

October 2015

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London Grove Monthly Meeting



~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~

October 2015 Bulletin

Tenth Month Queries: Stewardship of the Environment

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?

Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life? Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?

Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?



October 2015

Calendar

Thursday	10/1	7:30 pm	Property Committee
Friday	10/2	Noon	Helen Corson <i>ad hoc</i> Committee (see page 9)
Sunday	10/4	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship and Children's First Day School
		10:45 am	Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	10/8	7 pm	Care & Membership Committee
Sunday	10/11	8:30 am	Peace & Social Justice Committee
		9:30 am	Meeting for Worship and Children's First Day School
		10:45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education: Bible Study
		Noon	Worship & Ministry Committee
Tuesday	10/13	7 pm	Kindergarten Committee
Thursday	10/15	9:30 am	Library Committee
Sunday	10/18	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship and Children's First Day School
		10:45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education : Quakerism
Thursday	10/22	6:30 pm	Committee of Clerks
Sunday	10/25	9:30 am	Meeting for Worship and Children's FDS: Pumpkin houses
		10:45 am	Opening Exercises and Adult Religious Education: Family Promise
		Noon	Simple Meal (see page 7)

Volunteers for Childcare and Flowers

Date	Childcare	2nd Hour Childcare	Flowers
10/4	Doug Myers	Kim Brosnan-Myers Pat Horrocks	Jill Benjamin
10/11	Susanna Davison	Matos Family	Baz Powell
10/18	Mary Jo Ciganek	Mooberry Family	Baz Powell
10/25	Dawn Thompson	Reber Family	Elinor Thomforde

**Clerk's Summary of Ninth Month Sixth Day 2015
Meeting for Business**

While continuing worship on the sixth day of the ninth month, the following business was conducted with Karen-Lee Brofee serving as Clerk, Bob Frye as Assistant Clerk and Gail Newbold as Recording Clerk.

MINUTES: Minutes of the eight month business were read, corrections made and APPROVED with appreciation.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSES TO THE QUERY: Friends continued worship with several responses to the Ministry for Outreach Query.

STANDING REPORTS: The **Treasurer's Report**, presented by Treasurer Doug Myers, showed a closing balance of \$91,042. We are 67% of the way through the year and have received 57% of our budgeted contributions. Total Income for 8th month was \$6216 and expenses of \$11,816. Significant expenses included the Caretaker's salary for a 6 month period, April through May mowing, and Unionville School District taxes. The report was ACCEPTED as presented with appreciation. **Recorder** Betsy Walker, noted the addition of Winden Rowe to our membership. The welcoming committee will be scheduling a visit with Winden. The **Keeper of the Calendar** Anna Myers requested and received Meeting's approval of the use of the meetinghouse for April 16, 2016 and May 14, 2016 for two Hadley Fund children's performances by the Wilmington Drama League. The knowledge of London Grove's Kindergarten spurred the Hadley Fund's seeking of the Meeting for its venue. Meeting APPROVED. Meeting also APPROVED the request for use of the Meeting facilities for the Paschall Family Reunion in August 2016.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS: Clerk of the **Kindergarten Committee** Karen Conlan reviewed the new security procedures in place for Kindergarten hours. The Meeting's room for worship and the adult library will remain unlocked and will always be accessible. During the hours of Kindergarten operation (8:30 am-3:30 pm) all access to other areas of the Meeting will be closed. Friends are asked to schedule their work and responsibilities that require access to these parts of the building in the hours beyond the school day. However, if one needs access during the school day, the hallway entrance doors facing the graveyard should be approached. A staff member will respond and provide access at that entrance. Clerk of **Care and Membership Committee**

Jill Benjamin came forward with the reading of the committee's documentation, "Maintaining Love and Unity Among Us," describing its service to Friends in need of clearness, carrying concerns, or seeking resolution to conflict. (The document was included in full in September's *Bulletin*.) A Friend suggested that it be made available by posting on the bulletin board and Friends be periodically reminded of the availability of Care and Membership Committee members. Sam Cypressi, Clerk of **Nominating Committee** distributed the "2015-2016 Officers and Committee Members for London Grove Friends" assignments which had been proposed Eighth Month. Friends noted that although clerks are designated for each committee on the document, clerks will actually be named in October and there are likely to be changes. Sam asked that he be informed of any changes as they occur. Meeting APPROVED the assignments with appreciation to the committee for its discernment of members' and attenders' gifts, skills, and interests in serving the London Grove Meeting community. Grace Pfeifer, co-clerk of the **Memorial Committee** reminded Friends of the Anna Jeans Cremation Fund, which provides \$500 toward cremation costs. This has been a long-standing Yearly Meeting bequest. Grace maintains the paperwork necessary for applying for the funds and encourages Friends' knowledge of its availability.

