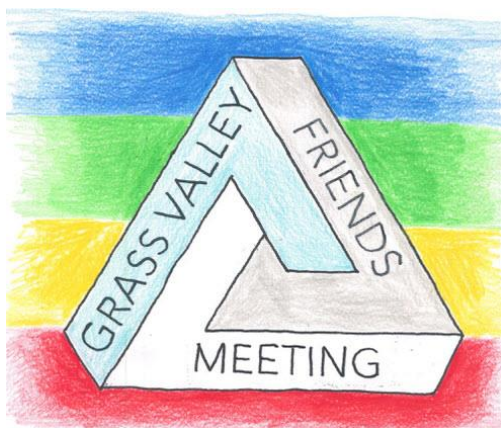




GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

*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, Twelfth Month, 2024

Calendar	pg. 1	New to Our Library.....	pg.9
Glossary	pg. 2	The Road Ahead.....	pg. 10
Minutes & Record.....	pg.2	News from Ben Lomond.....	pg. 11
Advices & Queries, 12th Month	pg.6	<i>I will light candles this Christmas.....</i>	pg.12
Holiday Potluck.....	pg.6	QUNO Update.....	pg.12
<i>The Mystic's Christmas.....</i>	pg. 7	Resilient Communities.....	pg.13
Annual Appeal.....	pg. 8	FCNL Opinion	pg 14
Your donation.....	pg. 9	GVFM Contacts & Committees	pg. 15
We are on Facebook.....	pg. 9		

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

- 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 (Singing, Story-Telling, Worship)

HAPPENING LATER

- Sunday, January 12, 2025~ Potluck and Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
- 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](#)
- Thursday, February 20, 2025, 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m., InterFaith Nevada County meeting, hosted by Grass Vally Friends Meeting

GLOSSARY- Abbreviations and terms used in the GVFM newsletter.

SFC: Sierra Friends Center

M&O: Ministry and Oversight

PacYM: Pacific Yearly Meeting

PHP – Pendle Hill Pamphlet

FGC: Friends General Conference

QEW: Quaker Earth Witness

QUNO: Quaker United Nations Office

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 & RECORD: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, December 8, 2024

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

Present: Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Gordon Starr, Mary Starr, Dianne Marshall, Anita McCormick, Don McCormick, fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Dean Olson, Doug Hamm, Sharon Davisson, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Juniper Lisette, Nora Cooke, Keith Runyan, Peter ORourke, & Pat Phillips.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query

- Our clerk reflected on how our work is done in committees for Meeting for Worship for Business and how we want to focus on the *Worship* part of this work.
- How do individuals and committees contribute to our Meeting for Worship for Business? It's time to "brag" a little.
 - Friends spoke up, often with a smile, about how many of us individually contribute, and have contributed, to our Meeting. Friends focused on individual skills and talents we have contributed to help our community.
 - Several Friends spoke about how different individuals contribute significantly to our committees and the structure of the work in our meeting, and the many tasks that our members and attenders fulfill.
 - Another Friend expressed the joy and desire at the opportunity to contribute more of his own personal skills and passion to our Meeting in the future.
 - Another Friend wanted to focus on the work it takes to come to unity during Meeting for Worship for Business and how this is a way to contribute to our meeting's spirituality.
 - There were many who spoke up in appreciation of those in the room, and attending on Zoom, and how we all want to "brag" about the contributions we all bring to Meeting.

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)

Amy Cooke gave the report, appended.

- There were questions about the name that Emma Autumn Smith is preferring to go by. Jennifer Smith confirmed that right now she prefers Autumn Smith.
- Jennifer also reported that the letters and cards that were sent by members were taken to Autumn. She really appreciated them. Jennifer let the meeting know that if they wish to write to Autumn, the cards need to be very plain (no paper clips, staples, etc.). You can send cards to Jennifer and Stuart and they will take them to Autumn.

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.

MINUTE (seasoning until the 1st month): The position of Recorder/Archivists will be placed within the Stewardship Committee, ex-officio.

