

London Grove Monthly Meeting



~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

August 2015 Bulletin

Eighth Month Queries about Peace

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

- to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?
- to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?
- to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
- to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?

Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes?

Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?

Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?

August 2015 Calendar

Sunday	8/2	8:15 am 9:30 am 10:45 am	Religious Education Committee Meeting for Worship Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	8/6	7:30 pm	Property Committee
Sunday	8/9	8:30 am 9:30 am 11 am	Peace & Social Justice Committee Meeting for Worship Worship & Ministry Committee
Thursday	8/13	7 pm	Care & Membership Committee
Sunday	8/16	8:15 am 9:30 am	Religious Education Committee Meeting for Worship (Outside; or 8/23)
Monday	8/17	7 pm	Deadline for Bulletin articles
Tuesday	8/18	9:30 am	Kindergarten Committee
Sunday	8/23	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship
Friday	8/28	7:30 pm	Helen Corson Biography ad hoc Committee
Sunday	8/30	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship

Date	Childcare Volunteer During Worship*	Second hour Childcare Volunteer*	Flowers
8/2	Carolyn Muller	Carolyn Muller	Tammy Brosius
8/9	Carolyn Muller		Mary Jo Ciganek
8/16	Carolyn Muller		Sam Cypressi
8/23	Carolyn Muller		Sandy Reber
8/30	Carolyn Muller		Jill Benjamin

*Summer child care is provided as needed for infants and children. If no children appear, the volunteer will be released at 9:45 am. If the need for child care exceeds the “rule of three,” another adult will be asked to assist.

Refreshments after summer worship Provided thanks to the following Committees: 8/2, Nominating; 8/9, Kindergarten; 8/16, Library; 8/23, Property

Clerk's Summary of Seventh Month Fifth Day 2015 Meeting for Business

While continuing worship on the fifth day of the seventh month, the following business was conducted with Karen-Lee Brofee serving as clerk, Bob Frye as Assistant Clerk and Gail Newbold as Recording Clerk. The Business Meeting began with a response to the Social Responsibility and Witness Query by the Clerk of the London Grove Cares Committee, Georgia Delaney.

MINUTES: Minutes of sixth month business were read as recorded with minor corrections made and **APPROVED** with appreciation.

STANDING REPORTS: The Treasurer's Report, presented by Treasurer Doug Myers showed a closing balance of \$125,189. We are 50% of the way through the year and have received 53% of our budgeted contributions. Ordinary Income totaled \$4,605.93 and expenses were \$15,962.70. The total Plant Sale profit for 2015 was \$17,705.86 all of which will be distributed to the 10 organizations as reported and approved during Sixth Month's business meeting. The report was **ACCEPTED** as presented with appreciation.

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS AND REQUESTS: Meeting **ACCEPTED** the Peace and Social Justice Committee's annual report provided by committee clerk, Patrick Chase. The report named the committee members, described the year's activities, and highlighted the Helen Corson awards. The committee is especially excited about the Helen Corson Project and urges meeting members' and attenders' participation and help. Patrick noted that the peace vigil continues and has been a presence in Kennett Square for 14 years. Rebecca Mitchell, a member of Outreach Committee, came forward with more information regarding the request made of the Keeper of the Calendar for a date to host a proposed outreach event: a Dukes of Destiny Concert. Several questions which had been raised previously were answered while new questions and concerns emerged regarding contracted financial responsibilities of the Meeting, acoustics, sponsoring the activity with West Grove and possible alternate dates when weather would be less likely to interfere. Rebecca will gather more information and return to August's business at which time a decision regarding London Grove's hosting will be made. London Grove Cares Committee Clerk, Georgia DeLaney presented an annual report of the activities and outreach of this new committee. The report was **ACCEPTED** with appreciation for the loving work offered and received.

OTHER: Background Checks: The clerk clarified a change in the timeline and cost of required Pennsylvania background checks for persons caring for children in Religious Education or child care settings. The governor has reduced cost and extended the timeline one year. Western Quarter's Request for Annual Reports from Monthly Meetings: The clerk asked the Assistant Clerk to take this matter up at the Committee of Clerks Meeting later this month. Proposed Photo Book: The clerk has received a request/proposal from John Thompson, now of New York, suggesting that the Meeting consider having a member/attender photobook created. His letter was passed to the Assistant Clerk for Committee of Clerks discussion.

