

**GRASS VALLEY
FRIENDS MEETING**

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

NOTE CHANGES

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

MEETING LOCATION: Peace Lutheran Church
828 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

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, email grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com.

Newsletter, FIFTH 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

- Quaker Seminary

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 IN MAY 2026

- Wednesday Meeting for Worship
- Saturday, May 2, 2026, 5:30p.m. ~ Potluck at Judy & Reed Hamilton's home.
- **Sunday, May 10, 2026, 11:30a.m. ~ Potluck and Meeting for Business on the Occasion of Business**
- Sunday, May 17, 2026, 11:30a.m. ~ Quaker Seminary
- College Park Quarterly Meeting, May 15-27, 2026 ~ Ben Lomond Quaker Center
- Saturday, May 30, 2026, 2p-4p: Walk for Faith Justice and Democracy ~ See page 8.
- Saturday, May 30, 2026, 4p-6:30p: Open House at Gordon & Mary Starr's home ~ See page 9 for details.
- Sunday, May 31, 2026, 11:30a.m. after the rise of Meeting. End of Life and Five Wishes with Liz from Hospice

HAPPENING LATER

- College Park Quarterly Meeting: Ben Lomond Quaker Center – Oct. 16-18, Location TBD
- Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session: July 17-22, CA State Univ@ Monterey Bay and via Zoom
- Friends General Conference: July 7-12, 2026, Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, VT
- World Quaker Day, Sunday, October 4, 2026

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 examining our souls and seeking clarity using 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.

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 ~ May 10, 2026

We met in a hybrid meeting in person and on Zoom.

Present: Gordon Starr, clerk; Amy Cooke, recording clerk; fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Dianne Marshall, Judy Hamilton, Reed Hamilton, Steve Borrum, Mary Starr, Anita McCormick, Heather Certik, Chamba Cooke, Arly Helm.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query: The clerk invited us into a practice of sounding an OM for world peace. After three rounds, he invited Friends to share their experiences. Friends shared some concern about how people would receive the practice, that Om is an open doorway. Two people shared about babies named Om. It reminded one Friend about prior experiences in a Transcendental mediation practice.

Amy Cooke, recording clerk, proposed reading the minutes after each section for approval as we go, rather than reading all the minutes at the conclusion of the Meeting for Worship for Business. This was approved.

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

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

Amy Cooke, clerk, read the report, appended.

The immigration statement from Pendle Hill calling for immigration reform and an end to unjust enforcement has been shared via the email tree. The clerk invited the meeting into discernment about signing this statement as a supporting Meeting.

Some Friends expressed discomfort with the statement. The statement appeared to be vague with undefined terms, no clear audience, and no associated actions or goals. The statement was not as well written as was desired, and it was seen as overly weighty with words and concepts. It was suggested that the statement may not reflect us as a meeting. It was clarified that Pendle Hill is not asking for endorsement, just sharing of the letter.

Minute 2026.05.01: Dianne Marshall, Arly Helm, Steve Borrum and Anita McCormick volunteered to work on a statement on immigration on behalf of the meeting. Dianne will convene the working group of these four members. The work will be held under the care of the Spirit and Witness committee.

On May 31 Liz from Hospice of the Foothills will be offering a program after Meeting on end of life issues. There will be an opportunity to look at the Five Wishes document as well as the GVFM end-of-life form.

The Peace and Justice Walk will take place on May 30. Participants are asked to RSVP to the committee organizing the walk so that there can be sufficient food provided. Gordon and Mary Starr will be hosting an Open House after the walk at their home at 500 Butler Street in Grass Valley and all are invited.

The subcommittee under Spirit and Witness that has been holding the after-meeting program opportunities and schedule would like to change their name from Programs Committee to Spiritual Life. This change will be reflected in their updated Job Description to be brought to the Meeting in June.

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.

Minute 2026.05.02: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves spending \$200 from unbudgeted expenses for the t-shirts, and allocating \$261 additional expenses to meet the total cost with the understanding that donations can meet or exceed this additional expense.

Welcome: Peter O'Rourke (Clerk), Nancy Anderson, Judy Hamilton, Kathy McCreary

Kath McCreery gave the report.

Amy and Gordon plan to write an article on the Meeting's move from the old Woolman site to town for publication in the Union. The article will be sent out for review on the email tree and comments are welcome.

Gordon also noted that signage is in process with Peace Lutheran Church.

It was mentioned that some meetings have been hosting reunions to invite people back to the meeting who may have not attended in a while alongside sending postcards to the people in our directory. It was noted that timing is important.

All of these pieces would need to be coordinated. It was suggested that these items go back to the Welcome and Stewardship Committees for coordination and discernment.

Religious Education: Judy Hamilton (Clerk), Doug Hamm, Alan Stahler, Don McCormick, Dean Olsen, Reed Hamilton.

Judy Hamilton gave the report, appended.

It was noted that there is a restricted fund for projects.

