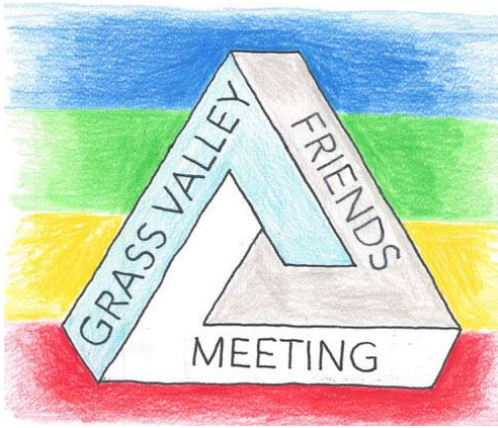




GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

*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, NINTH 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 SEPTEMBER, 2026

- Saturday, September 19 ~ **Quaker Earthcare Witness Day of Action:** Friends are encouraged to participate in the Yuba River Cleanup. Registration is required.
Wear your GVFM t-shirts!
- Sunday September 20, 2026 ~ Quaker Call to Action 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm (See pg. 9)
- September 20, 2026, 11:30a.m.: Witness to the Invisible (See pg. 8)
- September 25-27, FGC Outreach/conference via zoom

HAPPENING LATER

- Sunday, October 4, 2026 ~ World Quaker Day (See pg. 9)
- October 16-18 2026 ~ College Park Quarterly Meeting: Ben Lomond Quaker Center
- Sunday October 18, 2026 ~ Nonviolence Workshop: Amy Cooke will offer a one-hour workshop following Meeting for Worship, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Quaker Call to Action:** National ZOOM meeting 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm (See pg.____)
- Sunday, November 22: Heather Certik and Dean Olson will introduce Decades of Our Lives, a memoir-writing initiative

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

PLC: Peace Lutheran Church

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.

Dear Friends, Your effort to keep your articles to 500 words or less is appreciated. 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 ~ September 13, 2026

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

Present: Mary Starr, clerk in service for Gordon Starr; Amy Cooke, recording clerk; Chamba Cooke, Dianne Marshall, fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Judy Hamilton, Arly Helm, Heather Certik, Stuart Smith.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query

Mary gave the query, "What part of your Quaker life most supports you spiritually?"

Friends spoke out of the silence.

- Seeing the Light in someone who is incarcerated helps one Friend think about welcoming him when he comes home.
- Quakerism is the thread that brings one Friend back to simplicity. Life may feel like an avalanche, but Quakerism helps bring them back.
- One Friend values the support of a community united by shared principles, which helps them maintain their equilibrium in the face of a seemingly growing acceptance of violence.
- The Quaker values of integrity and simplicity have made a lasting impression on one Friend and remain important to them.
- As a child, one Friend witnessed Quakers disagreeing without disrespecting one another. That example has drawn them toward Quakerism throughout their life.
- One Friend values the community and appreciates having a space where they can be with people whose perspectives differ from those of many others in their life.
- One Friend values sinking down into the silence, beneath the words—a practice that allows them to stop and reach deeply within.
- The testimonies were the first aspect of Quakerism that resonated with one Friend. This was especially evident during the Peace Lutheran Church clean-up: Quakers showed up to help, regardless of whether they were "renters." As Friends we are reminded, "work is love made visible." (Kahlil Gibran)
- An Anchor Committee suggested that one Friend write a letter to God every day. This practice has been deeply meaningful to him.

Seasoning: Minutes and Record from 8th month 2026, appended.

Minute 2026.09.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the minutes from the 8th month 2026 meeting for worship for business as appended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(See link to reports appended, committee clerk is noted in bold)

Spirit and Witness: **Amy Cooke (2024-27), clerk**; Dean Olson (2024-2027), Reed Hamilton (2025-2028), fosten wilson (2026-2029), Pat Phillips (2026-2029). Ex Officio: Gordon Starr
Amy Cooke gave the report, appended.

Friends, please remember the Spiritual Life committee, who organizes our after-meeting programs, is looking for interested Friends to serve this year. Contact Amy Cooke, clerk, if you are interested!

A Friend mentioned that we could all learn how best to help one another as we face health issues and challenges.

Stewardship: Mary Starr (ex officio Treasurer, clerk), Gordon Starr, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Fosten Wilson, Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Judy Hamilton and Kathy McCreery (ex-officio, Librarians), Hailey Wilson.

