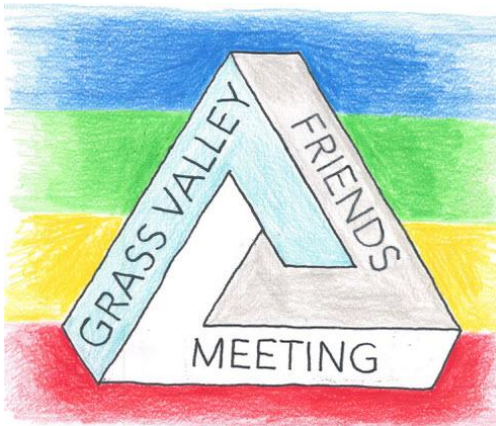


**GRASS VALLEY
FRIENDS MEETING**

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



13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959
Yulica Community, 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, SEVENTH & EIGHTH MONTHS, 2025

Calendar	pg. 1	Religious Education News.....	pg.10
Glossary	pg. 2	Provided by A. McCormick.....	pg. 10
Nisenan Land Acknowledgement	pg. 2	Letter to the Editor, D.Olson.....	pg. 11
Minutes & Record	pg. 3	PacYM on YouTube.....	pg. 11
Advices & Queries, 7 th Month	pg. 7	Quaker Podcasts.....	Pg.11
Advices & Queries, 8 th Month.....	pg.7	As we lay down.....	pg. 12
Lo Hamm.....	pg. 8	The Spirit of Unbuntu.....	pg. 14
August Potluck.....	pg. 8	Letter to the Editor, J. Dickey.....	pg.15
Treasurer's Report.....	pg. 9	QEW: Common Ground	pg. 16
GIVE!.....	pg. 9	Defending our Democracy.....	pg. 17
Find us on Facebook	pg. 9	Small Kindnesses.....	pg. 18
GVFM Season of Nonviolence.....	pg.9	GVFM Contacts & Committees	pg. 19

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.*

HAPPENING NOW

- Sunday, August 10, 2025, Potluck and Meeting for Worship for Business, 11:30a.m.
- Friday, August 22, 2025, Potluck at Pat Phillips' ~ See page __ for details.
- Sunday, August 24, 2025, 11:30a.m., Don McCormick, *Worship Sharing on Nonviolence*

HAPPENING LATER

- Sunday, September 28, 2025, 11:30a.m., Dorothy Henderson and Gordon Starr, *Nonviolence as a Way of Life*
- Sunday, September 14, 2025: Potluck and Meeting for Worship for Business, 11:30a.m.
- Sunday, October 5, 2025: Dianne Marshall, **Daniel Hunter's "Defending Our Democracy: Where Are We and What's Next?"** recording and discussion (See page for details).
- Sunday, October 12, 2025: Potluck and Meeting for Worship for Business, 11:30a.m.
- Sunday, October 26, 2025: Reed Hamilton: *Toward Right Relations* Quaker Peace Teams (film and
- Sunday, November 9, 2025: Potluck and Meeting for Worship for Business, 11:30a.m.
- Sunday, November 23, 2025: Doug Hamm: *A Force More Powerful* (film and discussion)
- Sunday, December 14, 2025: Potluck and Meeting for Worship for Business, 11:30a.m.
- Sunday, December 20, 2025 – Amy Cooke: *Stop, Drop, and Roll: A Practice for Living Nonviolently*

GLOSSARY- Abbreviations and terms used in the GVFM newsletter.

M&O: Ministry and Oversight

PacYM: Pacific Yearly Meeting

PHP: Pendle Hill Pamphlet

FGC: Friends General Conference

QEW: Quaker Earthcare 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: 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.



For current news:

[CHIRP](#)

Nisenan Land Acknowledgment

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

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

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

MINUTES & RECORD: Meeting for Worship for on the Occasion of Business, Sunday, August 10, 2025

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

Present: Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Gordon Starr (elder to the clerk), Stuart Smith, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Peter O'Rourke, Dianne Marshall, Judy Hamilton, Reed Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Mary Starr, Dean Olson,

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query

- Is Meeting for Worship for Business useful for building "Beloved Community," not just for business? Can we move our business into committees so that we can focus more on spending our time on building our relationships in our Beloved Community.
- Query: Is monthly Meeting for Worship for Business the best use of our time for building beloved community?
- Do we need to meet every month, or would every other month for Meeting for Worship for Business suffice? Should we do something else during the other months to help build community?
- Friends spoke out of the silence:

