

MURRAY GROVE RETREAT AND RENEWAL CENTER



Annual Report to the Murray Grove Community

March 2017

Caring, Compassion, Community, Culture

2016 was Love in Action at Murray Grove Because of your generosity~

Diverse groups and committed people came to Murray Grove:

- * to learn how to expand social justice
- * to build ways to guarantee our precious environment
- * to heal and to grow.

In addition, Murray Grove sponsored these four exciting programs: Camping in the Grove for the 5th year; the First Annual Women's Retreat; a multi-congregational Coming of Age retreat; and Homecoming celebrating the 246th anniversary of John Murray's Famous Sermon launching Universalism.

For everyone: Murray Grove has made it comfortable and safe for all, with modern, accessible bathrooms in the Friedrich guesthouse and ADA ramped approaches to all the buildings. Read on about 2016 at Murray Grove.



"Murray Grove offers a wonderful, accepting and powerful experience to people of all creeds, colors, nationalities and preferences."



A hearty welcome to one of our newest groups at Murray Grove!

In This Issue

- 2016—An amazing year of programs & accomplishments!
- Thank you to our generous donors, supporters, & vendors
- Messages from Murray Grove Leaders
- Looking Ahead—Our 250th Anniversary in 2020



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

What's New at Murray Grove: Facility Improvements Accomplished in 2016

- ◆ Friedrich Guesthouse has been transformed! New ADA compliant bathrooms entered from inside and also from Cone House plus many invisible structural improvements
- ◆ Beautiful rain chain directs water into a recharge basin
- ◆ Unique ceremony and activity area from the excavated soil for outdoor gatherings & programs
- ◆ New fire alarm system that meets township standards and upcoming code
- ◆ The Fireside Room and Dining room refreshed, with new LED lights and fans
- ◆ Rain Garden in front of the Dining Room windows supported by a grant from the Doolittle Foundation,
- ◆ Hospitality Garden providing vegetables and herbs for residents, staff, and visitors

Special thanks to the Murray Grove Building Committee, and our Architect and Construction Manager, Thom Kocubinski.

Our returning groups have been delighted by the changes!

2016 Groups & Programs

These are just some of the wonderful groups we entertained this year:

- LREDA
- American Ethical Union
- OCC Educational Opportunity Fund
- American Field Service
- New Jersey Organizing Project
- Teen Pep Hightstown
- Sober Women's Retreat
- NY Institute for Holistic Yoga
- Black Arts Retreat
- Princeton Women's Retreat

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

Part of the mission of Murray Grove is to provide educational opportunities and prophetic outreach.

- Lacey Township Recreational Department
- Shoprite – Kids' Cooking Classes
- Lacey Municipal Alliance – Time Travelers
- Zumba and Belly Dancing Classes
- Soccer Shots
- Drum Circles
- Stellar Theatre Group play rehearsals
- Autistic Children's Christmas Party

We are also a voting site for 2 districts.

*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

Taking a look back at 2016 I think I can safely say it has been one extraordinary year for so many reasons, and looking ahead to 2017, we will proceed with hope, strength and love. I am excited to continue working as vice president under the very capable, dedicated, smart and dynamic leadership of Dominick DePinto, and with Ron Schaeffer on the Capital Campaign Committee. I look forward to seeing YOU at one or more of Murray Grove's programs, especially Homecoming, for which we plan a big celebration and festivities.



With the deepest gratitude to all past and present Murray Grove Board members, all members of the committees of Murray Grove, the Executive Director, Louise Ille and her wonderful staff, and most of all to you, our generous and loyal donors without whom none of this would be possible.

~ **Bonney Parker**



I'm very excited to begin my term as president of the Board of Trustees. Since joining the board in 2011 I've seen many positive changes here at Murray Grove including the renovation of many of the facilities, new bathrooms in Friedrich and Parker guest houses, making the buildings more accessible, and increasing energy efficiency to be more sustainable. UUOCC's use of Cone House as their home for Sunday services is another exciting development. The one thing that has not changed however, is the care, love, and professionalism of the Murray Grove's staff.

There is still much to do. Your continued financial support is critical. Please join me, the board, and the staff in moving Murray Grove forward and guaranteeing its future as a heritage site of Unitarian Universalism in America.

~ **Dominick DePinto**

Murray Grove Association Board 2016

Bonney Parker
President

Ron Schaeffer
Vice President

Chris Jarocha-Ernst
Secretary

Gail Costanza
Treasurer

Deb Dagavarian
MGA Liaison to UUOCC

Dominick DePinto

Rev. Suzanne Henshaw

Patricia Radtke

Rev. Carol Taylor

Janet Tillman



Bonney Parker, past president and Dominick DePinto, 2017 president cutting the ribbon to the new Friedrich addition at Homecoming 2016.

Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center

Staff & Residents

Louise Ille,
Executive Director

murraygrove.louise@gmail.com

Geraldine Velecillos,
Assistant Director

murraygrove@murraygrove.org

Lisa Arcoleo,
Stewardship Coordinator

lisa@murraygrove.org

Jay McDonald,
Facility Manager
jaysmokeinn@yahoo.com

Eike Valladares, Financial
Business Mgmt. Consultant

Deb Wilczek,
Bookkeeper

debbiew@murraygrove.org

Kathy Hermansson,
Director of Housekeeping

kathy@murraygrove.org

Terri Stesney, Housekeeper

Evelyn Benton, Chef

Lynda Smith, Resident &
Kitchen Assistant

Adam Robles, Handyman

A Letter from the Executive Director

When our country is facing a challenge of the UU values of diversity and inclusion, our message of Universal Love is needed more than ever! Our mission at Murray Grove is to mark the origins of Universalism, a liberal religious tradition based on love and profound acceptance that transformed the landscape of religion in America. We have a long proud history as the site of the Universalist "miracle"; when, in 1770, John Murray landed on our N.J. shore to preach his first sermon in America. Our purpose has always been to preserve and protect this Universalist heritage and to promote its message of Love and Inclusion. What better time than NOW to put our Universalist values in action, offering a sanctuary for people whose intention is to make a positive difference in the world?



Thirty-five groups enjoyed our simple ambiance and sacred grounds. Most of these groups focused on Spirituality and/or Social Action. Some of my favorite organizations were high school and college students studying social activism and community leadership. It gives me great hope for our future!

We are excited about our potential and are committed to providing peaceful affordable space and programs that support our Universalist values.

We truly appreciate your support and believe that by working together we will, like John Murray, sail into to a new era, for the highest good of all.

Thank you all for supporting Murray Grove!

In the spirit of Universalist Love,

We are grateful for the more than twenty years of service that Carol Maher has given to Murray Grove. Carol started at Murray Grove as a part-time member of our catering staff. Over her tenure at Murray Grove she has done almost every task, and ended up being our bookkeeper. Her attention to detail and great proofreading skills resulted in impeccable records and proper documentation. Her special care of protecting our artifacts and a thorough knowledge of where everything was located will be missed. If someone needed to find a document from twenty years ago, Carol was the person to ask. Although her retirement is well earned, we will miss her knowledge and her great wit at Murray Grove, and we wish her much happiness.



Carol Maher

Deep Gratitude to our 2016 Donors

Guardian Donors

\$10,000 or more

Shirl B. Giles
Ron & Patricia Schaeffer

John Murray Donors

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Thomas Potter Donors

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Brad & Julie Bradburd
Sarah & David Fischell
Carl & Carol Haag
Mary-Ella Holst
Karen York

Judith Sargent Murray Donors

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Deb Dagavarian-Bonar
Dominick DePinto & Craig Hirshberg
Jane & Ted Fetter
Suzanne Henshaw
John & Susan Hook
David Hunter & Kerry Mueller
Susan and Craig Lyons
Gary D. Nissenbaum
Anthony Panzetta & Kevyn Malloy
Bonney Parker
Terry Sweetser
Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Taylor
Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Taylor & Joel Weaver
Janet Tillman & Richard Speck
David & Annette Winther



Olympia Brown Donors

\$500 to \$999

Anonymous
Gail & Peter Costanza
Chris & Virginia Jarocha-Ernst
Linda Kay
Audrey Maxymuk
Greg Pelley
Madelyn H. Woolnough

"Great place to relax, reflect, re-new, and refurbish your soul."



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
- ◆ Donate online: www.murraygrove.org/donations

*If it is more convenient for you, Murray Grove can follow your instructions for sustaining gifts using the credit card information you provide.



