

## GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

*Of the Religious Society of Friends in the Truth,  
College Park Quarterly Meeting,  
Pacific Yearly Meeting*

13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959 @  
The Sierra Friends Center, off Jones Bar Road,  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Website: [www.grassvalleyfriends.org](http://www.grassvalleyfriends.org) (NEW)

Email: [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com)

First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House (in-person and zoom)  
10:00 am Silent Meeting for Worship (in-person and zoom)  
To receive the zoom link, [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com).

### Newsletter, 1<sup>st</sup> Month, 2024

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## MEETING CALENDAR

### *First Sunday*

- Program to be announced.

### *Second Sunday*

- Hybrid Silent Meeting for Worship Meeting, Potluck and for Worship on the Occasion of Business.

### *Third Sunday*

- Program to be announced.

### *Fourth Sunday*

- Spiritual Life

### *Fifth Sunday*

- On Fifth Sundays we hold a Family Meeting for Worship. *Children and adults gather and spend 20 minutes in storytelling, 20 minutes in singing and 20 minutes in silent worship.*

- ✚ 1st First Day: Bible Story and Song
- ✚ 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day: A Story and a Craft or Activity
- ✚ 3<sup>rd</sup> First Day: A Story plus Time for Silent Worship
- ✚ 4<sup>th</sup> First Day: A Creative, Topical Curriculum
- ✚ 5<sup>th</sup> First Day: Family Worship (a story, singing and silent worship)
- ✚ Online Worship: every Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm (See page \_\_)

## HAPPENING NOW

- Thursday, January 18, 2024, 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. – GVFM hosts InterFaith Nevada County
- January 18-21, 2024: Friends General Conference “Gathering Anew”
- Sunday, January 21, 2024, 11:30a.m.: Gordon Starr: Singing from the Center – See page 6.
- Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 – NPS deadline for comment on Welcome Park – See page 13.
- Jan. 26-28, 2024 – Life Cycles of Friends Meetings – See page 9
- Sunday, January 28, 2024, 11:30a.m.: Quaker Seminary – See page 8.
- Wednesday, January 30, 2024, 5:00p.m. – 6:30p.m.: Quaker Call to Action – See page 12.

## HAPPENING LATER

- Saturday, February 24, 2024: PacYM Representative Committee Meeting
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month, January – June, 11:30a.m.: Quaker Seminary
- Saturday, March 2, 2024: PacYM Representative Committee Meeting
- Sunday, March 17, 2024, 11:30a.m.: Worship Sharing on the State of the Meeting

## GLOSSARY- Abbreviations and terms used in the GVFM newsletter.

**SFC:** Sierra Friends Center

**M&O:** Ministry and Oversight

**PacYM:** Pacific Yearly Meeting

**PHP** – Pendle Hill Pamphlet

**FGC:** Friends General Conference

**QUNP:** Quaker United Nations Project

**FASE:** Friends Association for Services to the Elderly

**CPQM:** College Park Quarterly Meeting

**RSWR:** Right Sharing of World Resource

**UwN:** Unity with Nature

**Threshing Session:** A meeting at a separate time specifically not for decision-making; normal practices of a Quaker meeting for business are relaxed so that Friends may speak more than once to an issue, speak to a point just made, or ask a question of a previous speaker.

**Query:** The Friends practice of examining our souls and seeking clarity. These questions & exercises help to give time to seek truth about us and our spiritual condition and to tap into Divine insight.

## [Grass Valley Friends Meeting Facebook link](#)

If you use Facebook, follow the Grass Valley Friends Meeting page, or join the Facebook Grass Valley Friends Meeting group. If you share a post from the page, your friends will see it, and it helps our visibility.

**We are all visitors  
to this time,  
this place.  
We are just passing  
through.**



art | Colleen Wallace Nungari,  
Dreamtime Sisters

**Our purpose here is to  
observe,  
to learn, to grow  
to love....**

**and then,  
we return home.**

-- Aboriginal proverb

# MINUTES AND RECORD: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, January 14, 2024

We met in a hybrid meeting in person at the meetinghouse and on Zoom.