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.

- Dorothy encouraged members to look at the report to see the data about the new website.

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

Gordon Starr gave the report, appended.

- There needs to be further work on the job description for the Recorder/Archivists. Nominating will bring it back to the meeting next month.

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

Dorothy Henderson gave an update.

- Keely McDonald is unable to continue as clerk of Children's Program due to medical reasons.
- This means that we do not have coverage for the Children's Program and will need volunteers to help take over on 3rd Sundays.

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer: No report given.

Pacific Yearly Meeting: No report given.

College Park Quarterly Meeting: No report given.

Interfaith Nevada County: No report given.

Interfaith Nevada County is scheduled to meet on site here on February 20th.

Sharings from the wider Quaker world:

- Anita shared that she is going to start attending the Wellington, New Zealand meeting (over Zoom), where her son attends, in addition to our Meeting.
- Don will be presenting a workshop at Ben Lomond at the end of the year.
- Keith reported about Earthcare Witness. On Saturday, Dec. 14th at 1:00 PM (Pacific Time) he will be giving a talk on the Road Ahead, Earthcare During the Trump Era, and stepping up the Quaker response to this, especially over the next 10 years.
- Amy shared about a Woodbrooke online workshop on Tuesday January 14th at 11:00 AM (Pacific time). The workshop is presented by Rob Hopkins (founder of the Transition Towns movement) to kick-start the new 6-part series on Resilient Communities - Revisioning Society.
<https://search.app/jXhesQvKLNHz5yDx8>
- Stuart Smith is presenting with the Quaker Theological Discussion Group this Friday, at 8:00 AM on the Free Produce Movement. This is a part of his Doctoral research project.
- Dorothy shared that she receives many pamphlets on Quaker organizations and wants to make them available for Friends to look at.
- Dorothy also shared about the death of Ginger Covert, one of the Nisenan elders on site, and that we would like to send something to the family. Dorothy will write a consolation letter to the family on behalf of the Meeting, and will work with Dean to make sure the family receives it.

CLERK'S REMARKS:

- The blending of grief and joy are here in our meeting today. We take joy in a young Friend who is with us, and joy in the return of Friends who have been gone. We acknowledge and grieve the loss of Ginger Covert, of the Nisenan tribe. We can hold joy and grief in our circle with an awareness that our circle is big and can encompass many people and emotions. We can see and appreciate each other, and acknowledge the work that was done today in a spirit of love and care.

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

MINUTE (seasoning until the 1st month): The position of Recorder/Archivists will be placed within the Stewardship Committee, ex-officio.

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 amylisette@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 the Tuesday following Business Meeting at 10 am.

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

APPENDICES:

1. Spirit and Witness Committee report
2. Stewardship Committee report
3. Welcome Committee report
4. Nominating Committee report
- a. Recorder/Archivist 2024 Job Description
5. Children's Committee report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Interfaith Nevada County report
8. Pacific Yearly Meeting report

ADVISES AND QUERIES: Twelfth Month ~ The Meeting Community

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the “beloved community.”

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other’s needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?

Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?

Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God’s love for the whole community?

How are love and unity maintained among us?

Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?

How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?

Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?



LET’S VISIT! Monthly Potluck & Holiday Season Party

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Time: 11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m.

Place: The home of Doug Hamm & Dorothy Henderson

Address: 13074 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA

RSVP requested: Dorothy Henderson

dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com



Bring a favorite food to share! Bring a favorite holiday poem, story or song to share. Practicing violinists most welcome!

A warming oven and refrigerator are available for drop-off prior to Meeting for Worship

The Mystic's Christmas by John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807 – 1892

"All hail!" the bells of Christmas rang,
"All hail!" the monks at Christmas sang,
The merry monks who kept with cheer
The gladdest day of all their year.

But still apart, unmoved thereat,
A pious elder brother sat
Silent, in his accustomed place,
With God's sweet peace upon his face.

