me at [gdelaney2@comcast.net](mailto:gdelaney2@comcast.net) .



Hope to see your smiling face at my place,

Georgia

## 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We have had a very good year filled with wonderful fellowship, lots of great programs, dinners, and refreshments. All of our programs during the year have been well attended and have gotten excellent press coverage and accolades from inside and outside our Quaker community.

We have had an event each month with a lot of wonderful variety and we have reached a lot of people during the year. We have also had amazing weather, only having one nail-biter due to snow for our opening event in January with Arthur Larrabee and one postponement due to the ice storm in February. We all braved the snow and it was fine.

The most striking part of the year is how we have worked together and pulled off each event with grace and style. We produced a really beautiful book and have created lots of outstanding memories for every person who stepped into our midst. Both the small community we are a part of and the larger community outside our doors have noticed that there is a lot of life and spirit at London Grove. The meeting has come alive with industrious purpose at each event this year and there is a different sense of closeness and community as a result.

Bless all of you for your commitment to our work and sharing your energies and talents. It has been a lot of work and demands contributions from everyone but it leads to a wonderful sense of accomplishment and closeness for all of us!

Sandy Reber, Clerk, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

## Worship and Ministry

Greetings from the London Grove Worship and Ministry Committee! This has been a momentous year for our community in many ways, on many levels! We have been celebrating our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and have had opportunities to be together in new and different ways, as we opened our meeting house to the wider community, hosting a wide variety of speakers and artists. We toured other meeting houses, joined together to put on and share a dinner, reminiscent of the many roast beef suppers held in the past, and had a birthday party for London Grove, complete with birthday cake.

We have shared excellent First Day School sessions, which included Bible Study with Donald LaBranche and Quaker studies led by Mark Myers. We have enjoyed several outdoor Meetings for Worship, and had another summer of socializing after Meeting for Worship with lemonade, iced tea, and snacks.

The spiritual nurture group continues to meet once a month, offering a chance for closer connections in a small group. We have been joined by several people from other meetings. It has been a year to deepen our appreciation of each other and of the spiritual home we have at London Grove. The Worship & Ministry committee has undertaken a project to connect with some people who use to be a part of our community, but for one reason or another are no longer with us. We are offering an opportunity to reconnect and sending blessings to them as they continue on their path.

Through all this activity, our hearts have been opened in joy and in sadness. Some new people have joined our community, people moving to the area, as well as some new babies. We have experienced deep sadness, as we have said good by to some very cherished people in our community. Despite the hectic lives we all lead, there is welcome communion to be had as we gather for Meeting for Worship on each First Day. The Oneness in Spirit that our longstanding spiritual community, beautiful Meetinghouse, and amazing oak tree offer to us is a wonderful gift. We welcome all of you to join us, as we embark on our next 300 years, and send many blessings out to all of you for the new year. May 2015 bring much Light and Love to you and your families!

Ginny Green

## Kindergarten

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes from the Kindergarten Committee.

The school continues to be led by Deni-lyn Lane, Head of School and Half Day Teacher, with Kate Perkins as the Full Day Teacher, and Assistants Lori Ruggieri and Cindy Patton. Additionally, we continue to offer Afternoon Enrichment, taught by Lauren Gutting and Dina Raihall. There are 27 students enrolled at the school this year; one child is a Quaker.

This past summer saw the launch of a nature themed Summer Camp, which was well attended, and the teachers and children had fun. The Summer Camp is continuing this year, for ages 4-6, and will be held the weeks of June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Many exciting activities have been happening at London Grove Friends Kindergarten this year. So far, the children have taken field trips to the Unionville Community Fair and Barnard's Orchard, and visited the soybean field below the meeting graveyard, where they spent a pleasant morning shelling soybeans. The classrooms are filled with their artwork and projects. On the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary day, the children, families, and teachers planted 300 bulbs to mark the occasion. We will be watching for them to bloom in the spring.

All are welcome to join the children in their weekly Meeting for Worship – Thursday mornings at 11:30 AM. This is a nice way for the meeting community and the Kindergarten to make a connection, and the children absolutely love it when you attend.

The committee continues to work on the long term sustainability of the school, through efforts of financial stewardship, improving our physical facilities, and working on recruitment and spreading the word about our school for next year. We have a beautiful new shed out back and new shelves in the Full Day classroom. There will be an Open House on Sunday January 11, 2015, when all are welcome to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers.

