



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

Phone: (530) 648-0190 www.gvfriends.org

Email: grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com

First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House (zoom)

10:00 am Silent Meeting for Worship (zoom)

Newsletter, First Month, 2021

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MEETING CALENDAR

First Sunday

- Program to be announced

Second Sunday

- Silent Meeting for Worship, Potluck, Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Third Sunday

- **As announced**

Fourth Sunday

- Spiritual Life – To Be Announced

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

HAPPENING NOW

- January 16, 2020 - College Park Quarterly Meeting (Saturday, one day) *Reweaving The Ties That Bind* (held virtually via Zoom)

- Saturday, January 23, 2021 – 2:00p.m. Memorial Service for Ted Smith via zoom. See page 10 for details.
- Sunday, January 24, 2021- Spiritual Life Program: Faithfulness Groups led by Don McCormick

HAPPENING LATER

- Saturday, February 6th, 3pm to 4:30pm via zoom, PacYM Threshing Session to explore a paid, part time Administrative Position to serve the Yearly Meeting
- Sunday, February 21,2021, Listening Session to prepare for the State of the Meeting report
- Sunday, February 28, 2021,Children's Program led by Dorothy Henderson
- Sunday, March 28, 2021 – Spiritual Life Program: Possible bible study led by Dorothy Henderson
- Sunday, April 25, 2021- Spiritual Life Program: Easter program, details to follow
- Memorial Service for Bob Barns – To be announced.

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

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 that is 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, may speak to a point just made, or may ask a question of a previous speaker

MINUTES & RECORD

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, January 9, 2021

We met virtually.

Present: Anita & Don, Co-Clerks; Chamba; Doug & Dorothy; Judy & Reed; Dianne; Crystal; & fosten, Acting Recording Clerk

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerk's Remarks included

- Remember to express your opinions & allow the process to find truth.
- Even statements presented with hate & anger can still contain truth.
- We leave room for spirit to come through, releasing our thoughts, judgements, opinions and becoming silent inside and out. We can hand our issues to Spirit/God/Jesus, and then settle into any sensations or messages coming through.

LAST MONTH'S ACTION ITEMS

- The Nominating Committee will be discerning the way forward to replace the roles Amy is serving in so that there is adequate time for training. If you are interested in being considered for any of the following roles(for the 2021-22 slate), please let the Nominating Committee (Doug Hamm and Pat Phillips) know.
 - Managing our Zoom meetings

- Recording Clerk
- Managing the email tree
- Managing the Facebook account, including weekly posting and event management
- Our Library is closed. **Do not return or remove any Library items for now.** Dianne Marshall and the Stewardship Committee are managing the packing and storing of materials from the Library and Meetinghouse. Many books are now in boxes. Storage space, more strong boxes, & volunteers are wanted. Please contact Dianne (or another member of Stewardship Committee) if you can help. We will also be removing & storing tables, chairs, piano, items from our closet, etc. See Stewardship Committee report below.

REPRESENTATIVE and OFFICER REPORTS

Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM): Invitation to a Threshing Session about Hiring a Part-Time Administration Person for Pacific Yearly Meeting:

On Saturday, February 6th from 3pm to 4:30pm via Zoom PacYM will hold a Threshing session to explore a paid, part time Administrative Position to serve the Yearly Meeting as was brought up at the 2020 Annual Session. Contact Don McCormick for more information.

Treasurer's Quarterly Report, 1-10-2021

>>> Summary = pretty good . . . (with downs & ups) <<<

THANK YOU for your contributions. The contributions received were light for October, worse in November. Then the Stewardship Committee's Appeal Letter helped build a wonderful December.

Wonderful because, yes, substantial money was received. But even better was the variety of people donating. Twenty-four households contributed financially in December, a pleasant surprise. Thanks go to Stewardship Committee for the appeal letter as well as to those who were able to respond.

