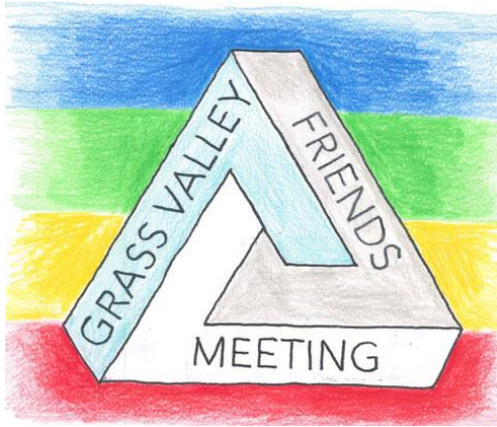




GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

*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 (NEW)

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, Sixth 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
- ✚ 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: Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:30 pm

HAPPENING NOW

- Saturday, June 1, 2024: Potluck Dinner at Judy and Reed Hamilton's home. (See page 6.)
- Sunday, June 16, 2024 at 11:30a.m.: Stuart Smith will report on his work as part of the University of Birmingham PhD programme in Theology and Religion under the auspices of the Quaker Studies Programme.
- Sunday, June 23, 2024, 11:30a.m.: Spirit and Witness harvesting and planting. What was received with gratitude? What would we like to see offered?

HAPPENING LATER

- There will be no Potluck and Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business in the month of July. The next one will be August 11, 2024.
- June 30 – July 6, 2024: The 2024 FGC Gathering of Friends, *Rooted in Story* Haverford College, Haverford, PA
- Pacific Yearly Meeting 2024 Annual Session is July 19-24 onsite (in-person) at Whittier College in Whittier, CA + online (virtual) via Zoom.
- Saturday, July 27, 2024, 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m., Quaker Potluck at Kathy and Fosten's home (See pg. 7 for details.)
- Quaker Seminary: September - June, 2024-25. Third Sundays, 11:30-1 pm. *Deepening our spiritual lives as ministers*. Amy will be facilitating with support/accountability from Spirit and Witness.

NOTE: *College Park Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Ben Lomond Quaker Center this Fall. Details to follow.*

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

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.

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.

MINUTES AND RECORD: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, June 9, 2024

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

Present: Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Reed Hamilton, Amy Cooke, Gordon Starr, elder for the clerk, Mary Starr, Dianne Marshall, Dean Olson, Stuart Smith, Keith Runyan, Nora Cooke, Juniper Lisette, and Peter O'Rourke.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query

Those who have ears, let them hear. Have you ever talked to someone who listened so well that it changed the quality of what you were trying to say?

Have you experienced being listened to so deeply that you felt completely heard? Have things changed in you because of someone listening deeply to what you have to say? Have you experienced this in a Meeting for Worship for Business?

Friends spoke out of the silence:

- Friends spoke of different people who have listened deeply and the impressions they left on us.
- One Friend spoke of the deep listening needed during the transition of the land ownership to the Nisenan.
- Another Friend spoke of needing time to listen to your inner self/Spirit, and being Eldered and allowed to have that time.
- Another Friend spoke of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood as an example of how you can listen deeply even through the lens of a camera, and through time and space. Children need to feel seen and heard by adults to help them feel valued.

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.

- Spirit and Witness is bringing forward the name of Keith Runyan for membership to season until the next Meeting for Worship on the Occasion for Business:

Minute (seasoning until the 8th month): The Clearness Committee for membership for Keith Runyan, consisting of Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, and Stuart Smith, met with Keith in May of 2024. The Committee reached clearness that Keith is well prepared to join the Society of Friends and Grass Valley Friends Meeting. Grass Valley Friends Meeting wholeheartedly approves his membership.

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 gave the report, appended.

- Questions were raised about finding volunteers for the Archival Committee. One person, Don McCormick from Stewardship, has volunteered. We will send out a request for other volunteers in the Newsletter.
- Don McCormick is looking for help in the library.

- We need volunteers for the Friendly Audit. They do not need to be an accountant, but should be comfortable with numbers. We will add this request to the Newsletter.
- Another question was raised about the Organization Reports. It has been proposed that we can make these reports in the Newsletter, featuring one organization each month. Because the Organization Reports are structured and recorded in the past by a meeting Minute, and because this would be a change in several Committee job descriptions, we need to send this back to Spirit and Witness to work on this at their next meeting.

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).

Peter O'Rourke gave the report, appended.

Organization Report: College Park Quarterly Meeting (CPQM).

Peter O'Rourke gave the report, appended.

- A clarification that Fall Quarterly Meeting will be at Quaker Center, and not at Woolman due to the transition of the land.