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
- ◆ Mary-Ella Holst
- ◆ Dave Winther
- ◆ Louise Ille, Executive Director, *ex officio*
- ◆ Lisa Arcoleo, Support Staff for Development, *ex officio*
- ◆ Gail Costanza, MGA Treasurer, *liaison*



Clara Barton Donors

John Adrian
 Laurel Amabile
 Cameron Archibald
 Thomas Belz
 Linda Benson & Russell Schuman
 John & Estelle Best
 Sandy Blakelock
 Linda Bonk & Richard Brown
 Ted & Judy Brewer
 Jennifer & Richard Brower
 Chris & Melanie Buja
 John Cavellero
 Karen & Kevin Cubberly
 Lynn & Jan Dash
 Liz deBeer & Ted Wardell
 Barbara Diamantopoulos
 James Ellis
 Joan & Herb Field
 Elizabeth S. Flemer
 Linda Foshee
 Jef Gamblee
 Richard & Joyce Gilbert
 Louise Gross
 Elaine & Rich Held
 John & Cori Hoffman
 Louise Ille
 Lacey Township Time Travelers

\$100 to \$499

Nancy J. Lang
 Ira Lerner
 John & Paula Maiorano
 Elaine McConnell
 Jim McMurray
 Aaron & Jacqueline Miller
 Charles & Jean Nelson
 Elaine & Raj Nigam
 Michele Ochsner
 Justin Osterman
 Ann Perry & Mark Allison
 Ivan Polonsky & Liz Tortorella
 Robin Pugh
 Guy Quinlan
 Pat & Doug Radtke
 Ruth & Alan Ramsey
 Peggy & Ralph Rawheiser
 Anne & David Sailer
 Kenneth Shilling & Karen Scrivo
 Tammy Stewart
 Elizabeth Strong
 Christine & Jim Sturm
 Jaco & Barbara ten Hove
 Denice Tomlinson
 Steve Wade
 Ned Wight

We would like to take this opportunity to thank a longtime supporter, dedicated friend, and member of the Stewardship Committee, Mary Ella Holst. Mary Ella has been a wise adviser all the way as we learned how to create dependable donor funding for Murray Grove. She is an historian and a religious educator and shared her knowledge creatively with us. She has had experience in multiple UU organizations, including the UU Service Committee. She made personal approaches to UU churches in New York City and was singularly responsible for Murray Grove receiving a grant from the Doolittle Fund of Community Church of New York. She arranged a one-time grant for Camping in the Grove from the Annie Eaton Fund. She schlepped down to Murray Grove from New York — no small feat for a non-driver — on many occasions. She has been a delight on monthly telephone conference calls for six years. We will miss her wisdom, her wit and her personal dedication to Murray Grove.



Mary Ella Holst

Leave a Legacy of Love.....

The Unitarian Universalist Association, UU Service Committee, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Starr King School for the Ministry, the UU Ministers Association, and the Church of the Larger Fellowship are launching the Wake Now Our Vision Collaborative Campaign Legacy Challenge. Through this challenge, the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock has pledged to provide matching grants equal to 10% of new legacy gifts to designated UU organizations. By including Murray Grove in your planned giving, you can make a difference NOW and leave a legacy of love for generations to come. Further details will be available this summer.

Support Murray Grove through the UUA's Umbrella Giving Program.
www.uualegacy.org

**WAKE NOW
OUR VISION**
COLLABORATIVE CAMPAIGN

Legacy Challenge

Contact Us!

We would love to hear from you!

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

Phone: 609-693-5558

www.murraygrove.org

Our street address is:

431 US Hwy. 9 at Church Lane
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

Honor List of Unitarian Universalist Congregations

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

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York

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

First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County
Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington
Women's Alliance of UU Congregation of Princeton

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

All Souls Bethlehem Church, Brooklyn, NY
Central Unitarian Church of Paramus
First Unitarian Society of Plainfield
Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Unitarian Church in Summit
Unitarian Church of All Souls, NYC
The Unitarian Society of East Brunswick
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South Jersey Shore

Friends of Murray Grove **\$1 to \$99**

Dorothea Dix Unitarian Universalist Community
First Universalist Church of Brooklyn, PA
Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation
The Universalist Church Of West Hartford
Women's Alliance, Unitarian Church of All Souls, NY

Honor List of Supporting Organizations

The Doolittle Fund of the Community Church of New York City
Liberal Religious Educators Association
21st Century Fund
New York State Convention of Universalists
Pennsylvania Universalist Convention

