



GRASS VALLEY  
 FRIENDS MEETING  
*Of the Religious Society of Friends  
 College Park Quarterly Meeting,  
 Pacific Yearly Meeting*

13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959 @  
 The Sierra Friends Center, off Jones Bar Road,  
 Nevada City, CA 95959

Website: [www.gvfriends.org](http://www.gvfriends.org)  
 Email: [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com)

**First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House (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, Twelfth Month, 2022**

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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*

- **As announced**

*Fourth Sunday*

- Spiritual Life

*Fifth Sunday*

- On Fifth Sundays we hold a Family Meeting for Worship. *Children and adults gather and spend 20 minutes in storytelling, 20 minutes in singing and 20 minutes in silent worship.*

- ✚ 1st First Day: Bible Story and Song
- ✚ 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day: A Story and a Craft or Activity
- ✚ 3<sup>rd</sup> First Day: A Story plus Time for Silent Worship
- ✚ 4<sup>th</sup> First Day: A Creative, Topical Curriculum
- ✚ 5<sup>th</sup> First Day: Family Worship (a story, singing and silent worship)

✚ [Online Worship](#): every [Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm](#)

## HAPPENING NOW

- December 18, 2022, 11:15a.m. – Spiritual Life Program: *Birthing the Christ Within* led by Gordon Starr
- December 20, 2022, 7:00p.m. EST – Special Solstice Worship Sharing (See page \_\_\_ for details)

## HAPPENING LATER

- PacYM RepCom Meetings
    - Saturday, February 25, 2023
    - Saturday, March 4, 2023
  - College Park Quarterly Meeting - 2023
    - January 14 (Saturday)
    - May 19 - 21 (Fri-Sun)
    - October 13 - 15 (Fri-Sun)
  - PacYM Annual Session, Mount Madonna Center: July 21 – 26, 2024
  - Friends General Conference “Listen So That We May Live”: July 2 -2, 2023; Western Oregon University See page 9 for details.
- 

## GLOSSARY- Abbreviations and terms used in the GVFM newsletter

**SFC:** Sierra Friends Center

**M&O:** Ministry and Oversight

**PacYM:** Pacific Yearly Meeting

**PHP** – Pendle Hill Pamphlet

**FGC:** Friends General Conference

**QUNP:** Quaker United Nations Project

**FASE:** Friends Association for Services to the Elderly

**CPQM:** College Park Quarterly Meeting

**RSWR:** Right Sharing of World Resources

**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.

**Query:** The Friends practice of examining our souls and seeking clarity. These questions & exercises help to give time to seek truth about ourselves and our spiritual condition and to tap into Divine insight.

## GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, December 11, 2022 - MINUTES & RECORD

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

**Present:** Dean Olson, co-clerk; Karen Olson, co-clerk; Reed Hamilton, Judy Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson, Mary Starr, Gordon Starr, Dianne Marshall, fosten wilson, Chamba Cooke, Amy Cooke, recording clerk, and Cindy Bliss.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

### **Clerks' Remarks and Query:**

- What makes something a “Silent Night?” How do we experience that?
- What feelings are we bringing with us today as we move into the season of Light, the season of Darkness, a holy season for many?

Friends shared out of worship and their lives.

### **Action Items and Seasoning:**

- Correct & approve the Draft Minutes & Record from 11-13-2022

**2022.12.01 MINUTE:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the minutes and record from 11-13-2022 as appended to these minutes, with gratitude to Fosten Wilson.

- Consider the proposed Minute about the Nisenan Land Acknowledgment.

After discussion, the following minute was approved:

**2022.12.02 MINUTE:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting shall practice reading the Nisenan Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of Meeting for Worship each week.

*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 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.*

There was a request to post the Land Acknowledgement in the meetinghouse. Dorothy will follow through with this request.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**NOMINATING:** (*terms as noted*) Dorothy Henderson (fulfilling Pat Phillips term): 2022-2023, Sharon Davisson, continuing: 2021-2023, Judy Hamilton: 2022-2024, Gordon Starr: 2022-2024

Gordon Starr is now the convener. Gordon reported that Nominating is beginning to look for another member of the Spirit and Witness committee. Anyone interested or with questions or thoughts, please contact a member of the committee.