Nominating Committee: Fosten Wilson, 2024-2026, Mary Starr, 2025-2027, Chamba Cooke, 2025-2026, Dean Olsen, 2025-2027

fosten wilson read the report, appended. The initial slate was presented and will be seasoned until the Sixth month Meeting for Worship for Business. It was noted that the conveners need to be identified. The

slate will go out in the newsletter and on the email tree. Friends are asked to contact Chamba Cooke, Mary Starr, Dean Olson, or fosten wilson with corrections, concerns, or comments. There were some suggestions for corrections that were noted in the meeting and these will go out to the meeting for review in the newsletter and the email tree.

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Co-Archivists/Recorders: Information form coming out again – please fill it out if you have not yet filled it out. The end-of-life form will be available on May 31st at the program offered by Hospice of the Foothills.

Pacific Yearly Meeting: July 17-22. Onsite at CSU Monterey Bay & Online via Zoom. Annual Session Registration opens May 15th.

College Park Quarterly Meeting: Spring Quarterly Meeting took place April 24-26.

Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall reported that the group remains active.

Sharings from the wider Quaker world:

- **FWCC World Quaker Day 2026 theme and materials announced: Let Peace Be Among Us.**

The theme for World Quaker Day on 4 October 2026 is Let Peace Be Among Us, with the supporting Bible passage Hebrews 12:14, “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy.”

FWCC is planning a massive online Meeting for Worship on World Quaker Day (4 October), bringing together Friends across borders, time zones, and Quaker traditions with a shared focus on peace.

- There will be a fix-it day on Sunday May 18 at Madelyn Helling Library.

CLERK'S REMARKS

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

The Nominating Slate is seasoning and will come back to the Meeting for Worship for Business in June. It was noted that the conveners need to be identified. The slate will go out in the newsletter and on the email tree. Friends are asked to contact Chamba Cooke, Mary Starr, Dean Olson, or fosten wilson with corrections, concerns, or comments.

READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES : The record and minutes were approved in the course of the Meeting for Worship on the Occasion for Business.

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items into Dianne Marshall by Tuesday at 10 am. Please do not format reports in blue.

Meeting closed with worship.

ADVICES AND QUERIES: Fifth Month ~ Harmony with Creation

It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part thereof?

William Penn, *some fruits of solitude*, 1693

God is revealed in all Creation. We humans belong to the whole interdependent community of life on earth. Rejoice in the beauty, complexity, and mystery of creation, with gratitude to be part of its unfolding. Take time to learn how this community of life is organized and how it interacts. Live according to principles of right relationship and right action within this larger whole.

Be aware of the influence humans have on the health and viability of life on earth. Call attention to what fosters or harms earth's exquisite beauty, balances and interdependencies. Guided by Spirit, work to translate this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

In what ways do I express gratitude for the wondrous expressions of life on Earth?

- Do I consider the damage I might do to the Earth's vulnerable systems in choices I make of what I do, what I buy, and how I spend my time?
- *In our witness for the global environment, are we careful to consider justice and the well-being of the world's poorest people?*
- *Does our way of life threaten the viability of life on Earth?*

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.

MOMS & DADS! Quaker Happenings for your children this summer: [May edition of Quaker N.O.A.T.S.](#)



Keenan Lorenzato
Youth Programs Coordinator
Pacific Yearly Meeting
He / Him

Phone: 530 - 563 - 6369

Instagram: @pacyouthprograms

Don't miss out!

Proposed Nominating Slate, 2026-27

COMMITTEES

➤ Spirit and Witness	➤ Convener: Amy Cooke (24-27)	
Pat Phillips (26-29)	Dean Olson (24-27)	Gordon Starr (ex officio)
Reed Hamilton (25-28)	Fosten Wilson (26-29)	
➤ Stewardship	➤ Convener: Mary Starr (ex officio, Treasurer)	
Gordon Starr	Dianne Marshall (ex officio, newsletter)	Kathy McCreery (ex officio Library)
Reed Hamilton	Judy Hamilton (ex officio, Library)	Haily Wilson
Pat Phillips	fosten wilson	
➤ Welcoming	➤ Convener: Peter O'Rourke (until 2-2027)	
Kathy McCreery	Nancy Anderson ex-officio	Ros Bae
Gordon Bishop	Judy Hamilton ex-officio	
Don McCormick	Nora Lisette-Runyan, ex officio, website?	
➤ Religious Education	➤ Convener: Judy Hamilton	
Doug Hamm	Alan Stahler	Gordon Starr (support)
Dean Olson	Don McCormick, support	Reed Hamilton
Cheryl Hendrickson	Anita McCormick	Shera Banbury, (occasional)

OFFICES

Meeting Clerk	Gordon Starr 2026-2028	Website/ Facebook	Nora L.-R. (Peter O. until February 2027)
Recording Clerk	Amy Cooke 2026- 2027	Librarian	Judy Hamilton & Kathy McCreery
Newsletter Editor	Dianne Marshall	Recorder- Archivist	Arly Helm
Newsletter Distributor	Pat Phillips	Directory Clerk	Nancy Anderson
Email Coordinator	Judy Hamilton	Mail Clerk	Dean Olson

Treasurer	Mary Starr	Tech Coordinator	Hailey Wilson
REPRESENTATIVES			
Interfaith N.C.	Dianne Marshall	CPQM Representative	Vacancy
PYM Representative	Keith Lisette-Runyan		

Update: FAITH, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY WALK ~ Saturday, May 30th

Members of the Creation Care group at St. Patrick's Catholic Church are leading an effort to hold a Peace and Justice Walk on Saturday, May 30, 2026, 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.. They are inviting other faith groups to join them to express our commitment to those principles in a spirit of peace and love.

