



**Newsletter,
First Month, 2018**

GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

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

13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959,
530-273-3183
Sierra Friends Center, Woolman Lane, off Jones Bar Road,

First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House

- **9:45am Silent Meeting for Worship**

Second Sunday: 9:45am

- **Silent Meeting for Worship, Potluck,
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of
Business**



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We value the simplicity and tranquility of the Sierra Friends Center and want to ensure safety and clean dust-free air for the residents, visitors and neighbors of Sierra Friends Center. We expect strict observance of the 10 mph speed limit on Woolman Lane and on the school property.



Sharon Stewart Memorial Service

Sharon Stewart, a member of Grass Valley Friends Meeting, died unexpectedly at the age of 74 on December 23, 2017 at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital in Grass Valley. Her daughter and son were at her side.

There is a Memorial being planned for late April. Contact Kathy McCreery if you want to assist.

MINUTES & RECORD

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
14th Day, First Month, 2018

Present: Dean Olson; clerk, Chamba Cooke, Amy Cooke, recording clerk, fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Sandy Kewman, Don Kewman, Dianne Marshall, KariAn Salyer, Sylvia Osman, Joanna Mlodzinska.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

What are we lifting up and celebrating today?

The new families and individuals coming to Meeting

The Fifth Sunday in January was especially joyful

Celebrating the retirement of a friend

Birthdays! KariAn Salyer, Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson

Tomorrow is Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. How do we carry his dream forward?

Lifting up thoughts of Sharon Stewart's life. Her spirit feels present. We can feel gratitude for her, express gratitude for her. And release her.

Deep appreciation for the work on Woolman Lane. The amount of work and the quality of the work is beautiful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Interfaith Nevada County:** They will be meeting here, on the Woolman campus, on Tuesday, January 16. The group hosted a meeting with Brendan Phillips. See report, appended.
 - **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Saturday, January 20, 2018. San Francisco Friends Meeting. Theme: Finding the Light Together. No advance registration. Registration is at 8 am, the meeting will begin at 8:30 am. It is advised that you drive to Richmond and take the Bart.
www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org.
 - **The Women's March:** San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento. The CPQM
 - **Pacific Yearly Meeting: July 9-13, 2018.** Walker Creek Ranch. Theme: "Radical Vulnerability."
 - **Friends General Conference: July 1-7, 2018.** University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio. Registration opens on April 2. See <http://www.FGCquaker.org>.
 - **Reports:** Please send reports for the monthly Meeting for Business to Dean Olson, Clerk and Amy Cooke, Recording Clerk by the **FRIDAY** before Meeting for Business.
 - **Volunteering at Sierra Friends Center:** There are numerous opportunities for contributing to Sierra Friends Center. Please email Amy at amyc@woolman.org.
 - **Nora Cooke & Michael Meade:** Wedding, May 27, 2018. Please see www.theknot.com for information on Nora and Michael's wedding. Everyone is invited. PLEASE register if you are coming so they know how many people will be there.
 - **Spiritual Life:**
 - January 28: Forgiveness
 - February 25: TBD
- The committee (Don McCormick, Sandy Kewman, Gordon Starr and Peggy Baldwin) welcomes ideas for 4th Sunday programs.
- An Extended Saturday Meeting for Worship, 9 am – noon, will be planned soon.
- **Quaker Center:** Upcoming programs. <http://www.quakercenter.org>
 - o Lucretia Mott and Levi Coffin: January 26-28.
- We will explore the theology, spirituality, and activism, of two Quaker human rights radicals, nearly contemporaneous in their long lives, and consider their contributions both to America and to Quakers.*

- What Canst Thou Say? Finding our Quaker Voice in Public Life: February 23-25
How does our inward experience of Spirit manifest in our outward public witness, even in political activity? We will consider ways in which our spiritual conditions move us to engage in public or political action.
- Awakening to the Presence: March 19-24
What are the occasions for the awakening to the Presence in our lives and our response to that awakening? We will explore four dimensions: Individual worship, the gathered meeting, that of God speaking through the other, and the living out of Truth.
- **Harry Bailey:** We hold Harry and his caretakers in the Light.
- **Potluck: Friday, February 2, 6 pm.** At the home of Fosten Wilson and Kathy McCreery. 15719 American Hill Road, Nevada City.
- **Sharon Stewart:** Please mail cards to her address. They will be forwarded to the family. There is a memorial being planned, tentatively for April.
- **Greeters:** The Meeting needs Greeters! Please email Sandy Kewman if you can help.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINISTRY & OVERSIGHT

See report, appended. Don Kewman gave the report.