PROPOSED OUTREACH EVENT: DUKES OF DESTINY CONCERT: Rebecca Mitchell, member of **Community Outreach Committee**, presented an update on the proposal for the Dukes of Destiny Concert which has been before Meeting the past two months. Following discussion regarding the concert's outreach potential, the co-sponsoring of the event with West Grove Meeting, and fiscal responsibilities, Meeting APPROVED the following: London Grove Monthly Meeting will join West Grove Monthly Meeting in the hosting of a January 30, 2016 Dukes Of Destiny Concert as a community outreach event to be held at West Grove Meeting with London Grove Monthly Meeting contracting \$1250 with the band. A \$15 to \$20 donation per person will be sought, with expectation that the donations will well exceed the contractual obligation. Assuming donations will cover expenses, the expected surplus could be passed through to local organizations as determined by West Grove and London Grove Meetings. Several Friends offered suggestions.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT: Rebecca Mitchell shared the committee's annual report, stating the current purpose of the committee as: "Expands the presence and principles of Friends in the

larger community. We inform and invite others who may be searching to join our spiritual community in hopes of finding something for themselves.” The committee posed the following question, “What does Outreach mean to LGFM? How does it manifest itself in our actions?” and noted that the Meeting needs to guide this answer. The committee pointed out that “ Outreach so far has really been a lot of in-reach and 'for us', programming. If this is the main desire, then Forums and events could be geared this way. This was not the original vision: hence why we are the ‘community outreach’ committee. If we are to spend time on organizing these, then meeting members need to bring guests and use their email/ social networks to bring awareness and attendance. Outreach could also involve in some way community service that has been the focus of the ad-hoc Community Care work.” The committee is stretched thin with limited numbers, time, and energy and cannot act upon the recommendations of the 300th anniversary Committee without the commitment and shared responsibility of other committees. The report offered the following suggestions:

- * Consider combining Hospitality, In-reach, Outreach as one committee;
- * Hold 1-2 Forums a year with the agenda set by committees aligned with the work we are trying to accomplish;
- * Provide 1-2 “light-hearted” events a year - historic, cultural, musical in nature;
- * Offer a summer program for children/families;
- * Consider a brunch time for the potluck dinner events;
- * Coordinate communications efforts with In-reach and Outreach; and,
- * Find a new web host – as the Yearly meeting will not support us moving forward.

Meeting ACCEPTED the report. The clerk tested her sense of Meeting’s unity in understanding the serious discernment expressed in this annual report. It was agreed that we cannot afford to lay aside the concerns and suggestions as expressed but must take them up over time through on going seeking as a Meeting until right resolution is known.

OTHER: A Minute of Appreciation for London Grove Monthly Meeting Friends, composed by Clerk Karen-Lee Brofee as she steps down from her assignment as Clerk of Meeting, was read and accepted by the Meeting. (Please see page 6)

With the business completed, Meeting closed in silent worship.

Summarized by,
Karen-Lee Brofee, Clerk of LGMM

October 2015

TO: London Grove Monthly Meeting
FROM: Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Clerk
SUBJECT: A Minute of Appreciation
DATE: September 6, 2015

As I conclude my term of clerking London Grove Monthly Meeting, it is important for me to document my personal gratitude to you, Meeting members and attenders. This has been the most difficult time of my life as I have struggled to make my way through my days and responsibilities without my husband Jim, a Friend you also loved.

I wondered how I would ever mount these risers and look out to you, striving to gather your sense and to know unity without seeing Jim standing in the doorway with an encouraging smile and tender observations. But I did.

With his passing, you rose to my support providing commitment and strength that I clearly felt. There is something that is always amazing and spectacularly beautiful when people come together and work as one. London Grove was one entity holding me close and in the Light. You understood. This is pure gift for anyone, especially one clerking.

Responsibilities come with clerking. I could not have met mine without the help, skills, and commitment of the Friends beside me who assist—Bob Frye, rising clerk, as well as Becky Matos and Gail Newbold, recording clerks during my term. Thank you for choosing to be a part of London Grove Monthly Meeting and for offering your loving hands and hearts to me. You have made a difference.

Friends Journal Offers QuakerSpeak

Get QuakerSpeak online for free.

For Friends who want to feel more connected and affirmed on the Quaker path, here is a great opportunity!

QuakerSpeak provides a short email video, mailed to you each Thursday. In the videos, Friends talk about their own experiences. It is informative as well as personal, and has Friends of different ages and Quaker affiliations. (And it is free!) You can also go back and view past videos.

QuakerSpeak is a project of *Friends Journal*, directed by Jon Watts. To access: go to www.QuakerSpeak.com and click on “Subscribe.” Put in your name and email or choose subscription through YouTube, Facebook or Twitter.

Email: You will get a confirmation email from Jon Watts. All QuakerSpeak emails will be from him. Or go to www.friendsjournal.org and look at the top of the home page for QuakerSpeak.