- If our meeting is taking on a challenging issue, it might be necessary to meet every month. If not, every other month might be sufficient.
- Business Meeting can be a struggle to sit through, even though it is valuable to work through our business together. This friend would welcome building community in a different way.
- Beloved Community can extend out into the wider world. Bringing our Quaker Process out into the world is valuable.
- Meeting for Worship for Business can be more compact when the committees do their work. We might not need to do this every month. However, there will be times when it is needed, and other times when it is not.
- The metaphor of weaving a basket comes to me. Whether we are sitting in Meeting for Business and discerning on an issue, or participating in a work day, or a potluck, there are different strands coming together to weave a strong beautiful basket of Beloved Community. What would it be like if we were gathering because the work is imperative, needed, and urgent?
- France Yearly Meeting makes all decisions in a representative committee in order to do relationship and spiritual deepening during the annual session. This is offered as comparison with other meetings grappling with this issue.
- There is something to be said for business being held in worship. The question is between “worship” and “social?”
- Sometimes there are pragmatics that keep an organization whole and running that need active participation. Meeting for Worship for Business keeps me engaged.
- Sometimes it is difficult to come monthly with new ideas that are valuable for Meeting for Worship for Business, especially as a Clerk of the Welcome Committee. There might be better uses of time for every other month.
- Having Meeting for Worship for Business being more compact makes it easier to participate in. Committees have made that possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Spirit and Witness: Amy Cooke, 2024-2027, Stuart Smith, 2025-2026, Reed Hamilton, 2025-2028, Dean Olson, 2024-2027, Doug Hamm, 2025-2026, Dorothy Henderson, 2026 (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk), Gordon Starr (ex-officio, elder to the clerk).

Amy Cooke gave the report, appended.

MINUTE 2025.08.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting releases Charity Bryson from membership in Grass Valley Friends Meeting. A certified letter notifying her of this release of membership was returned unopened.

MINUTE (seasoning until 9th month): Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the Minute of Service letter for Stuart Smith.

- The Minute of Service letter was read for Stuart Smith. There was a question about what this Minute of Service is addressing. Some clarification was needed.
 - Stuart plans to travel to other meetings to express his concern on peace education especially for high school youth, and to have an introductory letter to other meetings. It serves as an introduction and to show

that the visit is supported by the Grass Valley Friends Meeting.

- There was another question about the locations for the Season of Nonviolence programs. Interfaith Nevada County would like to participate. Attendance would be higher if these programs were held at a different location.
 - Having a location in town is an issue that Meeting needs to look into and has come up multiple times among members and in Spirit and Witness.
 - There is a concern about how the Nisenan and CHIRP will feel about having the public come onto the land here for programs.
 - We may need to discern about having someone work on finding locations in town. There is a time element with the flier going out, and listing locations.
 - Interfaith Nevada County is a good resource for us to reach out to for facilities. There is receptiveness and cooperation there.

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

Mary Starr gave the report, appended.

- Was CHIRP contacted about the rodent issue, specifically, was Saxon notified?
 - Yes, though things are still in flux. Traps were set and a rodent was caught.

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

Peter O'Rourke gave the report, appended.

- How does the guestbook entry work with the postcard and/or welcome bags?
 - The welcome bags need to be looked at by the Welcome Committee in their next meeting to address this.
 - The guestbook entry will get added to the email list and the newsletter list.
- There were questions about what YubaNet does. It lists events in the community and can be used to list our worship events.

Nominating Committee: (terms as noted), Chamba Cooke: 2025-2026, Dean Olson 2025-2027, Mary Starr 2025-2027, fosten wilson 2024-2026,

No report was given.

Religious Education: Judy Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Keely McDonald, Lo Hamm. Substitutes: Gordon Bishop, Gordon Starr, Alan Stahler. Fifth Sunday reader: Anita McCormick

Judy Hamilton gave the report, appended.

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mary Starr gave the report, appended.

Pacific Yearly Meeting: Doug Hamm gave the report, appended.

College Park Quarterly Meeting: No report given.

Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall gave the report, appended.

Sharings from the wider Quaker world:

- **QUAKER CALL TO ACTION:**
 - 8-3-25 Eileen Flanagan "RESISTING THE DIVIDE AND CONQUER GAME." Presentation by Eileen Flanagan extracted from 8-3-25 National Zoom Call "Resisting The Divide and Conquer Game: How Quakers Can Help the Broader Pro-Democracy Movement."
 - 6-1-25 Daniel Hunter "DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY: WHERE ARE WE AND WHAT'S NEXT?" <https://choosedemocracy.us/>
- Yesterday was the world premiere of *Living Ubuntu*, created by Friends in the wider world. We should look at viewing this in our meeting.
 - US Quakers in Europe are group sharing ways to maintain nonviolence and solidarity with American struggles.

