

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

Email: 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.**

Newsletter, First Month, 2022

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MEETING CALENDAR

First Sunday

- Program to be announced

Second Sunday

- Silent Meeting for Worship **via zoom only**,
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of
Business **via zoom only**

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)
- ✚ **Online Worship**: every Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm

HAPPENING NOW

- January 23, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Come as you are Bible Study* led by Dorothy Henderson

HAPPENING LATER

- February 27, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Discernment in Meeting for Worship* led by Don McCormick
- March 27, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Quakerism in France* led by Amy and Chamba Cooke
- April 24, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Our relationship with the Nisenan* led by Dorothy Henderson
- May 22, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Forgiveness* led by Gordon Starr
- May 22, 2022, InterFaith Walk for Peace and Justice

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 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, 2022

We met on Zoom.

Present: fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Dean Olson, Judy Hamilton, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Reed Hamilton, Dianne Marshall, Don McCormick, Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson, Pat Phillips

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query

Referring to our business meeting as "Meeting for Worship with attention to business", 1) What are we seeking to accomplish? 2) How does saying it this way affect our participation?

- A Friend spoke to the practice of eldering, and holding the Meeting, our clerk, AND the self, as part of participating in Meeting, not a separate practice.
- We are here not just for the Meeting's business, not just our business, but to a greater sense of something we are part of. We make ourselves available for what is unknown.
- To be in the place of non-knowing opens up a profound curiosity.
- The mind of not-knowing is a Buddhist practice. It is liberating to not know, that that can be an accepted and even a celebrated thing. It makes this less an administrative meeting and more of a spiritual practice, or at least an integrated practice.
- Divine order - you might not get what you ordered! That leaves the divine, and then we can discern - is this divine, or not?

Action Items and Seasoning:

- From Twelfth Month: The proposed Rental Agreement will be reevaluated in the first month Business Meeting of 2022: Delayed until second month
- The 12th Month Minutes and Record are to be approved in First Month 2022
Minute 2022.01.01: The 12th Month Minutes and Record were approved with no corrections as appended to these minutes.

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

STEWARDSHIP: **Mary Starr**, Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips, Doug Hamm, Fosten Wilson (Treasurer, Ex-officio) Dianne Marshall (ex officio as Librarian and Newsletter Editor), Hailey Wilson, Reed Hamilton

A spontaneous report was given by members of the committee present. The meetinghouse has been leaking. The committee feels that it is inappropriate to pay full rent in January due to the usability of the building and internet connectivity. The committee will be meeting with a Sierra Friends Center representative about the issues.

SPIRIT & WITNESS: Gordon Starr, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Bishop, Dorothy Henderson, Anita and Don McCormick (ex-officio Co Clerks), **Judy Hamilton**

Judy Hamilton gave the report, attached.

A concern was brought forward regarding giving feedback to the Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision Committee. It was suggested that this be taken up by Spirit and Witness for follow-up.

The request was made to form the ad hoc committee to welcome Coleen Hedglin, the new ED at SFC. It was suggested that the clerks of the committees be the representatives on that committee.

Minute 2022.01.02: The ad hoc committee to welcome Coleen Hedglin was appointed, with Judy Hamilton, Mary Starr, Pat Phillips, Kathy McCreery, and Dorothy Henderson (or their alternates). They will meet to find a time to pay a visit. Judy Hamilton will be the convener.

Because Coleen is preferring a live visit, perhaps she can attend a hybrid meeting. If all goes well, there will be a hybrid meeting next Sunday, 16 January. It was suggested to allow the ad hoc committee to work out these details with her.

It was suggested that we have an in-person meeting next week, regardless of our ability to do a hybrid meeting with Zoom, so that Collen can attend. And, perhaps it is not a good time to try to meet in person due to the Omicron variant of Covid. It was suggested that it is an individual decision to attend. There is not enough information at this time to know how the Meeting for Worship will take place next week. We will let the ad hoc committee on Hybrid Meetings do their work.

