

**GRASS VALLEY  
FRIENDS MEETING**

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

**NOTE CHANGE**

**MAILING ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 1421,  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

**MEETING LOCATION:** Peace Lutheran Church

Website: [www.grassvalleyfriends.org](http://www.grassvalleyfriends.org)

Email: [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com).

**Newsletter, FIRST MONTH, 2026**

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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.*

## HAPPENING NOW

### NEW LOCATON FOR GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING



Directions to Peace Lutheran Church:

Peace Lutheran Church is at [838 W. Main Street](#) in Grass Valley. When you turn into the driveway off of W. Main, there is an immediate right turn and then a left turn. Drive through the main parking lot up into a narrower handicap parking area. This is where the entrance to our Meeting Room is. There will be a sign on the door. For regular parking, continue up the hill to the upper parking lot. Someone should be out in the handicap parking area to direct until 10:10.

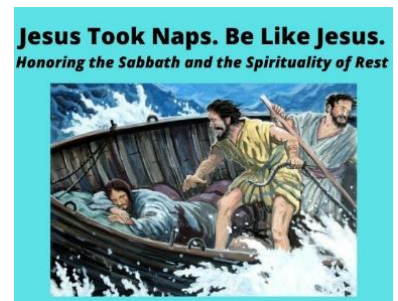
- **Wednesday Meeting for Worship** ~ See page 5 for details
- Third Sunday, monthly, January – June, 2026, 11:30a.m. – 1:00p.m. ~ **Quaker Seminary**. Begins January 18, 2026. See page 11, November issue of GVFM newsletter for details. More to come.
- Thursday, January 22, 2026 **Spirit-Led Activism**
- Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ **Quaker Call to Action**, 4:00p.m. – 5:30p.m. PST See page 9 for details.
- Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ **From Exhaustion to Enthusiasm** 4:00p.m. to 5:30p.m. See Dorothy Henderson for details.

## HAPPENING LATER

- **All Clerks Meeting** – Date in early February to be announced.
- Saturday, February 7, 2026, 11:a.m.PST ~ **Second On-line Conversation**. See page 6 for details
- Sunday, February 8, 2026, 11:30a.m. ~ **Potluck and Meeting for Business on the Occasion of Business**
- Sunday, February 22, 2026, 11:30a.m.~ **State of the Meeting Gathering**

From the GVFM Newsletter Editor:

Dear Friends, Please make every effort to keep your articles to 500 words or less. If your article exceeds 500 words, please provide a link for the entire article or make the necessary edits to reduce the number of words. This will allow our newsletter to stay within budget. Many thanks, Dianne



# **MINUTES & RECORD: Meeting for Worship for on the Occasion of Business January 18, 2026**

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

**Present:** Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Gordon Starr, elder to the clerk, Mary Starr, Reed Hamilton, Judy Hamilton, Kathy McCreary, fosten wilson, Doug Hamm, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Dean Olsen, Lucia, Peter O'Rourke, Nora Lisette, Don McCormick, Megan Black.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

## **Clerk's Remarks and Query**

A new year, a new spiritual home. Ephesians 4, "Put on the new man." What is one thing you would like to receive this year, not do, not reform, but receive?

Friends shared out of worship:

- Obedience bringing freedom.
- Surrendering to new year of the Fire Horse.
- Health restored.
- Insight bringing compassion.
- Better sleep.
- More rest and play.

Minutes from December 14, 2025 read and approved.

Minute 01.2026.01: Minutes of December 14, 2025 Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business read and approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**Stewardship: Mary Starr (Clerk)**, 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.

Concerns expressed concern about poster in our Meeting for Worship classroom. Does not align with our Quaker values. Gordon Starr will remove and replace each Sunday.

Need for further conversation with Pastor Christian about other possible concerns will be referred to Upcoming Clerks Committee.

**Welcome: Peter O'Rourke** (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Judy Hamilton (ex-officio email coordinator), Nancy Anderson (ex-officio directory clerk). Peter O'Rourke gave the report, appended

**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.

Concern expressed that many Quakers may assume that the Nisenan asked GVFM to leave Yulića. Amy Cooke will write an essay for Western Friend describing actual process of GVFM leaving Yulića and the move to PLC. Dorothy and Gordon Starr will review before sent for publication.