Fosten Wilson read the report, appended. It was noted that at least five people from GVFM attended the Peace Lutheran Church cleanup day. Dianne reported that she is following through with a suggestion that we have profiles of meeting members in the newsletter. Dianne is going to send out questions that people can answer and she will publish that.

Mary noted that the Outreach Committee will most likely land in the Welcome Committee.

Dianne reported that Nory Fussell, a former attender, is giving poetry readings and she had an idea that we could host a poetry reading.

Welcome: Kathy McCreery (clerk), Peter O'Rourke (02/2027), Gordon Bishop, Don McCormick, Ros Bae, Nancy Anderson (ex officio Recorder), Judy Hamilton (ex officio, Newsletter editor), Nora Lisette-Runyan (ex officio, Website Coordinator).

Kathy McCreery gave the report, appended.

First Day School: Judy Hamilton (clerk), Doug Hamm, Cheryl Hendrickson, Anita McCormick, Alan Stahler, Dean Olsen, Reed Hamilton. Support members: Gordon Starr, Don McCormick, Shera Banbury (occasional). *No report was given.*

Nominating Committee: Mary Starr, 2025-2027, Dean Olsen, 2025-2027, Fosten Wilson, 2026-2028, Arly Helm, 2026-2028. *No report was given.*

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (Mary Starr): Mary presented the first reading of the budget, appended. The budget will now be seasoned until 10th month.

Archivist/Recorder (Arly Helm): no report

Pacific Yearly Meeting (Keith Lisette-Runyan): no report

College Park Quarterly Meeting: College Park Quarterly Meeting will meet next in person October 16-18 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

Interfaith Nevada County (Dianne Marshall): GVFM will be hosting the meeting on the third Thursday of the month in October, the 15th, in our room at Peace Lutheran.

Sharings from the wider Quaker world:

- **FWCC World Quaker Day 2026** theme and materials announced: *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. For more information, see the World Quaker Day event page [here](#).

- **The Quaker Call to Action** will have a zoom meeting in Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026 and Sunday, October 18, 2026. See page 9 for details.
- FCNL: there are programmed and unprogrammed Friends worshipping together in Washington, DC.
- The US Quakers in Europe group meets monthly on zoom.
- The French Yearly Meeting will take place October 23-26 in Carcassonne. Chamba Cooke is co-clerk.

CLERK'S REMARKS

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

- The 2026-2027 Budget will be brought for approval in the 10th month meeting for worship for business.

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.

Minute 09.2026.02: The minutes of the meeting were read, corrected, and approved.

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.

Appendices:

- Spirit and Witness Committee Report
- Stewardship Committee Report
- First Day School Committee Report
- Welcome Committee Report
- Minutes and Record from 8th month 2026

ADVISES AND QUERIES: NINTH MONTH ~ Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Inaction is a form of action. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. In making your insights clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

- Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?
- Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?

- *Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?*
- *Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?*
- *Do we give prayerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?*

HOW CAN I BE HAPPY WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH WRONG IN THE WORLD?

A man once asked an old Buddhist monk: "How can I allow myself to feel happiness when the world is full of suffering, war, injustice, pain, and loss?"

The monk looked at him with compassion and asked:

- *"If your mother was sick, would you stop eating?"*

The man looked confused.

- *"No."*

"Why not?"

- *"Because then there would be two people suffering instead of one."*

The monk smiled.

- *"Exactly."*

Then he continued: "Many people believe that carrying the weight of the entire world on their shoulders is compassion. But often, it is simply another form of suffering."

The man lowered his eyes.



← 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!**

News of Francis O'Hara

Francis O'Hara passed from this world in April. He lived in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area about 30 years ago. He first joined us via Zoom from Connecticut, where he resided. He attended (again, via Zoom) fairly regularly until the last year or so. You may remember his phase at the end of each of his ministries..."where's that pesky mute button?" Here is a [link](#) to his obituary