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

Dean Olson gave the report, appended.

- There was a clarification. The length of terms for Spirit and Witness were added to the final Slate document, which is a change from the document last month:
 - Spirit and Witness: Amy Cooke (2024-2027), Stuart Smith (2023-2026), Reed Hamilton (2022-2025), Sharon Davisson (2022-2025), Dean Olson (2023-2026), Dorothy Henderson (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk)
- The Nominating Committee has not had any concerns arise for the Slate.

Minute 2024.06.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the 2024-2025 Slate of Committees and Officers.

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.

There was no report.

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Pacific Yearly Meeting: No report given.

College Park Quarterly Meeting: Report appended.

Interfaith Nevada County: No report given.

Treasurer: No report given.

CLERK'S REMARKS:

This Clerk has no words, but opened it up to the meeting for any other messages.

- One Friend offered an update on the Woolman property as it transitions back to the Nisenan. There is a lot of excitement among the Nisenan as they visit the property and look to the future. The campus is quiet right now, but there is great beauty.
- Another Friend is feeling sadness at the emptiness she feels on site as fewer members are attending. We have members who come to worship, but they do not stay for Meeting for Worship for Business. She feels like our community is weakening.
- The Clerk recognizes the beauty and the pain in this beloved land's transition. There is a sense of grief and loss, but also a sense of joy and wonder. It is clear that we can have grief and joy at the same time. There must be a sense of wonder and joy that the Nisenan feel as they come home.

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

Minute (seasoning until the 8th month): The Clearness Committee for membership for Keith Runyan, consisting of Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, and Stuart Smith, met with Keith in May of 2024. The Committee reached clearness that Keith is well prepared to join the Society of Friends and Grass Valley Friends Meeting. Grass Valley Friends Meeting wholeheartedly approves his membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pacific Yearly Meeting 2024 Annual Session** is July 19-24 onsite (in-person) at Whittier College in Whittier, CA + online (virtual) via Zoom. Registration opened May 15. [Pacific Yearly Meeting](#)
- **Friends General Conference Gathering 2024** takes place on June 30-July 6: Rooted in Story in Haverford, PA. Currently open for registration. [Friends General Conference](#)
- **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 temporarily unavailable while the website redesign is in progress. When available, the Directory is 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.
- **Contributions to Grass Valley Friends Meeting** are gratefully accepted. You can give by mailing a check to fosten wilson or through Tithely on the website or our newsletter. Our treasurer is asking for additional funds this month as our expenditures exceeded our income.

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 jenniferjksmith@gmail.com THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS. Please write reports in **12 point, Times New Roman font**. This formatting will match the formatting in our Meeting for Worship for Business Minutes and Record. And, if possible, write reports in Google Docs and share with both Dorothy and Jennifer.

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items into Dianne Marshall by the Tuesday after Meeting for Business at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Jennifer Smith, recording clerk.

APPENDICES: All reports provided at this link after the Record and Minutes

- Spirit and Witness Committee report
 - a. Friends World Committee on Consultation report
- Stewardship Committee report
 - b. Recorder/Archivist Job Description
 - c. Treasurer's Report
- Welcome Committee report
 - a. Nominating Committee report
- Pacific Yearly Meeting Monthly Report
- Interfaith Nevada County report
- Information: Organization Representatives by Committee
- Recorder/Archivist job description

QUERIES and ADVICES, Sixth Month ~ Social and Civic Responsibility

In the words of William Penn, *"True godliness doesn't draw men out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it."* Elsewhere he commented: *"It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess."*

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God's purposes and build a just social order.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God's law, we must proceed with care.

What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world? Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?

How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community? Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting? How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?

SPIRIT AND WITNESS JUNE 16TH PROGRAM

On June 16 we will hold a Spirit & Witness program after Meeting with Stuart E.W. Smith. The program is open to all. Stuart will share his work as a doctoral scholar with the Center for Research in Quaker Studies at the University of Birmingham. His research centers on building learning targets to train nonviolent social activists and involves using the language of military strategy to investigate historical protest movements like the abolition of slavery and the enfranchisement of women.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Are you a Facebook user? Do follow the Grass Valley Friends Meeting page or join the Facebook Grass Valley Friends Meeting group. When you share a post from the page, your friends will see it, and it helps our visibility.

[Grass Valley Friends Meeting Facebook link](#)

LET'S VISIT! Monthly Potlucks

Saturday, July 27, 2024

Time: 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Place: The home of Kathy McQueery and Fosten Wilson and Hailey Wilson

Address: 15719 American Hill Road, Nevada City, CA 95959

RSVP requested: Kathy McCreery fwkm@protonmail.com



Your Donations Keep GVFM Viable! Thank you! Donate here!