Clerks' Meeting will take place in early February. Clerk of Spirit and Witness, Amy Cooke, clerks this meeting.

She will send out dates to clerks.

State of the Meeting Session will take the place of regular program for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, February, 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Religious Education Committee**

No report was given.

### **Nominating Committee**

No report was given

### **OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Treasurer:** Quarterly Finance report, Mary Starr, Treasurer gave the report, appended

**Co-Archivists/Recorders:** No report given

**Pacific Yearly Meeting:** No report given.

**College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Spring Quarterly Meeting will be April 24-26.

**Interfaith Nevada County:** No report given.

#### **Sharings from the wider Quaker world:**

- QEW received \$92,000 grant to offer nonviolence training in Friends' Meetings across the country.
- Right Sharing of World's Resources offering series on Money. Judy Hamilton has information.
- Quaker Call to Action: See page 9.
- From Exhaustion to Enthusiasm, Joyful Resistance in a Time of Tyranny January 25, 2026, from 4 to 5:30, PST. Dorothy has information.

### **CLERK'S REMARKS:**

Clerking is Fun.

### **ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER**

No items seasoned or carried over.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** no new announcements.

### **READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES**

The record and the minutes will be read at the beginning of February Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

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

The Meeting closed with worship. Requests for holding Friends in the light were spoken out of worship.

### **APPENDICES:**

1. Stewardship Committee Report
2. Welcome Committee Report
3. Stewardship Committee Report
4. Treasurers Report

## FIRST MONTH ADVICES AND QUERIES: - PEACE

Friends oppose all war as inconsistent with God's will. As every person is a child of God, we recognize God's Light also in our adversaries. Violence and injustice deny this reality and violate the teachings of Jesus and other prophets.

Friends challenge their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace. We urge one another to refuse to participate in war as soldiers, or as arms manufacturers. We seek ways to support those who refrain from paying taxes that support war. We work to end violence within our own borders, our homes, our streets, and our communities. We support international order, justice, and understanding.

Become an instrument of peace. At every opportunity, be peacemakers in your homes, workplaces and communities. Steep yourself in the power of the universal Spirit. Examine your actions for the seeds of violence, degradation and destructiveness. Overcome the emotions that lie at the root of violence and nurture instead a spirit of reconciliation and love. Come to know the oneness of all creation and oppose the destruction of the natural world.

Do I live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I nourish peace within myself as I work for peace in the world?

Do I confront violence wherever it occurs, even when my personal relationships are involved?

Where there is distrust, injustice, or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?

*What are we doing to remove the causes of war and destruction of the planet, and to bring about lasting peace?*

*Do we reach out to all parties in a conflict with courage and love?*

## MIDWEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Dear friends,

You are invited to a weekly Meeting for Worship on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 9 am at Rocky Knoll, the home of Doug Hamm and Dorothy Henderson. The meeting will include 45 minutes of worship and 45 minutes of sharing. This is an experiment after Dorothy received a leading several months ago and engaged in discernment with GVFM's Spirit and Witness Committee before coming to resolution this past week.

There is no obligation to attend or to notify when not attending. Please come prepared with your own mug and beverage, if you choose. We will gather at 7:30 and the door will be open (metaphorically) for all to enter.

Our address is: 13074 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959. We are the last home on the left on Woolman Lane, located just west of Yulića, the home of the Nisenan.

In friendship, Dorothy and Doug

## **Friends, The Toward Right Relations Witness Committee** of Grass Valley

Friends Meeting offers the invitation from Quaker Peace Teams for a series of webinars that you may wish to see. The first in the series has passed but the next one looks very interesting.

<https://friendspeaceteams.org/upcoming-events/> Reed Hamilton, TRR Committee clerk

## **Valley/Foothills Regional Gathering**

Hello Friends! Please save the date of Saturday, March 14 for the Valley/Foothills Regional Gathering. The Gathering will be held at the Davis Meetinghouse and will be co-hosted by Sacramento Friends Meeting. We are looking forward to a warm and spirit-led opportunity for us to gather and strengthen our community. Please announce the date to your Monthly Meeting. Details will follow as planning progresses.

