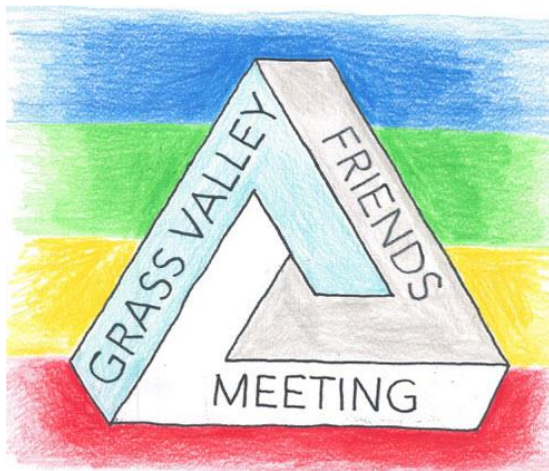




GRASS VALLEY
FRIENDS MEETING
*Of the Religious Society of Friends
College Park Quarterly Meeting,
Pacific Yearly Meeting*

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

Website: www.gvfriends.org

Email: 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.

Newsletter, Third Month, 2023

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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 – See page 2 for April exception.

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
- ✚ 2nd First Day: A Story and a Craft or Activity
- ✚ 3rd First Day: A Story plus Time for Silent Worship
- ✚ 4th First Day: A Creative, Topical Curriculum
- ✚ 5th First Day: Family Worship (a story, singing and silent worship)
- ✚ Online Worship: every Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm

HAPPENING NOW

- Saturday, March 4, 2023, PacYM RepCom Meeting
- Saturday, March 11, 2023: Decolonizing Non-Violent Communication with Meenadchi, Sierra Friends Center
- Sunday, March 12, 2023: GVFM Potluck – After the rise of Meeting
GVFM Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business 11:45a.m.
- Sunday, March 26, 2023, 11:30a.m. – Spiritual Life Program: Nora Cooke & Keith Runyan *Building Trust: PYM -Unity with Nature Committee*. See page 5 for details.

HAPPENING LATER

- **Sunday, April 16, 2023** GVFM Potluck – After the rise of Meeting ← **See note below.**
 - **Sunday, April 16, 2023** GVFM *Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business* 11:45a.m. ← **See note below.**
 - ➔ **Due to a conflict with Easter Sunday, Potluck and Meeting for Business will be held the 3rd First Day of April, April 16, 2023**
 - **Sunday, April 23, 2023, 11:30a.m.** - Spiritual Life Program – *Braiding Sweetgrass, Part II*, (Please read article, page 13 of the @nd month edition of this newsletter preparation for this program.)
 - College Park Quarterly Meeting - 2023
May 19 - 21 (Fri-Sun)
October 13 - 15 (Fri-Sun)
 - PacYM Annual Session, Mount Madonna Center: July 21 – 26, 2024
 - Friends General Conference “Listen So That We May Live”: July 2 -2, 2023; Western Oregon Univ.
-

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 ourselves and our spiritual condition and to tap into Divine insight.

[Grass Valley Friends Meeting Facebook link](#)

GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, March 12, 2023, DRAFT MINUTES & RECORD

We met as a hybrid Meeting, in-person & via Zoom.

Present: Dean & Karen Olson (co-clerks), Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson, Marilyn Guida, Gordon & Mary Starr, Lo Hamm, Dianne Marshall, Judy & Reed Hamilton, & fosten wilson.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Query: Lots of things affecting people – snow, electricity outages, another atmospheric river coming . . . What thoughts come to mind? Replies ranged from people helping each other, thanking Gaia for water, spirit growing in our Meeting, time of profound changes happening, to gratitude for the silence & the settling down involved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEWARDSHIP: The attached report was read by Mary. It involves tax-payer identification number, altering online access to committee reports, the new pedestal raising the Owl, & keeping the video projector.

WELCOME COMMITTEE: Karen read the attached report, giving details about our Friendly Eights that start in April. Plus, there is mention of the collection of *books for newcomers* in our library.

SPIRIT & WITNESS: Dorothy provided the report, attached. The “Witness” aspect of their work has led to the changes they recommend. The Spiritual Life programs noted in the report need clarification. The April 23rd event will be specific to the interview mentioned & the book, Braiding Sweetgrass.

NOMINATING: The attached report came from Judy. The committee is nominating *Stewart Smith* to serve on our Spirit & Witness Committee. This will season to April. And they are now contacting people to work out the slate for our next year.

INTERFAITH NEVADA COUNTY (INC): Dianne described the activities & challenges of INC. INC exists to provide solace and support to Faith Community Leaders in a confidential, spiritual setting. Dianne & our two co-clerks represent our Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

>> **Potluck** – Sierra Friends Center will hold a community potluck on Sunday, 3-19-2023.