**STEWARDSHIP:** **Mary Starr** (clerk), Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Gordon Starr, Doug Hamm, Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Fosten Wilson (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian).

Mary Starr gave the report, appended.

Concern was raised that the combination to the lock on the closet is published in the report and thus available to anyone. It was acknowledged that this lock is a deterrent only. The numbers have been removed from the report. If someone needs to know the combination, please contact Mary Starr.  
The annual appeal letter has gone out.

**SPIRIT & WITNESS:** Amy Cooke, Gordon Bishop, Sharon Davisson, Reed Hamilton, Dorothy Henderson, Dean and Karen Olson (ex-officio Co Clerks)

Amy Cooke gave the report, appended.

**WELCOME:** Kathy McCreery (clerk), Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Karen Olson. Hailey Wilson (ex-officio, zoom coordinator), Amy Cooke (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Judy Hamilton (ex-officio, email coordinator),

Judy Hamilton reported that the committee will meet next month and offered gratitude for all the help with the Christmas Party.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:** Dorothy Henderson (clerk), Gordon Bishop, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Karen Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Anita McCormick.

There was no report for December. Celebration for the play offered by the children was expressed. The engagement by the children touched all present.

## OFFICER REPORTS

- **TREASURER:** fosten wilson (no report)
- **SFC REPRESENTATIVE:** Pat Phillips (no report)
- **INTERFAITH NEVADA COUNTY:** Dianne Marshall

Dianne gave the report. A letter was shared with Interfaith Nevada County from a ministry group in Pueblo, Colorado alerting congregations to the dangers of hate speech. Dianne will share the letter with the Spirit and Witness committee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you use Facebook, 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! It helps our visibility. Follow this [link](#).
- It is easy to give to Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Go to [gvfriends.org](http://gvfriends.org) and click on the Give button. This takes you to a secure site for donations. Please consider making your contribution monthly. Your contribution covers our Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. Thank you. Please note: Tithely now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request.
  - Sierra Friends Center has volunteer opportunities available. See [www.woolman.org](http://www.woolman.org).
  - The College Park Quarterly Meeting (CPQM) will gather Saturday, January 14, at Berkeley Friends Meeting (and online for some activities). The theme for this quarterly meeting will be "Let us then try what love will do." The flyer with more information is available by [clicking here](#). To register for the event, [click here](#).

- Pacific Yearly Meeting RepCom 2023: The next meeting of the Representative Committee (RepCom) will be held online via Zoom February 25 and March 4, 2023 (two Saturdays).
- There is a [new PacYM directory online](#).
- PacYM Annual Session 2023 will be a hybrid event (in-person gathering with opportunities for remote or online participation) held at Mount Madonna Center July 21-26, 2023.
- The 2023 [Friends General Conference Gathering](#), “Listen So That We May Live”, will be held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR, from July 2-July 8, 2023. Learn about the Gathering.

#### ACTION ITEMS & ITEMS SEASONING

- There are no items seasoning.

#### 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 grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

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

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Amy Cooke, recording clerk.

#### APPENDICES:

1. November Minutes from Meeting for Business
2. Spirit and Witness Committee
3. Stewardship Committee

### **Advices and Queries Twelfth Month: THE MEETING COMMUNITY**

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

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

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

- Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?
- Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?
- Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God’s love for the whole community?
- *How are love and unity maintained among us?*
- *Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?*

- *How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?*
- *Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members*

## **Two Old Women: A Great Success**

Under the guidance of Judy Hamilton and Karen Olson, the Children’s Program Players’ rendition of Two Old Women was a great success. Many thanks to all First Day School adults and young people who participated.



Chief presents tough decision.



Full Cast



Making camp, finding dinner!

**Narrator:** The people slowly move away, leaving the two women sitting in the same stunned position on their piled spruce boughs.

### **Act 2:**

**CH’ID:** How dare they! We are not close to dying. We do not need to be carried from camp to camp. We are not helpless or hopeless. Yet we are condemned to die.

**SA’:** My friend, we can sit here and wait to die. We will not have long to wait. Our time of leaving this world should not come for a long time yet. But we will die if we just sit here and wait. This would prove them right about our helplessness. I say if we are going to die, let us die trying not sitting!