"Why sitt'st thou thus?" his brethren
cried,
"It is the blessed Christmas-tide;
The Christmas lights are all aglow,
The sacred lilies bud and blow.

"Above our heads the joy-bells ring,
Without the happy children sing,
And all God's creatures hail the morn
On which the holy Christ was born.

"Rejoice with us; no more rebuke
Our gladness with thy quiet look."
The gray monk answered, "Keep, I pray,
Even as ye list, the Lord's birthday.

"Let heathen Yule fires flicker red
Where thronged refectory feasts are
spread;
With mystery-play and masque and
mime
And wait-songs speed the holy time!

"The blindest faith may haply save;
The Lord accepts the things we have;
And reverence, howsoe'er it strays,
May find at last the shining ways.

"They needs must grope who cannot see,
The blade before the ear must be;
As ye are feeling I have felt,
And where ye dwell I too have dwelt.

"But now, beyond the things of sense,
Beyond occasions and events,
I know, through God's exceeding grace,
Release from form and time and space.

"I listen, from no mortal tongue,
To hear the song the angels sung;
And wait within myself to know
The Christmas lilies bud and blow.

"The outward symbols disappear
From him whose inward sight is clear;
And small must be the choice of days
To him who fills them all with praise!

"Keep while you need it, brothers mine,
With honest seal your Christmas sign,
But judge not him who every morn
Feels in his heart the Lord Christ born!"

ANNUAL APPEAL, December, 2024

Dear Friends,

Grass Valley Friends Meeting applauds 2024 and its unique opportunities. GVFM stood witness and provided support to many of those involved in the land transition as the Sierra Friends Center changed hands to become Yulica Village, owned by the California Heritage Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP), in service to the local Nisenan tribe. We met technological challenges to hold our far-flung spiritual community together. We have come to know one another better, gaining spiritual strength for both ourselves individually and for our Friends Meeting. You are a part of this community.

This year has been unique because our Meeting had several significant, non-reoccurring expenses: a significant financial contribution to CHIRP and payment of \$2,000 to maintain the Meeting's website and to upgrade computer equipment and software.

Challenges include reduced in-person attendance to Meeting gatherings. We miss the presence of many people. Maintaining visibility in our local communities is challenged by a reduced number of Friends and attenders available to participate in volunteer service, outreach activities and provide financial support. Our contributions to Utah's Place/Hospitality House, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends Committee on California Legislation, Friends House, Quaker Center, the American Friends Service Committee, Nonviolent Peaceforce and the Laura Wilcox Memorial Fund at FCNL depend on donations greater than our regular expenses.

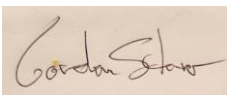
The Meeting is prayerfully considering our faith community's spiritual health and strength. In addition to offering programs that stimulate growth and depth, we are present with the Nisenan community as they transition to full utilization of the Yulica Village property.

Outreach and visibility in our local communities as a viable spiritual resource is a center of discernment. Supporting local community services is one means of visibility for GVFM. Currently, it is especially important that our Meeting's spiritual strength is available to all who need support.

There are fundamental expenses your generosity allows us to pay. As 2024 ends, please consider contributing to Grass Valley Friends Meeting with both an end of year financial gift as well as an on-going monthly donation of \$60.00/month. Monthly donations help cover monthly expenses.

Tax deductible donations to GVFM can be made in several ways: a) Online donations: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/. This link also appears live in the GVFM Monthly Newsletter. You may set up a regular withdrawal from your bank account. Look for "bank account" where you are asked for amount. b) mail your contributions to Mary Starr, Treasurer, P. O. Box 506, Applegate, CA 95703, or c) give your contribution to her at Meeting. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed with this letter for your convenience.

You are valued. Do join us in-person or via zoom. Let fellowship and worshipful silence guide you in deciding your support for the Grass Valley Friends Meeting this year. ***Thank you for being a part of our Meeting's inner Light and strength.***



Gordon Starr, Clerk, Stewardship Committee

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.