CLERK'S REMARKS:

- This meeting and its members have a rich history. We care deeply about issues and hold each other, and our meeting, tenderly.
- When we come together, we create something greater than just ourselves.

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

MINUTE (seasoning until 9th month): Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the Minute of Service letter for Stuart Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Fall Meeting is scheduled for the weekend of October 17-19, 2025, at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.
- **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 Tuesday at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Jennifer Smith, recording clerk.

APPENDICES:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Spirit and Witness Committee report | 4. Nominating Committee report |
| a. Minute of Service letter for Stuart Smith | 5. Children's Committee report |
| b. A Season for Nonviolence Poster - Fall 2025 | 6. Treasurer's Report |
| 2. Stewardship Committee report | 7. Pacific Yearly Meeting report |
| 3. Welcome Committee report | 8. Interfaith Nevada County report |

Seventh Month Queries and Advices: Reaching Out

Friends fellowship begins and is nurtured within the home and Meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our beliefs into the wider community.

Share your Quaker faith. Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light and, as you learn, give freely from what you have gained. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, but do not be afraid to say what you value. Welcome the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in your Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting, and the world community of Friends. Encourage discourse with Friends of pastoral and programmed traditions, and with members of other faiths.

Friends have a long history of involvement in public and private education, sharing our values with the world and nurturing future generations. Be mindful of the needs of children in your community and of avenues for deepening understanding between peoples.

- How does my life reflect Friends beliefs and thus encourage others to be interested in the Religious Society of Friends?
- Do I respond openly to inquiries about Quaker experience and belief?
- *What does our Meeting do to make others aware of Friends principles and practices?*
- *What are we doing to help people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds feel at home among us and we among them?*
- *How do we encourage newcomers to return and participate in activities of the Meeting?*
- *In what ways do we participate in the life of the interfaith community and in the wider [fellowship of Friends](#)?*

Eighth Month Queries and Advices: Simplicity

Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center... a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time.

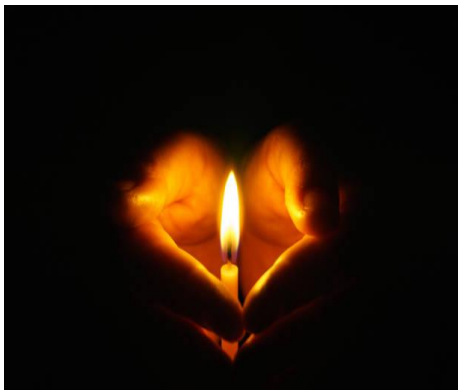
thomas r. kelly, *testament of devotion*, 1941

A life centered in God will be directed toward keeping communication with God open and unencumbered. Simplicity is best achieved through a right ordering of priorities, maintaining humility of spirit, avoiding self-indulgence, resisting the accumulation of unnecessary possessions, and avoiding over-busy lives.

Elise Boulding writes in *My Part in the Quaker Adventure*,

“Simplicity, beauty, and happiness go together if they are a byproduct of a concern for something more important than ourselves.”

- Do I center my life in an awareness of God’s presence so that all things take their rightful place?
- Do I live simply, and promote the right sharing of the world’s bounty?
- Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light?
- How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work?
- Do I recognize when I have enough?
- *Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives?*



Lo Hamm

We are saddened to share that Lo Hamm passed away on Tuesday, August 12, at her home. Lo was a regular attendee at Grass Valley Friends Meeting and a valued part of our community.

We will share more information about a memorial as it becomes available.

In the meantime, please hold Doug and Dorothy, Doug’s brother Bruce, and the Hamm family in the Light.

POTLUCK INVITATION! Friday, August 22, 2025

Time: 5:00p.m. – 7:30p.m.

Place: The home of Pat Phillips

Address: 10858 Bartlett Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95949

RSVP requested: PHONE: 530-913-1338 EMAIL:

patphillips49@yahoo.com



Treasurer's Report, August 10, 2025

Summary = We are still on track to having a successful financial year, but it is primarily because of one particularly generous contribution made in the first quarter.

This report covers the third quarter of the 2024-2025 fiscal year: April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. The contributions you made in those months (\$2,036) were welcome, greatly appreciated, but less than our average for one quarter. Our expenses (\$2,296) were within our budget and included our annual zoom fee and our Quicken software subscription.

The “Fund Balances” and the “General Fund: Actual vs. Budget” reports are available in the Meeting House – near the library – and by contacting me. The Restricted Funds are unchanged from the previous quarter.

