

MURRAY GROVE RETREAT AND RENEWAL CENTER



Annual Report to the Murray Grove Community

April 2016

Caring, Compassion, Community, Culture

2015 was a Great Year at Murray Grove—Thank You!

2015 was an amazing year because of the generosity and support from people like you who helped make some wonderful things possible, such as:

We created a “Grand Vision for the Future.” The Murray Grove and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ocean County (UUOCC) Boards have approved an outstanding Master Plan for the entire site.

In addition to the beauty of our natural wooded setting, our staff worked hard to keep Murray Grove beautiful, clean, and welcoming for visitors every day. We removed an old underground oil tank and created a Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden!



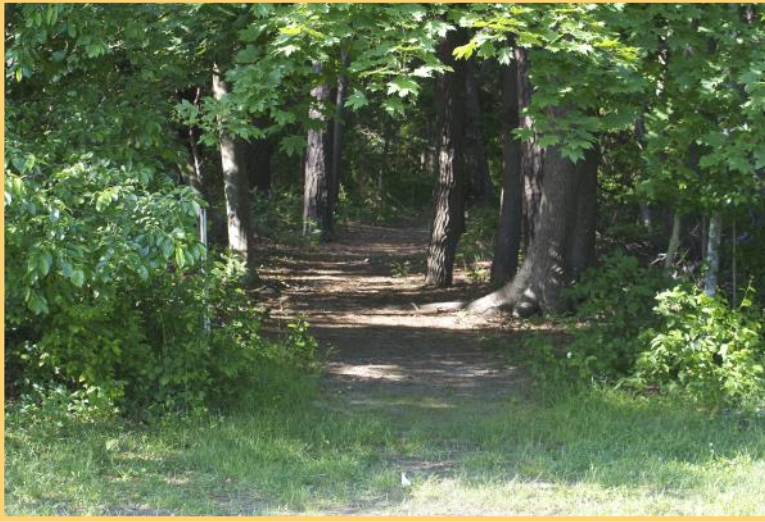
“Beautiful energy, vibrant, nurturing, peaceful – perfectly suited to a meditation retreat. Thank you!”



Campers in the Grove decorate the new Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden

In This Issue

- 2015—An amazing year of programs & accomplishments!
- Thank you to our generous donors, supporters, & vendors
- Messages from Murray Grove Leaders
- Looking Ahead—Our Master Plan Vision & 250th Anniversary in 2020



A Natural Setting for Hope, Transformation, Service, and Fun!

2015 was an amazing year at Murray Grove!

A Shared Site for Growing Community

The Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) began holding worship services and meetings at Murray Grove in the renovated Cone House last spring. We all look forward to building a new multipurpose meetinghouse as part of the Master Plan Phase One.

A Place for the Arts & Music

Murray Grove is the host site for monthly café houses and presentations by authors, musicians and artists.

Programs for All Ages

38 young UU campers enjoyed the week-long Camping in the Grove program in August with their wonderful staff and camp counselors.

60+ Diverse Groups Warmly Welcomed!

Many UU congregations and groups hold their leadership retreats and meetings at Murray Grove. A wide array of community organizations, environmental groups, and interfaith groups also offer their programs and gatherings at Murray Grove.

2015 Groups & Programs

Thank you to some of our returning groups:

- The American Ethical Union
- UU Germantown Men’s Group
- UU Congregation of South Jersey Shore
- Cold Mountain Zen Community
- Liberal Religious Educators Association
- Central East Regional Group
- The First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn
- Shaman’s Dawn
- UU Congregation of Princeton
- UU Congregation of Monmouth County

“What I loved most about camp was being accepted totally for who I am.”

Welcome to a few new groups:

- Fossil Fuel Divestment Students Group
- St. Luke’s, American Field Service
- Re-Evaluation Counseling, Family Re-unions
- NYC Institute for Holistic Yoga
- Princeton University Center for Jewish Life
- The Dodge Emerging Leaders
- International Meditation Retreat

As Thomas Potter said to John Murray, “Come my friend, I am glad you have returned. I have longed to see you and have been expecting you for a long time..”