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Peggy Baldwin gave the report.

Peggy reported on recent information from the American Friends Service Committee regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict. Their staff is on a list of organizations that may be denied entry to Israel because of their support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

Does Grass Valley Friends Meeting want to take action? On an individual basis, it is suggested that we do not make purchases of products made in Israel. Communicating your commitment to store owners is also valuable. Peggy has copies of the AFSC letter that you can take with you.

We were reminded that we sent a letter to Quaker schools and colleges in 2011 asking them to divest from Israel. There is a Palestine-Israel Working Group (PIWG) that is also taking action.

There was discussion about what actions we may want to engage in or support. It is unclear if the entire Meeting supports the Palestinian-led BDS movement. While some members and attenders do not support Israel's policies, they also do not support the boycott of Israeli products.

Recommendations made:

- It was suggested that letters be written to Israel communicating that we support them living the values to which they aspire. We may want to communicate to Israel that banning the staff of AFSC is a mistake on their part.
- It was suggested that any actions that are being proposed to Meeting be placed on an agenda in advance so that Meeting members and attenders can discern before we discuss.
- It was noted that there are many active people in our Quarterly Meeting working on this issue. It was suggested that they be contacted.

The letter from the AFSC will be appended to these minutes. Page 9.

We send this issue back to the Peace and Social Justice committee for more discernment. We again noted that before issues come to Meeting for Worship for Business they should be fully discussed in committee and specific suggestions be brought back. This issue was brought today to test the waters of Meeting.

TREASURER: Fosten Wilson, treasurer, gave the report, appended.

Fosten noted that PYM is suggesting that we get a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). It can be useful for funders or grantors. It suggested that this issue go to Finance Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Woolman at Sierra Friends Center: *see appended, page 5*. Amy Cooke, the SFC Director, gave the report in lieu of an appointed liaison.

Please feel free to jump in with volunteer hours and donations!

Interfaith of Nevada County: *see appended, page 5*. Dianne Marshall gave the report.

JOYS, CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, MOURNINGS

- New families attending Meeting is a great joy.
- The library expresses great joy at the donations of books.
- Gratitude for the safety in our Meeting, allowing vulnerability and the deep movement of Spirit.
- Holding members of our Meeting in the Light: Dave Barnett, Harry, Deborah, Dell and Julia. We long for more updates on these members of our Meeting who cannot attend. We ask M&O to keep us abreast (appropriately) on these precious members.
- Appreciation to Dave Barnett for his help with the newsletter.

ACTION ITEMS AND MINUTES

- **Peace & Social Justice:** This committee will review the record of this meeting, discern the issues around the banning of the AFSC from Israel, and bring suggestions back to Meeting.
- **Ministry & Oversight:** We ask M&O to keep us abreast (appropriately) on absent members.
- **Finance Committee:** We ask Finance Committee to research issues surrounding the suggestion of PYM to procure a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).

READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES:

Note: The record and the minutes were read, corrected or approved.

If you are giving a report to GVFM, please send the actual report to the recording clerk at amylisette@gmail.com THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Amy Cooke, recording clerk, First Month 2018

If you are giving a report to GVFM, please send the actual report to the recording clerk at
amylisette@gmail.com

The FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING for BUSINESS

APPENDICES

(posted on the website, www.gvfriends.org)

1. **Interfaith Report: Utah's Place**
2. **Ministry & Oversight report**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. **Woolman at Sierra Friends Center report**

1. **Interfaith Report: Utah's Place** Dianne Marshall gave the report.

On a rainy Monday, January 8, 2018, between the hours of 9:30a.m. and 2:00p.m., the Grass Valley United Methodist Church opened its doors to the Wesley Room for residents of Utah's Place to allow shelter from the elements. About 9 volunteers were on hand to greet, guide, feed, visit, and listen to approximately 45 residents of Utah's place. The time went well but not without incident. Much was learned and everyone was glad to share the experience. One resident, Vlad sat down at the piano in Wesley Hall and played classical music. Many individuals had electronic devices, which kept them busy. Newspapers were read. Board and card games were played. Some needs were met, others were observed for future capacity building.

There are detailed notes from the day and the debriefing session that took place the following Wednesday. Those of us who participated on January 8th will be meeting monthly. The next meeting is on **February 13, 2018 at 1:00p.m. in Room D of the Grass Valley Methodist Church and you are welcome if you'd like to learn more and help out.** The next day the warming center is available may not be until October 2018, unless severe weather prevails.