**Present:** Dorothy Henderson (clerk), Amy Cooke (co-recording clerk), Jennifer Smith (co-recording clerk), Marilyn Guida, Sharon Davisson, Chamba Cooke, Doug Hamm, Reed Hamilton, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Starr (elder to the clerk), Mary Starr, Dianne Marshall, Fosten Wilson, Kathy McCreery, Stuart Smith.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

## Clerks' Remarks and Query:

- The clerk shared from the recent year end retreat at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, where a participant spoke of our Meeting as having a transformative effect on its members. Dorothy shared from Romans 12:2. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may discern what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." We come to Meeting expecting to be transformed. What might you expect, or have experienced, as transformation when you come to Meeting for Worship for Business?
- Friends spoke out of silence:
  - One Friend spoke of how the structure and committees in our Meeting, and in Quaker process, help deal with difficult issues. Several other Friends echoed this sentiment.
  - Another Friend spoke of how Meeting for Worship for Business can be frustrating, until a weighty issue arises. It is the practice on the simple issues that prepare us for the difficult issues.
  - One Friend recalled, when she was a new Quaker, how surprised she was at her first Meeting for Worship for Business. The wholeness of being in unity, rather than taking a vote, was something she had been searching for her whole life.
  - When faced with issues that aren't simple or easy, transformation, both individual and for the greater group, can come through Quaker process over time.
  - Sometimes an agenda item can seem trivial. However, through the process of Meeting for Worship for Business, the importance of the issue can be revealed for the greater good of the Meeting.

## ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER (see Committee sections below)

- The Meeting approves delegating the issue of how to manage the paper and digital archives to the Stewardship Committee, with the recommendation that a task force be formed to work on best practices.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

(see reports appended, committee clerk is noted in bold)

**Spirit and Witness:** Amy Cooke, Stuart Smith, Reed Hamilton, Sharon Davisson, Dean Olson, Dorothy Henderson (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk).

Amy Cooke gave the report, appended. Reed Hamilton read the report on the newly formed Witness Committee, *Toward a Right Relationship*, followed by the organization report on Interfaith Nevada County given by Dianne Marshall.

**Stewardship:** Mary Starr, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Gordon Starr, Doug Hamm, David Bowman. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Fosten Wilson (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian).

Mary Starr, clerk, gave the report, appended.

**Welcome Committee:** Peter O'Rourke, clerk (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Cheryl Hendrickson, Cindy Bliss, Lo Hamm, CJ Patterson, Hailey Wilson (ex-officio, tech support), Judy Hamilton (ex-officio, email coordinator).

Judy Hamilton gave the report, appended.

- A concern was raised about what information is going out to the community about our events and who is invited to attend.
- Discussion was held about what information should go out to the email tree, the newsletter, and the newspaper.
- For now, if a presentation takes place in the meeting, it will be publicly noted in the newsletter and could go to the Newspaper. If the presenter wants this to be just for GVFM members and attenders, it will be listed that way. Otherwise, it will be open. We acknowledge that we have multiple layers of public interfacing, and we ask Welcome to take this matter up and return to Meeting with additional recommendations if needed.

**Children's Program:** Keely McDonald and Doug Hamm, co-clerks, Dorothy Henderson, Gordon Bishop, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, David Cowan, Lo Hamm.

No report.

**Nominating Committee:** (*terms as noted*) Judy Hamilton: 2022-2024, Gordon Starr: 2022-2024, Dean Olson 2023-2025, Sharon Davisson 2023-2025.

There was no report.

#### OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Pacific Yearly Meeting:** Doug Hamm gave the report, appended.
- **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Doug Hamm gave the report, appended.
- **Treasurer:** fosten wilson. See report, appended.
  - There were questions raised about the various funds the meeting holds.
- **Interfaith Nevada County:** see Spirit and Witness report.

#### CLERK'S REMARKS

- The clerk did not offer remarks in closing.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Facebook: please follow the Grass Valley Friends Meeting page, or join the Facebook Grass Valley Friends Meeting group. If you share a post from the page, your friends will see it, and it helps our visibility. Follow this [link](#).