Messages from the Murray Grove Association Presidents

"I hope you share my deep pride in all Murray Grove has accomplished over the last several years. In addition, I hope you share my enthusiasm for what lies ahead as we move the facilities, the programming, and our community involvement into the 21st century. Finally, I hope you will continue to support Murray Grove with your generous gifts as we take on our biggest financial challenge in Murray Grove's history."



~Ron Schaeffer

Murray Grove Association Board 2015

Ron Schaeffer
President

Rev. Carol Taylor
Vice President

Chris Jarocha-Ernst
Secretary

Debbie Dagavarian
MGA Liaison to UUOCC

Dominick DePinto

Ruth Hendry

Rev. Jennifer Kelleher

Rev. Greg Pelley

Janet Tillman

Rev. Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn

Bonney Parker
UUOCC Liaison to MGA



As the incoming President of the Murray Grove Association, I am honored and delighted to serve on the Board at this momentous time in Murray Grove's history.

Together we envision a beautiful, revitalized Murray Grove for the future. Just as Thomas Potter built his meetinghouse in hopes of having the message of hope, love and courage spread throughout the New World of his time, we, the members and staff of Murray Grove and UUOCC will build a new, multi-purpose meetinghouse and more so that we can continue to spread that message to our new world.

I look forward to seeing you at Murray Grove in 2016!

~Bonney Parker



Rev. Carol Taylor, Vice President & Chair Universalist National Cemetery Committee with guests.

Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center

Staff & Residents

Louise Ille, Executive
Director

murraygrove.louise@gmail.com

Geraldine Velecillos,
Assistant Director

murraygrove@murraygrove.org

Carol Maher, Bookkeeper

carol@murraygrove.org

Kathy Hermansson,
Director of Housekeeping

Kathy@murraygrove.org

Terry Stesney, Housekeeper

Lisa Arcoleo, Program
Coordinator

lisa@murraygrove.org

Jay MacDonald, Handyman

Laurel Amabile,
Development Director



MG Residents Dave McMahon
and Billie Jo McDonald

A Letter from the Executive Director



I have the honor of working with a dedicated Board of Trustees, as well as our team of dedicated and hardworking staff. Our accomplishments in 2015 were realized by creative teamwork and the important support of our generous donors and retreat bookings.

Our staff prides itself in providing a clean and peaceful environment, even when there are only a few hours between one group's departure and the next group's arrival. Our residents greet our guests with open arms and are on call 24/7 to ensure that our guests are properly served.

We are very grateful for our returning groups (see page 2 for a list of some of them) and are thankful that UU and non-UU groups consider Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center worthy of many repeat visits.

It has been a pleasure to welcome a number of new groups in 2015 and be the chosen site for a number of Lacey Township Recreation and Lacey Municipal Alliance community programs.

Murray Grove's Universalist Heritage is both a blessing and an inspiration as we work diligently to reflect the Unitarian Universalist values that are our foundation.

Thank you for your support!

Blessed Be~

Louise



Louise Ille, Executive Director (c) with the Murray Grove Staff (l-r) Kathy Hermansson, Carol Maher, Lisa Arcoleo, and Geraldine Velecillos.

Deep Gratitude to our 2015 Donors

Guardian Donor **\$10,000 or more**

Ron & Patricia Schaeffer

John Murray Donor **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

Arthur & Julie Bradburd

Thomas Potter Donor **\$2,500 to \$4,999**

Maggie Beaumont
Dominick DePinto & Craig Hirshberg
Carl & Carol Haag
Mary-Ella Holst
Karen York

Judith Sargent Murray Donor **\$1,000 to \$2,499**

Debbie Dagavarian
Jane & Ted Fetter
Sarah & David Fischell
Judith & James Marks
John & Susan Hook
David Hunter & Kerry Mueller
Kevyn Malloy
Rev. Susan Milnor & Rev. Terry Sweetser
Anthony Panzetta
David Poppe & Cherie Henderson
Patricia Schaeffer
Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Taylor
Joel Weaver



Murray Grove Board Members: Janet Tillman, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, Ron Schaeffer.