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

- Giving is easy! Click on the Give button above or go to grassvalleyfriends.org and click on "GIVE" You'll go to a secure site for donations. Monthly contributions are very important. *You may now change the dollar amount of your gift without making a new donation request!*
Thank you.

PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF OUR MEETING

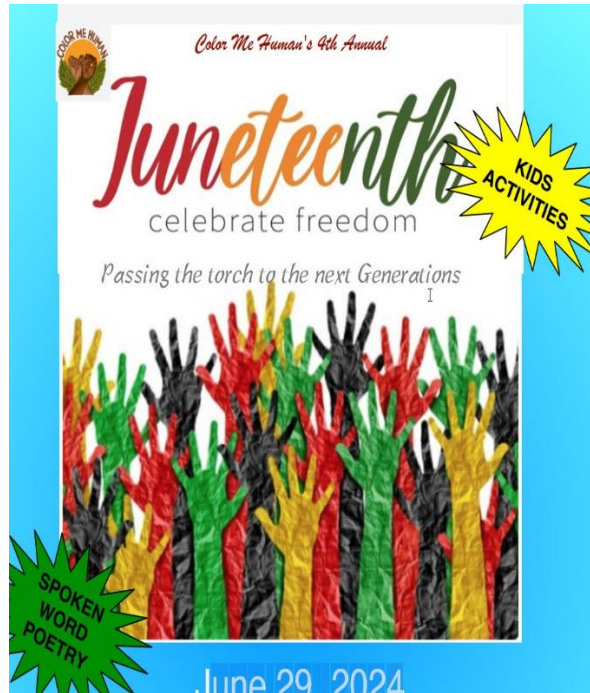
- ☐ **Be a Library Volunteer:** Do you love books? Do you appreciate being able to find the book you are looking for? Our librarian, Don McCormick, loves this too and is looking for an additional volunteer or two to assure our library runs smoothly. If interested, please contact Don McCormick donmccormick2@gmail.com.
- ☐ **Join our Archive Team:** Are you a history person? Do you like to see records maintained for future use? Our Archive Team welcomes you to be a part of our efforts to do this for Grass Valley friends

Meeting's records. To explore this further, please contact Don McCormick donmccormick2@gmail.com and Gordon Starr gstarr121@yahoo.com

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION – Request for Volunteers

Color Me Human is once again planning a Juneteenth celebration, this year to be held at the Condon Park Pavilion in Grass Valley on June 29. Noon-3:00, with a brief program starting at 1:30p.m. in the middle. (Yes, June 29.)

If you are engaged in the work of racial justice and facing white supremacy or would like to be, Color Me Human is **the Juneteenth organizers are seeking volunteers** (set up, clean up, grilling hot dogs, hosting food day of, youth of color to speak...)



To volunteer, please contact info@colormehuman.org. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains at 530-274-1661

ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROGRAM NOW OFFERED LOCALLY

Diane Miessler has re-activated an Alternatives to Violence Program at the Wayne Brown Correctional Center on Maidu Avenue. The first session with inmates was offered May 17, 2024. It was very successful. The inmates who came loved it, found it fun and moving and helpful in dealing with conflict. AVP now has “a foot in the proverbial door.”

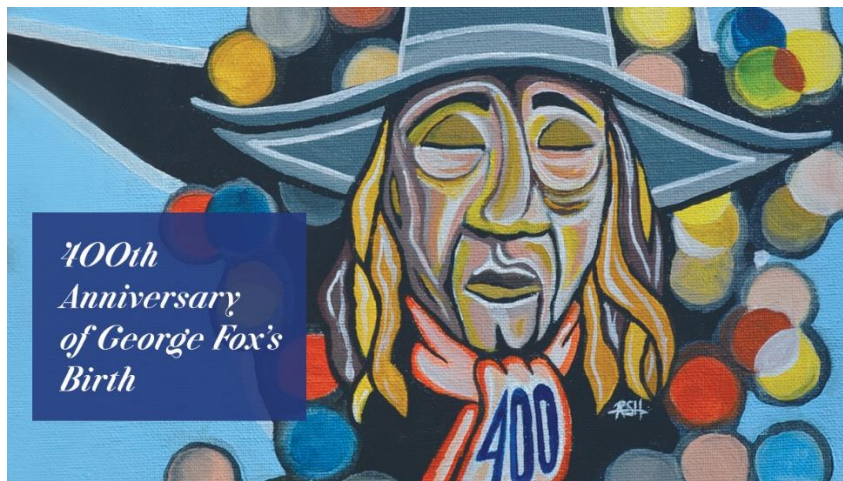
“Our goal is to give regular workshops (1-2 a month) in the Jail and eventually in the community and in schools. We would like to make short presentations to local churches and service groups in order to educate people about AVP and find potential facilitators.”