Ask Dianne Marshall (dmarshall@pacific.net or [530-274-1922](tel:530-274-1922)) if you would like to see the notes taken on behalf of this effort.

2. **Ministry & Oversight Committee:** January 2018

1) M&O is working with Sharon Stewart's family to coordinate her memorial. At this point, the family is looking at finding a date in April.

2) M&O wants to let folks know that we keep three forms on file about Friends who participate in GVFM: The Attendee Profile Form, Meeting Membership Record, and Final Affairs Form. Of course they are optional, but they assist with information in the event of life changes, as well as keeping archives on Friends' lives. For instance, the Final Affairs form includes next of kin contact information in case of death or incapacity. This information helps in planning a memorial. If you would like to see these forms, or to know if you have these forms up to date with our Meeting Recorder, please get in touch with Sharon Davisson.

3. M & O continues to examine ways to improve attendance and make the Meeting for Worship for Business more vital. Small changes have been made. For example, items requiring deep discussion and a decision are earlier in the agenda; re-reading of committee reports and announcements with the minutes has been eliminated. Please give any suggestions that you have to a member of M & O.

Don Kewman and Kathy McCreery
Co-Clerks, M & O

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Fosten Wilson gave the report - *summary = pretty good . . .*

THANK YOU for your contributions. The contributions received were light for October & November. Then the Finance Committee's Appeal Letter helped build a strong December. As a result, our \$450 donation to Sierra Friends Center was completed in December.

The Fund Balances Report shows a "snapshot" of our bank account on 12-31-2017. It also shows the individual funds that made up that total. The Sharing Fund (line 2) has increased some. The PYM etc. Scholarship Fund was active & the Placer County Worship Group fund has increased. The other Restricted Funds are unchanged. Most of our financial activity has been within the General Fund, shown on line one. The details about the General Fund are on the reverse side, in our General Fund -- Actual vs Budget report.

Within our General Fund, from October thru December, we spent \$2,776 (see Total Expense line near bottom) & we received \$4,022 in contributions (line 400 at top). This means that we may have enough money to pay half of our PYM Dues (shown on line 621) in January. Other budgeted outbound donations will wait for further funding.

The possibility of asking the federal government for our own Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) has reappeared. Having a TIN is not required. And it is easy to get one if needed. The PYM Finance Committee is now requesting a "Determination Letter" from the IRS & the PYM Treasurer suggests that we get our own TIN to fit within that Determination Letter. I am not clear that we need to do this, but Meeting direction is welcome.

Thank you all for your help.

3. News from Woolman at Sierra Friends Center

There is a lot happening here on these precious 236 acres in the Sierra foothills. The **restoration of Madrone Hall** will be complete this week! We need volunteers on Thursday and Friday to help get the building ready for Sierra Streams Institute's move one week from today.

We are excited about collaborating with Sierra Streams, the local Nisenan tribe and others as we plan and pilot **The Woolman Outdoor School**. Another new program, the **Jorgensen School for Nonviolence**, is in the planning stages and will support both budding and experienced activists in carrying out nonviolent direct action campaigns. We have already begun working on **Camp Woolman 2018**, and eagerly anticipate the campers, ages 9-17, who will come and backpack under the stars this summer.

The Western Young Friends New Year's Gathering took place here from December 28-January 2, and FGC's Development Committee will meet here in March.

Our [Annual Report](#) is available for review. With all of the changes that have happened here, we are sensing that we are entering a new era of vitality. Your generosity helps us to take care of this land, bring kids to camp, and design new programs. We are deeply grateful to the many Friends, near and far, old and new, who are reaching out to support this work. Thank you!

Amy Cooke, Director

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items to Dianne Marshall (dmarshall@pacific.net) by Tuesday after Business Meeting at 10 am.

Please, don't be



FIRST MONTH ADVICES AND QUERIES† - 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?

APOLOGY

GVFM met, a while back, to discuss climate change. Some friends, I've learned recently, are still angered by my questions then. Please let me apologize.

Some find divinity in music, or art, or religious practice. I find divinity, especially, in nature – in how stars and galaxies, mountains and storms, water and life, are all connected, all orchestrated by the same basic laws of the universe – laws that also govern our day-to-day lives.

Climate past has grown warmer and colder. Greenhouse gas concentrations have got larger and smaller. Sometimes climate changes first, sometimes greenhouse gases – they seem to be interrelated. Concern about greenhouse gases is valid.

I correspond often with atmospheric scientists, by phone, by e-mail, by visit. And I read – as much as I can – the literature.

