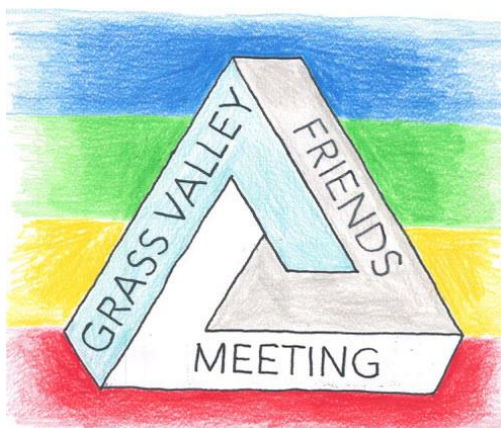




GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

*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
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, Eleventh 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

- November 13 – 17, 2024 – FCNL’s *Advocacy that Never Gives Up*. See the July-August issue of this newsletter for details

HAPPENING LATER

- Ben Lomond Quaker Center ~ Music and Dance weekend, December 6-8, 2024, [Learn more](#).
- Sunday, December 8, 2024, GVFM Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
- Sunday, December 15, 2024, Christmas Potluck at the home of Doug Hamm and Dorothy Henderson
- Ben Lomond Quaker Center ~ The 2024 year-end retreat, Sharing our Spiritual Stories, December 28, 2024 – January 1, 2025 [Learn more](#).
- Sunday, December 29, 2024, Family Meeting for Worship
- Ben Lomond Quaker Center ~ All Will Be Well: An Exploration, An in-person program with Mica Estrada, January 24 to 26, 2025 [Learn more](#)
- February 1 -9, 2025, Friends General Conference Online Gathering of Friends, [A Spring Whose Waters Never Fail](#)

MINUTES & RECORD: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, November 11, 2024

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

Present: Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Stuart Smith, Mary Starr, Gordon Starr, Judy Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Dianne Marshall, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Peter O’Rourke, & Sharon Davisson.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks’ Remarks and Query

- A sharing of the Daily Quaker Message: *Unison Benediction*.
- Meeting for Worship for Business is where we come together to make things happen. What are we as people of faith being called to at this time?
 - What are we/you called to at this time?
 - One Friend shared that it is Spirit that is calling them to respond to what is being said in Meeting for Worship for Business.
 - Another Friend referred to a Mother Theresa quote that said “God won’t give me anything I couldn’t handle, I just wish He wouldn’t trust me so much.” She went on to reference events happening in our world today.
 - Another Friend spoke about her reaction to the election, and realized it’s more important than ever to look at how she herself wakes up and represents her beliefs in the world we are facing. Several other Friends agreed.
 - Meeting for Worship for Business is the central committee that carries forward all the other workings of the meeting. Each of us is performing an important action by being here and participating, and performing our acts of love.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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)

Reed Hamilton gave the report, appended.

- Reed also read the report from the Toward Right Relations subcommittee, appended. They will be working on a letter to go out to other Meetings that will share our experience with the transition of the Woolman land to the Nisenan. This letter will go back to Spirit and Witness to be seasoned.
- There was a question about a book group possibility in the future. There are not any answers yet.

MINUTE 2024.11.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the nomination of fosten wilson to the Nominating Committee, for a term of 2024-2026.

MINUTE 2024.11.02: Spirit and Witness establishes the Programs sub-committee under our care, with initial members of Don McCormick, Gordon Starr, and Amy Cooke. Other members and attenders of Meeting are welcome to join.

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

Gordon Starr gave the report appended.

- There was a slight increase in our internet cost per month.

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

Peter O'Rourke gave the report, appended.

- One Friend spoke up about how now is a good time for us to make Quakerism more visible to those in the wider world who might be looking for answers that we can help provide.

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

There was no report.

Children's Program: Keely McDonald, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don

McCormick, David Cowan, Lo Hamm.

There was no report.