In our General Fund, in the last three months, we spent \$959 for rent & newsletter costs while we received \$3,583 in contributions. This means that we may have enough money to pay half of our PYM Dues (which total \$3,332) in January. Our Sharing fund & our Placer County Worship Group fund have changed a bit in the first quarter. The other Restricted Funds are unchanged. *Thank you for your help. All gifts, both in service to the Meeting & financial are deeply appreciated.*

Fosten Wilson, Treasurer

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR): Judy Hamilton has mailed off another batch of used postage stamps to RSWR which will help fund their activities. More information at <https://www.rswr.org/stamp-program>

Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall: The Grass Valley Friends Meeting is glad to be hosting InterFaith Nevada County's (INC) first meeting of the new year, Tuesday, January 19, 2021, from 10:00a.m. to 12:30p.m. Don McCormick will share with us *Clearness Committees*, a Quaker practice that has been honed since the 1660's. All INC members have received Parker J. Palmer's *The Clearness Committee: A Communal Approach to Discernment* to read this prior to the meeting. Zoom "Breakout Rooms" will be used during the *Clearness Committees* presentation to allow everyone an opportunity to practice this Quaker practice.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPIRIT/WITNESS: Judy Hamilton reporting: In supporting our Meeting, we formed a committee of support for one of our members and continue to reach out to those in need or others we don't see much on Zoom.

Our Waking Up To Race book group is going strong. We have changed the format somewhat and now in addition to worship sharing, we are experimenting with engaging in discussion using a technique known as barn-raising (thanks to Don Mc.). We are continuing to read How to Be an Anti-Racist.

Our committee description is complete and enclosed. Apparently other Meetings are interested in how we consolidated our committees. Gordon Bishop, who was involved in this from start to finish, will write up this process for a possible article in Western Friend.

We are aware that our Meeting House will be impacted in SFC's renovation plans. Within our Meeting this is primarily being addressed in the Stewardship Committee, but we are being kept informed as it progresses.

We also continue to discern on how best to acknowledge the Nisenan and their land upon where we worship.

We are also continuing to discern the responsibilities of and need for the GVFM various representatives to other organizations.

Spiritual Life programs are as follows:

- January 24, 2021- Faithfulness Groups-Don
- February 28, 2021- Children's Program-Dorothy
- March 28, 2021 – Possible bible study-Dorothy
- April 25, 2021 – possible Easter program

Finally we propose the 3rd Sunday in February, (February 21st) as a listening session in preparation for the State of the Meeting report.

STEWARDSHIP: Dianne Marshall reporting: Minutes from meeting on January 7, 2021

Present: Mary Starr, clerk, Gordon Starr, recorder, Dianne Marshall, Reed Hamilton, Fosten Wilson, Doug Hamm, Hailey Wilson

Sierra Friends Center-Meeting House status: Extensive interior remodeling will begin fairly soon and have a major effect on Meeting's library, furniture, closet materials and kitchen supplies. We think it best to move out of the building during construction. Question is when, where to and what to move. Dianne has made a packing list for packing up the library. The closet and kitchen are easier. The benches present a problem: "Methodist" benches are ours. Others are big, heavy and ownership unclear, they may not have to be moved.

Storage possibilities: Storage container. Reed will research cost and availability. Use the Fern House? Doug will research.

Ideas for work teams: two- person (couple) for each area, masked and physically distanced. This might work best on multiple days.

The idea of moving Meeting into town was discussed. When the Meeting House is finished it may be rented to other groups more often. Option ideas include Jewish Community Center, and either Banner or South Auburn Grange. This needs to be brought to Meeting for Business. Marty has expressed the strong hope that we stay. She says SFC is a Quaker institution and having Meeting there provides a needed Quaker presence.

Finance report: Fosten Wilson reported that after a very sparse November, donations for December were wonderful! Over \$2,000 came in with an increased use of the donate button on the Meeting web site.

The Stewardship Committee wrote and mailed out the annual Appeal Letter. There were questions about the three different lists of names the Meeting maintains and which one to use to send out the letter. There is the Newsletter Google group with 155 contacts, the directory list with 39 names, and the announcements email list.

Gordon will contact Amy for clarity.

Check signers: Currently, the approved check signers for the Meeting's account are Fosten, Chamba and Don Kewman. Clearly we need to find other people. We will ask Meeting for Business to approve co-clerks Don and Anita, Stewardship clerk Mary, as well as Fosten to be the current approved check signers.

Action Items:

- Reed will research container costs and availability
- Doug will check with Marty on the status of Fern House for Meeting storage.
- Gordon will clarify the use of various email lists.