Thank you for all 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

500 Butler Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Email = mstarr2133@aol.com



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

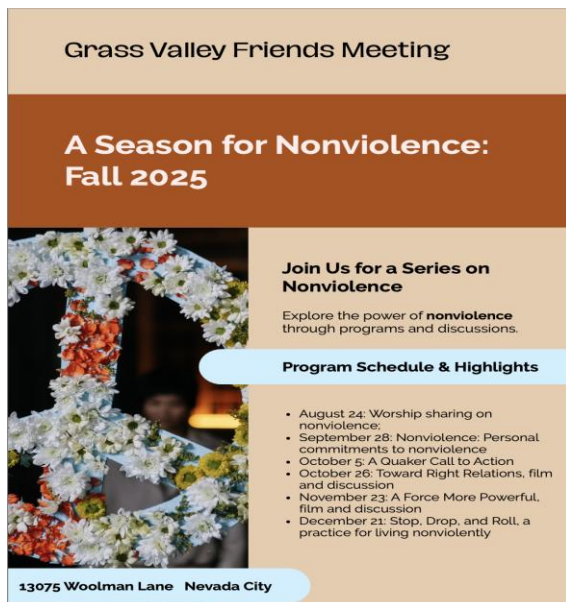
- Giving is easy! Click on the Give button above or go to grassvalleyfriends.org and click on “GIVE” You’ll go to a secure site for donations. Monthly contributions are very important. *You may now change the dollar amount of your gift without making a new donation request!*
 - Or mail your donation to **Mary Starr Treasurer, 500 Butler Street, CA 95945.**
- 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.

GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING SEASON FOR NON-VIOLENCE

The *Programs Committee*, which also meets under the care of Spirit and Witness, has been developing after-Meeting programs for the Fall. We are naming this season the GVFM Season for Nonviolence, with all programs reflecting and supporting this central theme. Below is our current lineup (titles and descriptions may be revised as needed):



- August 24 – *Don McCormick*: Worship Sharing on Nonviolence
- September 28 – *Dorothy Henderson and Gordon Starr*: Nonviolence as a way of life
- October 5 – *Dianne Marshall*: Daniel Hunter: A Quaker Call to Action (recording and discussion)
- October 26 – *Reed Hamilton*: *Toward Right Relations* Quaker Peace Teams (film and discussion)
- November 23 – *Doug Hamm*: A Force More Powerful (film and discussion)
- December 20 – *Amy Cooke*: Stop, Drop, and Roll: A Practice for Living Nonviolently

Religious Education News (First Day School)

Greetings to all parenting young people under the age of 18!

Grass Valley Friends Meeting continues to offer a teacher/buddy schedule to assure you there are always two adults present during First Day School. Below is our current schedule

- First Sunday: Don McCormick (Buddy vacancy)
- Second Sunday: Doug Hamm and Reed Hamilton
- Third Sunday: *Vacancy*. Teacher will be someone from Meeting and buddy will be someone from the Religious Education Committee. *If you are interested and available to be a First Day School Teacher or Buddy, please contact Judy Hamilton, 530-277-8818, judywestonhamilton@gmail.com*
- Fourth Sunday: Judy Hamilton and Dean Olson (we alternate teaching and buddy duties)

We will be asking people from Meeting to present something they are passionate about or something in their life that has been shaped or enhanced by Quakerism. We hope that this will be meaningful to both the student(s) and the person presenting and facilitate both parties getting to know each other in a deeper manner.

Provided by Anita McCormick

It's a quotation from the June 20 *Times Literary Supplement*, from a review of books about mass protest in the modern era. It's by Peter Geoghegan:

"We are certainly living in revolutionary times. . . . The number of protest movements increased threefold between 2006 and 2020." He goes on to say "Demonstrations against corruption and democratic backsliding brought down Bangladesh's authoritarian regime last year and have rocked Serbia and Russia in recent months. In mid-June, millions attended 'No Kings' protests against Trump across the US. More demonstrations are planned. If there is one constant in all these stories, it is that change can come from the most unlikely places."

Letter to the Editor — Dean Olson: The upside-down situation in Gaza

August 1, 2025

The whole situation in Gaza is upside down: Israel calls it “a war”; actually what they are doing is the total destruction of Gaza with the intent of moving all the living residents of Gaza out so they can establish illegal settlements there like they have already dotted the West Bank.

They also are starving to death Gazans by banning the UN Food Relief program that had over 400 sites in Gaza, while the ones Israel runs now with right wing Christian groups, GHF, has four sites and only is open 1 hour a day. Like animals going to a water hole, all ages of Gazans streaming to these few sites are open targets to the Israeli military, who has killed alone close to 2,000 starving Gazans seeking food.

Why call it upside down? Israel has spent years mourning the Holocaust, with much sympathy from the world, yet what they are now doing is obliterate those very people they have subjugated and occupied for over 50 years! They literally are destroying not only all ages of the Gazan people (58,000 known to date killed, with thousands of others still unaccounted for under the bombed out rubble).