**CH’ID:** Let us die trying.

**Narrator:** The women got up....

## **Support Grass Valley Friends Meeting!**



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

It’s easy to give to Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Click on the Give button above or go to [gvfriends.org](http://gvfriends.org) and click on the “GIVE” button. This takes you to a secure site for donations. Your monthly contribution covers our Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. *Tithely* now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request. **Thank you.**

## Annual Appeal - 2022

Dear Friends

2022 is now days away from ending. Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) is coming out of the confinement of Covid-19 quarantine. We have returned to in-person Meeting for Worship and are now enjoying greeters, coffee after the rise of Meeting and monthly potluck before Business Meeting. Zoom technology has become a part of how we gather and allows us to worship with Friends who live out of the area. We are offering hybrid Meeting for Worship which gives you the choice of coming to the Meeting House or participating via Zoom.

Your financial support has allowed our Meeting to take care of fundamental expenses such as paying rent, maintaining the Meeting's webpage, our newsletter, three publication subscriptions<sup>1</sup>, committee needs, and Representatives' travel. Funds also go to the greater Religious Society of Friends including memberships in College Park Quarterly Meeting, and Pacific Yearly Meeting.

We now are cost-sharing with Sierra Friends Center for internet access and equipment to support the technology used to offer hybrid Meeting for Worship.

The goal of the 2021 Annual Appeal was to restore our FY21-22 budget to a greater level of capacity. Thanks to your financial support we have achieved that goal. For FY 22-23, our proposed budget (\$15,211) is an increase over FY21-22's actual expenses (\$13,663) and remains less than our FY19-20 (\$16,175) budget.

With your financial contributions, Grass Valley Friends Meeting can meet its costs of service and operations. **Your contribution of \$40 each month will allow us to meet the Meeting's budget goal for FY 22-23. A contribution of \$50 each month would allow us to restore several items that have been greatly reduced or eliminated from our pre-Covid budgets<sup>2</sup>.** We honor and respect the level of generosity you can share.

Your contributions are tax-deductible. (1) You may make your donation to the Grass Valley Friends Meeting online: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/).<sup>1</sup> This link may also be found live in the GVFM Monthly Newsletter. (2) You may authorize a regular withdrawal from your bank account or (3) mail your contributions to Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, 15719 American Hill Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

This year we are distributing this annual appeal letter electronically and by "snail mail." This allows you to choose what works best for you, clicking on the link above to contribute directly, or to use the return envelope included with the letter you receive in the mail.

Forever listening to the Holy Spirit and acting in hope and faith of the good will of all, we are grateful for the restored health and well-being of our Friends community and the wider community as well. We value all who join us in-person or via zoom. Let our fellowship and worshipful silence guide you in deciding your support for the Grass Valley Friends Meeting this year. ***Thank you!***

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<sup>1</sup> Friends Journal(monthly), Western Bulletin (monthly), Pendle Hill Pamphlets (5/year)

<sup>2</sup> E.G. Hospitality House, Committee and Travel Expenses, donations to AFSC, FCNL, Sierra Friends Center and more.

Mary Starr

Mary Starr, Clerk, Stewardship Committee

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God....

- *Advices and Queries*, The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Britain



## **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 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.*

## **College Park Quarterly Meeting**

### **Home**

College Park Quarterly Meeting (CPQM) is a quarterly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in northern California and northern Nevada ([list](#)).

### **News**

The quarterly meeting will gather **Saturday, January 14, at Berkeley Friends Meeting** (and online for some activities). The theme for this quarterly meeting will be "Let us then try what love will do." The flyer with more information is available by [clicking here](#). To register for the event, [click here](#).

## **Pacific Yearly Meeting**

### **BREAKING NEWS**

- **RepCom 2023:** The next meeting of Representative Committee (RepCom) will be held online via Zoom **February 25 and March 4, 2023** (two Saturdays).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Online Worship:** every [Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm](#) sponsored by the Eldering Subcommittee of PacYM Ministry Committee.



- **RepCom 2023:** The next meeting of Representative Committee (RepCom) will be held online via Zoom **February 25 and March 4, 2023** (two Saturdays).
- **Annual Session 2023** will be a hybrid event (in-person gathering with opportunities for remote or online participation) held at Mount Madonna Center **July 21-26, 2023**.
- Many other opportunities for online Quaker worship are [listed at westernfriend.org](http://westernfriend.org).
- See the **PYM CALENDAR PAGE** for additional PYM-related **EVENTS**, including *youth and intergenerational events*.