- The 2023-2024 PacYM General Directory is available. It can be found on the Yearly Meeting Website at: [pacificyearlymeeting.org](https://pacificyearlymeeting.org) > Resources > PacYM General Directory and Database > Obtaining the Directory

The Directory is available for use by members and attenders of monthly meetings and worship groups within Pacific Yearly Meeting and by Friends serving on Pacific Yearly Meeting committees. It is not to be shared beyond this community. Dorothy, Doug, and Don have the new password for the PacYM Directory.

- Carl Magruder: You can follow Carl's healing journey on the CaringBridge.org website [HERE](#). Friends have also set up a daily Meeting for Healing from 7:30 to 8 am (Pacific) on Zoom [here](#) or contact Amy Cooke at amyliette@gmail.com for the link.
- Please remember Grass Valley Friends Meeting in your annual giving. You can give by mailing a check to fosten wilson or through Tithely on the website.
- January 28-June 23 (4th Sundays): Quaker Seminary: Amy Cooke

**Quaker Seminary** (this program is open to all Meeting members and regular attenders) via Zoom and in person at Grass Valley Friends Meeting.

In this series of six sessions we will explore Quakerism and our faith and practice through sharing our living experiences of the Inward Light/God/Spirit.

This series is called a “seminary” in the spirit of the origins of this word ~ literally, a “seed plot!” In other words, we are forming a garden for growing the seeds of our spiritual lives. Along the way, we will explore Quaker writings from other fellow travelers on this path, Quaker terminology, and Quaker practices.

Session 1: January 28, 2024 11:30 - 1 pm

In this session we will explore what might be the most foundational piece of Quakerism - an unmediated relationship with God. We will explore how our Quaker practice supports this relationship, both individually and in community, and how these practices were formed historically and how they live among us today.

Recommended reading: *What Can We Say? The Essentials of Quaker Faith* by Steven Dale Davison. This will be sent via pdf to the GVFM email list. Please contact Amy Cooke for a copy if you did not receive it.

Saturday, January 20: The next **College Park Quarterly Meeting**, online only. Register by clicking [here](#). The theme is “Hard Truths; Great Hopes”.

Rather than travel to a host site, CPQM will hold the entire day’s program via Zoom. The clerk and organizers are encouraging us to invite our neighbors – up to 5 Friends – with whom we can share the experience, as well as lunch and worship-sharing. Advice on how to do this will be on the registration form.

January 26-28, 2024. **The Life Cycle of Quaker Meetings** with Sandy Kewman and Anne Pomeroy at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Do Friends Meetings experience cycles of life? What are members of the Meeting community called to do in response? What opportunities do these cycles bring? At this weekend retreat, we will look at the Life Cycles of Meetings through the lens of community care, which is based on listening for Spirit, and trusting in that.

[Click here to register](#)

January 21, 2024: Spirit and Witness Program with Gordon Starr. **Singing from the Center.** As a "Universal Solvent", music has, for ages, been used as a vehicle to move us past our minds and concepts, into our feelings of love, connection to each other and to the Divine. We Quakers do have some experience at how to find that center, how to access that place in us that is still, present and open. Singing from that place can enrich and expand the experience of wholeness. Come give it a try.

#### ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

- The Welcome Committee will discern how we share information with the public, including the newsletter, Facebook, the newspaper, and Interfaith Nevada County.

#### READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES

The record and the minutes were read, corrected and approved.

If you are giving a report to GVFM, please send the actual report to the recording clerk at [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com) THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items into Dianne Marshall by Tuesday at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.



Respectfully recorded by Amy Cooke, recording clerk (outgoing) and Jennifer Smith, recording clerk (incoming).

#### APPENDICES:

1. Spirit and Witness Committee report
  - a. Witness Committee:
  - b. Interfaith Nevada County
2. Stewardship Committee report
3. Welcome Committee report
4. Children's Committee report
5. Pacific Yearly Meeting Monthly Report
6. College Park Quarterly Meeting Report

## GVFM Treasurer's Quarterly Report, January 13, 2024

summary = A strong beginning, thank you all.