NEW TO THE GVFM LIBRARY

We are Like the Clouds/Somos como las Nubes

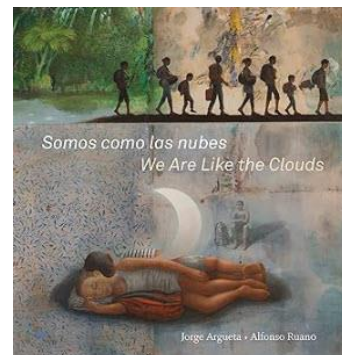
by Jorge Argueta and Alfonso Ruano.

An eloquent and timely plea for understanding refugees.

Why are young people leaving their country to walk to the United States to seek a new, safe home? Over 100,000 such children have left Central America. This book of poetry helps us to understand why and what it is like to be them.

This powerful book by award-winning Salvadoran poet Jorge Argueta describes the terrible process that leads young people to undertake the extreme hardships and risks involved in the journey to what they hope will be a new life of safety and opportunity. A refugee from El Salvador’s war in the eighties, Argueta was born to explain the tragic choice confronting young Central Americans today who are saying goodbye to everything they know because they fear for their lives. This book brings home their situation and will help young people who are living in safety to understand those who are not.

Compelling, timely and eloquent, this book is beautifully illustrated by master artist Alfonso Ruano who also illustrated *The Composition*, considered one of the 100 Greatest Books for Kids by *Scholastic’s Parent and Child Magazine*.





[Register Here](#)

In peace and hope,

Keith Runyan

General Secretary, Quaker Earthcare Witness

Dear Friends,

As we begin to navigate the complexities at the ledge of the Trump Era, we find ourselves at a crossroads: a moment of deep urgency and immense opportunity.

To meet these challenges, and offer a vision for what's ahead, I'll be offering a personal workshop this December to help bring Friends prepare spiritually and as a movement.

We cordially invite you to join us in two weeks time for: "The Road Ahead: Becoming Hope in the Trump Era w/Keith Runyan" on Saturday, December 14th at 4 PM ET / 1 PM PT.

This event will be a heartfelt exploration of how Quakers can rise to meet this moment with moral, spiritual, and strategic leadership. I will introduce the new QuakerEarth Campaign, an ambitious effort to unify and amplify Quaker climate action across the globe. Together, we will reflect on why this work is not only urgent but critical to building a stronger Quaker environmental movement that embodies hope and resilience in a time of great uncertainty.

We'll dive into key topics, including strategic leverage points at federal, state, and local levels, and the unique role Quakers are called to play in creating transformative change. These times demand that we go deeper—to embody hope, love, and Light in a way that transcends blind optimism or empty cynicism. We'll explore the mindset of Becoming Hope: choosing to be instruments of grace, humility, and prophetic action, while grounding our work in practical movement-building efforts.

This is a call to action and reflection—a moment to connect with one another and discern how Spirit is leading us to respond to the challenges of our time. Together, we'll consider what it means to balance reverence with courage, and sacrifice with Love, as we take bold steps forward.

I hope you'll join us for this pivotal conversation. RSVP today and invite others to join as we chart a way forward that is as bold as our times are urgent.

News from the Ben Lomond Quaker Center



Welcome friends

[The 2025 Program Calendar is here!](#)

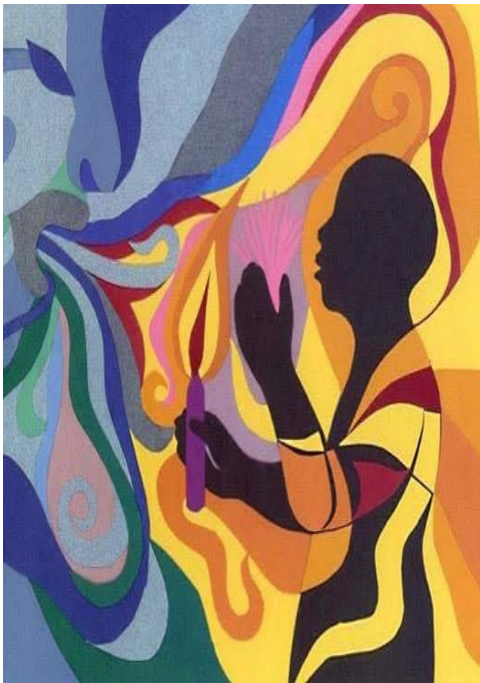
[Take a look at our November newsletter.](#)