I read both the popular and the scientific literature. Some popular literature enhances my understanding of climate; much is more focused on advocacy. I cannot always correlate the advocacy literature with the scientific.

When I ask scientists to explain their computers models, on which projections of future climate are based, I often find them beyond my comprehension – I cannot connect them with my sense of how the universe works. It might be the science or the math; just as often, it's the gaps in our knowledge that they need to intuit, in order to build the model. This is why I don't bring predictions of the future into my radio or written work.

One of the principles of scientific discourse is to "show your work". A question that comes up often is (in so many words), "How do you know this?"

There is nothing in the question – nothing at all – meant as an attack or an accusation. It may come up a dozen times in a conversation. It's a request for assistance, to enable the questioner to see the basis (and there's always the hope of gaining a new glimpse into how the universe works).

It's only recently that I learned that my asking this question was interpreted as a personal attack, which explains why the response was:

"Shut up."

“Don’t even ask any more questions.”

“We do, we do, we do [know such-and-such].” (Turned out we don’t, but that’s irrelevant).

Just as my question hurt people, these responses hurt me, deeply. Like someone dictating to me what sort of music I should enjoy, they sucked the life out of something fascinating. They also contradicted the anti-authoritarian tradition of science.

I now realize, belatedly, that the purpose of the meeting was to advocate. I was a tourist who asks the locals why they don’t behave like people back home – DUH!!! This also explains why, at another meeting, there was “no time” to take my question. The question would have been wholly inappropriate in an advocacy setting.

This was my mistake, and I am deeply sorry. Please accept my apology.

Al Stahler



CALL TO ACTION

By Sharon Davisson, FCNL Representative

Sign up for weekly action alerts at <http://www.fcnl.org>

President Trump has requested *billions* to hire more immigration enforcement and border patrol agents, permanently expand immigrant detention, and build additional wall along the southern border.

FCNL urges Friends to immediately contact our representatives in congress. Please thank Senators Feinstein and Harris for co-sponsoring the BRIDGE Act which will ensure that DACA recipients are protected.

Let our senators *and* Representative LaMalfa know that our community welcomes immigrants. Finally urge Senators Feinstein, Harris and Rep. LaMalfa to oppose any additional funding for a deportation force which rounds up community members. Also oppose funding for detention centers, border militarization and the border wall.

- Senator Dianne Feinstein, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone: [202-224-3841](tel:202-224-3841)
- Senator Kamala Harris, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Phone: [202-224-3553](tel:202-224-3553)
- Representative Doug LaMalfa, 322 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-0501
Phone: [202-225-3076](tel:202-225-3076)



American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Yesterday the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was included on a list of 20 organizations whose staff may be denied entry to Israel because of their support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement.

Motivated by Quaker belief in the worth and dignity of all people, AFSC has supported and joined in nonviolent resistance for over 100 years. We answered the call for divestment from apartheid in South Africa, and we have done the same with the call for BDS from Palestinians who have faced decades of human rights violations.

Throughout our history, we have stood with communities facing oppression and violence around the world. In 1947 we were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in part for our support for Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust. We will continue our legacy of speaking truth to power and standing for peace and justice without exception in Israel, occupied Palestine, and around the world.

All people, including Palestinians, have a right to live in safety and peace and have their human rights respected. For 51 years, Israel has denied Palestinians in the occupied territories their fundamental human rights, in defiance of international law. While Israeli Jews enjoy full civil and political rights, prosperity, and relative security, Palestinians under Israeli control enjoy few or none of those rights or privileges.

The Palestinian BDS call aims at changing this situation, asking the international community to use proven nonviolent social change tactics until equality, freedom from occupation, and recognition of refugees' right to return are realized. AFSC's [Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel](#) affirm each of these rights. Thus, we have joined others around the world in responding to the Palestinian-led BDS call. As Palestinians seek to realize their rights and end Israeli oppression, what are the alternatives left to them if we deny them such options?

Quakers pioneered the use of boycotts when they helped lead the "Free Produce Movement," a boycott of goods produced using slave labor during the 1800s. AFSC has a long history of supporting economic activism, which we view as an appeal to conscience, aimed at raising awareness among those complicit in harmful practices, and as an effective tactic for removing structural support for oppression.

The 17th century Quaker abolitionist John Woolman spoke to the spiritual foundation of this work when he said, "May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions."

The ban on entry to Israel for activists who support the Palestinian-led BDS movement is part of a larger effort by the Israeli government to silence and constrain human rights and anti-occupation activists. In recent months, more Palestinian activists have faced arrest, death threats, and imprisonment without charge or trial in response to nonviolent activism for human rights. In addition, organizations inside Israel have been denied funding and access to event venues and have faced threats of trial and imprisonment.