Klara East, Sacramento Friends Meeting and CPQM Worship and Spiritual Care Committee

## **What are Meetings doing for attenders who want to be involved?**

- Announcing a second Online Conversation

*Among Western Friends -*

You have found a Quaker meeting and love coming on Sundays. Have you been invited to learn more? Has the meeting provided resources? How do others understand Expectant Worship? Have you been provided reading material on the rich history of how Friends use silence and listening to seek the divine? Do you have time to visit committees that you may be interested in participating in?

What do you want from a meeting:

- that has no creeds,
- that honors your relationships to the Spirit,
- that supports you as a part of the community?

This is for attenders and meetings to share how we provide a space within the community experience. A space to ask what we need, to listen and meet our world with peace. How do we learn about newcomers' gifts? How can a Meeting support these gifts? We invite anyone who'd like to envision good ways to welcome newcomers to Friends Meetings and help each other grow together to full participation.

Join us on February 7, 2026 at 11am PST/12pm MST.

To register, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/zGxmTwqJ8kBDH91w7>

If you're allergic to online forms or want more information, contact Jay Thatcher <[jthatch@peak.org](mailto:jthatch@peak.org)> or Cheryl Speir-Phillips <[cspapl@gmail.com](mailto:cspapl@gmail.com)>

## 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.



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

- Giving is easy! Click on the Give button above or go to [grassvalleyfriends.org](http://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!**



## Offerings January – May, 2026

### Announcement: Quaker Camp Registration begins January 16th!

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- Beginning on January 16th, registration for Quaker Center Camps will be available at <https://quakercenter.org/camp/>. Camp dates are below:
- Session 1: June 14-20, 2026 – for rising 5th to 7th graders
- Session 2: June 21-28, 2026 – for rising 8th to 10th graders
- Scholarship funds will also be available. Register today!

### Upcoming Programs at Quaker Center

#### [Quaker Prayer](#)

Online program with Mary Miche

**Mondays, February 2–23, 2026, 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

Is there such a thing as Quaker prayer? Yes. Over four weekly sessions, this online workshop will use short videos and guided, worshipful discussion to explore the rich diversity and shared threads of prayer among Friends. Newcomers are welcome.

#### [Redwood Replenishment](#)

**A young adult weekend, February 13-15, 2026**

This is an in-person gathering for all young adults (mid-thirties and younger), and will go from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Folks who wish can also stay over on Sunday night, as Monday February 15th is a holiday.

If you'd like to receive pdfs of each of the flyers to print, please let me know. Thank you again for helping ensure Friends across our region are aware of these opportunities for learning, worship, and community.

### [Rising to the Call: Prophetic Witness for an Earth Restored](#)

with Keith Runyan, March 20-22, 2026

A weekend workshop with Keith Runyan, the General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, a Friends' environmental organization. Through reflection, Quaker worship, and deep dialogue, we will explore our shared times as a collective rite of passage – shedding illusion, grounding in conscience, and awakening to our unique callings. Inspired by Daniel Berrigan, Bayard Rustin, and Joanna Macy, we'll ask:

*'In the tumult of our times, who was I born to be?'*

### [Geography of Change: A Forest Retreat for Navigating Life Transitions](#)

with Valerie Brown, May 29-31, 2026

for adults 25 and older

Immersed in the stunning beauty of the redwoods in spring, this retreat explores issues of life transition, vocation, passion, purpose, meaning, direction, and underlying patterns, to live in greater alignment with your deepest values, to listen to your own inner wisdom, and to have the courage to act with integrity and authenticity.

Love and light, **Mark Runyan** | he/him | Communications and Outreach Coordinator, **Ben Lomond Quaker Center** | [www.quakercenter.org](http://www.quakercenter.org) |

## **What would Martin Luther King say today?**



*Benjamin Lay*



*John Woolman*



*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

A message came to me during worship at Orange Grove Meeting: What do Dr. Martin Luther King say or do today? I think he'd be appalled that the Civil Rights Act has been perverted to protect only white men. The Supreme Court has ruled it's okay to arrest people based on skin color. The Voting Rights Act is about to be

guttled. Everything that Dr. King fought for is being dismantled. He said that the fight for justice is long and bitter, but beautiful.