Addendum: Reed has reported he found a container company who would both deliver and pick up a container for \$178. and \$60 a month rent. We will need approval from Meeting for Business for these funds.

Doug contacted Marty about using the Fern House for storage and she said that wouldn't work because they had plans to rent it when Covid restrictions were lifted. She said while there was not a start date for the renovations yet, *the first thing to do would be to empty the Meeting House.*

.....
Chamba offered clarification that the benches were built by the Head of Woolman School, for that school, before Amy & Chamba arrived. Then, our Meetinghouse was elsewhere on the campus. They were built by & belong to Sierra Friends Center.

Dianne asked if sending the Appeal Letter out in the newsletter was appropriate. The response was yes, at her discretion.

After discernment, Minute 01-2021-1 & Minute 01-2021-2, both below, were approved.

Minute 01-2021-1: Grass Valley Friends Meeting agrees to the expenditure of as-much-as \$420 for use of a storage container until the Meeting House is renovated by Sierra Friends Center.

Minute 01-2021-2: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves updating the authorized signatures on our bank account. The new authorized signatures will be our Co-Clerks, Don & Anita McCormick; the Clerk of our Stewardship Committee, Mary Starr; & Treasurer, Fosten Wilson.

It was clarified that a storage container may not be required but Minute 01-2021-1 allows that spending if Stewardship Committee finds it necessary. Regarding bank signatures, Chamba Cook & Don Kewman have both moved out of the area.

WELCOME: Don McCormick reporting: The Welcome Committee continues to ensure that is a Greeter/Opener for Meeting for Worship on Sunday. This person welcomes everyone to Meeting, confirms the participants and teachers for the Children's Program, opens the Children's Program breakout room, and then settles everyone into worship. We are also helping to facilitate after-Meeting fellowship.

We are also focused on increasing the visibility of Grass Valley Friends Meeting through various publicity and outreach activities. We are in the local newspaper every month in the Religious section, we post regularly on Facebook, and create Facebook events as needed. Birthing the Christ Within, the December Spiritual Life event, was posted on Facebook and also was sent to Western Friend. Don McCormick will be doing a presentation on Clearness Committees to the Interfaith community this month, and we will also report that on Facebook and in the newsletter.

We have discussed reviewing our songbook for inclusion. Amy will be reaching out to Woolman camp staff for their revisions of Quaker songs to reflect more gender and racial inclusivity.

We have also had a goal to have a logo that reflects our commitment to inclusion and diversity. Hailey Wilson has created a logo and we are working on refining it in order to bring it to Meeting for Business in February.

We have also been working to transfer Meeting files to the Grass Valley Friends Meeting google drive. Amy will be reaching out the clerks of committees to make sure everyone has access.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Cooke, clerk

Seasoning Minutes for the February Meeting for Business:

Approved Minute 01-2021-2 will not be implemented until after the letter to our bank involving changing authorized signatures is presented at our February Meeting for Business. The letter is being drafted by our Treasurer.

ACTION ITEMS

- Storage space, more strong boxes, & volunteers are wanted. Please contact Dianne (or another member of Stewardship Committee) if you can help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *College Park Quarterly Meeting*, January 16 (Saturday, one day). Reweaving The Ties That Bind (Held Virtually via Zoom) Our faith calls us to be bound together in love, tied together with our families, with our neighbors, with our Quaker communities, with all people near and far, with all of creation.
- *PYM Directory*: Please fill out the online forms to be added to the PYM directory. There are separate forms for adults and for those under 18. This will aid in coordinating communications across the Yearly Meeting. Nancy Anderson is coordinating this in our Meeting. Need the link? Email Nancy at ntowhee(at)gmail.com.
- *PYM will hold a Threshing Session* to explore a paid, part time Administrative Position to serve the Yearly Meeting as was brought up at the 2020 Annual Session. Saturday, February 6th from 3pm to 4:30pm via Zoom
- *Google Drive*: We have set up a Google Drive for all the Meeting's files. Please let Amy know if you would like to set up a time to talk about how to move your committee files into the drive, Amy is happy to help! Good for storing info you want future committee members to remember.
- If you use *FB*, follow the GVFriends website. Or join it. If you share a post from it, your friends will see it and may show up. It helps our visibility.
- *State of the Meeting* report Listening session, third Sunday of February. After worship.
- *Book Group*. The book is *Persuade, Don't Preach: Restoring Civility across the Political Divide*, which is by Karen Tibbals. Julie Harlow wants to know how many people in our meeting would be interested. Tibbals approach is based on the work of Rob Willer (a Stanford sociologist) and Matthew Feinberg (a professor from my field--Organizational Behavior), and on Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind*.
- It's easy to give to Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Go to 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 Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. Thank you