Also all of Gaza’s infrastructure, including the hospitals. It’s so bad, the UN Rappateur for Gaza has put out a sanction against business that support this. How, on the one hand can Israel ask the world to mourn with them when they are doing the same. Who is the terrorist here? Who is taking advantage of others?

Dean Olson, Nevada City

Two Pacific Yearly Meeting Presentations on YouTube

John Pixley, Claremont Meeting, presented with Shayne Lightner reading his words to aid with understanding, given John’s difficulty communicating because of his cerebral palsy. John shared intimately and humorously of his trials and triumphs given the severity of his physical condition.

Amy Cooke, Grass Valley Meeting, titled her presentation “Stop, Drop, and Roll,” a fire safety recommendation when caught in flames. She shared her spiritual journey coming through the crisis of losing the home they had built in the Jones fire.

John and Amy’s presentations are on YouTube and can be found on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website. [Find your balance, heart reaching forward 2025 Keynote with John & Amy](#)

Quaker Podcasts

- What is a podcast? A podcast is a digital audio or video program, similar to a radio show, but available on demand over the internet. It's a series of episodes that can be downloaded or streamed on various devices. Podcasts are often distributed through RSS feeds, allowing listeners to subscribe and receive new episodes automatically
- How do I hear them? _To listen to a podcast, you need a device with audio playback capabilities, like a smartphone, tablet, smart speaker, or computer. You'll also need an internet connection for streaming or downloading episodes, and a podcast app to find and manage your chosen shows.
- This video explains the basic equipment needed to start podcasting, including microphones, headphones, and stands
- Where do I find Quaker Podcasts?

Thee Quaker Podcast	https://quakerpodcast.com/	A weekly Quaker podcast for spiritual seekers, lifelong Quakers and everyone in between. Join us as we explore questions of modern life and spirituality
Discovering Quakers	https://www.discoveringquakers.org.uk/podcasts	Historical in it focus.

As we lay down the stewardship June 30, 2025

Dear Friends and friends,

Today as we lay down the organization that stewarded the land we called Woolman, we report on our ending and a beginning. A few months ago, the campus of the former John Woolman School in Nevada City, CA, became the property of the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) the tribally guided non-profit representing the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. The passing of the land from Friends to the Nisenan ends our 60-year experiment of Quaker education in the woods of northern California. For the Nisenan it is the beginning of a new era as the Tribe returns to live on a parcel of their homeland stolen from them long before Quakers acquired it.

A group of visionary San Francisco Bay Area Quakers conceived of the John Woolman School in the late 1950s and early 1960s as a place where West Coast families could send their children to “live” and learn Quaker values. With a deep reservoir of exemplary energy, and less deep but equally generous pockets, they built, guided, and sustained the school throughout the years by the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship.

In 1962 students began arriving on the campus for their high school education and in the process experienced the joys and challenges of community living and learning influenced by Quaker traditions and ideas. The campus also served as a hub through the decades for other kinds of Quaker gatherings. Even before the school opened there were summer camp programs for youth, work parties for families to help build the facilities on the campus, and as time went on, many traditions of activities for youth and adults developed. Woolman became the home of the Grass Valley Friends Meeting and a regular annual fall gathering place for College Park Quarterly Meeting (CPQM). All these activities needed a versatile and robust facility to house and host folks of a wide range of ages and abilities and Woolman was that place.

Finding adequate funding presented one of the greatest challenges faced by the John Woolman School. Opened without a financial cushion, the fees charged were never enough to pay for all the expenses. For 60 years every activity and every bit of the campus relied on the generosity of the community to exist and thrive. Despite this support, and to the disappointment of many alumni and benefactors, both cultural and economic pressures forced the school to shrink its academic program in 2000. A semester program replaced the full high school curriculum until 2016 when the school closed again. A long period of discernment followed as the staff and board struggled to develop new directions.

By 2022 it was becoming apparent that the survival of Quaker programming on the Woolman campus, now renamed Sierra Friends Center (SFC), was impossible. The impact of the shut-down from the COVID - 19 pandemic and the devastating fire of 2020 combined with relentless financial demands of a changing economic climate for schools and youth programs, in combination with the critically aging infrastructure, forced a wrenchingly hard decision: shut down all programs and sell the property. We began wrestling with difficult choices and explored multiple options with respect to the property sale. We looked both to world-wide Quaker ministries and to the history of Woolman’s land as guides.