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer: Report given by Mary Starr, appended.

- There was a question about contributions to Sierra Friends Center, and if that will be removed from the budget going forward. It will.
- Details about the budget will be included in the Newsletter.

Pacific Yearly Meeting: Stuart Smith gave the report, appended.

- One Friend has expressed concern about Pacific Yearly Meeting's lack of attention to outreach and new membership, and pointed out the opposite, the great attention that Friends General Conference is making toward outreach and has offered suggestions to us from them. This should be a higher priority to growing our membership across Pacific Yearly Meeting.
- There was also a concern raised about the transparency and lack of clear communication with the PYC Newsletter going out to the community. There was a request that something be written up about this for our own newsletter.

College Park Quarterly Meeting: No report given.

Interfaith Nevada County: No report given.

Sharings from the wider Quaker world:

- Judy Hamilton reported on Right Sharing of World Resources, appended. We collect stamps to raise funds for their program.
- Friends General Conference has a new push for outreach. FGC's annual gathering will be online this year.
- Several groups are available as possible outreach options that focus on Quaker history:
 - [Quaker Theological Discussion Group](#) which is managed by people at George Fox University.
 - The [Center for Research on Quaker Studies](#) at Birmingham University, UK.

CLERK'S REMARKS:

- Dorothy shared that she felt like we were centered as a group today. Each person gave us something about how we as Quakers are to bring ourselves into this time. We are all in this together.

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

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**. The directory is now 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 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 Mary Starr or through Tithely on the website or our newsletter.

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 and share with both Dorothy and Jennifer.

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

[APPENDICES](#)

The Meeting closed with silent worship.
Respectfully recorded by Jennifer Smith, recording clerk.

ADVISES & QUERIES: ELEVENTH MONTH ~ Social and Civic Responsibility

In the words of William Penn, *"True godliness don'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. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

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. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God's law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience's sake.

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?

Treasurer's Report, 11-10-2024

Summary = not a bad year, but short of our goals

This report covers July through September 2024, and the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024. The contributions for the last quarter (\$2,252) generally kept up with our monthly expenses, but did not provide the funds necessary for making our year-end contributions. In keeping with the Meeting's policy of contributing only what is funded by the contributions of the current year, we did not make any of these contributions for FY 2023-2024 (except for a \$500 contribution to the Nisenan, which was \$375 more than the budgeted \$125 contribution).

Our shortfall this Fiscal Year is closely related to three factors. The first is the need to purchase a new computer and software for the Treasurer (\$690). Second is the need to rebuild our website (\$1,200). And finally, our very generous contribution to the Nisenan land repatriation (\$5,500). Although this final amount did not come out of the General Fund, it certainly impacted our member's and attendee's ability to contribute overall. None of these three events are expected to occur again.

The "Fund Balances" and the "Actual Spending vs Budget" reports are available in the Meeting House – near the library – and by contacting me.

Thank-you for all of your help. All gifts, both in service to the Meeting and financial are deeply appreciated. Money contributions can be in-person, mailed to my address below, or online by using the "give" button at grassvalleyfriends.org.

Mary Starr, Treasurer, P. O. Box 506, Applegate, CA 95703
Email = mstarr2133@aol.com

Your Donations Keep GVFM Solvent and Visible in our Community!

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!*
 - Or mail your donation to **Mary Starr Treasurer, P. O. Box 506, Applegate, CA 95703.**
Thank you.
-

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! [Grass Valley Friends Meeting Facebook link](#)

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.

WESTERN FRIEND JOURNAL – *Time Sensitive!*

OPPORTUNITY: If you are interested in subscribing to the journal, Western Friend please contact Judy Hamilton at judywestonhamilton@gmail.com. Western Friend is the official publication of Pacific, North Pacific and Intermountain Yearly Meetings. It is published bimonthly. Yearly subscription rates are: \$37 for print form, \$31 for PDF or \$52 for both. Checks can be made out to Western Friend and mailed or handed to me *before December 1, 2024*. My address is 13310 Nannas Way, Grass Valley, 95949.