>> **April Business Meeting** – Since Easter Sunday is the second Sunday in April, our Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business will happen on the third Sunday of April, 4-16-2023.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
fosten wilson, acting recording clerk.

Queries and Advices – Third Month ~ Meeting for Worship

The heart of the Religious Society of Friends is the Meeting for Worship. In direct communion with God, we offer ourselves for God's will. Our daily lives are linked with the Meeting for Worship, the Meeting for Worship with our daily lives.

Come regularly to Meeting for Worship, even when you are angry, tired, or spiritually cold. Bring your joys and your hurts, and the needs of other people. Accept and support each other in the community where God dwells among us. As you do so, you may find the grace of prayer.

At times the Spirit may prompt you to speak in Meeting. Wait patiently to know that the sense and the time are right. When you are sure, have confidence that the words will be given to you. Listen to the ministry of others with an open spirit. If it is not God's word for you, it may be for others. After a message has been given, allow time to ponder its meaning and to let the Meeting return to silent worship. In speech and in silence, each person contributes to the Meeting.

Do I come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship?

In both silent and vocal ministry, do I respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, without pre-arrangement and in simplicity and truth?

Am I careful not to speak at undue length or beyond personal spiritual experience?

Do we meet in expectant waiting for the promptings of the Divine Spirit?

Are we drawn together in a living silence by the power of God in our midst?



Nisenan Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the Nisenan people are still here among us today, though they are nearly invisible, and their story continues to be excluded from history.

We understand we are on Nisenan land that was never ceded, and the original tribal families have yet to recover from the near genocide of their people.

As a resident or visitor in Nisenan land, we support the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan tribe in efforts to stabilize their people as well as the campaign to restore tribal sovereignty through federal recognition.

Support Grass Valley Friends Meeting!



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 gvfriends.org and click on the "GIVE" button. This takes you to a secure site for donations. Your monthly contribution covers our Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. *Tithely* now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request. **Thank you.**

March Spiritual Life Program: Building Trust

PYM -Unity with Nature Committee

For the March 26th Spiritual Life Program, Nora Lisette Cooke and Keith Runyan will bring the work, ears, and ministry of the PacYM Unity with Nature (UwN) Committee to GVFM, as part of UwN's Monthly Meeting Visitation series.

After song, benediction, and prayer, Nora and Keith will introduce the exciting new ways in which Spirit has been working through Unity with Nature. Sharing the work, strategy, and hope of this committee to help elicit, enable, and empower the corporate witness and ministry of Pacific Yearly Meeting. From here, Keith and Nora will share some of their own ministry and queries.

We will finish with interactive discussion focused on the growing edges and work of GVFM in relationship to eco-spirituality, the climate crisis, and environmental justice - ending with worship and prayer.

Throughout, Keith and Nora will be working to learn as much about the current spiritual condition and leadings of GVFM as possible. Through deepening in their relationship to GVFM they seek to bring insights back to Unity with Nature as well as continue to build the community ties with GVFM which have held each of them for over twenty years.

Unity with Nature Committee hopes to begin to map and share these stories, leadings, and conditions of Monthly Meetings throughout our yearly meeting as we grow in our sense of solidarity and unity with nature.

The Quilts of Gee's Bend



In honor of African American History Month (March), examples of the Quilts of Gee's Bend in this issue of our newsletter are featured. Enjoy and appreciate!

The **quilts of Gee's Bend** are [quilts](#) created by a group of women and their ancestors who live or have lived in the isolated [African-American](#) hamlet of [Gee's Bend, Alabama](#) along the [Alabama River](#). The quilts of Gee's Bend are among the most important African-American visual and cultural contributions to the history of art

within the United States. [Arlonzia Pettway](#), [Annie Mae Young](#) and [Mary Lee Bendolph](#) are among some of the most notable quilters from Gee's Bend. Many of the residents in the community can trace their ancestry back to enslaved people from the Pettway Plantation.^[1] Arlonzia Pettway can recall her grandmother's stories of her ancestors, specifically of Dinah Miller, who was brought to the United States by slave ship in 1859.^[2]

[Learn more as your time permits!](#)



"The most powerful ministry is a wordless radiation of the love of God." William Taber

Woolman Community Potluck

Hello Woolman Community! Please join us for our third quarterly **Woolman Community Potluck** to be held at **6:30 PM on Sunday, March 19** in the Woolman Dining Hall.

[Please RSVP here and sign up to bring a dish to share.](#)



I'm looking forward to spending time together in community!