Quakers are increasingly becoming more aware of the harm and injustice suffered by Indigenous people throughout the world and are taking action to make amends. Staff and Board had become more aware of the history of the Nisenan people historically; in 2020 during the fall session of Quarterly Meeting Shelly Covert, Tribal Spokesperson of the Nevada City Nisenan, was invited to speak to the general session. Shelly explained that the Nisenan are the original inhabitants of the land where SFC sits. Before the fire Shelly and tribe members had walked the land with staff members and observed landmarks that their people knew as a town called Yulića. Early records from when the property was a

ranch mention Nisenan presence. The fire exposed ancient medicine rocks and an important spring. These interactions planted a seed so when the time came to find a buyer for the property, we approached the Nisenan to see if they would be interested in acquiring the land and soon sale negotiations began. The complex transaction took more than a year.

We set a sale price high enough to satisfy all financial obligations with a small cushion for unexpected expenses during the sale. After the sale, most of the residual monies were given to the [Pacific Yearly Meeting \(PacYM\)](#). The *John Woolman School Fund* is designated to continue the purpose of the school, providing seed money or support to Quaker education for youth through immersive and transformational experiences, including but not limited to programs with systemic uses and broad reach, to help perpetuate the core values of John Woolman of peace, justice, and sustainability. Additional donations were made to [The Center for Ethical Land Transition](#) in appreciation for their guidance and assistance in completing the land transition; and to the [Ben Lomond Quaker Center](#), the remaining Quaker-led retreat and education center on the West Coast. Donations to any of these organizations are welcome at the links provided above, and to support the Nisenan's successful return to Yulića, donations can be made to [CHIRP](#).

We offer many thanks to everyone who has been involved with the long history of Woolman, including the visionary founders, dedicated donors, students/campers and their families, teachers, staff, counselors, directors, volunteers, trustees, PacYM and CPQM.

Finally, the sale of Woolman is a beginning as well as an ending. When escrow closed, the Nisenan announced their return to Yulića. This transition never could have happened without the dedicated and long process of negotiations between the representatives of Woolman and the Nisenan. As the process evolved many people aided the meeting of two distinct cultures, Quaker and Native American, including the Center for Ethical Land Transition, the Indigenous Concerns Committee of the PacYM, attorneys, real estate agents, county officials, a variety of individuals with relevant expertise, and donors to Homeland Return. Shelly Covert, Tribal Spokesperson, represented the Tribe through every step of the land sale. She summed up her feelings saying "I'm inspired by the dedication and commitment of everyone who donated to this campaign that will restore a small portion of our Ancestral Homelands. It makes me hopeful and confident that this is just the beginning in an awesome movement for Indigenous peoples everywhere."

We are proud to take part in the Quaker commitment to social justice represented here by the end of the Woolman era and new beginnings at Yulića.

With sadness, joy, hope, and deep appreciation,

The Trustees of College Park Friends Educational Association

Sandra Schwartz
Dana Mallozzi

Phyllis Jewell
Alexa Hauser

Jennifer Dickey
Andrew Huang

Mark Myers

SPECIAL NOTE FOR ALUMNI: Please note that previous students of the John Woolman School or the Woolman Semester School may request transcripts by sending an email to info@woolman.org. Please include your name, year(s) of attendance, and confirm the email address to send the transcript. Only transcript requests made by December 31, 2027 can be accommodated.



On August 9, 2025, FWCC hosted the world premiere of the 2024 World Plenary Meeting (WPM) Documentary, *Living Ubuntu* (working title) online via Zoom. Most of us knew nothing about this. Amy Cook knew. She got to see it. This was a gathering of around 500 Quakers from 53 countries in South Africa and online last year – the first international event of its kind since the COVID pandemic, an ever-worsening climate crisis, and new global conflicts.

Made by Friends Shayne Lightner, Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Hulda Muaka, and Lane Clark, with the support of Friends throughout Pacific Yearly Meeting and FWCC, the documentary aims to capture the events, outcomes and deeper spirit of the gathering.

For Friends who attended the WPM this is an opportunity to reconnect and reflect on the seeds that were planted, while those who didn’t attend may have the opportunity to find out what happened and hear directly from those who participated.

We will be keeping an eye out for another showing. If/when we hear about it, we will pass the information on to you!