Carol Haag, Past President & Stewardship Committee Chair

Ways to Donate to Murray Grove

- ◆ Annual Gift by check, bill pay, or credit card
- ◆ Monthly Sustainer Gifts by check, bill pay, or credit card
- ◆ Stock gifts or wire transfers
- ◆ Bequests or planned gifts

Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center
PO Box 246
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

Phone: (609) 693-5558

Donate online:
www.murraygrove.org



Camping in the Grove—July 2015

Our Stewardship Committee

The members of the Murray Grove Stewardship Committee work throughout the year with the Staff and Board to raise the funding for the annual operating budget and special projects.

Thank you to those who serve in this vital capacity:

- ◆ Carol Haag, Chair
- ◆ Cameron Archibald
- ◆ Dominick DePinto
- ◆ Mary-Ella Holst
- ◆ Dave Winther
- ◆ Louise Ille, Executive Director, ex officio
- ◆ Laurel Amabile, Development Director, ex officio
- ◆ Lisa Arcoleo, Support Staff for Development, ex officio



Olympia Brown Donor

Laurel Amabile
 Chris & Melanie Buja
 Richard & Joyce Gilbert
 Suzanne Henshaw
 Charly & Jean Nelson
 Chris & Virginia Jarocho-Ernst
 Janet Tillman & Richard Speck
 Deana Washburn & John LoConte
 Annette & David Winther

\$500 to \$999

Phyllis M. Branum
 Gail & Peter Costanza
 Shirley B. Giles
 Marian Brownlee McKee
 Gary D. Nissenbaum
 Bonney Parker
 Greg Pelley
 Ned Wight

Clara Barton Donor

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 Ronda & Michael Cluff
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 Cindy Haag
 Rona & Robert Henry
 John & Cori Hoffman
 Patricia Hall Infante
 Rev. Jennifer A. Kelleher
 Frederick C. Kohout
 Frank & Mary Anne Kowalczyk
 Lacey Township Time Travelers
 Elaine McConnell
 Murray Grove Board of Trustees
 Charles B. Ortman
 Ann Perry & Mark Allizon
 Ivan Polonsky & Liz Tortorella
 Frances L. Prestianni
 Kenneth Shilling & Karen Scrivo
 Roots & Wings Drum Choir of UUCMC
 Denice Tomlinson
 Judith Ann Tomlinson
 Ruth Wagner

\$100 to \$499

Cameron Archibald
 Thomas Belz
 John & Estelle Best
 John Cavellero
 Jamaine Cripe
 Fern Culhane
 Ann Davis
 George Dorsey
 Gloria Gietz
 Louise Gross
 Lou A. Hatfield
 Ruth Hendry
 James Hewitt
 Louise Ille
 Gabor Kiss
 Thom Kocubinski
 Andrea Perry Lerner
 Russel Lorraine
 Michele Ochsner
 Elaine & Raj Nigam
 Guy Quinlan
 Pat & Doug Radtke
 Chris Rhoads
 Anne & David Sailer
 Peggy & Ralph Rawheiser
 Liz Strong
 Mary Tiebout
 Judy Vee
 Steve Wade
 Norma Winther



John Murray Legacy Society

"I chose to leave a Legacy of Love for both emotional and practical reasons. The difficult work John Murray undertook in establishing Universalism in America deserves my profound respect and honor. I love Murray Grove's history, beauty, and hospitality.

I established a Charitable Gift Annuity to benefit Murray Grove. I receive a much appreciated, generous, and guaranteed payment every three months, plus significant tax benefits. I am proud to be a member of the John Murray Legacy Society!



Mary Ella Holst, All Souls, NYC

Contact Us

For more information about our services and retreat packages for congregations, religious professionals, and local community groups, contact our Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center office: (609) 693-5558

Visit us on the web at:
www.murraygrove.org

Honor List of Unitarian Universalist Congregations

Thomas Potter Donor **\$2,500 to \$4,999**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

Judith Sargent Murray Donor **\$1,000 to \$2,499**

Community Church of New York, Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York

Olympia Brown Donors **\$500 to \$999**

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE
Unitarian Church of All Souls, NYC
Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing
Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South Jersey Shore

Clara Barton Donors **\$100 to \$499**

All Souls Bethlehem Church, Brooklyn, NY
The Unitarian Church in Summit
The Unitarian Society of East Brunswick
The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, Phila.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland
Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation
Women's Alliance of All Souls, NYC
Women's Alliance of UU Congregation of Princeton