Murray Grove Association
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Checking - TD Bank - Operating	\$ 22,539.75	\$ 31,009.97
Checking - TD Bank - Restricted Fund Balance	104,476.54	-
Restricted Funds - TD Saving Account	2,187.08	27,099.82
Cash Drawer	274.83	-
Sun National Bank	1,487.42	1,500.50
Total Bank Accounts	<u>\$ 130,965.62</u>	<u>\$ 59,610.29</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 130,965.62</u>	<u>\$ 59,610.29</u>
Fixed Assets		
Land	\$ 288,093.00	\$ 288,093.00
Buildings	573,233.23	573,233.23
Building Improvements	397,851.26	265,052.83
Accumulated Depreciation	- 510,098.00	- 510,098.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 749,079.49</u>	<u>\$ 616,281.06</u>
Other Assets		
UUA Investments	\$ 1,883,957.00	\$ 1,883,957.00
Totals Other Assets	<u>\$ 1,883,957.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,883,957.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 2,764,002.11</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,559,848.35</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Liabilities	\$ -	\$ 28,796.68
Accounts Payable	2,660.46	-
Deposits Held for 2017 retreats	12,265.00	-
Loans Payable	22,500.00	-
Deferred Revenue - Capital Funds - Match	48,480.00	-
Contributions Received for Specific Purpose		- 421.88
Payroll Liabilities	12,910.25	- 3,786.57
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 98,815.71</u>	<u>\$ 24,588.23</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
Loan from UUOCC	\$ 220,972.74	\$ -
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 220,972.74</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 319,788.45</u>	<u>\$ 24,588.23</u>
Equity		
Net Assets	\$ 2,118,084.27	\$ 2,118,084.27
Retained Earnings	425,072.82	411,899.35
Net Income	- 98,943.43	5,276.50
Total Equity	<u>\$ 2,444,213.66</u>	<u>\$ 2,535,260.12</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>\$ 2,764,002.11</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,559,848.35</u></u>

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

Murray Grove Association
Income Statement
For the Years January 1 through December 31, 2016 and 2015

	2016	2015
INCOME		
Retreat Income	\$ 146,855.34	\$ 138,096.78
Grant Income	11,220.05	16,929.96
Contributions	49,177.40	60,463.76
Endowment Income	98,767.60	92,829.60
Program Income	24,236.26	21,923.00
Store and Other Income	-	1,471.70
Total Income	<u><u>\$ 330,256.65</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 331,714.80</u></u>
EXPENSES		
Program and Event Expenses	\$ 32,898.77	\$ 21,287.58
Fundraising Expenses	4,839.40	6,996.02
Salaries and Wages	194,298.45	182,454.23
General & Administrative Expenses	50,810.16	43,213.23
Building and Maintenance Expenses	64,639.79	73,087.24
Capital Expenditures	-	- 600.00
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$ 347,486.57</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 326,438.30</u></u>
Net Operating Income	<u><u>\$ -17,229.92</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,276.50</u></u>



The Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation continues to have services, meetings, and meditation groups at Murray Grove. It is our pleasure to have a congregation meeting on our grounds once again.

Caring, Compassion, Community, Culture

MURRAY GROVE IS AN OASIS, A SANCTUARY IN CHALLENGING TIMES

We're looking forward to our 2020 celebration of 250 years of Universalism!

LOVE WITH NO EXCEPTIONS



250 YEARS OF UNIVERSALISM

September 30, 1770, is the moment when Love caught Fire.

The meeting of John Murray and Thomas Potter kindled the fire of Universalism which has burned for 250 years!
Murray Grove is the sacred historic site where this event occurred.

This 250th celebration in 2020 commemorates Universalism that began with John Murray's preaching of a God of Love with no exceptions and continued with inclusive love of all peoples through the following two and one half centuries.

This Love has been evolving over the decades – from personal salvation to social salvation – from afterlife to life here and now – from love of persons to love of the planet and the Web of Life.

This thread of Universalism is still making history and informs a vision of a world made whole; FAITH without dogma, HOPE through action, LOVE with no exceptions: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM.



Open invitation to all who would like to be part of a celebration of 250 years of Love made real. Calling artists, dramatists, historians, preachers, organizers, teachers, writers and Visionaries. Contact: Murraygrove@murraygrove.org / revcarolh4@gmail.com

Join the visionaries who have brought us this far
250th Advisory Committee:

Barbara Coeyman, Gordon Gibson, Mark Harris, Naomi King, Elizabeth Strong, Richard Trudeau

250th Visioning Participants:

Dr. Amy Aiserither, Laurel Amabile, Tim Atkins, Eleanor Ditton, Ted Fetter, Joyce and Rev. Dick Gilbert, Avery (Pete) Guest, Tim Hart, Mary-Ella Holst, Peter Hughes, Louise Ille, Rich Koster, Andrea Lerner, Rev. Jenny Rankin, John Sanders, Ron Schaeffer, Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, Holly Tanguay, Mark Hicks



Mark Your Calendar!

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these upcoming 2017 events:

Coming of Age Retreat, March 31-April 2

Spring Mix Art Show, April 7

VERBATIM, Spoken Word Show, May 7

Camping in the Grove, July 23-July 27

Homecoming, September 29-30

Women's Retreat, November 3-5

Monthly Drum Circles

Find our more on our website, Facebook, Twitter, email list or Meetup!



Our Consultant

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.