This **draft** RECORD AND MINUTES will be corrected before approval in February.

If you are giving a report to GVFM, please send the actual report to the recording clerk at amylisette@gmail.com THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

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

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Fosten Wilson, acting recording clerk

ADVICES AND QUERIES

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?

Let us, then, try what love can do to heal a broken world.

William Penn to Friends in 17th century England.

MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS:

Monday, Jan 4, there were 79 participants the first half hour and up to 49 who continued for another half hour. Some requested that we do it again; it was a powerful meeting and we felt a bridge of Friend-ship reach across 13 states, from Hawai'i to Vermont. We will meet again on the next 3 Mondays to hold in the Light all of us and our nation as we move forward to heal divisions. **Jan 11, 18 and 25, 2021 6:00-7:00 pm Pacific Time**

Log in details below:

Davis Friends Meeting is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Letting go of divisions; Healing the nation**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82710740919>

Meeting ID: 827 1074 0919

Passcode: 563848

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,82710740919#,,,,*563848# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,82710740919#,,,,*563848# US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 827 1074 0919

Passcode: 563848

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcgJwNLhyk>

In addition to the Mondays in Jan, the space is open for a Meeting for Sufferings to lift up the nation for healing on Friday, and Saturday nights, Jan 8 and 9, 6:00-7:00pm Pacific Time.

OFFICER HOLDER VACANCIES

If you are interested in being considered for any of the following roles (for the 2021-22 slate), please let the Nominating Committee (Doug Hamm <douglasjhamm@gmail.com> and Pat Phillips Patricia Phillips <patphillips49@yahoo.com>) know.

- Website Maintenance
- Zoom Meetings
- Recording Clerk
- Communications Coordinator (managing the email tree)
- Managing the Facebook account, including weekly posting and events information

Some of these functions may be combined if there is an interested party willing to do more than one.

In honor of Russ and Mary Jorgensen as requested

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its suffering; it empties today of its strength [and joy]" Sister Corrie Ten Boom

GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959
ANNUAL APPEAL, 2020

January 12, 2021

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all who have already donated generously to our Friends Meeting in response to December's Annual Appeal.

2020 was a year like no other for many of us and for our Friends Meeting. We have not met together in person since March because of the covid-19 quarantine. The Sierra Friends Center suffered loss due to the Jones Fire as did several of our Meeting members. For those able, gathering for Meeting for Worship has been possible by using Zoom for which we are grateful. That said, we are keenly aware that many of us are not comfortable with the technology Zoom requires. We are missing many dear Friends and attenders' participation as a result.

Spirit and love bring us together as a Monthly Meeting. Financial support allows our Meeting to take care of fundamental expenses such as paying rent, maintaining the Meeting's webpage, our newsletter, three publication subscriptions¹, committee needs, Reps' travel. Funds also go to the greater Religious Society of Friends including memberships in College Park Quarterly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference.

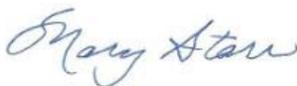
Recognizing that the covid-19 quarantine has disrupted many people's lives and created new financial constraints, our Meeting FY 19-20 budget of \$16,175 was greatly reduced to \$9,147 for FY 20-21 (43% reduction). Forever acting in faith and in hope that the quarantine will end, the goal of this year's Annual Appeal is to restore our budget to a greater level

Your contributions are what make this possible. A contribution of \$25.00 each month on your part allows us to meet the Meeting's budget goal for FY 20-21. A contribution of \$45.00/month would allow us to restore several items that have been greatly reduced or eliminated from this year's budget². We honor and respect the level of generosity you are able to share. Thank you!