The Quaker abolitionist movement was started in the first half of the 18 C by a Quaker "little person" named Benjamin Lay (1682-1759). He witnessed the horrors of slavery in Barbados and was moved to speak out forcefully against slavery in Philadelphia when most Quaker leaders held slaves and wouldn't even allow anti-slavery books to be published.

Lay had to go to Benjamin Franklin to get his anti-slavery book published. Lay was disowned four times by the Quakers for being outspoken, but his work wasn't in vain. He inspired the next generation of Quakers like John Woolman who convinced Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to unanimously approve a statement that you couldn't own slaves and be a Quaker in 1775.

Now is the time to search our hearts and souls and ask what can we do individually and collectively as Quakers to oppose racism in our country. Jill and I are working to help revitalize N. Fair Oaks Ave, a street near our meetinghouse that was once an "Historic Black Main Street." The African American residents of this area want it to be called the "The Black Legacy District: Historic Black Main Street," but so far the Planning Dept has recommended calling it just the "Legacy District." African American residents are angry that their history is being ignored, so we're standing with them to advocate for this name change.

*Friends*, I hope we can stand together and honor our Quaker legacy, the legacy of Benjamin Lay and John Woolman. (Editor: Found on Facebook. Unable to trace author.)

**NATIONAL ZOOM CALL: From Exhaustion to Enthusiasm, Joyful Resistance in a Time of Tyranny ~ January 25, 2026 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm EST**



Dear Friends,

We at the Quaker Call are pleased to continue to hold a spiritually grounded space for Friends to listen, share, and discern your call to witness for Truth during these dangerous, upsetting times. While the tide may be turning on the attacks against Truth coming out of Washington, we are clear that we must continue our witness with honesty and integrity. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Our next National Zoom Call will feature Phil Gulley, noted Quaker pastor, writer, and speaker. Phil will be bringing a message, *"From Exhaustion to Enthusiasm: Joyful Resistance in a Time of Tyranny,"* followed by a time for questions, comments, and reflections.

We hope that you can join us.

[Click HERE to register.](#)

Later, we'll send instructions for joining the meeting.

We are also inviting Phil's large Substack audience, which includes Friends and others. Please help us welcome them to this event. Phil's current writing can be found at [philipgulley.substack.com](http://philipgulley.substack.com).

We feel the strength of Friends across the country who are worshipping, witnessing, and discerning right actions individually and collectively in these prayer-filled times. May we all remain faithful to the Living Presence that guides u.

Yours in faith,

**The Quaker Call Steering Committee**

Marian Beane, Bruce Birchard, Lauren Brownlee, Diana Hadley, Dale Keairns, Yvonne Keairns, Mary Ellen McNish, Jim Waddington, Terry SoRelle, and Michael Wajda (clerk)



## **GVFM CONTACT INFORMATION: 2025- 2026 Committees and Officers**

All committee members serve one-year terms except for 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, 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, Substitutes: Gordon Bishop, Gordon Starr, Alan Stahler. Fifth Sunday reader: Anita McCormick

Offices:

**Clerk:** Dorothy Henderson (530-575-5988)  
[dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com)

**Elder to Clerk:** Gordon Starr (530-878-1237)  
[gstarr121@aol.com](mailto:gstarr121@aol.com)

**Recording Clerk:** Jennifer Smith (916-663-3539)  
[sewsmitharts@yahoo.com](mailto:sewsmitharts@yahoo.com)

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[judywestonhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:judywestonhamilton@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Mary Starr (530-878-1237)  
[mstarr2133@aol.com](mailto:mstarr2133@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

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

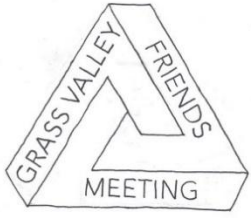
**Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson(530-270-9366)  
[deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com)

**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