Upcoming Programs at Quaker Center:

[The Year-End Retreat \(in person\)](#) December 28-January 1, 2025

[All Will Be Well: An Exploration \(in person\)](#) January 24-26, 2025

I will light candles this Christmas by Howard Thurman



"I will light candles this Christmas.

Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

Candles of courage where fear is ever present.

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.

Candles of love to inspire all of my living.

Candles that will burn all the year long. "

Sustainable Economic Systems:

12/24. Plastic money, a way of ending plastic pollution? The Sustainable and Just Economic Systems (SJES) programme team from the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), represented by Associate Representative Andrés Naranjo and Senior Technical Advisor Ronald Steenblik, recently participated in the fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5), held from 25 November to 1 December in Busan, Republic of Korea, as part of the FWCC delegation

UN Women:

11/24: UN Security Council held the “Women Building Peace in a Changing Environment” panel discussion. Economic empowerment of women is directly related to their ability to take leadership roles in their communities’ peacebuilding efforts. There is a need for training on public speaking and other advocacy skills that will further enhance women’s power as peacebuilders in their region. The importance of trauma sensitive engagement was discussed. They recognized that in conflict situations, people of all genders have internal, personal trauma that must be attended to alongside societal peacebuilding concerns. To see UN policy localized in an effective way that promotes lasting peace, efforts must look at a community and its people holistically, uplifting their internal and external concerns.

Considered the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women’s rights, the [Beijing Declaration](#) and Platform for Action has been reprinted in this special edition, which also includes a copy of the political declaration reached at the 23rd special session of the General Assembly in 2000, which reviewed progress towards the Platform for Action five years after its adoption.

Women procures more than USD 176 million worth of services and goods each year to support its programme of work. UN Women is committed to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide, while delivering green results, with an emphasis on transparency and effectiveness.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/10/world-survey-on-the-role-of-women-in-development-2024>

Climate Change:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has “a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all”.

Political organizing and actions at COP have provided a clear call to conscience, highlighting the damage and destruction climate change is inflicting on the poor and vulnerable, calling for climate reparations, and showcasing the inverse relationship between exorbitant military spending and paltry investments in climate funds. In contrast to the breakdown of dialogue happening throughout the conference, QUNO’s side event on peace and climate featured panelists who spoke from differing experiences about a shared vision for how to take climate action that will truly make us safe. The panel was moderated by QUNO’s by Lindsey Fielder-Cook.

[Further meetings on peace and disarmament may be found here:](#)

Resilient Communities: Revisioning Society

Tuesday 14 January 2025

19:00-21:00 (UK time)

Rob Hopkins



In this session, we'll explore how rebuilding our collective imagination can empower us and safeguard future generations. Can we tap our radical Quaker roots to counter bleak futures and envision a more just world?

Join Rob Hopkins (founder of the Transition Towns movement) to kick-start our new 6-part series on Resilient Communities. Rob will explore how we can rebuild our collective imagination, and why it's vital that we do so. We need a hopeful vision, a roadmap, but it needs to be flexible and adaptable. How can we re-envision systems for a more fair, just and sustainable society?

The status quo clearly isn't working. Radical divergence is necessary. How can we as a faith community contribute to reshaping our world? Moving toward a sustainable future with a revisioning mindset could make this the most exhilarating time in history to live through—a true revolution of the imagination. It is a time of incredible potential and possibility. How can we harness this?