Contributions are tax-deductible. For your convenience, it is now possible to make your donation to the Grass Valley Friends Meeting [online](#).³ You may also authorize a regular withdrawal from your bank account or mail your contributions to Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, 15719 American Hill Road, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Committed to listening to the Holy Spirit, Friends are inspired to work in the world by their experiences in Meeting for Worship. Let that fellowship and worshipful silence guide you in deciding your support for the Grass Valley Friends Meeting this year. If you've not given already, your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



Mary Starr, Clerk, Stewardship Committee

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

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

³ This link may also be found live in the GVFM Monthly Newsletter.

PYM MEETING DIRECTORY UPDATE

Dear Meeting Members and Attenders,

Pacific Yearly Meeting, of which our Meeting is a part, is asking Meetings to add their Directory information to the larger PYM Directory in order to facilitate communication among members and attenders and among Meetings and committees. Each member and attender of our Meeting is asked, if they wish, to fill out a form giving their basic contact information. This is voluntary, though the more people who send in their forms, the more useful the PYM Directory will be for all of us. There is one form for adults and a different one for children under the age of 18, to be completed by their parent, grandparent or guardian. These forms are filled out online.

At a recent Meeting for Business of Grass Valley Meeting, we approved joining PYM in this endeavor. I am including the links to the forms below. Please help us by filling out the forms for yourself and your family, if you are willing to take part in this project.

Thank you all so much. Nancy Anderson

[Adult Contact Form](#)

[Under-18 Contact Form](#)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR E. “TED” H. SMITH

Dear Friends and Family of Edward “Ted” Harlan Smith,

Celebrating the life of our friend Ted will be our joyful time of remembrance. Ted experienced our world as a speaker of spiritual truth, champion of the United Nations’ efforts toward peace and equal rights, builder of community, and as a steward of nature.

Please join us on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 200 p.m. on Zoom to participate in Ted's memorial, to be held as a Quaker Meeting for Memorial. As a community who knew Ted, we will gather in silence to remember and celebrate his life. We will come to share our memories, thoughts, and feelings. Friends (or Quakers) believe that there is that of God in everyone. In our Meeting for Memorial we seek to mark that of God that lived in Ted and to affirm those things we now carry with us.

After a period of settling in to the quiet, we will share some of Ted’s favorite songs, led by Mary and Gordon Starr. Chamba Cooke will then introduce the Meeting for Worship. As we sit in expectant silence, you may be moved to share a message. You may be moved to share prayers, poems, anecdotes or a song. When you share, please do so without undue length, being mindful that others may also be moved. Everyone participates equally, whether or not you feel like sharing anything out loud. After each person shares, we allow the silence to enfold us before another person shares.

After worship, a photo video will be presented by Peter O’Rourke, and there will be time for sharing more stories of remembrance.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81467772211>

We look forward to gathering with you at this special time for honoring Ted’s life. Grass Valley Friends Meeting



Dear Friends everywhere,

On January 6, 2021, the United States and the world witnessed an act of insurrection at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Friends General Conference condemns this violence and the attacks on the electoral process, prays for the safety of everyone involved, and calls for nonviolence and de-escalation as the situation continues to unfold.

As Friends, we affirm that **our shared future depends on a peaceful resolution to this crisis.**

Regardless of our political affiliations, we affirm that progress is a community effort and mutual respect is the foundation of all healthy societies. To build mutual respect, we encourage all political leaders to engage in open and truthful dialogue at this time.

During times of political unrest, community members who are Black/Indigenous/People of Color face the greatest risk of violence.

Without question, white supremacy and many of its manifestations played a part in this attack. In 2020, nonviolent protestors of color and their allies were tear-gassed and beaten by law enforcement, while white extremists carrying guns stormed state capitol buildings without the threat of confrontation or arrest by police. As this crisis unfolds, it's important to remember that the Capitol and surrounding areas are staffed by Black/Indigenous/People of Color workers who face a disproportionate risk of violence in this chaotic situation. Advocating for the safety of people who are most vulnerable to harassment and violence in our society while also urging de-escalation on the part of those who might see violence as a tool to enforce their will on others is a reflection of our values as Quakers.