THE RELATION OF TRUTH TO PEACE – InterFaith Nevada County **Printed in The Union October 23, 2024**

“What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?” asked the philosopher Rousseau, centuries ago. Indeed, every belief system embraces principles such as the Golden Rule--doing unto others as you would like done unto you, or even the Platinum Rule – do unto others as they would want done to them. Humans share a foundational desire for respect, along with the obligation to respect others in return.

We show respect by speaking truthfully as well as kindly. We all learned this basic moral code in kindergarten. Our words and actions matter, as the building blocks of our character and, ultimately, of our nation. Recently, this simple wisdom seems forgotten. Whether at the local level, as people express their views in opinion pieces or social media posts, or at the national level, in political rallies, town halls, or campaign statements, scoring a point can supersede the goals of kindness and truthfulness. Where there is no concern for truth, there follows no concern for the well-being of others. This pattern leads to hate in speech or action and a lack of security and safety for us all.

In these days leading up to the election, and in the months and years that follow, let’s return to the values and norms that have sustained every long-lived civilization. We encourage all people to recommit to the decency of speaking truthfully and kindly, of acting in a way that reflects all the great wisdom traditions. In our hearts, we know what is right and true. Let us agree to do better going forward, for the sake of our own integrity and peace of mind and for greater peace in the world, remembering that these aspects of peace happen to be one and the same.

The following are members of a group called Interfaith Nevada County who meet monthly. If you are a religious or spiritual leader who would like to know more about the group, please contact one of the signers listed at the end of the letter.

- Rev. Mitch Austin, Center for Spiritual Living
- Rev. Don Baldwin, retired United Methodist Minister
- Bruce Barnard member Bahá’í Faith
- Dianne Marshall, Quaker
- Shiva Reader, Baha’i Faith
- Pastor Christian Schweter, Peace Lutheran Church
- Dorian Seamster, Spiritual Care Counselor, Foothills Compassionate Care

- Sitabai Betts – Minister, Ananda Church of Self Realization of Nevada County
- Rev. Jere Farrell, Unity Minister
- Ellen Fietz Hall, Sufi Ruhaniat
- Rev. Lani Howard, Minister Emerita of the Sierra Center for Spiritual Living.
- Teresa Langness, member Baha’I Faith
- Adam Stonebraker, Guiding Teacher, Mountain Stream Meditation
- Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
- Rev. Madalyn Wade, Sierra Center for Spiritual Living

FRIEND JANET BULLOCK

Dear Friends Meeting,

Janet Bullock is in the last days or weeks of her life. She wants me to let you know that Friends Meeting had been an important match to what she was looking for at the time for her spiritual life. Also, the conviction of the old timers like Del and Julia Reynolds, Lois and Harry Bailey, Sharon Davisson, Kathy and fosten, Amy and Chamba, and Reed and Judy, to name a few, meant so much to her. She found them remarkably tolerant, kind and with a world view that matched her own.



Painting by Janet Bullock

Janet is spending her last days peacefully surrounded by family in the wonderful and supportive community of Wolf Creek Lodge Cohousing.

Love, Kate

Postscript: Janet passed on October 30th.

“We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party or against the other...but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation, and that goodness, righteousness, meekness, temperance, peace and unity with God, and with one another, that these things may abound.”