CORE PRINCIPLES

• Interconnectedness: Ubuntu recognizes that individuals are not isolated entities but are deeply connected to their community and to humanity as a whole. • Community: It emphasizes the importance of community and collective responsibility, where the well-being of the group is prioritized. • Empathy and Compassion: Ubuntu encourages understanding and sharing the feelings of others, fostering empathy and compassion in our interactions. • Respect and Dignity: It calls for respecting the inherent dignity of every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances. • Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Ubuntu promotes forgiveness and reconciliation as crucial elements for healing and building strong communities. • Collective Responsibility: It suggests that we are all responsible for the well-being of others and that we should strive to uplift and support one another. How to Live into the Spirit of Ubuntu: • Practice Empathy: Try to understand the perspectives and experiences of others, especially those who are different from you.	• Offer Support: Be there for your community, offering practical help and emotional support to those in need. • Promote Inclusion: Create spaces where everyone feels welcome, respected, and valued. • Forgive and Seek Reconciliation: Be willing to forgive those who have wronged you and work towards resolving conflicts constructively. • Cultivate Generosity: Share your resources, time, and talents with others, recognizing that generosity strengthens the community. • Recognize Interdependence: Acknowledge that your actions have an impact on others and that you are part of a larger web of relationships. • Seek Collective Solutions: Work with others to address challenges and build a better future for all. • Learn from Others: Be open to learning from the experiences and perspectives of those around you. Living into the spirit of Ubuntu is a continuous journey, not a destination. It's about making conscious choices to prioritize community, empathy, and collective well-being in all aspects of your life.
--	---

LETTER TO THE EDITOR by Jennifer Dickey

Dear Fellow Idahoans,

I feel compelled to address the recent attitudes and actions impacting our immigrant neighbors, both authorized and undocumented.

I don't think most of us in Idaho would advocate for open or unfettered borders. But we need to face the reality that there will be many people attempting to migrate from other countries due to increasing violence, drought and extreme weather, as well as governmental and economic dysfunction. Can we look in the mirror and see that we all have motivations, needs, and goals?

As a second generation Idahoan, I am surprised and shocked by what is going on in our state. Immigrants are part of our everyday lives regardless of their status: they are our neighbors, our coworkers, our friends.

If an appeal to humanity doesn't resonate, keep in mind that jobs historically held by immigrants and many soon-to-be vacant positions will leave those of us in Idaho without products and services that we routinely assume are ours to be enjoyed or at least available whenever needed.

What are our options as individuals, states and a nation? This is what we need to collectively decide. We primarily benefit from their presence, their diverse culture and art, and their labor. Our lives would only be diminished without immigrants.

House Bill 83 is not a good option and is far too vague. The law is written as such it does not provide due process to immigrants, which is a basic tenet of our country, constitution and democracy afforded to everyone residing within our borders.

I think we could all agree that the United States needs to reform current immigration law. Getting a green card (lawful permanent residency) in the U.S. from Mexico can take over 20 years, depending on the immigration category. For immediate relatives of U.S. citizens like spouses, parents, or children, the process is typically faster yet still taking one to two years. But for other categories — such as adult children, siblings, or employment-based visas — the wait can be much longer due to annual visa caps and backlogs. Mexican applicants often face exorbitantly extended wait times because of high demand and country-specific limits. This system can leave families separated and individuals in limbo for decades.

Nationally, the current administration has deported innocent children with or without their parents. They have deported U.S. citizens as well as authorized student immigrants for simply exercising free speech — another core tenet of our democracy — and possibly worst of all, they are deporting many of them to “gulags” and “concentration camps” as many of the foreign prisons are known.

What do any of us gain by forcefully removing immigrants from our society? If we focus only on their economic contributions — setting aside their humanity — we still stand to lose. They pay taxes which subsidize the social security system while leaving them with no mechanism to be able to utilize the funds that they paid into that system. To be sure, they are a powerful force of economic spending. History has shown that mass deportations never help an economy; they only hurt it.

Is the result worth it?

For me, the answer is clear: treating people inhumanely isn't worth compromising my principles. I want to start each day knowing I've acted with integrity. The specific reason you choose to stand up for immigrants is less important than the fact that you do, because this issue affects all of us and requires a collective response.



Common Ground: One Community, One Earth

Join us at our Fall Gathering at Powell House in the beautiful Upper Hudson Valley from Thursday, October 16th to Sunday, October 19, 2025.

This year our theme is Common Ground: One Community, One Earth. We'll gather in the lush landscape of the Hudson Valley, a place where the seasons change dramatically and the interconnectedness of all life is on full display. This setting is a perfect backdrop to reflect on our own common ground—the shared values and goals that bring us together as a community, and our collective responsibility to the Earth we all call home.

[Learn more about this in-person gathering!](#)



With Love and Light,
Keith Runyan,
General Secretary,
Quaker Earthcare Witness

Through workshops, plenary sessions, and shared reflection, we will explore the many things that connect us and our responsibility to each other and the planet. We will have ample opportunities to connect with one another, share our wisdom, and learn about practical steps toward Earthcare.

Stay tuned to learn about our plenary speakers and a Community Farm Day at Soul Fire Farm, an Afro-Indigenous-centered community farm and training center dedicated to uprooting racism and seeding sovereignty within our food system.