At a time when the Israeli government is moving to expand settlements, redefine Jerusalem, and annex portions of the West Bank, support for nonviolent activism that

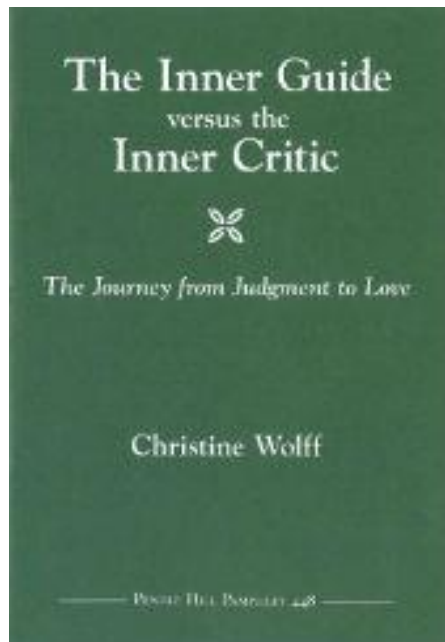
seeks freedom, equality, and justice is critical.

Therefore, as long as these and other human rights violations persist, we will continue to support Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions efforts as effective nonviolent tools for realizing political and social change. We hope one day to see Israelis and Palestinians live together in peace. This will only happen when the human rights of all are recognized and respected.

In solidarity,



Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary



Synopsis

Friends strive to heed the promptings of an “Inner Guide,” whose leadings enable us to serve the spirit while carrying us forward in our own spiritual growth. But another voice from within – that of the “inner critic” – may confuse and disrupt our discernment or may make us feel too small and unworthy to wholeheartedly follow the Guide. Christine Wolff, informed by her studies of psychology and spirituality and her practice of psychotherapy, offers insights into the difference between these two inner voices with suggestions about how readers may overcome limitations that come from a too-active inner critic. Personal examples, exercises, and a study guide are included.

“Quakers are not ‘for peace’
but rather know, in the
deepest sense of the word,
that peace is a
holy imperative
as part of a just society.”

— Ben Pink Dandelion in *Celebrating the Quaker Way*

Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contacts:

- **Clerk:** Dean Olson, (530) 273-2094, deanolson44@gmail.com,
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson, (530) 265-6533, fostenw@yahoo.com
- **Ministry and Oversight:** Kathy Mc Creery (Clerk, 530-265-6533) Peggy Baldwin, Gordon Bishop, Don Kewman, Dean Olson
- **Intergenerational Ed.:** Judy Hamilton, Sandy Kewman, Karen Olson, John Inman, Kathy McCreery
- **Library:** Christie Monson, Sylvia Osman, Shera Banbury, Joanna Mlodzinska, Elissa Preston
- **Librarian:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net, (530-274-1922)
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke, amylisette@gmail.com
- **Recorder:** Sharon Davisson, skdavisson@gmail.com, 530-265-6287
- **Outreach:** Sandy Kewman (clerk) (530-272-3736) Gordon Starr, Sharon Davisson, Gordon Bishop, Hilary Ellis-Lavigne and Ted Smith
- **Spiritual Life Committee:** Sandy Kewman, Gordon Starr (clerk)(530-878-1237), Amy Cooke, Peggy Baldwin, Don McCormick
- **Finance Committee:** Reed Hamilton (clerk), Don Kewman, Mary Starr, Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, Ex Officio member
- **Directory Clerk:** Sandy Kewman (530) 272-3736 srosekewman@gmail.com
- **Newsletter Editors:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net (530) 274-1922, Anita McCormick anita@webstop.com 310-993-6821, Don McCormick 310-597-9469
- **Newsletter Distribution:** Charity Bryson, quakercrone@comcast.net, 530-477-9232
- **Peace and Social:** Dean Olson, 273-2094, deanolson44@gmail.com, Karen Olson, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips
- **Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson, 273-2094 deanolson44@gmail.com
- **Sierra Friends Center:** (530) 273-3183 info@woolman.org
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Gordon Starr (clerk) (530-878-1237), Mary Starr, Reed Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Pat Phillips



Here I am, in Quaker surroundings, whose restful simplicity is most congenial to me. I feel here the earnest desire for genuine growth and culture which founds a slow but sure success. I am confirmed in my division of human energies. Ambitious people climb, but faithful people build.

(Julia Ward Howe)

izquotes.com

Grass Valley Friends Meeting

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