## **PAC Yearly Meeting Communications, Membership Database & Directory**

Pacific Yearly Meeting has a [long history](#) of laboring with how to support communication within the Yearly Meeting. By Annual Session 2017, the Electronic Communications Subcommittee had drafted a detailed proposal and set of requirements for a communications and membership database for the whole yearly meeting. The purpose of the database is three-fold:

- **Directory:** to allow individual Friends to easily find and communicate with each other through the creation of a Pacific Yearly Meeting-wide directory;
- **Email lists:** to allow groups of Friends to communicate with each other easily through the development of email distribution lists; and
- **Membership database:** to provide Pacific Yearly Meeting’s statistical clerk(s) with a current count of members, by name and monthly meeting.

The **PacYM Directory of Members and Attenders** (“the Directory”) contains contact information from the database only for those individuals who have agreed to have their information published in this way. Thus the Directory is not a complete listing of the database. Management and use of the data housed in the PacYM Communications and Membership Database is subject to policies which you will find on the [Communications Committee web page](#).

## **Friends General Conference – 2023**



- [2023 Gathering Program](#)
- [2023 Gathering Location](#) in Monmouth, Oregon
- [Videos from the 2022 Gathering:](#) Evening Programs and Bible Half Hour

*The 2023 FGC Gathering, “Listen So That We May Live”, will be held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR, from July 2-July 8, 2023. [Learn about the Gathering.](#)*

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In silence is embedded  
the marvelous power  
of clarification,

purification  
and concentration  
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## More Quaker Enrichment Opportunities - 2023



Ben Lomond Quaker Center – 2023  
Programs: <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/>  
Personal Retreats:  
<http://www.quakercenter.org/personal-retreats/>

Ben Lomond, CA

Pendle Hill Upcoming Events – Now and 2023  
<https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>

Wallingford, PA



## Quaker Call to Action Update December 2022 Report Highlights:

Since inception, the concern and participation of more than one thousand Friends who responded to the Urgent Call to strengthen our democracy has been heartening. Many Friends and meetings responded with enthusiasm and gratitude to the initial Call. Initially, we felt led to hold a series of “National Zoom Calls” based on the Urgent Call during which Friends learned more about this effort and had ample time to discuss thoughts, concerns, and leadings in both small groups and a large group format. Starting in September, we held 3 Zoom-based training sessions on “Election Protection,” “Responding to Violence at the Polls,” and “Quaker Deep Canvassing.” We are particularly grateful to Sam Caldwell who developed and maintained the Quaker Call website ([www.quakercall.net](http://www.quakercall.net)) and online forum where Friends could share thoughts and support, allowing Friends to be connected across the country.

We consistently heard gratitude for convening national Zoom calls where people shared concerns, ideas and experienced a sense of community in the increasing fractiousness of our political culture. We were delighted to see many monthly meetings hold special called meetings for worship on the evening before Election Day. The return to prayer through waiting worship and through the fellowship of community have been essential to grounding our Call.

### Here are some statistics showing the breadth of responses to the Urgent Call:

- 727 individuals endorsed the Call
- 76 Quaker meetings endorsed the Call
- 1,200 people participated in one of the 5 national calls hosted by ESR, Pendle Hill, AFSC, and FCNL
- 345 people participated in national trainings, and a special national call for young adults
- 36,057 visits to the Urgent Call website
- 138 participants in the Quaker Call Community Forum Listserv
- 59 monthly meetings worshipped Election Eve worship
- 44 states are represented in the endorsements to the Call

## Urgent Call Dec 2022 Full Report (pdf) [Download](#)

### Furniture Available

Alan and John are moving back to Half Moon Bay and have some furniture to dispose of. It is all in excellent condition and prices are low. If anyone needs beds, dressers, sofa etc please view this posting

<https://goldcountry.craigslist.org/fuo/d/grass-valley-moving-must-sell-furniture/7561262951.html>

### **TO PRAY**, author unknown.

To pray means to become silent so that you may listen to the divine.  
When you listen to the divine through a still heart, the divine touches you with Grace.  
Prayer is not words; it is a happening of the Soul.