To stand as a Native person
today is to carry the weight of
survival and the light of
resilience. It is to be a living
revolution.

Crazy Horse

Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer County South Dakota



"Defending Our Democracy: Where Are We and What's Next?"

A presentation by Daniel Hunter (courtesy of Quaker Call to Action <https://quakercall.net/>)

Daniel Hunter makes use of careful research to describe where we are in this country with Donald Trump's use of the "authoritarian's playbook." He also outlines who is on "Team Democracy" and the nonviolent process of stopping an authoritarian coup

These are the six key elements of the authoritarian's playbook that Daniel addressed:

1. Direct investigations against critics
2. Give license to lawbreaking
3. Regulatory retaliation
4. Deploy military domestically
5. Federal law enforcement overreach
6. The autocrat won't leave

Do try to make time to look at Daniel's presentation before we gather on October 5th. It is about 90 minutes long. We will share his presentation and our thoughts, responses and calls to action. Location: TBA

How have you seen Donald Trump and the current administration fit the pattern described in this playbook?

Here are some of "Team Democracy's" players:

1. State and local governments
2. Federal civil servants
3. The judiciary system at all levels
4. Opposition political parties and grass roots organizations
5. Civil society—that's all of us!

What other players do you see now on Team Democracy? Are you called to be a player? If so, how?

Daniel outlines Team Democracy's Goals Regarding a Coup:

1. Slow it down.
2. Stop it entirely.
3. Reverse the process—restore democratic institutions and practices..

Daniel sees us at step one.

- What do you see as the current impact of resistance and any "slowing down" of the coup?
- How do you believe local Quakers (and your meeting) might support these three steps?

Daniel's presentation had an uplifting effect on those who watched it on June 1.

- **What is your overall reaction to his presentation?**
- **How do you maintain hope during these challenging times?**
- **What do you imagine as your next step to support the work of Team Democracy as an individual and as a community?**

Here is the [link](#) to Daniel's recorded talk. [Here](#) you will find his full slide deck. Please forgive the background interruptions that were recorded on the Zoom call. We couldn't edit them out.

SMALL KINDNESSES ~ Danusha Laméris

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by.

Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes,
a leftover from the Bubonic plague.

"Don't die," we are saying.

And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will
help you pick them up.

Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say
thank you to the person handing it.
To smile at them and for them to smile back.

For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the
driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.

We have so little of each other, now.

So far from tribe and fire.

Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say,

"Here, have my seat,"

"Go ahead — you first,"

"I like your hat."

GVFM CONTACT INFORMATION: 2025- 2026 Committees and Officers

All committee members serve one-year terms with the exception of Spirit and Witness (3-year term) and Nominating (2-year term). Names in bold are current committee clerks and conveners for the new term.

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).

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

Spirit and Witness: **Amy Cooke**, 2024-2027, Stuart Smith, 2025-2026, Reed Hamilton, 2025-2028, Dean Olson, 2024-2027, Doug Hamm, 2025-2026, Dorothy Henderson, 2026 (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk), Gordon Starr (ex-officio, elder to the clerk).

Religious Education: **Judy Hamilton**, Doug Hamm, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Keely McDonald, Lo Hamm. Substitutes: Gordon Bishop, Gordon Starr, Alan Stahler. Fifth Sunday reader: Anita McCormick

Offices:

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)
dmarshall@pacific.net

Newsletter Distributor: Pat Phillips ((530-913-1338) pephillips1949@gmail.com

Email Coordinator: Judy Hamilton (530-277-8818)
judywestonhamilton@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mary Starr (530-878-1237)
mstarr2133@aol.com

Tech Support: Hailey Wilson (530-265-6533)
seahorseleaf@protonmail.com

Website/Facebook Coordinator: Peter O'Rourke (209-291-8211) peterorourke2001@yahoo.com

Librarians: Don McCormick(310-597-9469) donmccormick2@gmail.com, Judy Hamilton, Judy Hamilton (530-277-8818) judywestonhamilton@gmail.com, Kathy McCreery (530-265-6533) fwkm@protonmail.com

Co-Recorders/Archivists: Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) amylisette@gmail.com, Kathy McCreery (530-265-6533) fwkm@protonmail.com

Directory Clerk: Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351)
ntowhee@gmail.com

Mail Clerk: Dean Olson(530-270-9366)
deanolson44@gmail.com

Representatives:

Please note: Most organizations no longer have representatives from GVFM. The following are exceptions:

Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall
Nisenan/Yulica: Contact Dorothy Henderson

Pacific Yearly Meeting: Doug Hamm
College Park Quarterly Meeting: Doug Hamm



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