This report covers October thru December 2023. The contributions you provided in those months (\$5,157) were welcome and appreciated. Our spending (\$3,374) was as expected except for a \$200 increase in the annual cost of Liability Insurance.

The "Fund Balances" & the "Actual Spending vs Budget" reports are available in the Meeting House -- near the library -- and by contacting me. Our Sharing fund has been active & our Placer County Worship Group fund has increased. The other Restricted Funds are unchanged.

*Thank you for your help. All gifts, both in service to the Meeting & financial are deeply appreciated. Money contributions to GVFM can be in-person, mailed to my address below, or online by using the "give" button at [grassvalleyfriends.org](http://grassvalleyfriends.org)*

Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, 15719 American Hill Rd, Nevada City, CA 95959  
email = [fwkm@protonmail.com](mailto:fwkm@protonmail.com)

## Singing from the Center Program,

Sunday, January 21, 2024 -Gordon Starr



As a "Universal Solvent", music has, for ages, been used as a vehicle to move us past our minds and concepts, into our feelings of love, connection to each other and to the Divine. We Quakers do have some experience at how to find that center, how to access that place in us that is still, present and open. Singing from that place can enrich and expand the experience of wholeness. Come give it a try.

## ADVICES and QUERIES: FIRST MONTH - PEACE

Friends oppose all war as inconsistent with God's will. As every person is a child of God, we recognize God's Light also in our adversaries. Violence and injustice deny this reality and violate the teachings of Jesus and other prophets.

Friends challenge their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace. We urge one another to refuse to participate in war as soldiers, or as arms manufacturers. We seek ways to support those who refrain from paying taxes that support war. We work to end violence within our own borders, our homes, our streets, and our communities. We support international order, justice, and understanding.

Become an instrument of peace. At every opportunity, be peacemakers in your homes, workplaces and communities. Steep yourself in the power of the universal Spirit. Examine your actions for the seeds of violence, degradation and destructiveness. Overcome the emotions that lie at the root of violence and nurture instead a spirit of reconciliation and love. Come to know the oneness of all creation and oppose the destruction of the natural world.

Do I live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I nourish peace within myself as I work for peace in the world?

Do I confront violence wherever it occurs, even when my personal relationships are involved?

Where there is distrust, injustice, or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?

*What are we doing to remove the causes of war and destruction of the planet, and to bring about lasting peace?*

*Do we reach out to all parties in a conflict with courage and love?*

**Your donation allows Grass Valley Friends Meeting to thrive.**

**Thank you!**



**Give**

**← This button will take you to a secure site.**

- It's easy to give to Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Click on the Give button above or go to [grassvalleyfriends.org](http://grassvalleyfriends.org) and click on the "GIVE" button. You'll go to a secure site for donations. Your monthly contribution keeps our Meeting viable. *Tithely* now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request.

**Thank you.**

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## SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAM: *Quaker Seminary*

During the first six months of 2024, Grass Valley Friends Meeting is offering members and regular attenders of Meeting for Worship a Spiritual Life Program entitled *Quaker Seminary*. These sessions will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month between 11:30a.m. and 1:00p.m. via Zoom and in person at the Grass Valley Friends Meeting.

This series is called a “seminary” in the spirit of the origins of this word ~ literally, a “seed plot!” In other words, we are forming a garden for growing the seeds of our spiritual lives. Along the way, we will explore Quaker writings from other fellow travelers on this path, Quaker terminology, and Quaker practices.

We will explore Quakerism and our faith and practice through sharing our living experiences of the Inward Light/God/Spirit.

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In this session we will explore what might be the most foundational piece of Quakerism - an unmediated relationship with God. We will explore how our Quaker practice supports this relationship, both individually and in community, and how these practices were formed historically and how they live among us today.

Recommended reading: This will be sent via pdf to the GVFM email list. Please contact Amy Cooke for a copy if you did not receive it.