### Special Solstice Worship Sharing



Friends,

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm EST** for a special **solstice worship sharing**.

Quaker Earthcare Witness' mentoring clerk, Mary Jo Klingel, offers us this:

*Worship sharing creates space to receive the unexpected gifts of the Spirit, offers space to connect with Friends I have known for a longtime and with new Friends just joining our circle. It offers time to slow down and hear my own heart. Worship sharing honors the Earth and all our kin who share this beautiful and amazing planet with us.*

In this hectic season where consumerism and scheduling can distract us from the sacred, we try to cultivate spaces where we can encounter each other in "that which is eternal." We hope you gather with us on the longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere.

**[Register here for the Zoom link and a reminder email.](#)**

Thank you, Friends!

Hayley Hathaway, Director, Quaker Earthcare Witness



## Winter's Cloak by Joyce Rupp



This year I do not want  
the dark to leave me.  
I need its wrap  
of silent stillness,  
its cloak  
of long-lasting embrace.  
Too much light  
has pulled me away  
from the chamber  
of gestation.

Let the dawns  
come late,  
let the sunsets  
arrive early,  
let the evenings  
extend themselves  
while I lean into  
the abyss of my being.

Let me lie in the cave  
of my soul,  
for too much light  
blinds me,  
steals the source  
of revelation.

Let me seek solace  
in the empty places  
of winter's passage,  
those vast dark nights  
that never fail to shelter me.

## Quakers and Twitter!

Opinion | What Twitter Can Learn From Quakers - [New York Times Opinion](#)

[Ezra Klein](#) ....Permit me a weird turn here.

I became interested this year in how Quakers deliberate. As a movement, Quakers have been far ahead of the moral curve time and again — early to abolitionism, to equality between the sexes, to prison reform, to pressuring governments to help save Jews from the Holocaust. That is not to say Quakers have gotten nothing wrong, but what has led them to get so much right? The answer suggested by Rex Ambler’s lovely book “The Quaker Way” is silence. In a typical Quaker meeting, Ambler writes, community members “sit in silence together for an hour or so, standing up to speak only if they are led to do so, and then only to share some insight which they sense will be of value to others.” If they must decide an issue collectively, “they will wait in silence together, again, to discern what has to be done.

” There is much that debate can offer but much that it can obscure. “To get a clear sense of what is happening in our lives, we Quakers try to go deeper,” he writes. “We have to let go our active and fretful minds in order to do this. We go quiet and let a deeper, more sensitive awareness arise.” I find this powerful in part because I see it in myself.

I know how I respond in the heat of an argument, when my whole being is tensed to react. And I know how I process hard questions or difficult emotions after quiet reflection, when there is time for my spirit to settle. I know which is my better self. Democracy is not and will not be one long Quaker meeting. But there is wisdom here worth mulling.

We do not make our best decisions, as individuals or as a collective, when our minds are most active and fretful. And yet “active and fretful” is about as precise a description as I can imagine of the Twitter mind. And having put us in an active, fretful mental state, Twitter then encourages us to fire off declarative statements on the most divisive possible issues, always with one eye to how quickly they will rack up likes and retweets and thus viral power. It’s insane. And it will get so much worse from here....

To read the complete article, [click here!](#)

## Times and seasons: A Quaker reflection on Christmas

Gill Sewell reflects on the Quaker tradition of not marking 'times and seasons' and finding the holy in the every day.

**Early Quakers did not observe Christmas nor mark other 'times and seasons'.** They believed that no day was more holy than any other, and believed that each day, and all of life, was sacred (Quaker faith & practice 27.39 and 27.42).

Today, as with so many things in the Quaker community, there is a full spectrum of practices and responses.



There are those who do the full Christian event to mark the birth of Jesus with candles, carols, presents and Christmas pudding, and others who will observe simply and quietly. There are also those who will choose not to mark this Christmas season in any way, but who nonetheless give daily witness to their faith.

Whilst I experience this sense of the 'sacred always' I do, like many Quakers, find times and seasons helpful markers from which to reflect and rejoice. I delight in the new spring buds, the crisp autumn leaves, the wisps of breath on a cold winter morning. I celebrate Easter as a time of new beginnings and advent as a time of deepening darkness with the promise of new light to follow.

