



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](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 (zoom)**

**Newsletter, Second 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
- ✚ 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)

## HAPPENING NOW

- 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 and the Children's Education Committee

## HAPPENING LATER

- Sunday, March 28, 2021 – Spiritual Life Program: Nonviolent Communication- Amy Cooke
- Sunday, April 25, 2021- Spiritual Life Program: Bible study led by Dorothy Henderson
- July 23 to 28, 2021 - Pacific Yearly Meeting zoom Annual Session (See page 6 for more)
- 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, February 14, 2021

We met virtually.

**Present:** Gordon Starr, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson, Dianne Marshall, Judy Hamilton, Kathy McCreery, Reed Hamilton, Fosten Wilson, Anita McCormick (co-clerk), Don McCormick (co-clerk), Crystal Scanlon.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

### CLERK'S REMARKS

- The purpose of our meetings for business is to seek the Spirit's will for us as a community. We are here to worship and not to get through an agenda.
- If you want to suggest that we take some time for worship or take more time between speakers, please say, "Clerk, can we have some time for silence" or use the Time Out sign.
- Being a clerk is a role assigned to one or two people, but clerking is a bunch of behaviors that we all can engage in, and I hope we all will.
- 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.

**QUERY:** The co-clerk noted that the Nisenan, the indigenous people of the Sierra foothill region where Grass Valley is located, start each meeting with a prayer to the ancestors, asking that we make them proud. How can our meeting today be in line with the practices of our Quaker ancestors? Our co-clerk remarked that if she treated the meeting for business as a meeting for worship that this would make our ancestors proud. Others spoke to:

- Continual revelation ~ Our Quaker ancestors would be happy that we are participating in practices that honor indigenous people.
- A Friend spoke to the love that lets everything drop away except for God's love. If we can do that in our meeting for business, that is the way - we can draw on that deep well.
- "All My Relations" is the ending of an indigenous prayer that echoes our commitment to seeing that of God in all things.

### **LAST MONTH'S ACTION ITEMS**

- Approved Minute 01-2021-2 will not be implemented until after the letter to our bank involving changing authorized signatures is presented at this month's Meeting for Business. The letter was drafted by our Treasurer, was read in Meeting for Business and was accepted by the gathering.
- January 2021 Minutes: The minutes were published in the January newsletter. and approved.

**Minute 2021.02.01:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the minutes from the business meeting in January 2021 as published in the newsletter.

### **REPRESENTATIVE and OFFICER REPORTS**

Right Sharing of World Resources: Judy Hamilton wrote an article for the newsletter on Right Sharing of World Resources.

Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall & Don McCormick. Dianne reported that the group will meet this upcoming week. There are discussions about the International Interfaith March for Peace and Justice. Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital also invited INC members to receive their COVID vaccine so that they could visit with patients. Don reported that a presentation on clearness committees took place last month, with a reading by Parker Palmer and an experiential activity. It was very well received.

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

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

Dorothy read the report, attached.

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

Judy read the report, attached.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Mary Starr, Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips, Doug Hamm, Fosten Wilson (Treasurer, Ex-officio), Dianne Marshal (Librarian), Hayley Wilson

Gordon Starr read the report, attached.

There was some discussion about the acknowledgement for the Nisenan, which is planned for a sign at the bottom of Woolman Lane.

It was clarified that the Meeting will not be paying rent to Sierra Friends Center while our property is being stored as the Meetinghouse is renovated. We did pay the costs related to the rental of the storage container. It was noted that we are not in line with the rental agreement that was signed last year. As a thirty-day document, that is not an issue with breaking a lease. It was suggested that we clarify things in writing with Sierra Friends Center. There is a written reference in an email from Marty. There are several factors that will possibly impact our tenancy there. It was additionally noted that we are in discernment about where the Meeting might locate post-Covid-19.