NOMINATING: Doug Hamm, Patricia Phillips, Karen Olson

Pat Phillips gave the report.

Two names were brought forward for one-year terms on Welcome Committee:. These names will now season until the next Meeting for Business.

1. Don McCormick
2. Pat Phillips

WELCOME: Karen Olson, **Kathy McCreery**, ex officio Website/Facebook Coordinator (Amy Cooke), ex officio Zoom coordinator (Hailey Wilson and Stuart Smith), ex officio Email Coordinator (Judy Hamilton)

No report.

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

No report.

OFFICER REPORTS

- **TREASURER**
- fosten wilson, treasurer, gave the report, appended.

REPORT ON QUAKER ORGANIZATION (from Spirit and Witness; next month the Welcome Committee will make a report on another Quaker organization)

Dorothy Henderson gave the report on AFSC, including a brief history of the organization and the issues they are working on today. Friends are encouraged to see their website, afsc.org, and the Nobel Peace Prize website, which talks about the award given to the AFSC in 1917.

There is a recent letter published in the Western Friend raising concerns about the AFSC's new strategic plan. Friends are encouraged to see the Western Friend website for the staff letter, as well as rebuttals from the AFSC leadership team. (See page 7, for more details.)

The work of the AFSC was spoken about in the Meeting, and we held the issues of Friends organizations and Quaker process in worship.

SFC REPRESENTATIVE: Pat Phillips gave the report. She reported on the new Executive Director, Coleen Hedglin. The work is continuing on the buildings, and 4000 seedlings have been planted in the burned areas. The garden has been revitalized and the new hoop house is up.

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'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 our Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. Thank you.
- Tithely now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request.
- Interfaith Nevada County will be taking part in the March for Peace and Social Justice on May 22, 2022.

ACTION ITEMS & ITEMS SEASONING

- From Twelfth Month: The proposed Rental Agreement will be reevaluated Business Meeting
- The ad hoc committee to welcome Coleen Hedglin will meet to find a time to pay a visit.
- The ad hoc committee on Hybrid Meetings will meet to test the equipment and discern how Meeting for Worship will be held on Sunday, 16 January.
- Two names were brought forward for the remaining one-year terms on the Welcome Committee. These names will now season until the next Meeting for Business. Don McCormick and Pat Phillips

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. Draft Minutes and Record from 12.2021
2. Rental Agreement with SFC
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Spirit & Witness Report

PLEASE NOTE: On second Sundays Grass Valley Friends will meet via Zoom only – not in person – until technical issues are resolved. This includes Silent Worship & Meeting for Business on second Sundays. Grass Valley Friends will continue with hybrid Sunday Meetings for Worship, including both in-person & via Zoom except for second Sundays of each month. *Changes to this plan will be announced via the Meeting's email tree.*

Treasurer's Quarterly Report 1-8-2022

summary = chaotic, money may help: The contributions received were light for October, then picked up moderately in November & December. One problem is, the US mail! Donations are down for December, **but** one substantial check, postmarked 12-6-2021 arrived yesterday!??? Another, written in late December, has yet to arrive. *I simply do not have complete information about our first quarter income yet.*

Expenses are also erratic. We paid rent to Sierra Friends Center (SFC) for November & December. However, *paying for January is being discussed with SFC.* I, and the Stewardship Committee, are not comfortable paying rent in full since (unexpectedly) the Meeting House is still in construction & the electronics to include our people on Zoom has yet to work well.

If you will permit, I will present a traditional Treasurer's Report next month for our February Business Meeting. I do not yet have the normal "Fund Balances" nor the "Actual Spending vs Budget" reports. Between the extended power outage & my slow return to Treasurer business, the Meeting's computer has not been updated.

Thank you all for your help and understanding.
Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, Grass Valley Friends Meeting

Do consider supporting Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Click on button below.