This session will be experiential, with creative activities and discussion in breakout rooms, as well as with the whole group. Including a Time Machine exercise and sharing the power of good 'What if' questions.

"What we cannot imagine cannot come into being" (Bell Hooks)

"We've tried the possible and it failed, now it's time to try the impossible" (Sun Ra)

"It is my strong sense that it is not enough to just talk about extinction and collapse, we also have to express something beautiful for people to run towards... So let's make our story one that nurtures and kindles a deep deep longing for the future" (Rob Hopkins)

This course is part of a series exploring re-visioning, [click here to discover other courses in this series](#).



**The election is over. Our work is not. – OPINION by [Bridget Moix](#)
1December 4, 2024**

(RNS) — With the election season behind us, all Americans need to turn to the work of building democracy day by day, in our communities and with our elected officials, those we agree with and those we don't.

(RNS) — Barely a month ago, more than 150 million Americans went to the polls and voted for their new leaders in Washington. No matter how you voted, the results are in and a new administration and Congress are preparing to take office next month. With that, our work at the Friends Committee on National Legislation continues.

¹ ([Bridget Moix](#) is general secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation and its associated Quaker hospitality center, Friends Place on Capitol Hill. The views expressed in this commentary do not necessarily reflect those of Religion News Service.)

Our persistent, nonpartisan Quaker advocacy organization has more than 80 years of experience lobbying Congress and various administrations, and we look forward to working with the incoming 119th Congress on a wide range of issues of concern to our community — war and peace, economic justice, immigration, the environment. We also feel compelled to raise a warning of the threats we see in the reelection of Donald Trump as president.

We are deeply concerned by the renewed threats a Trump presidency presents to the dignity and lives of millions in our country and around the world, many of whom we work with daily. We call on President-elect Trump to uphold the Constitution, comply with national and international norms and laws and to respect the rights and dignity of all people.

We regard the 118th Congress as a vital time to prepare for the opening weeks of the 119th. With this year's appropriations bills still unfinished, crucial funding decisions on poverty alleviation, peacemaking and security have yet to be made. With the new administration signaling its intention to make major new cuts to federal programs for those most in need while extending tax cuts for the rich, now is the time to vigorously engage with lawmakers.

The United States is a democracy, no matter the threats lining up against it. But our democracy depends on all Americans' active and engaged participation. With the election season behind us, we need to turn to the ongoing work of building democracy day by day, in our communities and with our elected officials, those we agree with and those we don't.

In 1659, the English Quaker preacher Edward Burrough said, "We are not for one party or against another. ... 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." This is as true today as it was before the United States existed.

For our part, we will redouble our efforts to create cooperation across political divides and foster peace amid conflict. Diversity of thought is one of the greatest strengths of our democracy. We are committed to working with all political parties and across the beautiful diversity of our country to advance our sacred, beloved community. That includes seeking common ground with the second Trump administration to advance laws and policies for the common good.

As people of hope, we will persist in our belief that our democracy is strongest when we are all engaged with it and with one another. Not Republicans. Not Democrats. Not independents. But all who call this nation home.

As people of faith, we'll bring a voice of moral conscience to the policy process. We stand in solidarity with people most impacted by the policies our federal government implements. We affirm our commitment to building the world we seek, a world free of war and the threat of war, with justice and equity for all, where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and where our precious Earth is restored.

Most importantly, we will continue to fiercely advocate and lovingly defend human dignity and protect the rights of all people. We will stand firm in our historic peace witness that war is not the answer because peace is possible and within reach. We will lobby to protect the environment and the fullness of God's creation.

Faith calls us to practice hope during tough times and to narrow the gap between what is and what should be. We are called to live a prophetic witness for the world we seek and to put our hearts and hands to action for it.

We are called to love our enemies, without exception, and to work for the transformation of our world into the community we know is possible. The election is over; our work is not.

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 - 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



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Nevada City, CA 95959
Return Address Requested