



Bulletin London Grove Monthly Meeting

~ Begun 1714 ~
~ Established 1792 ~
April 2012

The Fourth Query: **Care for the Meeting Community**

Care for one another

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance?

Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends?

Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

Care in my home

(This set of personal queries may be helpful for the family to consider within the family setting. Families may also wish to explore other General Queries as part of regular family worship.)

Is my home a place where all members of the family receive affection and understanding, and where visitors are welcome?

Do I choose recreation and a manner of living that enriches the body, mind, and spirit; and shows a high regard for family, community, and creation?

Is our family prepared to discuss such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, even sex and drugs, in a manner that allows openness and honesty, and also direction?

How do I help to arrange life at home so that there is an opportunity for all to learn and absorb by example what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment?

Calendar for April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 AM Worship and Children's First Day School 10:30 AM Meeting for Business and children's activities			The London Grove Book Club 7:30 PM Discussion (see p. 4)	Property Committee 7:30 PM	300th Committee 1:30 PM	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Easter 9:30 AM Worship and Children's First Day School 10:30AM Special family celebration (see p. 3)				Care and Membership Committee 7:00 PM		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 AM Worship and Children's First Day School 10:30 AM Adult First Day School and children's activities	Religious Education Committee 7:15 PM	Library Committee 9:30 AM	Peace & Social Justice Committee 7:30 PM			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 AM Worship and Children's First Day School 10:30 Adult First Day School and children's activities	<i>Deadline for material for May Bulletin-send to londongroveinreach@verizon.net</i>					
29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
9:30 AM Worship and Children's First Day School 10:30 Adult First Day School and children's activities 6:00p.m. Adult supper (see p.4)						

Childcare for April

If you cannot make your assigned day and time please arrange for a substitute.

Date	Assist Preschool Class or baby-sit (9:30)	Assist with children's activities or baby-sit(10:40)
4/1/2012	Chris Hinks	Pamela Leland Renna Van Oot
4/8/2012	Martin & Sandra Reber	Elizabeth Powell
4/15/2012	Barb Draper	Michael Keith Jim Yeatman
4/22/2012	Sam Cypressi	Angela Benjamin Chris Hinks
4/29/2012	Marianne Whitlock	Grace Pfeiffer

Adult Religious Education

The Easter program will take place on April 8, beginning at approximately 10:30 a.m., after Meeting for Worship. There will be Children's First Day School that day. The program will include music from the Easter Choir, a spiritual reading, and a reading of a children's book.

April 1 - Meeting for Business

April 8 - Easter Program - Hallelujah!

April 15 - Worship & Ministry - Join the dialogue on "Our Life as a Worship Community"

April 22 - Earth Day - Looking at our Testimonies - Stewardship

April 29 - Bible Study - "Why Moses Matters" - Conclusion

Worship and Ministry

Our Adult First Day School series on “*Our Life as a Meeting Community*” will continue with the second part on April 15. We will consider specific elements in our First Day schedule. Please join us for the discussion. (If you are unable to attend, share your thoughts with a member of the Worship & Ministry committee. Our committee consists of Ginny Green and Pam Leland (co-clerks), Jack Yeatman, Cintra Murray, Gail Newbold, Carol Curtis, and Greta Rech.)

“Spring Forward”: The Worship and Ministry Committee has moved its meeting from the 2nd Sunday evening to immediately following Adult First Day School on the 2nd Sunday of each month. All are welcome join us for a bag lunch and our committee discussion.. *[Please note, however, that the W&M meeting in May will be held the 1st Sunday, following Meeting for Business due to Mother’s Day the following week.]*

Adult Supper April 29th at Bert and Mary Jo Ciganek's home

Dear Friends, Bert and Mary Jo Ciganek have agreed to host the April Adult Supper at their home, 121 Spring House Way, Kennett Square, at 6:00 PM on April 29th. It is a pot luck so please bring a side dish or dessert.

Please call or email to RSVP to ciganeke@ccil.org or call them at 610-347-1718. We hope you can join us. We saw some new faces last month at Sam and Lisa Cypressi's lovely gathering. Thanks again for being such wonderful hosts and making everyone feel so welcome.

This is a great opportunity to get to know someone by "breaking bread" with them. We welcome people who are new to our Meeting. Please call Bert or Mary Jo if you need directions.

London Grove Book Club

We will meet Wed., April 4, at 7:30 PM. There will be no supper before the meeting. Our discussion will be of "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship" by William Taber, Pendle Hill pamphlet #306. It deals with how we can best prepare for and fully appreciate the power of Meeting for Worship.

The four doors are:

- The Door Before
- The Door Inward
- The Door Within
- The Door Beyond

Even if you miss the discussion, you will find this pamphlet inspiring. It is especially appropriate for Worship & Ministry and Care & Membership committee members, as it speaks powerfully about our "communion."