Edward Burrough, an English Quaker preacher, 1659

NOT EASY WORK by Lucy Duncan

That feeling you are experiencing right now, that feeling of the world being turned upside down? The feeling that you and loved ones are facing imminent threats, that the walls are closing in? Feel that. That is the feeling that has been felt by so many since the witch burnings and 1492 and 1619 and for so many since Oct 7th and for me since 2014. Feel that, there is a deep knowing here. Feel the deep grief here. The stable places you have felt are built on the sand of capitalism and white supremacy. That what you thought would hold us up cannot hold any of us in a real way. Go inside, find the deeper knowing. The knowing that we are one and our project is to build mutually assured thriving, structures built from love and interconnection. Feel the fear, but go beyond the fear to grief and holy, alchemized rage and love, the kind of love that sears your heart and allows you to let go of the fear and walk with the clarity that our spiritual selves hold magic, that with truth and love we can transform into vessels that can create the world we can taste, that sweet world we can taste. Hate and white rage are fires that burn fast and hot, and maybe we won't make it out alive, we surely won't but with the clarity that our lives are living prayers for the world we need, with a sense of solidarity in our mutual vulnerability we can make refugia for one another and plant the deepest seeds into the earth of what is our birthright, to know and live from deep consciousness that we are one. This is not easy work, to alchemize fear and pain, community is necessary, and it is the work calling us to let this moment be a teacher that changes us and leads us into the next faithful step. Serenity is not a function of circumstances, find it within. I believe in us, I have faith in God, and I still believe that love wins. **Lucy Duncan**



NEWS FROM QUAKER CENTER

Autumn seems to have arrived overnight to Quaker Center this year. It was a summer to remember - expanded Quaker Center summer camps, a Family Work Camp of 100 people, and a 75th birthday bash. After a heatwave to top things off, the evenings have now cooled considerably and the maple leaves along Hubbard Gulch Road have started changing color right before our eyes.

We love fall programs, and the 'Being Moved' program last month was a beautiful start.

Registration is open for programs throughout the rest of the year and into 2025 - please sign up for one today! Dates are set for QC Camps next summer. We're also thrilled to include a link to an advance copy of our 2025 Program Calendar - take a look.

We'll send an update shortly on the 350-foot well that Quaker Center has to dig -- deep gratitude to all of you who responded to our request for help. We are still fundraising for this project, and you can still be part of it: please make a donation to dig this well and support our work today!

Gratefully, the Quaker Center team

- [Click here](#) to learn more about the 2025 program calendar.
- [Quaker Center is 75!](#)



We are thrilled to share some exciting news! QEW has officially entered into a groundbreaking partnership with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCCSoA), marking the beginning of a new chapter in our work toward Earthcare. This collaboration empowers us to create our own user interface within FWCC's "Find Friends" map, revolutionizing how we connect, engage, and inspire Quaker climate action worldwide. With these amazing new capabilities, we are rebuilding the beta version of the QuakerEarth Action Map—an interactive tool to visualize and amplify Quaker Earthcare initiatives on a global scale - with ArcGIS! At the heart of this map is a searchable database that will catalog Quaker environmental efforts down to the monthly meeting level, making it easier than ever to discover and engage with Earthcare work happening in Quaker communities worldwide.

[Learn more.](#)

When Joy Comes Back by Donna Ashworth

When you
finally realise that joy
is less fireworks
more firefly
less orchestra
more birdsong
she will come back
much more often
for joy will not fight
with the fast pace of this life.

She is not in the shiny or the new
she breathes in the basic
shimmers in the simple
and dances in the daily to and fro.

Joy has been beckoning you
for many a year my friend
you were just too busy doing,
to see the very next time
joy wraps her quiet warmth
around you, as the garden
embraces your weary body
in its wildness
tip her a nod.

You cannot force her to stay
but if you are a gracious host
joy comes back.

Grass Valley Friends Meeting Contact Information (11-12-24)

COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

Stewardship: Gordon Starr, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Fosten Wilson, Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Mary Starr (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian), Hailey Wilson (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 - 2026
- Gordon Starr: 2022 - 2020
- Fosten Wilson: 2024 – 2026
- Dean Olson: 2-23 - 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:** 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:** Mary Starr, 530-878-1237 mstarr2133@aol.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
- **Pacific Yearly Meeting:** Doug Hamm
- **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Doug Hamm



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