Organizer Diane Miessler would, ideally, like to have a pool of 10-15 facilitators who can rotate through, so as to make the time commitment manageable. She is available to make a one-hour presentation about this program to our Friends Meeting. The best way to reach Diane for more information is to text her at 530-263-3423.

Our greatest strength lies in the gentleness and tenderness of our heart. Rumi

400th ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE FOX'S BIRTH

June 1, 2024, by Gabriel Ehri
Cover art by Robert Henry



The human mind is a curious thing. To facilitate our own understanding and to communicate with others, the human mind will sort, name, and categorize all that we perceive and encounter. We identify starting and ending points. The mind creates shortcuts and elevates symbols to represent complex ideas. It is around these symbols, often, that we organize ourselves into groups and societies. I am writing this, and you are reading it, thanks to George Fox, an English man whose time on this earth 400

years ago set into motion what would become an enduring global movement, the Religious Society of Friends—the Quakers.

In this special issue of *Friends Journal*, Quakers from around the world share perspectives and studies of George Fox: Fox the man, Fox the mind, and Fox the symbol. Our contributors delve into what he believed . . . how he wrote and preached . . . what he inspired . . . what he overlooked . . . and what we have overlooked of Fox's beliefs and qualities as generations of Friends have evolved and reconstituted Quakerism for each era.

I prefer to think of Fox as a passionate, fascinating, and committed human being. He was imperfect and self-contradictory at times, though who among us is not? Fox looms large; he contains multitudes. I reflect on the passage of Fox's writing that resonates most strongly with me now:

And this is the word of the Lord God to you all, and a charge to you all in the presence of the living God: be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

When he was in his early 30s, Fox dictated these words to Ann Downer, a Friend who had walked from London to Cornwall to help him. Fox at the time was jailed in Launceston Prison, a notoriously disgusting facility, on charges of having long hair and failure to pay the fine for not taking his hat off in court. This passage, to me, is so powerful in its guidance to live in such a way that it might benefit humankind and bring about the kingdom of God on earth. To imagine that these words came to him at such a time, in such a place! And that they would so inspire generations of Friends to work, live, worship, and walk in the Light. [MORE](#)

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say. 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.'

~ Fred Rogers

New ideas and publications are happening in QUNO in New York City and Geneva, Switzerland. We can be a part of creating a better world for all.

- A wonderful new personal guide from QUNO about [What You Can Do about Climate Change](#)
- [Government Officials Toolkit](#) (based on 7 years of scientific research and available in four languages to inspire urgent, healthy, equitable and available-at-scale climate action)
- July, 2024 edition of the [Geneva Reporter](#), QUNO's Geneva, Switzerland office. Here you will find updates on QUNO's programs
- Previous issues of the [Geneva Reporter](#) that include updates on Peace and Disarmament, Climate Change actions, and Human Rights and Refugees. The Newsletter is published every few months.

By Alice Walker

Calling All Grandmothers

We have to live differently.
or we will die
in the same old ways.

Therefore
I call on all Grand Mothers
everywhere on the planet
to rise and take your place
in the leadership of the world.

Come out of the kitchen
out of the fields
out of the beauty parlors
out of the television



Step forward and assume
the role for which you were
created:

to lead humanity
to health, happiness
and sanity.

I call on all the
Grand Mothers of Earth
and every person
who possesses the
Grand Mother Spirit
of respect for life and
protection of the young
to rise and lead.

The life of our species
depends on it.

& I call on all men of Earth
to gracefully
and gratefully
stand aside
& let them
(let us) do so.

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
- **Elder to Clerk:** Gordon Starr (530-878-1237) gstarr121@aol.com
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) amylisette@gmail.com/Jennifer Smith (916-663-3539) sewsmitharts@yahoo.com
- **Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Marshall (530-274-1922/530-263-0151) dmarshall@pacific.net
- **Newsletter Distributor:** Pat Phillips 530-913-1338 pephillips1949@gmail.com
- **Email Coordinator:** Judy Hamilton judywestonhamilton@gmail.com (530) 277-8818
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson (530-265-6533) fwkm@protonmail.com
- **Tech Support/Zoom Calendar:** Hailey Wilson seahorseleaf@protonmail.com
- **Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Peter O'Rourke (209-291-8211) peterorourke2001@yahoo.com, Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) amylisette@gmail.com
- **Librarian:** Don McCormick (310-597-9469) donmccormick2@gmail.com
- **Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 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