Clerk's Report

Decisions by Meeting – March 2012

The following decisions were made during Meeting for Business held on March 4, 2012:

- Meeting approved the Minutes of our February 5, 2012 Meeting for Business.
- Meeting approved use of the meeting house and grounds for the wedding of Kevin Thompson and Vanessa Charles. An Oversight Committee will be appointed.
- Meeting approved use of the meeting house for a musical event to benefit the OCD Foundation on Saturday, April 21 from 6:00-10:00 pm. Kim Brosnan-Myers and Hilary Myers will be the Friendly Presences.
- Meeting approved use of the meeting house for a PYM Listening Session regarding the PYM budget on Sunday, April 22 (afternoon).

Treasurer's Report – February 29, 2012

The beginning balance was \$27,438.02. Total income for the month of February was \$13,133.46. Total expenses were \$4,456.51. The net ordinary income *for the month* was \$8,676.95, with an ending balance of \$36,114.97.

Contributions received to date are \$12,125.00 (12% of budget, while 17% of the year has passed). May we provide a "Friendly Reminder" to everyone that making contributions regularly throughout the year makes it easier for us to manage our cash flow needs.

Preliminary Agenda – Meeting for Business – April 1, 2012

- Minutes of March 4, 2012 Meeting for Business
- Response to the Fourth Query – Care & Membership Committee
- Treasurer's Report
- Annual Reports – Auditors, Meeting Inreach, Hospitality
- Quaker Quest Committee

Food for thought ... on Spiritual Hospitality:

"There is something sacred in each person. How we relate to people is what we actually believe about them. Words are not the thing, relationship is all. We are the epistles, we are the texts, the manifestations of God. How we treat others is our personal statement about God. If enquirers want to know what Friends are about, they will read the books – perhaps – but they will also read us."

-Harvey Gillman, Spiritual Hospitality, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #312, p. 12

News from Ramallah from London Grove Friend Susan Rhodewalt

Dear Friends - Random thoughts as I "settle" (!?) into life in Ramallah and try to find my way around (so far, a relatively hopeless endeavor as I don't "echo-locate" effectively in cities).

I have heard from several of you, no doubt wondering where I am and why the great silence. It is really hard to know where to begin in order to share with you the incredible and difficult journey I have been on during the past two plus weeks. How do you describe lives and histories compressed into such a finite amount of time? How can I do justice to each visit, dialogue, and encounter? It has been a step-by-step discovery of realities that are completely ignored or denied in the States.

First, the two weeks with the Westtown Senior Project were brilliant. Our wise guides, Jon and Melissa Grafevans, who lived and worked in East Jerusalem for five years, were our guardian angels: cheerful, sensitive, cautious, but completely confident that we could all do this work together successfully. If it hadn't been for them, my freezing cold feet (literal and figurative) would have bailed weeks before we even started. I am a coward about some things, notably airplanes and walking into distinctly fraught political/military situations. This trip required both. It's no wonder I was looking for calming methods to get me here!

But enough of that background. If you are at Westtown, you are aware of the blogging that our students did, and they were such a great group to travel with. Despite exhaustion, hunger (even though fed constantly and deliciously they ARE still hungry adolescents), cold, and mental overstimulation, they were always ready for the next venture. It felt as though during those two short weeks we went everywhere and did everything. Of course, that isn't literally true, but we did cover a great deal of geographical and political territory: the Old City of Jerusalem, ICAHD (Israeli Committee against Home Demolitions), Rabbis for Human Rights, then north to two kibbutzim, then to Nazareth, up to and around the Galilee, down the Jordan Valley back to Jerusalem, meeting with a settler, a visit to a visionary (and threatened) community called the Tent of Nations, to Bethlehem where we stayed for two nights in home stays, visits to the Separation Wall/s, visits to Refugee Camps, then on to Ramallah and five days at Ramallah Friends School with home stays for the students, and many visits in the community (all in freezing cold rain that lasted during our entire visit). Religious services of the two weeks included Shabbat, a Lutheran service in the Old City of Jerusalem, meeting with the Sheikh of a very old mosque in Ramallah, and a very moving Meeting for Worship just before leaving the town to go to the Dead Sea and Jericho, then to Jerusalem for one last night in a Lutheran Guest House right inside the walls of the Old City. And that is just the tip of the story.

The final night was wrenching and I experienced a severe case of separation-trauma. Fortunately, Ian had joined us for the journey to the Dead Sea and stayed with us overnight, so I had my own personal buffer for my transition to life on my own. But now, I am back in Ramallah. Ian [Susan and Scott's son] is taking precious care of me, as are his friends (of whom he has many).

These first few days have been a blend of trying desperately to try to find my way around (so far, totally unsuccessful). I thought that streets in Japan were complicated. I was wrong. Every time I walk to the center of Ramallah, to al Manarah (sp?) I am completely bewildered by the number of options for getting lost. And getting to Ian's is much worse, down labyrinthine passageways that are blocked by impossible traffic situations or enormous numbers of people on foot, or both, so that concentrating on preserving life and limb becomes much more critical than looking for ever-changing landmarks. Once arrived at whatever destination, food is outrageously good and the warmth and generosity of spirit are overwhelming. It is hard to maintain a balance between outrage at the absurd and evermore traumatizing Occupation and appreciation for the ever-present resilience of spirit and ingenuity everyone manifests in surviving the unendurable.