Warm regards,

Coleen

Coleen Hedglin (she/her)
Executive Director, Woolman at Sierra Friends Center
College Park Friends Educational Association
coleenh@woolman.org
office: 530-273-3183 ext. 110
cell: 202-316-4865
[Website](#)

Camp Woolman – 2023

- [Camp Woolman Brochure](#)
- [Family Camp Brochure](#)
- [Camp Woolman at Sierra Friends Center Registration](#)

SUMMARY OF Pacific Yearly Meeting ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Quaker Spirituality and Somatic Practices - April 15

Interest group-type session offered by the PacYM Peace & Social Order Committee with presenter Shannon Frediani

Saturday, April 15 at 10:30 am (Pacific) - online

Recognizing and countering the responses of trauma exposure is needed for navigating the multiple crises of our time. This session will offer an introduction to trauma exposure responses and share self-regulation and rebalancing somatic practices as a form of deepening Quaker practice for being instruments of peace.

2. Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code - April 16 + April 30

The Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee of the PacYM Ministry Committee invites Friends to join a zoom screening and follow-up session of the film [The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code](#).

The film explains how the "Doctrine of Discovery" was used to justify Europeans' seizure of the lands of Indigenous peoples in the name of "civilizing" and "Christianizing" them. The US legal system continues to use this Doctrine against Indigenous peoples to this day.

This session is offered in two parts, first a screening and initial reactions, and the second diving deeper into where we go from here.

April 16 and April 30, 3:00-4:30 pm (Pacific) - online

For more information: lesliezd@reninet.com

3. Friends of Color Online Gathering - March 20

The PacYM Ministry Committee's Racial Justice Subcommittee is sponsoring an online gathering on March 20th at 6:00 pm (Pacific) for Friends of Color of Pacific Yearly Meeting. If you identify as a Person of Color and are interested in co-creating a space where we can get to know and support each other, build community, fellowship, promote healing and grow together in Spirit, come to this virtual gathering.

While we appreciate White Allies who are on their anti-racism journeys, this group is for mutual support of Friends of Color who directly experience racism.

For more information about the Friends of Color online gathering, and the Zoom link, see the attachment to this email.

4. Grants for Meetinghouses

Pacific Yearly Meeting Holding Corporation has some \$50,000 remaining from the proceeds of the 1995 sale of the San Fernando Valley Meetinghouse. The fund's purpose is to assist Monthly Meetings with the purchase or renovation of Meetinghouses. Meetings can apply for *grants* from this fund by emailing a request (read: an approved minute) which explains the amount sought and the use to which the money would be dedicated to Lanny Jay at landbird@comcast.net

5. Support to attend the FUM Triennial in Kenya

Friends United Meeting Triennial is being held in Kenya in July this year. Martha Hunkins of Humboldt Meeting will be attending the conference and will also be visiting our F/friend Stanley Chagala, who lived amongst PacYM Friends for several years while a student in the Bay Area.

Stanley is back in his country, in good health, and doing research for this doctorate. He would love to attend the conference as well but would need financial assistance to do so. If you would like to help Stanley to attend the FUM Triennial, please contact Martha Hunkins at (707) 826-0453 or marthahunkins@hotmail.com

6. PacYM Directory - Password + Updates

PacYM Communications Committee reminds Friends that the PacYM Directory is available

at: <https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/wordpress/directory/>

The password is available from Meeting Clerks, directory contact people and representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The next edition of the Directory will be available shortly after the rise of Annual Session at the end of July.

Please send updates or changes in information for the directory to databasemanager@pacificyearlymeeting.org

7. FGC Quaker Cloud

If your Meeting has a page or website on the FGC Quaker Cloud, please be aware that this service is being phased out by December 1 of this year. Communications Committee is available for consultation about moving your webpage. Contact: communicationsclerk@pacificyearlymeeting.org

8. Ben Lomond Quaker Center - Hiring

Ben Lomond has a position open for an office and hospitality manager. This is a full-time, live-in position, and the job description can be found on the quakercenter.org website or [HERE](#). Any questions can be directed to Quaker Center Director, Nico Wright at nico@quakercenter.org.

**"Silence is an ocean.
Speech is a river.
When the ocean
is searching for you,
don't walk into the river.
Listen to the ocean."**

Jalāl ad-Dīn Mohammad Rūmī

Clerk's Call to the 77th Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting

Laura Magnani, Presiding Clerk

Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev is an author and teacher who has thought deeply about the liberating and healing path of the prophets. He writes:

In the prophetic worldview, God supports falling forward, mistake-ridden risk-taking, and boundary crossing for the sake of growth in consciousness and relationship. The prophets perceive God as energizing this journey, animating all life forms to bring forth new ways, to explore new relationships.

Building on annual session 2022, the theme for annual session 2023 will be *"Beloved Community Part II: Centering the Voices of the Next Generation."*

George Fox was 28 years old in 1652, opening for anyone who would listen the understanding that "Jesus has come to teach his people himself." In other words, we can have a direct relationship to God/Spirit/Whatever you call its name, without intermediaries, rituals, or dogma. We are an experimental faith tradition. And the source of those revelations has very often come from the youngest among us. The Valiant Sixty, as the band of early adherents was called, were largely young people, some still in their teens. They were subjecting themselves to serious persecution, including death, and they were attracting huge numbers of followers. Who are these prophets among us today? What can we learn from them?