In times of crisis, many people turn to their faith tradition and faith leaders for direction and reassurance.

We are committed to interfaith action to see a de-escalation of this crisis. As Quakers, our faith (for many Friends and members of the broader community) is synonymous with peace, equality, and community. Quakers have marched and advocated for civil rights, the protection of Black lives, environmental preservation, LGBTQ+ rights, and to stop war in all its forms. Because of this history, when tragedy strikes, members of the larger community sometimes seek comfort in Quaker worship and spirituality. Be available to the spiritual needs of these seekers and available for the broader needs of people across this land. This is a time for us to cultivate the best in one another, through our commitment to peace and honoring that of the Divine in each and every person we meet.

The seed of God exists in every human being. Let our actions reflect this. In every word and deed over the coming hours and days, we must all work for nonviolence and to de-escalate the crisis that is currently unfolding in Washington, D.C. Our shared future depends upon it.

In service, **Barry Crossno**, *General Secretary of FGC* **Marvin Barnes**, *Presiding Clerk of FGC*

We have compiled resources and statements from FGC-affiliated Yearly Meetings with this letter on our website. [View the online resource](#)

PYM UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SAVE THE DATE: PacYM Representative Committee 2021**

This year's meeting of PacYM Representative Committee (RepCom) will be unlike anything we have done before. As always, everyone in PacYM is invited to RepCom—you don't need to be your Monthly Meeting's representative and you don't need to be serving the Yearly Meeting in any particular role. New this year is that RepCom will be held virtually on Zoom (like so many things are these days) and the schedule will be very different from previous RepComs. In order to make good use of our time and not over-Zoom ourselves, **we will meet on 2 successive Saturdays: February 27 and March 6**. The times have not been finalized, but we are planning three 90-minute sessions each day: one in the morning and two in the afternoon. We will have substantial breaks between meetings. In addition, **there will be a meeting of Monthly Meeting Representatives on the evening of Friday, February 26** (exact time TBD).

The theme of this summer's Annual Session will be "The Power at Work Within Us: connection with the power of Spirit working within and among us." The theme will be further explained in the *Clerk's Call to Annual Session*, which will be posted and sent out prior to RepCom. In preparation for this summer, any business that committees, officers, or representatives to outside organizations intend to bring to Annual Session must be brought for a first reading to RepCom. **The deadline for reports to RepCom will be Monday, February 8 & proposals for Interest Groups at Annual Session are due by midnight on Sunday, March 7.**

More details will be coming soon, but please save the dates for our meeting and make note of the upcoming deadlines.

- During this period of "social distancing" we invite you to consider the many opportunities for **online worship** [listed at westernfriend.org](http://westernfriend.org). Among these is PYM-sponsored **WEEKLY ONLINE MEETING FOR WORSHIP**, every Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm.
- See the **PYM CALENDAR PAGE** for additional PYM-related **EVENTS**, including *youth and intergenerational events*. Every other month **events for teens** and a **bi-monthly support group for parents** are also now taking place!

QUAKER GENEALOGY

INTRODUCTION: The records of the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, include births, deaths, marriages, migration certificates, and detailed monthly meeting minutes. Many of these records have been indexed or microfilmed. This guide will help genealogists interpret and locate Quaker records at the NEHGS library and some online repositories.

- <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/quaker-guide>

HOW-TO AND OTHER GUIDES AT NEHGS

Our Quaker Ancestors: Finding Them in Quaker Records by Ellen Thomas Berry and David Allen Berry
NEHGS, 5th Floor Stacks E184.F89 B47 1987

"American Quaker Records and Family History," Series 358, by Willard Heiss, in *World Conference on Records: Preserving our Heritage, 12–15 August 1980*, vol. 4.
NEHGS, 1st Floor Rotunda CS2 .W65 1980 v.04

My Ancestors were Quakers: How Can I Find Out More About Them? by Edward H. Milligan and Malcolm J. Thomas
NEHGS, Vault CS432 .Q8 M55 2005

“The Society of Friends (Quakers),” in *Sources for Nonconformist Genealogy and Family History* by D.J. Steel, pp. 601–695 (National Index of Parish Registers, Vol. 2)
NEHGS, 7th Floor Reference CD1068.A2 N3 v.02

This chapter includes a history of the Society of Friends, as well as a detailed description of Quaker records in England.