**WELCOME:** Amy Cooke, Don McCormick, Kathy McCreery.

Amy read the report, attached.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Google Drive: We have set up a Google Drive for all the Meeting's files. Please let Don or Amy know now 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 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](#).
- Listening session for the State of the Meeting report, third Sunday of February, 2, 2021 after Meeting for Worship.
- It's 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.
- The PacYM Annual Gathering will take place July 23-28, 2021 on Zoom. Stay tuned for more information.

## **FEEDBACK**

- Please let the co-clerks know how Meeting for Business is going! Gratitude was expressed for the co-clerks.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

## **READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES**

Note: 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 [amyliette@gmail.com](mailto:amyliette@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. **Spirit and Witness committee**
2. **Stewardship Committee**
3. **Welcome Committee**
4. **Children's Program**

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**“Queries** is the Friends practice of examining our souls and seeking clarity. These questions and exercises help to give time to seek truth about ourselves and our spiritual condition and to tap into Divine insight. Queries guide us in listening for God’s voice in our lives. They are not intended to provide mystical experiences of God, though that may occur.” J. Brent Bill, Holy Silence; the Gift of Quaker Spirituality

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**Second Month Queries: Spiritual Life and Practices**

- Do I live in thankful awareness of God’s constant presence in my life?
- Am I sensitive and obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?
- When do I take time for contemplation and spiritual refreshment?
- What steps am I taking to center my life and to stay open to continuing revelation?
- *Do we share our spiritual lives with others in the Meeting, seeking to know one another in that which is eternal?*

*Does the Meeting provide religious education including study of the Bible and Friends’ history and practices?*

**Please consider supporting Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Click on the Give button below.**



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

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Being loved deeply by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you

courage.

Lao Tzu

## **Clerk's Call to Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session July 23 to 28, 2021**

Love and Justice: Heeding the Spirit's Power Within and Among Us

*“God, who made all, pours out his spirit upon all [people] in the world, in the days of his new covenant, yea, upon blacks and whites, Moors, and Turks, and Indians, Christians, Jews, and Gentiles, that all with the spirit of God, might know God and the things of God, and serve and worship him in his spirit and truth.”*

George Fox

*“Here we have a prospect of one common interest from which our own is inseparable, that to turn all the treasure we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives.”*

John Woolman, “A Plea for the Poor”

As this is being written, we are holding a deep concern for the epidemic of racism—systemic and overt white supremacy in our country. The COVID 19 epidemic and global climate crisis have also greatly impacted Friends this year and many in our community have experienced loss, uncertainty and ongoing grief. And yet we know that these affect Friends in our Yearly Meeting in markedly different ways. Both COVID 19 and the climate crisis disproportionately affect Friends in the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We are called to move toward love and justice.

The virtual Annual Session 2021 of Pacific Yearly Meeting will be held July 23 to 28. Our keynote speakers are **Avotcja Jiltonilro**, a poet, storyteller and multi-instrumentalist from Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting and **Gabriela Portillo Alvarado**, a second-year college student at the University of Pennsylvania and a Young Adult Friend from Sacramento Friends Meeting. These two women will share their poetry and will engage in a dialogue on the theme.

Together we will take the time to connect with the Power of the Spirit within us. The indwelling Spirit connects us to one another and to all of creation.

This interconnectedness requires us to reevaluate how we relate to one another. The dominant culture within our country and our Religious Society of Friends of the Truth has centered whiteness for too long. What acts of love and justice are necessary for us to re-center our Society to a place of justice, of love, for all? How do we begin to move from entitlement to humbly giving our energy to a different way of being? How do we grow our abilities to cherish one another and develop a culture of dignity within our Yearly Meeting and beyond? Ongoing learning, truth telling, and willingness to repair are needed to break the bonds of racism. Each of us can see a portion of Light, but we need all of us to see the way forward, guided by Spirit.