Karen Conlan

## Memorial

Holiday greetings from the Memorial Committee. We 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.

Since our last Christmas message and as of November 14<sup>th</sup> of 2014, we have had services for four Meeting members. They are Beverly Medcalf, Klaus Hubben, Ruthie Harrison and Leo Daiuta. Our committee assisted Meeting members Brenda and Tom Macaluso with their son Marcus' service. The memorial service for Norma Moore was under our care and we were a friendly presence at Elinor Jenny's memorial service. London Grove Meeting was also the setting for Charles Leahan's service, husband of retired kindergarten teacher Cindy Leahan.

The Memorial Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to the London Grove Kindergarten and their committee for all their help. They often have to clear the Social Room for receptions.

Best wishes for the New Year,  
Pat Mooberry & Grace Pfeifer, Co-Clerks

## Religious Education

Some things have changed; some remain the same in London Grove's First Day School.

This fall we published (and modified) the schedule of what we've planned to offer children and adults through the First Day School year.

We've increased communications about Religious Education. Colorful "Welcome to First Day School" postcards, designed by Lori Ryan, went out to families who might be interested. Emails to these families remind them of special events like Quarterly Meeting and a Convergent First Day School field trip to West Grove Meeting. We believe our children grow as Friends through knowing other Quaker kids, being together in the Quarter and at Annual Sessions.

Each First Day during their assigned month, an adult greeter welcomes the children, takes attendance and directs them to their classrooms. Monthly "Yoga Calm classes for Quaker Kids" led by Greta Rech have drawn the biggest crowds so far.

In August, Barbara Haines attended a "Faith & Play" weekend training held at Pendle Hill. Assisted by a "doorkeeper," Barbara brings stories about famous Quakers to First Day School. We hope to use our budget to acquire materials to expand this program and to have more people trained as "Faith & Play" storytellers in 2015.

Active recruiting of leaders for our weekly classes, organized by Jim Brofee, has brought some new faces into First Day School. This achieved our committee's goal of releasing young parents Karen Conlan and Mariah Matos McIntosh from regular teaching duties. Regular teacher Leona Provinski goes on furlough during tax preparation season. The Committee thanks everyone who has (or who will) "pitch in" to spend Sunday mornings with the children.

We responded to the request of the 300th Anniversary Committee to plan children's activities for our October birthday party. Leona developed a meetinghouse treasure hunt and James and Karen Conlan facilitated a "time capsule" for children to fill with their memories and thoughts about the meeting, to be brought out again in about a decade.

We are grateful to Mark Myers for coordinating the Adult Quaker Studies program; and to Don LaBranche, who continues to lead Bible Study. Don presented twelve sessions looking at our Testimonies through Bible passages. Topics included "What Would Jeremiah Do?" and W.H. Auden's *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*. Last month small group discussions broke out during Elinor Thomforde's classes based on articles in *Friends Journal's* issue about God.

Susanna Davison attended the autumn "First Day School Thread Gathering" hosted by PYM at Downingtown Friends Meeting. She learned that the norm in most meetings, in Western Quarter and elsewhere, is to pay someone to coordinate children's First Day School and child care. We have not reached unity on, nor budgeted for, such an arrangement; but as our pool of child care helpers has diminished, the option of paid help continues to be discussed.

As this Christmas Newsletter goes to print we are seeking the many volunteers needed to bring off London Grove's holiday programs: Intergenerational ornament-making, decorating, costuming, casting, directing a Christmas pageant, organizing music, a story and refreshments, set-up and clean-up--and perhaps a visit from Santa.

We catch our collective breath to wish you and your loved ones the joys of the season: Peace on earth; and God bless us, everyone!

Susanna Davison

## Plant Sale

The Plant Sale was held this year on May 10. The weather forecast was for showers all day. But fortunately we were all finished and cleaned up by 3 PM when we had a very big thunderstorm. We had wonderful sales all day and by the end of the following week nearly every plant had found a good home

The Plant Sale Committee is already preparing for the 2015 Plant Sale. Plants have been ordered and the committee will be meeting monthly until Plant Sale Day on May 9. We will be deeply missing the expertise of Leo Daiuta who passed away on July 10. He was one of the earliest organizers and a faithful supporter of the Plant Sale.