*What Can We Say?*

*The Essentials of Quaker Faith*

*An Answer to the Question,*

*What Do Quakers Believe?* Steven Dale Davison

- Session 2: February 25, 2024:  
Ministry

- Session 3: March 24, 2024:  
The Meeting Community

- Sessions 4, 5, and 6 will be developed based on the first three sessions

## **Witness Committee—Toward a Right Relationship With Indigenous Peoples**

Over the past few years our Meeting has engaged in education regarding the history and current situations of Native Americans, in particular the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan tribe. We are aware that our meeting house and our homes are on Nisenan land that was never ceded. We have learned of the genocide of the Nisenan people with the gold rush in our area, as well as the genocide of native people throughout California and across the continent. We have become aware of Quaker involvement in the Indian boarding schools that attempted to destroy Indian culture.

Committed to further learning and action, we began reading the Nevada City Ranchería Nisenan land acknowledgment at the beginning of each Meeting for Worship. We began educating ourselves and the children of our meeting about native peoples' relation to the natural world. We understand that their teachings can help us see, and perhaps repair, the damage we have done to the earth, the place where we all live, changing how we live our lives. This understanding of indigenous relationship offers pathways to reforming our food systems, land and species preservation, and our consumption of resources.



We are now ready to go beyond land acknowledgment and take steps toward a right relationship with the Nisenan, other native peoples and our home, the earth. This Witness Committee is formed with that intent.

This is an invitation to Grass Valley Friends Meeting members and regular attenders of Meeting for Worship who would like to participate in this committee.



## **Announcement: Woolman in contract with CHIRP**

January 8, 2024

College Park Friends Educational Association (Woolman) joyously announces that it has entered into escrow with California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) with the intention of ethically transitioning the Woolman land and property to CHIRP for the benefit of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, on whose ancestral homeland the Woolman property sits. We are excited about CHIRP's vision for the Nisenan's ancestral land, which includes youth programming.

As with any real estate agreement, there are contingencies to be resolved, and this may take several months. In the meantime, if you wish to contribute to Woolman's ongoing operating costs pending the land transition, please donate here. If you wish to donate to CHIRP for this historic land transfer, please keep an eye out for a dedicated donation link coming soon on CHIRP's website. You can sign up for CHIRP's newsletter here.

Please stay tuned for more news of this land transition and hold us and CHIRP in the Light as we move forward.

## **THE LIFE CYCLE OF QUAKER MEETINGS**

January 26-28, 2024. [THE LIFE CYCLE OF QUAKER MEETINGS](#) with Sandy Kewman and Anne Pomeroy. Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

Do Friends Meetings experience cycles of life? What are members of the Meeting community called to do in response? What opportunities do these cycles bring?

Last spring, Anne Pomeroy and Sandy Kewman wrote an article for Western Friend called 'The Life Cycle of a Quaker Meeting.' The article spurred much interest and discussion, and Sandy and Anne decided to deepen this conversation at a weekend program here at Quaker Center. You can read the article here:

<https://westernfriend.org/magazine/on-loss/life-cycle-of-a-quaker-meeting/>

At this weekend retreat, we will look at the Life Cycles of Meetings through the lens of community care, which is based on listening for Spirit, and trusting in that. [Click here to register](#)

## About the presenters



**Sandy Roske Kewman** is a learner under the tutelage of four young grandchildren, a seeker within the Quaker way of justice and liberation for all people. She is imagining & learning what care of community might

look like & longs to do so with other Friends & non-Friends alike. She worships most frequently at Sacramento Friends Meeting.



**Anne Pomeroy** is a Quaker spiritual director and a member of New Paltz Monthly Meeting in New York Yearly Meeting.



## PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING NEWS

### 1- Save the Date! Representative Committee (RepCom) 2024

The 2024 meeting of the PacYM Representative Committee (RepCom) will be taking place on Saturdays, February 24 and March 2, online.

Meeting representatives to PacYM, as well as Yearly Meeting Officers and Clerks of Committees and Subcommittees are asked to attend RepCom, and all interested Friends in our community are invited and welcome to attend.