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2026-27

General Fund: Actual vs. Budget			Items in Bold print are subtotals		
10/1/2025 through 8/17/2026 Using 2025-2026 Budget					
	Category	2025-2026 Budget	Actual	Proposed 2026-2027 Budget	Change
INCOME					
400 - Contributions		16,227	17,963	15,600	-627.00
EXPENSES					
600 - Meeting Expense		13,682	12,372	12,730	-952.00
603 - Rent		6,900	6,013	6,000	-900.00
605 - Meeting's Memberships		4,062	4,082	4,150	88.00
606 - PYM Dues		4,002	3,952	4,000	-2.00
607 - CPQM Dues		60	130	150	90.00
610 - Technology		1,420	906	980	-440.00
611 - Internet & Meeting Webpage		660	363	300	-360.00
612 - Zoom Fee		170	170	180	10.00
613 - Tithe.ly Fees		200	123	150	-50.00
614 - Technology - Other		390	250	350	-40.00
620 - Liability Insurance		700	696	700	0.00
621 - Misc. Unbudgeted Expense		200	596	300	100.00
622 - Meetinghouse Maintenance		200	0	100	-100.00
624 - Officers' Expense		50	29	50	0.00
626 - Teen Helper - Childcare		100	0	100	0.00
627 - Reps Travel Expenses		50	50	100	50.00
630- Meeting Outreach		0	0	250	250.00
640 - Committee Expenses		1,295	668	1,295	0.00
645 - Stewardship Comm		875	616	875	0.00
646 - Newsletter Expense		400	336	400	0.00
647 - Library		275	90	275	0.00
648 - Stewardshin Comm - Other		200	190	200	0.00
650 - Spirit and Witness Comm		50	0	50	0.00
651 - Welcome Comm		250	0	250	0.00
652 - Nominating Comm		20	0	20	0.00
653 - Religious Ed - Children Program		100	52	100	0.00
670 - Donation Expense		1,250	0	1,575	325.00
671 - Nisenan - Nev. City Rancheria		150	0	200	50.00
672 - FCNL		150	0	200	50.00
673 - FCL - CA		150	0	200	50.00
674 - Friends House		75	0	75	0.00
675 - Quaker Center		150	0	200	50.00
676 - Hospitality House		200	0	250	50.00
677 - AFSC		150	0	200	50.00
678 - Nonviolent Peaceforce		75	0	100	25.00
679 - Laura Wilcox Memorial at FCNL		150	0	150	0.00

Witness to the Invisible: Children, Occupation, and Accompaniment in the West Bank

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 11:30 am

Carin Anderson is a Montessori educator who has worked with children in conflict zones and urban public schools. She holds a MA in Education, and her recent educational work in the U.S. has focused on creating healing environments for children suffering from trauma and other mental and emotional health challenges. She has worked internationally as a teacher mentor and consultant, participated in the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, and worked with Nest Global's early childhood programs.

Carin reports back from 4 months in the West Bank, where she shared in the life of Palestinian families as they faced escalating violence and the Iran war. With a particular focus on the experience of children, Carin brings a window into the intensifying realities on the ground and offers concrete ways to support communities as they seek to address collective trauma and stay rooted in their own humanity.

Sunday September 20 11:30 am

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Grass Valley Friends Meeting location

[828 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, California 95945](#)

News from Quaker Center ~ End of Summer 2026

To friends of Quaker Center everywhere,

We are putting a bow on another spectacular Quaker Center summer. This Labor Day weekend, we'll officially welcome in the fall at our Harvest Gathering, but our biggest summer events have come and gone: a record-breaking camp, a dozen groups, Pacific Yearly Meeting's annual session, which most of our staff attended, and a beautiful Family Work Camp to close out the season.



We're sending just a few snapshots below from what has been an amazing adventure. We're grateful to all who participated in Quaker Center's programs this summer, from ages 0 to 88, and also to all of Quaker Center's supporters, who make this possible.

The 2027 Quaker Center Program Calendar is finally here, and we're happy to share it with you. [Click here to view it on our website.](#)

On we go. The fall rhythm of hosting groups and holding programs is another sweet spot here, as we continue to receive newcomers and old friends throughout the autumn. Whether we get to see you soon or not, thank you for being part of this community. - Nico



Quaker Call to Action

An invitation to a national dialog about threats to our democracy

National Meetings to Protect our Elections:
September 20, October 18

Join Our National Meetings in September and October

We at Quaker Call to Action are calling upon each of you to take action to protect our democracy prior to, during, and after the upcoming November election.

August 30 Zoom Call Video

The video recording of the August 30, 2026, Zoom meeting is available here...[See the Video](#)

This will provide you with specific suggestions and resources to enable you to plan and carry out your own chosen actions. Two more follow-up meetings will be held in September and October to share more information and provide you with an opportunity to share what actions you have taken and what you have experienced in defense of democracy.

All resources mentioned in the meeting were added to our Election Resources page.