In 2022, one-third of the people who were able to join the gathering in person were under 35. They are on fire. They feel an urgency that sometimes dims as we grow older. The times we face could hardly be more serious. What changes might we need to make to find our prophetic voices again?

Thistle Hofvendahl and Diego Navarro recently wrote an article for the October 22, 2022 electronic issue of Friends Journal (www.friendsjournal.org/sacred-space) subtitled “Supporting Spiritual Gifts Informed by Oppression,” in which they “noticed how our socially marginalized identities have shaped our understanding of the Truth...Friends from oppressed groups may bring ministry that challenges the status quo.”

Although Friends have been concerned about our relationship to the natural world for decades, it seems to take a Greta Thunberg to command worldwide attention. So I invite us to turn our attention to our own young prophetic voices, whatever topics they identify for us right now – climate, race, membership in the Religious Society of Friends...

Fr. Richard Rohr, of the Center for Action and Contemplation tells us: *“The prophetic stream supports learning, the evolution of life toward greater consciousness, and every movement toward justice and communal well-being. At the same time, the prophetic stream offers healing waters when we become aware of our mistakes, cleansing waters that enable us to learn from our mistakes and to move forward.... All we need to perceive is the direction of the journey—toward mutual relationship—and the next step in that direction....”*

Returning to Thistle and Diego, we are told “Friends can’t simply welcome people into our meetinghouses and expect them to know the unwritten rules of etiquette and feel comfortable with us. We need to collaboratively design a bigger house where our focus is on revealing the Truth, where we all are enriched and invited to be uncomfortable.

Although the Valiant Sixty were primarily focused on evangelizing a new understanding of the role of the Church, and the direct relationship to Spirit, they simultaneously worked with people of all walks of life, all ages, genders, and levels of educational attainment. We have known that real risk-taking requires a spiritual foundation. Let’s build that together. *“We have inherited a large house, a great world house in which we have to live together – black and white, Easterner and Westerner, gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu – a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interests, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.”* Martin Luther King, 1967

[Annual Sessions General Information](#)

COVID-19 POLICY:

Grass Valley Friends Meeting: Covid Policy as of May 15, 2022:

We are holding our hybrid program in the Meeting House and the Children's Program live and in person. OUR CURRENT COVID GUIDELINES: Masks are optional. There are no vaccination or distancing requirements. Coffee hour and potlucks have now resumed. We do ask that if you feel ill, that you take advantage of our Zoom option. These guidelines are subject to change, depending on Covid cases, virulence, and county mandates.

Grass Valley Friends Meeting Contact Information (7-1-22)

OFFICERS:

1. **Clerk of the Meeting:** Co-Clerks – Dean and Karen Olson (530) 270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com
2. **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson (530)265-6533 fwkm@protonmail.com
3. **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke, amylisette@gmail.com (530)559-9158
4. **Communication/Email Coordinator:** Judy Hamilton judywestonhamilton@gmail.com (530) 277-8818
5. **Directory Coordinator:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
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12. **Placer County Worship Group:** Stuart Smith sewsmitharts@yahoo.com 916-663-3539
13. **Recorder:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
14. **Sierra Friends Center:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com
15. **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson, (530) 265-6533, fostenw@yahoo.com
16. **Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Amy Cooke amylisette@gmail.com (530)559-9158
17. **Zoom Coordinators:** Hailey Wilson seahorseleaf@protonmail.com, Stuart Smith sewsmitharts@yahoo.com (916) 663-3539

REPRESENTATIVES:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. College Park ¼ ly Doug Hamm | 3. PYM: Doug Hamm | 6. SFC: Pat Phillips |
| 2. FCNL: Sharon Davisson | 4. QUNO: Shera Banbury | 7. INC: Dianne Marshall, Karen Olsen, Dean Olsen |
| | 5. RSWR: Judy Hamilton | |

COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

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

Welcoming: Kathy McCreery (current clerk), Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Karen Olson. Hailey Wilson (ex-officio, zoom coordinator), Amy Cooke (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Judy Hamilton (ex-officio, email coordinator)

Spirit/Witness: Gordon Bishop, Amy Cooke (convener), Reed Hamilton, Sharon Davisson, Dorothy Henderson, Dean & Karen Olson (ex-officio, Co-clerks of GVFM)

Children's Program: Dorothy Henderson (current clerk), Gordon Bishop, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Karen Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Anita McCormick.

Nominating Committee: Dorothy Henderson, Sharon Davisson, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Starr



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