### 2- Opportunities for service working with a small group of Friends

The PacYM Nominating Committee shares the following:

a. **Children's Program Committee:** They provide high quality programming for Friends ages 0-12. We are also exploring innovative ways to support our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to make families feel welcome and supported. Most meetings are virtual until late spring. Contact Molly Bishop for more information [mmollyb@gmail.com](mailto:mmollyb@gmail.com)

b. **Registrar(s):** Design and implement the registration forms and processes for Annual Session in July. This could be done as volunteers or for pay, by an individual with an assistant, a team of two or three, or a meeting as a fundraiser. Contact Julie Harlow for more information [fhmus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fhmus@sbcglobal.net)

c. **Techies:** Several committees would like to have a regular or an adjunct member who is tech savvy: format documents and flyers, manage a website, update a Facebook page, etc. Tell us what skills you have and what time you have available, and we can find the right spot for you. Contact Julie Harlow for more information [fhmus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fhmus@sbcglobal.net)

### 3- Social Concern Minute from Central Coast Monthly Meeting

The PacYM Peace and Social Order Committee shares the Social Concern Minute from Central Coast Monthly Meeting: Statement Supporting Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

This minute can also be found on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website [HERE](#)

Please see the December/12<sup>th</sup> Month, 2023 issue of the GVFM Newsletter to read the full text of this minute. Thank you!

The PacYM Peace and Social Order Committee has developed a method for preserving and distributing social concern minutes passed by our Monthly Meetings. If your Meeting passes such a minute, the procedure to share your minute is attached and can also be found [HERE](#)

#### **4- Request to set up a Scholarship Fund**

We share the following:

2023.11.01. Meeting approved: La Jolla Monthly Meeting asks that Pacific Yearly Meeting set up a Scholarship Fund for Post-secondary Education.

To further that end, we ask that the Ministry Committee set up an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the possibilities for either the creation of such a scholarship fund or the re-wording of the parameters of the dormant Student Conscience Fund.

*(Note: This minute has been read by the Clerk and Incoming Clerk of Pacific Yearly Meeting and is under consideration.)*

#### **5- Friends General Conference (FGC): In these changing times, how is Spirit moving among us?**

January 18-21, 2024 online

The program includes four main components:

- Connection to Spirit
- Becoming an Actively Anti-racist Faith Community
- Changing Structures for Changing Times
- The Future of the Religious Society of Friends

Registration will open mid-December.

See the information attached or visit the event webpage [HERE](#)

Please see the December/12<sup>th</sup> Month, 2023 issue of the GVFM Newsletter to read the complete schedule for this zoom session. Thank you!

### **QUAKER CALL TO ACTION: "A DEEPER DIVE INTO RANKED CHOICE VOTING AND HOW IT CAN TRANSFORM OUR ELECTIONS"**

REGISTER [HERE](#) to join us on Tuesday, January 30, 8:00-9:30PM Eastern Time for a national zoom call with Rob Richie of [FairVote](#) and Cynthia Richie Terrell of [RepresentWomen](#) for a deeper dive into ranked choice voting and how it can repair and strengthen our democracy. Learn how the National Popular Vote Plan and the Fair Representation Act can transform future Presidential and Congressional elections, and how a growing number of women are being elected to public office in the US.

**NEWS FLASH!!!** We will be joined on the call by special guest, **Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-8)**. Rep. Raskin, who is in 4th term in the US House of Representatives, has been a tireless champion for civil rights and civil liberties. He was the lead manager in the 2nd impeachment trial of former president Donald Trump in 2020 and he served on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the US Capitol.

Rob and Cynthia are Quakers who co-founded [FairVote](#) in 1992. Their lifework has been committed to creating a stronger democracy, driven by their commitment to Friends' principle of radical equality.

[FairVote](#) is the national driving force behind advancing ranked choice voting (RCV) and proportional RCV in legislative districts to give voters more choices, fairer representation and better government. [RepresentWomen](#) is committed to gender-balanced representation in elected and appointed positions, at every level of government, and works on evidence-based solutions that break down structural barriers to women's political leadership.

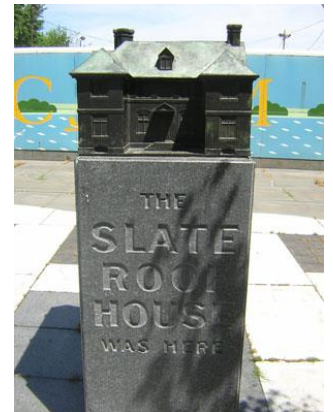
**[REGISTER HERE](#)** for the Zoom session. You will receive a zoom link the day before the session.