FRIENDS, while we experience mail delivery challenges, please use this "Give" button.



Note: 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 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.

Upcoming GVFM Spiritual Life Programs – 2022

January 23, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Come as you are Bible Study* led by Dorothy Henderson

February 27, 2022, 11:15a.m.: *Discernment in Meeting for Worship* led by Don McCormick

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Programs for additional months to follow.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.
Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew, 6:34

ADVICES and QUERIES: FIRST MONTH - 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?



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

Recent Developments at AFSC

Below you will find several articles about recent developments within the American Friends Service Committee as they appeared in *Western Friend*. Links to read each complete article are included. These articles are being provided for your personal consideration. Grass Valley Friends Meeting encourages you to draw your own conclusions.

[AFSC Is at a Perilous Crossroads](#)

Publication date: 2021

Library Item Author(s): [Lucy Duncan](#), [Arnie Alpert](#), [Beverly Ward](#), [Jana Schroeder](#), [Kathy Hersh](#), [Kathy Hyzy](#)

December 18, 2021

We write as concerned Quakers and friends of Friends about a dramatic re-engineering of the organizational structure of AFSC proposed by management and Board leadership that will alter the Quaker character of the organization. Despite widespread dissent among staff and governance members, management has continued

to push this plan forward. We write this public article because we love AFSC and feel the vocal uneasiness expressed has not been heard inside the organization. We call on other Quakers to call for a cessation of the planned restructure, an external evaluation of the Senior Leadership Team and a searching, well facilitated internal conversation about how this process proceeded so far despite widespread opposition and how the organization can heal and move forward collectively, honoring all voices especially those most impacted by the issues upon which AFSC focuses. [MORE](#)

[**AFSC at a Crossroads – Background Documents**](#)

The People's AFSC - Survey Results Executive Summary

Introduction

The People's AFSC, a volunteer collective of AFSC staff and governance members, sent out a survey in English, Spanish and Bahasa on April 23; the available translations were expanded shortly after to include Arabic, Khmer, Burmese, and French. Survey responses were collected until 9am EST on May 10, 2021. The People's AFSC developed this survey to better understand how AFSC staff and governance members feel about the current AFSC restructuring process and its implementation by the Leadership Team. Also included in the survey were questions about respondents' current morale and opinions about the vision and requests presented by the People's AFSC.

The survey received 149 responses. Below you will find:

- An executive summary of the survey findings
- Highlighted responses
- The full survey responses, anonymized (see attached PDF)

[MORE](#)

[**AFSC Leadership Responds to “Perilous Crossroads” Letter**](#)

Publication date: 2022 Library Item Author(s):

AFSC Leadership Team

January 7, 2022

To the editors:



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

We are writing in response to the recent article published by Western Friend on Friday, December 18, which outlined concerns about the American Friends Service Committee's restructuring process. [See: <https://westernfriend.org/media/afsc-perilous-crossroads>]

We believe that all members of the AFSC community are motivated by deep love for and commitment to AFSC and the communities with whom we work. That said, there are many diverse voices to attend to within the AFSC community. The fundamental question is about how best to organize ourselves to

advance our recently established strategic goals—and a passionate discussion is alive at AFSC on just those issues. Disagreements are to be expected, and good faith dialogue on the substance is welcome.

We want to take this opportunity to set the record straight on some of the issues raised in the article and to encourage continued dialogue on how AFSC can participate in building a more just and peaceful world.

[MORE](#)

Local Friends Published in the Friends Journal

Every year, *Friends Journal*, lists their [5 most-read online articles](#). This year, Don McCormick’s article [“The Mystical Experience”](#) was the second most-read article of 2021.

What Makes a Quaker Hero? By Stuart E.W. Smith

January 1, 2022

Powering Up the Next Generation: In comic books, heroes have gripping, adventurous origin stories: exposure to some radical experiment; strange rays from outer space; the loss of a loved one, spurring our would-be hero into action. A *nom de guerre* is assumed; a costume is donned; and a hero is born.