With the business completed, Meeting closed in silent worship and members convened to refreshments provided by the Hospitality Committee,

Summarized by Karen-Lee Brofee, Clerk of LGMM

PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR 8th MONTH MEETING FOR BUSINESS

- Minutes of 7th Month's Meeting with a Concern for Business
- Response to the Query: Peace
- Standing Reports: Treasurer's Report; Recorder's Report; Keeper of the Calendar Report
- Care and Membership Recommendation for Membership
- Nominating Committee Proposed Meeting Committee and Officer Placements for 2015-2016
- Proposed Outreach Event: Dukes of Destiny Concert
- Annual Report: Religious Education Committee
- Wider Community Reports: Western Quarter; Annual Sessions; Friends General Conference
- Update on Childcare Needs and Background Checks
- Consideration of a Meeting Annual Report for Western Quarter
- Clerk's Items
- Refreshments and Visiting

REMEMBERING HELEN CORSON

The ad hoc committee for The Helen Corson Biography Project will have had its first meeting by the time this is published. The second meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 28 at 7:00 pm. For this project to succeed, broad participation is needed. Everyone is invited to attend the committee's meetings. There will be other ways of participating than attending meetings as the project becomes organized.

—Submitted by David Watkins

A MEETING DIVIDED - Inners and Outers

I arrived at the meeting house early on July 19 to help set up chairs and make the call about whether we would meet inside or out. There were concerns about the heat and bugs, and the grass was a bit tall and very wet. After some discussion and asking for opinions, it was decided to meet inside.

As people arrived, some mentioned that this was our day to meet outside - our first two attempts had been rained out, and some people really look forward to the experience of worshipping under the trees.

At some point, a Friend said, after hearing that it had been decided to meet indoors, "I'm meeting outside" and she, along with another, got themselves chairs and went to sit under the oak tree. Other people followed. So two groups were formed - those who did not want to miss the opportunity on this sunny Sunday to take in the trees, birds, and blue sky as they worshiped, and those who were happy to be out of the sun in the meeting house.

I ended up choosing the outdoors, and as I sat worshipping, I remembered a comment I had read that trying to get Friends to do something is like trying to herd cats. I felt like some of the cats had escaped, including me. It made me reflect on who is our authority—and our authority is within each one of us, of course. Another Friend said to her it is about being who you are. Someone recalled our past tradition of the women meeting in one room and the men meeting in another.

A Friend stood and talked about the significance of the oak tree in her life, how she likes to share it with friends when they visit, and that she had started a new tree from an acorn found under it and gave it to friends to celebrate the birth of their child. She had written a song (see page 7) about the oak and shared it with us, singing with her beautiful voice. What a glorious happening on a steamy, summer Sunday!



London Grov



Our next outdoor Meeting for
Worship is scheduled for August 16,
rain date August 23. All are invited
to arrive early to help set up chairs.
—Submitted by Ginny Green

Photos by Susanna Davison



MOTHER TREE

Written and shared by Kim Brosnan-Myers

Chorus: “ She’s rooted deep in darkness
Growing round and round.
Reaching for the sun and stars
But centered in the ground.”

My eyes were filled with tears of Joy
When I first came upon that tree.
It seemed as if the Mother Earth
Stood right in front of me. (chorus)

Her gnarled trunk was intertwined
With many branches strong.
She spread above, with arms of love
And gave to me this song.
I heard her sing this song...
“Be rooted deep in (chorus)”

So my roots sunk down beneath my feet
And spread into the Earth.
I had the sense of timelessness
I’d felt when giving birth.
“I was rooted deep in darkness...(chorus)”

It occurred to me that we were both once seeds
Nurtured from the start,
And the energy in her, and me,
Flowed from our mother’s heart.
“We were rooted deep in darkness (chorus)”

I hope that when I’m silvery gray
That I’ll be like that tree.
Radiating peace and love
To those whose lives touch me.
To those whose lives touch me.
“I’ll be rooted deep in darkness (chorus)”