### **The ordinary moments of each day**

New Year is like the turning of a page and the chance to consciously approach a new chapter in my life, with renewed intentions. I find the sacred manifests itself in laughter in the office, good music on my headphones, shared meals at home, and Sunday evenings with six of us on the sofas watching Blue Planet II. In these ordinary moments of the day I can be reminded of the divine. Watching specks of dust dance in the sunlight – in the small things of the universe – I am reminded of my belonging in the cosmos and my part in being love and light. With Christmas approaching I mark the Sundays of advent – knowing that (in the northern hemisphere) the shortest day approaches.

Earlier humans have marked this passage of the sun/moon as sacred with such festivals as Yule – later supplanted by the Christian Christmas festival. I engage with this reminder of birth in the darkest days, heralding the arrival of life, and life more abundant, in the months to come. Advent reminds me too that in the darkness there are moments for hibernation and reflection, so that when the daylight comes I have a readiness to turn to face the **SUN**.

### **Celebrating in community**

We humans want to celebrate in community, perhaps remember those who've died, perhaps to celebrate new and burgeoning relationships – and also our sense of belonging. Recognising too, that for some there may be little to celebrate – in poverty, isolation or war-torn zones. Globally the world has perhaps held too much darkness this year with several political leaders unable to beam shards of goodness and light.

As nights draw in, it is a reminder to me that I need to hold my spark of light faithfully and boldly, witnessing in the darker corners of my community. Holding and living by the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity and care of the environment remains a challenge in my preparations for a Christmas celebration. I make donations (including at the food bank), try to make good ethical choices with my purchases, and identify ways in which to share.

Quakers mark Christmas in different ways but I will spend Christmas Eve looking up at the stars and hoping fervently that the seven billion people on this planet will indeed show good will to one another.

### **COVID-19 Policy:**

**Grass Valley Friends Meeting: Covid Policy as of May 15, 2022:**

We will be holding our hybrid program in the Meeting House and the Children's Program is live and in person. WE HAVE RECENTLY CHANGED OUR COVID GUIDELINES. Masks are optional. There are no vaccination or distancing requirements. Coffee hour and potlucks have now resumed. We do ask that if you feel ill, that you take advantage of our Zoom option. These guidelines are subject to change, depending on Covid cases, virulence, and county mandates.

## Grass Valley Friends Meeting Contact Information (7-1-22)

### OFFICERS:

- Clerk of the Meeting:** Co-Clerks – Dean and Karen Olson (530) 270-9366  
[deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com)
- Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson (530)265-6533  
[fwkm@protonmail.com](mailto:fwkm@protonmail.com)
- Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke,  
[amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com) (530)559-9158
- Communication/Email Coordinator:** Judy Hamilton [judywestonhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:judywestonhamilton@gmail.com)  
(530) 277-8818
- Directory Coordinator:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) [ntowhee@gmail.com](mailto:ntowhee@gmail.com)
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- Librarian:** Don McCormick  
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### REPRESENTATIVES:

- |                                      |                        |                         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. College Park Quarterly: Doug Hamm | 3. PYM: Doug Hamm      | 5. RSWR: Judy Hamilton  |
| 2. FCNL: Sharon Davisson             | 4. QUNO: Shera Banbury | 6. SFC: Pat Phillips    |
|                                      |                        | 7. INC: Dianne Marshall |

### COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

**Stewardship:** Mary Starr (current clerk), Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Gordon Starr, Doug Hamm. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Fosten Wilson (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian).

**Welcoming:** Kathy McCreery (current clerk), Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Karen Olson. Hailey Wilson (ex-officio, zoom coordinator), Amy Cooke (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Judy Hamilton (ex-officio, email coordinator)

**Spirit/Witness:** Gordon Bishop, Amy Cooke (convener), Reed Hamilton, Sharon Davisson, Dorothy Henderson, Dean & Karen Olson (ex-officio, Co-clerks of GVFM)

**Children's Program: Dorothy Henderson** (current clerk), Gordon Bishop, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Karen Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, Anita McCormick.

**Nominating Committee:** Dorothy Henderson, Sharon Davisson, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Starr



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