We are very grateful to our Meeting community for all the support...especially to the Myers family for the use of their field for parking, to Allen Thomforde for the use of his big tent, to Doug Mooberry for the use of his truck for hauling many loads of plants and to Elinor Thomforde who makes a huge donation of plants that she digs from her garden.

We are happy to be able to contribute the proceeds of over \$16,000 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, Chairperson

## Property

The Property Committee supports 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 enables our ministry to the meeting members and attenders and to the greater community. The London Grove Meeting house provides a place for our worship as a spiritual community, as well as a place for marriages, memorial services, family reunions, recitals and public forums. The celebration of our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary has made this an especially active year for meetinghouse use. The Keeper of the Calendar reports that our Meetinghouse has scheduled 436 events involving 178 days of school, 88 committee meetings, 101 community events, and 69 meetings for worship. Added to these numbers are the hundreds of community people who come to our annual plant sale held on the meeting grounds.

Our work for the past three years has been focused on two areas. The first is to prepare the meetinghouse for hosting the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year events. We have paved the driveway, laid new carpet in the meeting room, painted both the interior and exterior, replaced floor joists, made repairs to ceiling plaster, removed and trimmed damaged trees. The second focus has been to improve and maintain the meetinghouse to support the program of the kindergarten. The property and kindergarten committees have worked together to provide needed storage and to provide rapid responses to power outages, telephone and internet service interruptions, and plumbing failures.

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.

Looking forward, our next immediate priority will be to address masonry and window issues in the caretaker's house. Longer term we need to address the fragile state of our meetinghouse's plumbing. We have an aspiration that the meetinghouse will require far less energy. In order to achieve this we will need to provide more insulation, better storm windows and most importantly find an alternative energy source to fuel oil such as geothermal heating and cooling.

Mark Myers

## Care and Membership

The Care and Membership Committee wishes everyone, near and far, a peaceful and warm holiday season. This year there has been a resurging awareness of the number of persons in the larger geographic community who are hungry; that number includes many families with children. A strong leading from committee member Georgia Delaney kept alive the Meeting's food collection for the Kennett Food Cupboard beyond the usual holiday giving. Her love and determination also kept alive the London Grove tradition of the frugal meal in October at which funds were raised for UNICEF. Please continue to donate non-perishable food items through the drop box in the meeting's library or directly to the Food Cupboard. News from within our committee fondly released Laura Reilly who reached the end of her three terms on the committee and welcomed new members Carol Curtis and Tom Macaluso. Jim Brofee has become the clerk of the committee with Jill Benjamin lending assistance when needed. We continue to uphold our dear friends Brenda and Tom Macaluso. Please remember that our committee can better be present for others when folks communicate their needs to us. In closing, we hope to see you at our winter soup luncheon on January 25 and a welcome spring luncheon on March 15. Joy to the World!

Jill Benjamin  
On behalf of Care and Membership Committee

## London Grove Cares

Dear Friends,

We send heartfelt greetings from our committee. This has been our first year functioning under the care of Care and Membership Committee. We began as an extension of the need to focus on outreach from our Meeting to the surrounding community.

We have collected nonperishable food goods throughout the year and donated approximately 100 bags to The Kennett Food cupboard. We donated seven cases of Nepro to a person experiencing kidney failure . We helped a lady at the end of her life journey by giving her cases of ensure and wipes. We donated a carload of medical supplies to Friends Home and several carloads to other nearby needy clinics.

We sponsored the Simple Meal and donated money to UNICEF (amount still coming in) and \$165.00 to the Kennett Food Bank, as well as eight bags of food.

We have worked with the residents of Friends Home monthly planting a garden from plants donated from our plant sale, doing crafts such as wreaths, painting pumpkins and pinecone turkeys.

We have taken abundance from one and given it to someone in need. We have had no budget. We have relied only on donations.

There is so much more to do. We are hoping to become a stand alone committee for next year and hope the love and kindness we have seen this year will continue evoking loving hearts in our community in the years to come.