We honor the various efforts in our community to support peace, justice and democracy for all. The purpose of this Walk is to demonstrate the loving side of speaking up for faith, justice and democracy, providing faith communities with an opportunity to be visible.

The walk will be short, just ¾ miles in Grass Valley, beginning at Neal and Church Streets and ending at Condon Park. There will be music, speeches on the themes of the Walk, and food. More details to follow. Go to this [link](#) for the most current information on this Walk.



Our Meeting has purchased specially designed “Quaker” t-shirts for us to wear for this walk and other occasions. They should be available for pick-up Sunday, May 24th.

Suggested donation to cover costs: \$20.00



REQUEST: The organizers of the Peace and Justice Walk on Saturday, May 30, are asking participants to rsvp so that they can estimate food quantities for the end of the walk. RSVP at this link: <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/939657/>

You can also get to it by going to our website <https://sites.google.com/view/faith-justice-democracy-gv/home> and click on “RSVP here”. It’s not absolutely necessary – we don’t want anyone to feel they can’t come if they don’t RSVP.

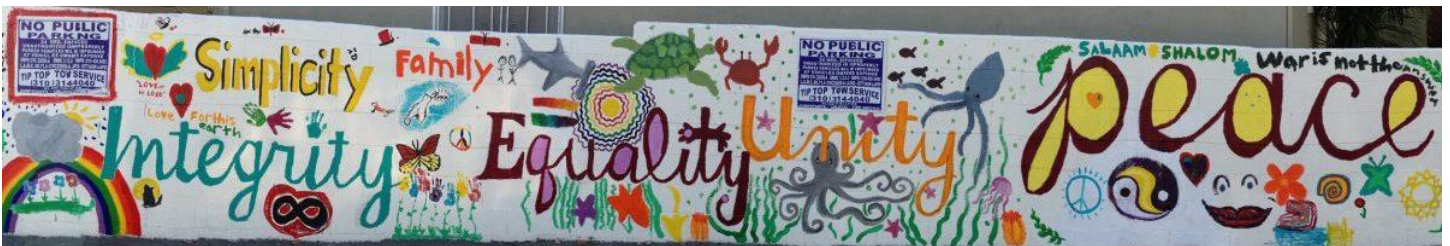
Contact Reed Hamilton at reedhamilton2@gmail.com or 530-210-4216 if you have questions. the walk with us representing Grass Valley Friends Meeting. Thank you!

OPEN HOUSE: Mary and Gordon Starr will be hosting an Open House at their home, 500 Butler Street, Grass Valley, CA at the conclusion of the Peace and Justice Walk, 4:00p.m. - 6:30p.m. Please RSVP to Mary Starr mstarr2133@aol.com if you plan to attend. Thank you!



← 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!**



FROM PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

Greetings! Sharing the latest edition of the Friendly News from Pacific Yearly Meeting (attached in English and Spanish). All editions of the Friendly News can be found on the [PacYM website HERE](#).

Also, registration to attend the 2026 Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting opens May 15th. Look for a special mailing soon.

Thank you, Bronwen, Pacific Yearly Meeting, Administrative Assistant

"We cannot live only for ourselves.
A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow [wo]men;
and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes,
and they come back to us as effects."
~ Herman Melville



Quaker Call to Action

An invitation to a national dialog about threats to our democracy

National Meeting - May 31, 2026 , 7-8:30 PM EDT

Faithfully Protecting Democracy:
A Conversation with Maria Stephan



**NATIONAL ZOOM CALL: Faithfully Protecting Democracy:
A Conversation with Maria J. Stephan
May 31, 2026 7:00-8:30 PM EDT**

Please register at <https://quakercall.org/meetings/register>

Here's the message we previously sent, with the corrected link:

Dear Friends,

The Quaker Call to Action is pleased to invite you to our next national zoom meeting, a conversation with Maria J. Stephan to explore what we all can do to protect our democracy.

Maria brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this discussion. She is an author and organizer whose work has focused on the role of nonviolent movements world-wide advancing human rights, democracy, and peace. Dr. Maria J. Stephan is the Co-lead & Chief Organizer at the [Horizons Project](#), an initiative focused on strengthening connections and collective action among US pro-democracy movements and sectors.

She is co-author with Erica Chenoweth of *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*. Maria emphasizes the centrality of faith in the struggle for democratic rights and human dignity. She will be right at home among Quakers and other people of faith.

For more about Dr. Maria J. Stephan and links to her books and articles see her website: <https://www.mariajstephan.us>

Please join us. [Click here to register.](#)

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

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Treasurer: Mary Starr (530-878-1237)
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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) amyliette@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

an

Pacific Yearly Meeting: Doug Hamm

College Park Quarterly Meeting: Doug Hamm



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Grass Valley, CA 95945