You are invited to the Pay as Led online Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting July 23 to 28, 2021 from wherever you are tending your heart. When registration is open you will be able to choose which activities are right for you. Together at Annual Session we will seek the guidance of the Divine Spirit in worship, in learning, and in rejoicing together. **Sandy Kewman**, Presiding Clerk

## **Right Sharing of World Resources** Thanks in advance, **Judy Hamilton**



**I am** your representative for Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR). This non-profit Quaker organization seeks to provide resources to marginalized women in India, Sierra Leone, and Kenya to empower their decisions to improve their lives and the quality of life for their communities. In most cases this takes the form of providing a grant am or loan to establish a business or service to generate income.

loans are paid back as the enterprise brings in money and the repaid funds are then lent to other groups or organizations in the community. For example, in Sierra Leone, many villages have been decimated by the Ebola virus and a two-year quarantine (!), leaving numerous widows and orphans with no means of support. RSWR gave a grant to one village's association which enabled a group of women to start a business making and selling soap. This has given the families more food security and enabled the women to send their children to school. In India, there are many women and men who work as indentured servant in brick-making operations. RSWR has worked with this population to buy out their terms of service and help them start up their own businesses.

The stamp program is the primary means by which GVFM contributes to this organization, although any donations are appreciated (contact <https://www.rswr.org/share-your-abundance>). Our long-time member Bob Barnes was a member of the RSWR board for a time and brought the stamp program to our Meeting. When he passed, I took it over as a tribute to Bob and all the good work he had done through his life.

The stamp program is run three or four “stamp savvy” folks in the main office of RSWR who sort and sell stamps to collectors all over the world. In 2019, the program bought in \$2,400. The program used to take only U.S. stamps but now accepts foreign stamps, new stamps, and stamps from collections. For stamp collections I have the following instructions.

Sending albums or album pages can be expensive and because there are only a few stamps per page, it's better to remove the stamps if they are mounted on pages. Cutting around each stamp is possible but is complicated by the location of stamps on the back of each page. If the stamps are mounted on pages with hinges just pull the stamps off the page. The hinge will either stay on the stamp or stay on the page. Either way, send the stamps!! If the pages are joined by cellophane tape and the tape covers a portion of stamps near the hinge it will cause discoloration of those stamps, making them unusable.

If you are saving stamps from letters you receive, just cut around them leaving a 1/8-to-1/4-inch border. These can be brought to the Meeting once we are finally there in person. Right now, feel free to mail them to me 13310 Nannas Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949 or call me at 277-8818 and I might be able to pick them up.

**Help create a history of John Woolman School** by Paul S. Jolly



## History of John Woolman School

1963-2016

Sixty years ago, a group of Quaker and like-minded families came together with the dream of creating a Friends residential high school on the West Coast and purchased a 300-acre ranch in the Sierra foothills. From 1963 until 2016, John Woolman School offered students academic instruction in the Quaker tradition of peace, justice, simplicity, cooperation, and an amazing experience of life close to nature.

Now, a group of alumni and friends of the school are joining to capture the stories of this unique experience, and the doors it opened to lifetimes of service, creativity, and social change.

The book will be written by Cathy Lenox, a Woolman alum from the early 70s and a professional writer, based interviews with alumni and former staff. She will be assisted by Lisa Frankel, a long-time neighbor of Woolman who has helped the school in various capacities. Both the four-year school and the Woolman Semester will be included.

The first step is to ensure that we have enough funds to see the project to completion. We have launched a Kickstarter.com campaign to generate the funds, with a goal of \$24,000. As of February 12, 30 sponsors have pledged \$4,600. If do not reach the goal by April 1, Kickstarter will return the funds to the sponsors.