Love and light,  
Georgia Delaney, Clerk

## Nominating Committee

The Holiday Season makes us mindful of the importance of volunteering our time and talents to satisfy the needs of our community and our meeting. We are grateful to all of you who have stepped forward to help with the work of our meeting by serving on committees. Your energy and intelligence are the heartbeat of London Grove Friends. This year we are especially grateful to the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for making this an exciting and memorable anniversary year. The Nominating Committee wishes everyone a joyous and prosperous new year.

Sam Cypressi, Clerk

## Meeting InReach

We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas! This annual Christmas Newsletter allows London Grove Meeting to exchange holiday greetings with Friends near and far.

Marianne Whitlock and Susanna Davison produce the monthly *London Grove Bulletin*. We welcome each of you to write articles, sending them to us via email by the third Monday of the month for the following month's issue. Each month Gail Newbold and Barbara Draper proofread and make excellent suggestions for the *Bulletin*. (Barb is active in her monthly meeting on Cape Cod, but she stays connected with London Grove by reading our news!) We appreciate their contributions to our accuracy and style.

The InReach Committee prepares the Childcare Calendar, featuring volunteers who assist in Children's First Day School and who care for children during Meetings for Worship for Business, Adult First Day School, and during worship over the summer months. If you are not already on the schedule, please consider joining this effort. You may stipulate conditions such as "twice a year," "only second hour" or "not during summer." We will work with you to assure that you and the meeting's children have the pleasure of each other's company!

Carolyn Muller and Marianne Whitlock

## Recorder

Membership (as of November 2014) 280 Adults and  
35 Children

### NEW MEMBERS:

#### By transfer:

Mina Johnson

#### By application:

Stacey A. Farrell

Grace N. Pfeifer

William Pfeifer III

### LOSS OF MEMBERS:

#### By death:

Beverly G. Medcalf 3/14/14

Kenneth A. Benson 4/29/14

Klaus Hubben 5/3/14

Ruth Webb Harrison 5/5/14

Leo R. Daiuta 8/10/14

#### By transfer:

Ann F. Walter

Please send any address changes to Betsy Walker, Recorder. Her email address is:

[elisabethywalker@verizon.net](mailto:elisabethywalker@verizon.net) ,

or you may call her at 610-388-1334.

Betsy Walker, Recorder

## Burial Grounds



Our Burial Grounds Committee was deeply saddened by the death of Co-Clerk, Leo R. Daiuta on August 10. Leo served on the committee for nearly 50 years, and volunteered thousands of hours in creating a burial ground map. He also maintained an update of deeds and burials, and had a major role in burial ground activities. He will be sorely missed!

The Committee oversees the upkeep and care of our two burial grounds—the main burial ground, and the smaller Orthodox burial ground, east of the intersection of Newark & Spencer Roads. The main burial ground is maintained by Medina’s Landscaping. The Orthodox burial ground has been inactive for many years. It is maintained by Gerald W. Harris and his family. A major expense this year was the installation of a new fence on the south side of the Orthodox burial ground.

As of November 15, there have been 12 burials in our main burial ground. This is almost double the average of burials in recent years. The 2014 burials include 4 London Grove members: Beverly G. Medcalf, Kenneth A. Benson, Ruth W. Harrison, and Leo R. Daiuta. The eight non-member burials were: Nancy F. Darling, Loretta M. Brett, Charles J. Leahan, Jr., Roy W. Myers, Sr., Nell W. Phillippe, Philip C. Pusey, Mary S. Huzzard, and Marcus C.A. Macaluso.

As of November 15, one Deed was issued to a member for one burial site.

A large portion of burial ground income is derived from earnings on the restricted reserve fund held by the Meeting’s Trustees and invested in Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Other income is from perpetual care fees paid at the time of burials, and contributions from individuals. Contributions this year included \$1,115 given in memory of Judith A. Montague.

Our clerk, Charles C. Brosius, conducted a special tour of the main burial ground for interested attendees at the Meeting’s 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on October 18.

Of the 1,629 sites in our main burial ground, 168 for casket burials and 200 for ashes burials are available. If interested in obtaining a deed for one or more of these remaining sites, please contact our Clerk, Charles C. Brosius (telephone 610-869-9235).

In response to frequent requests, following is the current fee burial ground 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

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. Three business days notice is required to prepare a burial site. Fee for casket burials doubles on week-ends or holidays. Burials required in difficult weather and ground conditions may be adjusted.

Charles Brosius