### **THE QUAKER CALL NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE**

Marian Beane, Bruce Birchard, Sam Caldwell, Gretchen Castle, Mary Ellen McNish, Diane Randall, Jim Waddington, and Michael Wajda.

## **WE NEED YOUR INPUT FOR THE WELCOME PARK! ACT NOW!**

The National Park Service proposes to rehabilitate [Welcome Park](#), the site of William Penn's home, *the Slate Roof House* to provide a more welcoming, accurate, and inclusive experience for visitors. Welcome Park was designed by the internationally acclaimed design firm Venturi & Scott Brown Associates. The park is named for the ship, Welcome, which transported Penn to Philadelphia...



"The proposed rehabilitation of Welcome Park includes expanded interpretation of the Native American history of Philadelphia and was developed in consultation with representatives of the indigenous nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. The reimagined Welcome Park maintains certain aspects of the original design such as the street grid, the rivers and the east wall while adding a new planted buffer on three sides, and a ceremonial gathering space with circular benches. The Penn statue and Slate Roof house model will be removed and not reinstalled. In a separate and future effort, new exhibit panels will be installed on the south site wall to replace the Penn timeline.

We have the opportunity to provide input into this decision. The public is invited to submit comments on this proposed design for the rehabilitation of Welcome Park for a 14-day period from January 8th – 21st, 2024 through the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Comments submitted through social media, phone calls, email or mail will not be accepted. **All public comments must be received through PEPC by midnight Sunday, January 21st, 2024.**"



There is a lively discussion of this on Facebook, (see <https://www.facebook.com/IndependenceNHP/>) but the Park Service requires that all input be provided through the PEPC process.

## **PENDLE HILL:**

[February First Monday Lecture](#) - Online: Feb 5  
Truth and Justice: The Black Quaker Project  
Challenges Quakerism in the 21st Century, with Dr.  
Harold D. (Hal) Weaver, Jr.

[Dreaming Sanctuary: An Intergenerational LGBTQ+ Gathering](#) - On Campus: Feb 23-25  
A retreat for renewal, rejuvenation, and relationship building)

[March First Monday Lecture](#) - Online: Mar 4  
Tracts for Our Times: Celebrating Ninety Years of  
Pendle Hill Pamphlets, with Mary Crauderueff,  
Doug Gwyn, and Janaki Spickard Keeler

[Clearness Committees: Spiritual Discernment in Community for Personal and Social Transformation](#)  
- On Campus: Mar 22 - 24  
Retreat to deepen skills and spiritual practice with  
Valerie Brown and John Baird

[Kairos on the Mountain](#) - in Monteverde, Costa Rica: May 15 - 22  
A spiritual pilgrimage to Costa Rica with Francisco Burgos

Now accepting applications for 2024-2025  
resident scholars!

A core component of Pendle Hill's educational program is providing religious leaders, writers, artists, scholars, theologians, and activists with extended residencies to conduct their creative projects in the context of a spiritual community rooted in a daily rhythm of common meals, work, worship, and contemplation.

If you or someone you know is interested in a resident scholar opportunity, more information about different scholarships can be found here:  
<https://pendlehill.org/learn/scholarships-residencies/>

Applications are due on March 1st of this year for residencies that will occur between September 2024 through August 2025. Decisions will be made in June of this year.

## **Upcoming Education Programs, 2024**

[February Reading Group](#) - Online: Feb 21  
A Discussion of Leslie Hill's "Marriage: A Spiritual Leading for Lesbian, Gay, and Straight Couples" (PHP #308)

[Acceptance and Forgiveness](#) - On Campus: Mar 3 - 10  
Seven-day mindfulness meditation retreat with Mary Grace Orr, Anne Briggs, and Rebecca Kronlage

[Beyond Diversity 101](#) - On Campus: Mar 19 - 23  
Intensive on healing transformation with Niyonu Spann and Lisa Graustein

[Quaker Institute: Living Our Testimonies in "The Fierce Urgency of Now"](#) - On Campus: May 2-5  
A conference to explore how we can meet this political moment as Friends, individually and collectively





Friends Committee  
ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

**YOU  
ARE THE HEART OF  
OUR WORK!**

In a time when war and violence are on the rise across the globe, peacebuilding is more important than ever. FCNL is one of the largest and most effective grassroots advocacy organizations, with volunteers around the country lobbying Congress for international peacebuilding programs.