October 2015

Simple Meal Lunch will be offered on October 25

Theme of the day: "EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE".

Dear Friends,

We will again be sponsoring our traditional simple meal during a day to focus on the hungry and homeless. We will have a speaker from Family Promise of Chester County, who work with homeless families in our area.

Our children will also have a homelessness activity and make pumpkins into houses. We will use these as centerpieces for our lunch tables; afterward the children can take home their pumpkin.

We will serve a soup lunch at 12 Noon. We are asking a donation for the work of Family Promise or UNICEF—perhaps equal to the amount you would pay for eating lunch at a restaurant.

We could still use a few more soups. If you can make some soup, please contact Georgia Delaney, 610-444-0650.

Thanks for your support; we do hope you can join us!
London Grove Quakers Care Committee

SIMPLE MEAL SCHEDULE

9:30 - 10:30 am—Meeting for Worship and Children's First Day School
10:45 am—David Watkins will discuss Helen Corson, who originated the Simple Meal tradition at London Grove Meeting
11:00 am—Deb Schmittle from Family Promise will give a slide presentation about homelessness in Southern Chester County
11:45 am—Gail Newbold will discuss the work of UNICEF
12:00 noon—Soup luncheon will be served!

A Few Words about Flowers and Vases

Home-grown or purchased, beautiful flowers usually appear weekly on the table between the facing benches. Did you know there is a kitchen cupboard overflowing with vases you can choose among to display your bouquet? Please help yourself!

After meeting, the bringer of flowers usually takes the day's display home, or shares the blooms with someone who will appreciate them. If you have not yet put your name down on the Flower Roster, please see Baz Powell. She will be signing more volunteers up for flower duty this month!

**WESTERN
AND
CONCORD
QUARTER
HAYRIDE**

Robin Harper,
Youth Program
Coordinator for
Western
Quarterly
Meeting sends
the following
item:

On Sunday
October 4th,
from 5-8PM,
Western
Quarter is
joining with
Concord
Quarter for a
hay ride and
bonfire (and
pot-luck dinner
and corn maze)
at **Wynoor
Farm (PA**

Route 926 just east of its intersection with PA Route 352).

This is an event we collaborated on last year, and I'm sure it will be a fun occasion again this year.

Email (youth@westernquarterquakers.org) with questions and to reserve space at the event.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEEDS IDEAS!

Now that London Grove Meeting's relaxed, sociable summer schedule has given way to the customary pattern of fall, winter and spring, the Religious Education Committee urges other committees to help us plan programs in concert with their goals and interests.

For example, this month, on 10/25, the newly-formed London Grove Cares Committee will sponsor a program featuring the head of Family Promise, who will speak about homelessness in Southern Chester County. The session will be followed by our traditional Simple Meal.

Most months, the meeting schedule will follow the pattern of Meeting for Worship for Business (1st first day), Bible Study (2nd first day) and Quaker Studies, focusing on the Future of Quakerism (4th first day). ***Third first days will be available for committees to share their ideas and resources with the meeting.***

Long-time members of the RE Committee are joined, beginning this month, by new volunteers Donald LaBranche and David Watkins. The committee meets before worship on 3rd first days in the first classroom beyond the restrooms in the Kindergarten wing of the meetinghouse. ***We look forward to hearing proposals from other meeting committees!***

REMEMBERING HELEN CORSON

The Helen Corson Committee met for the second time on 9/4 and will meet in the library at noon on the 1st Friday of each month. The next meeting will be at noon on 10/2. All are welcome.

Interviews with people who knew Helen are our highest priority. We have a list of people whom we would like to interview, have acquired adequate recording equipment and have made other preparations to begin the project. Currently we are working on a list of questions that we can use.

Soon we will contact Lincoln University to learn more about the Doctor of Humane Letters that they granted to Helen in 1977.

We will be contacting Swarthmore Library to access London Grove Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other records that are archived there.

We have already acquired very interesting information from a variety of sources. If you have information to share, or materials we can copy and return to you, questions we should ask, names of people we should interview or other advice, please contact David Watkins at daviwat@comcast.net or 610-255-3412.

NEWS ABOUT LONDON GROVE FRIENDS KINDERGARTEN

London Grove Friends Kindergarten celebrated Peace Day on Monday, September 21, with outdoor activities under the Penn Oak tree. The Peace Parade involved twirling colorful ribbons and making a joyful noise with instruments. The children took turns twirling and noise-making. After the parade, they enjoyed a yoga lesson, which made use of ambient fallen leaves to observe their breathing.



**London Grove Friends Kindergarten - Alumni Gathering
Friday October 9, 2015 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Calling all alumni of all ages to come visit the kindergarten and each other on October 9.

It will be a casual evening, with a potluck dessert. Please bring a dessert to share, and enjoy each other's company.