[Society of Friends \(Quakers\) in the United States \(FamilySearch Wiki\)](#)

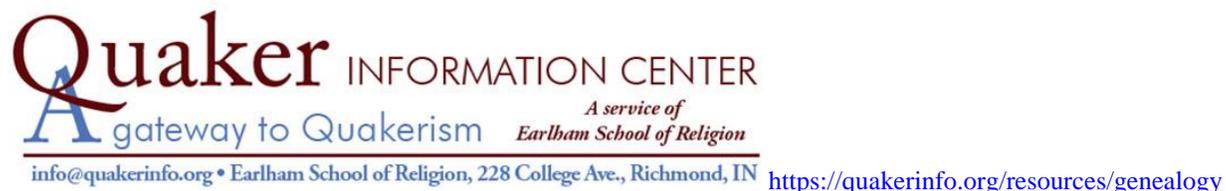
[U.S. Quaker Research \(Society of Friends\)](#)

Clues a person was a Quaker

- Months of the year are recorded as numbers rather than by their names in an ancestors' record.
- [Clues a person was a Quaker](#)
- [Identify their Monthly Meeting](#)
- [Locate the Meeting's records](#)
- Male ancestors do not appear in military records.
- Your ancestors lived in an area where there was a high concentration of Quakers.

To learn more about the Quakers you may want to view the following book:

- *Our Quaker Ancestors: Finding Them in Quaker Records*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987 by Ellen Thomas Berry and David Allen. [FHL Collection](#) Book 973 D27bq [Worldcat entry](#) Free to view at books.google.com.



Genealogical Searches

Unlike some other religious denominations, Friends have not traditionally maintained centralized records of our membership.

However, individual [monthly meetings](#) (congregations) generally kept good records of their members' vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages, changes in membership). It is important that the ancestor you are researching formally joined the meeting. Such records were usually not maintained for non-members, even if they attended Friends worship.

Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contact Information (10-12-20):

Office Holders:

- **Clerk of the Meeting:** Don McCormick (310-597-9469 donmccormick2@gmail.com) and Anita McCormick (310-993-6821, anita@webstop.com)
- **Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Communications Coordinator:** Amy Cook (interim) amyliette@gmail.com
- **Librarian:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net, 530-274-1922
- **Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com
- **Newsletter Distribution:** Pat Phillips 530-913-1338 pephillips1949@gmail.com
- **Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net (530) 274-1922
- **Placer County Worship Group:** Stuart Smith sewsmitharts@yahoo.com 916-663-3539
- **Recorder:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke, amyliette@gmail.com
- **Sierra Friends Center:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson, (530) 265-6533, fostenw@yahoo.com
- **Website Maintenance/Zoom :** Amy Cooke, amyliette@gmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES

- AFSC: Dean Olson
- College Park Quarterly: Gordon Starr
- FASE: Anita McCormick
- FCL-CA: Amanda Wilcox
- FCNL: *Vacant*
- FGC Liaison: *Vacant*
- PYM Observer: *Vacant*
- RSWR: Judy Hamilton
- PYM: Don McCormick
- Quaker Center: Hilary Ellis-Lavigne
- QUNO: Shera Banbury
- Sierra Friends Center: Dean Olson
- InterFaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall

Committees:

STEWARDSHIP: Mary Starr, Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips, Doug Hamm, Fosten Wilson (Treasurer, Ex-officio), Dianne Marshall (Librarian), Shera Banbury, Hailey Wilson

SPIRIT/WITNESS: Gordon Starr, **Judy Hamilton**, Gordon Bishop, Don McCormick, Anita McCormick, Amy Cooke, Dorothy Henderson

WELCOME: Hilary Ellis-Lavigne, Karen Olson, Kathy McCreary, **Amy Cooke**.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: **Karen Olson**, Judy Hamilton, Dorothy Henderson, Gordon Bishop, Don McCormick, Anita McCormick, Doug Hamm

NOMINATING: **Pat Phillips**, Doug Hamm, Karen Olson

Reminder:

This information is updated as of 10/12/2020.

Grass Valley Friends Meeting

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