Honor List of Granting Organizations

The Doolittle Fund of the Community Church of New York City
Joseph Priestley District
Metro New York District
New York State Convention of Universalists
Pennsylvania Universalist Convention
Unitarian Sunday School Society
Metro New York Chapter of UU Ministers Association

**Murray Grove Association
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2015 and 2014**

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Checking - TD Bank	\$ 31,009.97	\$ 68,353.00
Statement Savings	27,099.82	2,167.89
Howard and Marion Patton and Patricia P. Robison Funds	0.00	50,731.79
Sun National Bank	1,500.50	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	<u>\$ 59,610.29</u>	<u>\$ 121,252.68</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 59,610.29</u>	<u>\$ 121,252.68</u>
Fixed Assets		
Land	\$ 288,093.00	\$ 288,093.00
Buildings	573,233.23	573,233.23
Building Improvements	265,052.83	204,986.34
Accumulated Depreciation	-510,098.00	-494,732.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 616,281.06</u>	<u>\$ 571,580.57</u>
Other Assets		
UUA Investments	\$ 1,883,957.00	\$ 1,883,957.00
Total Other Assets	<u>\$ 1,883,957.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,883,957.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 2,559,848.35</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,576,790.25</u></u>
 LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Liabilities	\$ 28,796.68	\$ 40,801.96
Contributions Received for Specific Purpose	-421.88	-421.88
Payroll Liabilities	-3,786.57	2,812.31
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 24,588.23</u>	<u>\$ 43,192.39</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 24,588.23</u>	<u>\$ 43,192.39</u>
Equity		
Net Assets	\$ 2,118,084.27	\$ 2,102,980.51
Retained Earnings	411,899.35	460,157.13
Net Income	5,276.50	-29,539.78
Total Equity	<u>\$ 2,535,260.12</u>	<u>\$ 2,533,597.86</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>\$ 2,559,848.35</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,576,790.25</u></u>

A Natural Setting for Hope, Transformation, Service and Fun!

Murray Grove Association
Income Statement
For the Years January 1 through December 31, 2015 and 2014

	2015	2014
INCOME		
Retreat Income	\$ 138,096.78	\$ 94,669.30
Grant Income	16,929.96	38,961.41
Contributions	60,463.76 *	44,590.26
Endowment Income	92,829.60	95,947.26
Program Income	21,923.00	14,685.88
Store and Other Income	1,471.70	308.74
Total Income	<u>\$ 331,714.80</u>	<u>\$ 289,162.85</u>
EXPENSES		
Program and Event Expenses	\$ 21,287.58	\$ 20,001.32
Fundraising Expenses	6,996.02	5,741.38
Salaries and Wages	182,454.23	172,842.39
General & Administrative Expenses	43,213.23	43,236.08
Bldg & Maintenance	73,087.24	76,880.86
Capital Expenditures	-600.00	0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 326,438.30</u>	<u>\$ 318,702.03</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>\$ 5,276.50</u>	<u>-\$ 29,539.18</u>
Other Expense	<u>-</u>	<u>0.60</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 5,276.50</u>	<u>-\$ 29,538.58</u>

* Thanks to our Contributors, this number exceeded our expectations by almost 10%!!

Caring, Compassion, Community, Culture

Envisioning a Bright Future for Murray Grove

The Murray Grove Association Board contracted with Kocubinski Architects of Lambertville, NJ in July 2014 to develop a Master Plan for the renovation of the Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center site. The Master Plan mission statement is to...

“Create a Master Plan for the community that preserves and transforms this historic and sacred place, respecting nature and aesthetics.”



Our Master Plan was designed by Thom Kocubinski, AIA.

Kocubinski Architects is an award-winning, full service architectural design and planning firm, specializing in a variety of building types, including historic preservation, sacred places and renovation projects.

OUR CONSULTANTS



Laurel Amabile has served as consultant to the Murray Grove Association since 2013.

Since late 2015, Laurel served as our Development Director on a contract basis, supporting the Stewardship and Capital Committees, as well as the Murray Grove Board & staff.