On one hand, I feel as though I should keep going at the pace Jon and Melissa set us; on the other, it would be impossible and I would expire from fatigue within a few short weeks. The tricky bit is that I don't have any routine yet, so everything is a day at a time and that causes me a little anxiety: I don't want to fritter away this precious time; on the other hand, each and every event/experience is a gem of its own, and I shouldn't be "hoarding."

Ian and I went to the village of Budrus yesterday. The trip was extraordinary and really moved us deeply. This is the village near the Green Line that struggled so hard for over a year to beat back the encroaching Wall that threatened their land and their village. The film Budrus (if you haven't seen it) is very powerful and ends optimistically. I was thus stricken to see with my own eyes how the land they once called their own is now down to 20% of their original holdings, even with their successful efforts to "negotiate" (with significant Israeli activist and international support - including anti-apartheid South African intervention) the Wall BACK to the Green Line from the deep incursion Israel was making into the WB on their land. Please make an effort to see it if you haven't. And then imagine Ian and me there looking down on the Wall, the Separation Road, the military jeep on patrol, the beautiful olive groves, and off to Tel Aviv in the distance. Unbelievable.

The trip to Budrus alone was breathtaking and would have "justified" this entire journey just by itself, if it had needed justification. It really touched both Ian and me to the quick. Perhaps it was because the scene was so serene, pastoral, and beautiful - a relatively isolated community that was thriving until random acts of cruelty, violence, and oppression moved in on them. Despite that, they manage to carry on their lives with dignity and integrity; more than can be said for the military jeep and its denizens parked on the barrier road that has torn a gash in the hillside just on the other side of the Fence, beyond which lie the village's traditional lands and trees. It is all so beautiful and surreal.

Very strangely, Mom seems very clear and present here. Ian said the same thing. I think it is the combination of the anemones blooming wild among the olive groves as well as the striking and dramatic geology that is everywhere. I can HEAR her going wild about the rocks, even though she would never have dreamed of coming here - any more than I would have. Our family spent its life boycotting apartheid and oppression, whether it was in South Africa, Franco's Spain, or in segregation era southern U.S. So look at me now! I am so privileged to be here and to witness for myself. It is a wonderful thing, but it is not enough. So many internationals do find their way here to bear witness; so many books and films are available; but we can go "home" and nothing really changes. I struggle daily with "What can I DO?!" and then, generally, find myself in tears. Interestingly, it is the lyrics of 1960's protest songs that speak to me about what I have seen - normal, I guess, since they were the voice of my generation. And what has changed except that the tactics have become more brutal/the killings even more random?

It is very hard to bifurcate: I have to concentrate so hard on being HERE that thoughts of THERE are very distant and hazy. Even phone calls home feel out-of-joint because of the psychological distance. After the winter drenching we took last week, the days have dawned bright, blue, and sunny, washed clean: truly Mediterranean.

Happy International Women's Day - please note that it is a holiday here. I'm just saying. . . . and Happy Spring. The wildflowers here are brave and beautiful as is the land - at least the part that Empire hasn't already destroyed. And the spirit of the people? Beyond fathoming, even after decades and generations of struggle. Mabruk!

In gratitude for your thoughts and prayers,
With love,
Susan

PLANT SALE MAY 12, 2012



Please mark your calendars for the week of MAY 5 to MAY 12.

Saturday, May 5 at 8:30 AM we will meet at the Meeting House to set up tables. Last year we had an unprecedented 24 people to help and we finished the WHOLE JOB by noontime. It was FANTASTIC!! Please, please let's do it again!

The whole week from May 7 to May 12 there will be work to do.

Clipboards will be circulating in the Meeting House for you to sign up for convenient times for you to HELP.

WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE SHARING YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO HELP MAKE OUR PLANT SALE A SUCCESS!

Last year we were able to contribute \$20,257 to many Quaker and local organizations because of all the support from our London Grove members and friends in the community.

Help Wanted:

Afterschool childcare needed: My son Leo will attend London Grove Friends Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. He will need childcare in our home (in Kennett Square, near Longwood Gardens) each school day next year 3:30-5:00 (3:30-6:00 on Wednesdays). Looking for a reliable person who will provide loving attention, outdoor playtime, fun and educational activities. Pay \$100/week. If interested, please call or email Julie at 610-324-8607 or jhubbard@psych.udel.edu.

Sublet:

Rebecca Mitchell is looking for someone to sub-let her house from May 8th to September 4th in West Grove. The rent is \$650 a month with around a \$50 electric bill. It includes 3 large rooms, a small outer room, a basement laundry machine and a small bathroom. The kitchen is "lovely and light, like a farmhouse kitchen." Please e-mail her at rebmitch@gmail.com or phone at 484-888-3184 if you are interested.