[Your steadfast commitment to peace has made progress possible this year](#), even in a time of toxic political partisanship and division.

**Thank you for your role in making this—and more—possible in 2023:**

- As federal spending conversations have dominated this year's congressional debates, thank you for talking to your elected officials about what matters to you.
- As conflict and war continue to escalate, you helped generate more than 400,000 emails to Congress in support of peace this Fall.
- As climate change continues to impact communities with limited resources to address it, you advocated that Congress support investments to sustain vulnerable countries facing the worst effects of this climate crises.
- With your financial support and advocacy, FCNL continues to call on Congress to produce a moral budget that enables all communities to thrive, and expand the Child Tax Credit to provide critical financial support for millions of working families who don't make enough money to qualify for this benefit.

Moved by faith. Guided by Spirit. We are each being called this moment to the work called this moment to the work of dismantling injustice and realizing peace. **It requires us to stay brave and constant.** At this moment, around the country and around the world, the support for peace is growing like never before.

**Let us dare to believe that a world free of war and the threat of war is possible.**



Gratefully,  
**Amelia Kegan**  
*Associate General Secretary  
Policy and Advocacy*



# Grass Valley Friends Meeting Contact Information (1-16-24)

## COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

**Stewardship:** Mary Starr, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Gordon Starr, Doug Hamm, David Bowman. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Fosten Wilson (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian), (ex-officio Tech Support).

**Welcome:** Peter O'Rourke (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Cheryl Hendrickson, Cindy Bliss, Lo Hamm, CJ Patterson, Judy Hamilton (ex-officio, email coordinator).

**Spirit and Witness:** Amy Cooke, Stuart Smith, Reed Hamilton, Sharon Davisson, Dean Olson, Dorothy Henderson (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk of the Meeting),

**Children's Program:** Keely McDonald, Dorothy Henderson, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, David Cowan, Lo Hamm.

### Nominating Committee: (terms as noted)

- Judy Hamilton: 2022-2024
- Gordon Starr: 2022-2024
- Sharon Davisson: 2023-20205
- Dean Olson: 2023-2025

## OFFICER HOLDERS

- **Clerk:** Dorothy Henderson (530-575-5988) [dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com)
- **Elder to Clerk:** Gordon Starr (530-878-1237) [gstarr121@aol.com](mailto:gstarr121@aol.com)
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) [amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com)/Jennifer Smith (916-663-3539) [sewsmitharts@yahoo.com](mailto:sewsmitharts@yahoo.com)
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- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson (530-265-6533) [fwkm@protonmail.com](mailto:fwkm@protonmail.com)
- **Tech Support/Zoom Calendar:** Hailey Wilson [seahorseleaf@protonmail.com](mailto:seahorseleaf@protonmail.com)
- **Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Peter O'Rourke (209-291-8211) [peterorouke2001@yahoo.com](mailto:peterorouke2001@yahoo.com), Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) [amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com)
- **Librarian:** Don McCormick (310-597-9469) [donmccormick2@gmail.com](mailto:donmccormick2@gmail.com)
- **Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) [ntowhee@gmail.com](mailto:ntowhee@gmail.com)
- **Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 [deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com)

**Representatives:** one-year terms

*Please note: Most organizations no longer have representatives from GVFM. They are held in two committees, Welcome and Spirit and Witness. The following organizations are the exceptions:*

- **Interfaith Nevada County:** Dianne Marshall
- **Sierra Friends Center:** Gordon Starr
- **Pacific Yearly Meeting:** Doug Hamm
- **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Doug Hamm



13075 Woolman Lane,  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
Return Address Requested