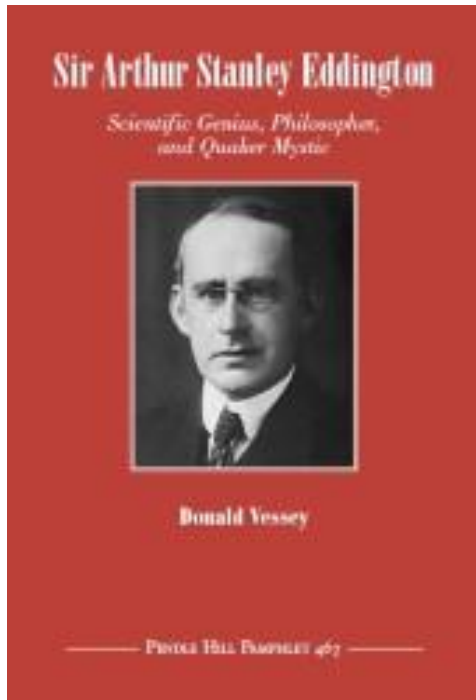
Although the project is independent of the Sierra Friends Center, all proceeds after the book's expenses will be donated to SFC.

I got involved because my junior and senior years at Woolman, '77 and '78, helped me come out of my shell, gave deep roots to my Quakerism, solidified my life as a poet, gave me a lifetimes worth of dreams about manzanita forests and the Yuba River, and made me comfortable with cooking in a community kitchen. If you want to join me in getting the amazing story of John Woolman School into print, please



join me as a sponsor at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/johnwoolman/history-of-john-woolman-school>. If you have questions (or would like to contribute through a different channel) please contact me at [paulsjolly@gmail.com](mailto:paulsjolly@gmail.com).

*This message is authorized by CPQM in light of Sierra Friends Center's relationship with the Quarter.*



## Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington: Scientific Genius, Philosopher, and Quaker Mystic

By Donald Vessey

Pendle Hill Pamphlet #467 (February 2021)

### *Synopsis*

Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, astronomer, physicist, and mathematician, was a major scientific mind of the twentieth century. He was also a Quaker whose faith and convictions shaped his scientific work. During World War I, refusing to demonize Germany and German science, Eddington remained connected to the work Einstein was doing on relativity and gravity. In 1919, the photographic plates he made of a total solar eclipse provided proof for Einstein's theory of relativity. Don Vessey provides an account of Eddington's life, thought, and of his faith as a member of Cambridge Jesus Lane Meeting.

## **Looking for God** by Bonnie Zimmer

I looked for God in loving touch a child's need but deadened eyes and sunken cheeks found  
Only pain and sorrow oozing evil with angry words and heavy hand I turned my eyes away.  
Not here. Maybe nowhere.

I looked for God in healing words  
The gentle touch and voice of one who cared  
Still the child's need but now a hint of Wholeness disguised beneath remembered terror Maybe.  
Maybe somewhere near.

I looked for god in beauty found her there in the yellow curl of spring daffodil. rushing water over rocks  
Delicate bloom unfurled Majestic mountain. Death.



She whispers now "but there is more" Content,  
I looked no more, but found then That god was also in a kind word  
A gentle thought, the glance exchanged by lovers across a crowded  
room

She whispers once again "there is still more"  
I found at last that god was also in the darkness before the dawn  
Even the raucous cacophony - October's last flaming hurrah  
The pregnant depth of rich loam waiting to nourish far-flung seeds  
Was in the gush of blood and water and the child's first outraged  
cry

Even in that stillness was the doubt of soul's deep despair I  
wallowed there, unsure

No longer knowing what to think to see to be and then the familiar whisper "Wait there is still more"  
Even the angry word. And god sprang into the minutiae of common ordinary life.

The cracked bowl

The blighted corn, the skinned knee.

I was content, rested then on sure knowledge that I had found a center.

But then again the whisper. "There is still more."

Is this then a test or only random chance?

I stumble, fall deep into depth of doubt.

Pain. Death. Loss. A hundred tiny losses. Every day.

Is this too where to find god?

How can it be?

I want god in the burning beauty

In the tender love, not in this messy business of dying.

Then I discover how sweet is the taste of summer when

It may be the last.

How wondrous to be acutely aware of every moment.

How free to know that now is when I must do

Only what is most important, must shrug away

The superfluous the dross the unneeded

Here that I plunge into the fire

Unknown depths

Stillness gathers

Settles in my belly

It is here that I find god.

Here that her voice comes once again:

"Did I not say that there was more?"

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

### Office Holders:

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