Quakers don’t like the term. It smacks of hubris, of pulp fiction, of self-righteousness. Popular culture is full of clichés about heroes. Heroes are born, not made. When the time is right, a hero will emerge. Everyone is the hero in their own story. Harper Lee’s Atticus Finch said that courage is shown when someone gets up when he’s knocked down and fights for what’s right, even if he knows he’s licked before he ever starts.

But we, as Quakers, know heroism in a particular way. [MORE](#)

A Film about George Lakey



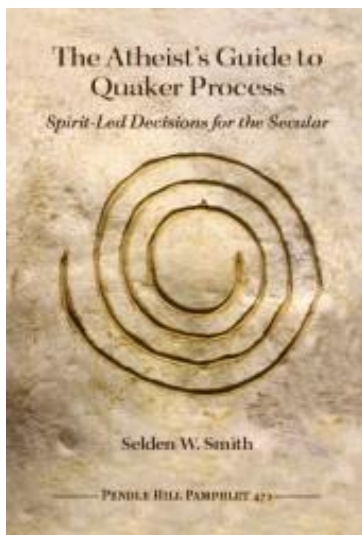
[George Lakey documentary film trailer](#)



Pendle Hill Pamphlet #472 By Selden W. Smith
(December 2021)

Synopsis

Can the nontheist participate fully in the religiously rooted Quaker “sense of the meeting” process? This essay offers a practical guide for those engaged with Quaker-led institutions who are not Quaker themselves, and who may not hold any religious beliefs at all. Whether you are an atheist, agnostic, skeptic, or simply never gave it much thought, this essay describes how, by relying on a handful of noble yet entirely human qualities, the benefits of this time-tested decision-making model can be available to nonbelievers without hypocrisy or pretense. A brief list of recommended readings is included.



Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contact Information (7-1-21)

Office Holders:

OFFICERS:

- **Clerk of the Meeting:** Co-Clerks – Dean and Karen Olson (530) 270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com
- **Communication/Email Coordinator:** Judy Hamilton judywestonhamilton@gmail.com
- **Directory Coordinator:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Librarian & Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net, 530-274-1922
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- **Newsletter Distribution:** Pat Phillips 530-913-1338 pPhillips1949@gmail.com
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- **Recorder:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke, amylisette@gmail.com
- **Sierra Friends Center:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson, (530) 265-6533, fostenw@yahoo.com
- **Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Amy Cooke amylisette@gmail.com
- **Zoom Coordinators:** Hailey Wilson seahorseleaf@protonmail.com, Stuart Smith sewsmitharts@yahoo.com

REPRESENTATIVES:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. AFSC: | 5. FCLCA: | 9. QUNO: Shera Banbury |
| 2. College Park
Quarterly: | 6. FGC Liaison: | 10. Right Sharing of World Resources: Judy
Hamilton |
| 3. FASE: | 7. PYM: Don
McCormick | 11. Sierra Friends Center: Pat Phillips |
| 4. FCNL: | 8. Quaker Center: | 12. Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall |

COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

Stewardship: **Mary Starr**, Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips, Doug Hamm, Fosten Wilson (Treasurer, Ex-officio) Dianne Marshall (ex officio as Librarian and Newsletter Editor), Hailey Wilson

Spirit/Witness: **Judy Hamilton**, Gordon Starr, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Bishop, Dorothy Henderson, Anita and Don McCormick (ex-officio Co Clerks),

Welcome: **Kathy McCreery**, Karen Olson, ex officio Website/Facebook Coordinator (Amy Cooke), ex officio Zoom coordinator (Hailey Wilson and Stuart Smith), ex officio Email Coordinator (Judy Hamilton)

Children's Program: **Dorothy Henderson**, Karen Olson, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Bishop, Anita McCormick, Doug Hamm, Don McCormick

Grass Valley Friends Meeting



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