[View resources here...](#)

The September and October sessions will be held over Zoom video conferencing, from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)** on these dates:

- Sunday, September 20 @ 4p.m. PST
- Sunday, October 18 @ 4:00p.m. PST

[Register here for the next meeting.](#)

WORLD QUAKER DAY ~ OCTOBER 4, 2026

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) invites every Quaker meeting and church from around the world to celebrate **WORLD QUAKER DAY** on the first Sunday in October.

As the sun rises in each area of the world we want to remember that Quakers are worshiping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. As we worship, let us hold each other in prayer and thanksgiving, and let our hymns of praise resound across the world. It is a chance to celebrate our wonderful diversity of expression, whilst at the same time offering an important opportunity to learn about Friends' experiences of climate breakdown in other parts of the world.

We hope you will share your World Quaker Day experiences with FWCC. It can be very simple — a description, a poem, a few photos, or even a short video taken via a mobile phone. We will post it for other Friends around the world to see.

Please [email any items to us](#) with WQD as the subject.

Imagine the sun rising, starting in the Pacific and proceeding hour by hour through every time zone, shining on Friends coming together in worship, connecting us across the expanse of a day. Imagine our family of Friends,

in the unity of God's loving spirit, bringing each other into our collective awareness. Imagine this loving presence hugging the world, healing the world, loving the world — through our collective spirit-filled lives.

In loving Friendship,
FWCC World Office

In collaboration with Section Secretaries:

- Peter Shitemi (Africa Section)
- Adrian Glamorgan (Asia West Pacific Section)
- Michael Eccles (Europe and Middle East Section)
- Robin Mohr (Section of the Americas)

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.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS REGIONAL GATHERINGS 2026

Dear Friends,

Friends Peace Teams will share online about Friends' justice and peace ministries around the world and talk to those called to these ministries.

- **Please consider attending** as many Regions as you can so we can get to know each other and the larger Religious Society of Friends.
- **Please share this notice** with your family and Friends and post in your local newsletter.

We hope you can join us...

MEET AND GREET JUSTICE AND PEACE WORKERS at the Friends Peace Teams' Regional Gatherings to hear how they nurture the seeds of hope, resilience, justice, and peace. [See details and register here](#) for these online events to learn about Quaker justice and peace ministries worldwide.

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Peacebuilding en las Américas Session One: Nov 7 at 1am UTC [local time] | • Europe & Middle East Session Two: Nov 21 at 5pm UTC [local time] |
| • Peacebuilding en las Américas Session Two: Nov 7 at 4pm UTC [local time] | • Asia West Pacific: Dec 5 at 12.30am UTC [local time] |
| • North America Session One: Nov 14 at 1am UTC [local time] | • African Great Lakes Session One: Dec 12 at 2pm UTC [local time] |
| • North America Session Two: Nov 14 at 5pm UTC [local time] | • African Great Lakes Session Two: Dec 12 at 5pm UTC [local time] |
| • Europe & Middle East Session One: Nov 21 at 1pm UTC [local time] | |

[Learn more](#)

GVFM CONTACT INFORMATION:

2026- 2027 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: **Mary Starr**, (ex officio-Treasurer) Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Gordon Starr (ex-officio, Treasurer), Judy Hamilton and Kathy McCreery (ex-officio, Librarians), Hailey Wilson (ex-officio Tech Support).

Welcome: **Peter O'Rourke** (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Judy Hamilton (ex-officio email coordinator), Nancy Anderson (ex-officio directory clerk) Gordon Bishop, Ros Bae, Nora Lisette-Runyan (ex officio -website)

Spirit and Witness: **Amy Cooke**, 2024-2027 amyliette@ikmail.com, Reed Hamilton, 2025-2028, Dean Olson, 2024-2027, Pat Phillips, (2026-2029), Fosten Wilson (2026-2029), Gordon Starr (ex-officio, Clerk, GVFM).

First Day School: **Judy Hamilton**, Doug Hamm, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Cheryl Hendrickson. **Support:** Gordon Starr, Alan Stahler, Shera Banbury, Fifth Sunday reader: Anita McCormick
Offices:

Clerk: Gordon Starr (530-878-1237)
gstarr121@aol.com

Recording Clerk: *Vacant! See Gordon Starr if able.*

Newsletter Editor: Dianne Marshall (530-263-0151)
diannemarshall33@gmail.com

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:, 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@ikmail.com Arly Helm (530-271-2229) arlyhelm@pacbell.net

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: Keith Lisette-Runyan
College Park Quarterly Meeting: **Volunteer needed!**



P.O. Box 1421
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Grass Valley, CA 95945