

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  
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 (zoom)**  
To receive the zoom link, [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com).

Newsletter, Eleventh Month, 2021

Calendar.....	pg. 1	Meeting House News.....	pg. 7
Glossary.....	pg. 2	Friends Speak.....	pg. 8
Minutes & Record.....	pg. 2	SFC Tree Planting.....	pg. 9
Advices & Queries, 11 <sup>th</sup> Month.....	pg. 5	Singing with Lucretia Mott.....	pg. 10
GVFM Facebook Page.....	pg. 6	Quakers & Thanksgiving.....	pg. 10
GIVE Button.....	pg. 6	GVFM Contacts & Committees.....	pg. 11
Earth Quaker Action Team.....	pg. 7		

**MEETING CALENDAR**

*First Sunday*

- Program to be announced

*Second Sunday*

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

**HAPPENING NOW**

- November 13, 2021, 11:15a.m. - *Living with Fire: A Restoration Workshop*
- November 28, 2021, 11:15a.m. – *Glasgow Conference on Climate Change* led by Amy Cooke

## HAPPENING LATER

- December 26, 2021, 11:15a.m. – *Birthing the Christ Within* led by Gordon Starr
- January 23, 2022, 11:15a.m. – Our relationship with the Nisenan led by Dorothy Henderson
- May 22, 2022, InterFaith Walk for Peace and Justice

## 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 – NOVEMBER 13, 2021

Present: Gordon Starr, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson, fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Reed Hamilton, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson (co-clerk), Karen Olson (co-clerk) Dianne Marshall, Heather Reed.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

### Clerks' Remarks and Query

We are meeting in worship on the occasion for business - what does that tell us about what we are doing? What do you hear when it is phrased this way?

- We are not doing “business as usual” - we are listening more, not getting our opinion out, but listening to what is underneath
- The song, Teach me to Stop and Listen, with modification of the last sentence - we do not end the silence, we carry it with us. Silence helps guide us - We carry a deep silence within us and then come together to do business. We carry with us the sense of the seed as we enter into business - we do not leave the place we touch when we are in worship.
- When we act in an ordinary way we do not always make room for the still small voice.
- When we make decisions we come to it with the Light in our hearts, we hold each other in loving kindness.
- We engage in corporate discernment, with the Beloved Community, seeking love and truth.
- Worship and our search for truth on the occasion of business.
- From the mindfulness teacher program - “background practice” sheds a useful light - there may be something we are doing in the foreground, but in the background there is a spiritual practice. That describes Meeting for Business as well.

### Action Items and Seasoning:

**From Tenth Month:** The ad hoc Hybrid Committee Meeting will be working on the issues raised in this meeting to help us gain clarity on the rental agreement, children's program, Covid requirements, storage, and the timing to empty the storage container.

**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

Gordon Starr gave the report, appended.

**Minute 2021.11.01:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) approves the following changes to the authorized signatures on our checking account: Add Mary Starr, Dean Olson, and Karen Davidson as authorized signatures. Remove Chamba Cooke & Don Kewman as authorized signatures. Continue Fosten Wilson as an authorized signature.

**Minute 2021.11.02:** The liability insurance required by Sierra Friends Center will cost \$691 per year, \$91 more than the budgeted amount of \$600. Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the increase in cost.

**Minute 2021.11.03:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves paying half rent (\$275.50) to Sierra Friends Center for November and full rent (\$575) beginning in December.

Hybrid meeting equipment costs: See Spirit and Witness report, below.

The Rental Agreement with Sierra Friends Center will be brought back to Meeting for Business for review in the 12th month meeting.

**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, appended.

**Minute 2021.11.04:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the expenditures to set up our hybrid meetings, up to \$300.

**Minute 2021.11.05:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting requires all those attending Meetings in person to be vaccinated, sit three feet apart (except for family groups) and that all should wear masks except when giving ministry.

When will we be ready to advertise that we will be holding hybrid meetings in the meetinghouse? We do not seem ready for that yet. How can the Children's Program be included if they are on Zoom? Can we allow this to emerge slowly? A Friend expressed a desire that we wait until we all feel ready and stable when we move forward. How can we continue the trial hybrid meetings? Can Spirit and Witness, Stewardship, and Children's Program continue to meet and discern our preparedness? Could Children's Program meet in person elsewhere (e.g., in a private home)? Can we do trial hybrid meetings on the Sundays left in this month?

Grass Valley Friends Meeting will hold trial hybrid meetings on the remaining Sundays in the 11th month 2021, with the hope that we will be able to hold full hybrid meetings in the 12th month.

Contact the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Hybrid Meetings with any questions: Judy Hamilton, Reed Hamilton, Gordon Starr, or Dianne Marshall.

First Day School will be on Zoom until further notice.

**Organization of the Month: QUNO** (Quaker United Nations Organization)

QUNO staff work with people in the UN, multilateral organisations, government delegations, and non-governmental organisations, to achieve changes in international standards and practice. Quakers are known for speaking out against injustice and war - issues that are incompatible with our vision of a world in which peace and justice prevail. Their work is rooted in the Quaker testimonies of peace, truth, justice, equality, and simplicity. We understand peace as more than the absence of war and violence, recognizing the need to look for what seeds of war there may be in all our social, political, and economic relationships.

QUNO maintains houses in Geneva and New York to serve as QUNO offices and meeting places close to the UN. For nearly fifty years, Quaker Houses have provided a place where UN diplomats, staff, and nongovernmental partners can work on difficult issues in a quiet, off-the-record atmosphere out of the public eye. In addition to providing space for informal luncheons with diplomats and UN staff, Quaker Houses are a centre for seminars, workshops, committee meetings, and Quaker hospitality. Friends and Friends' organizations make use of Quaker House facilities as they learn about and participate in UN activities.

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Shera Banbury can be contacted for further information on QUNO.

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

No report.

We recommend that Nominating look at increasing the number of people serving on the Welcome Committee.

**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. We recommend that Welcome Committee look at what would be needed to notify people about the requirements for attending meetings in person, with a sign on the door.

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

No report.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

- No reports.

**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](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.

- Tithely now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request.
- Reed Hamilton announced that George Lakey, who gave a workshop in Grass Valley in 2019 and is a member of the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), along with EQAT, is planning an action addressing Vanguard. Vanguard investments are heavily involved in coal. They are rated “F” in their green rating for fossil fuels. The campaign will include writing letters, removing funds from Vanguard, and public actions. If you are interested in pursuing this further, please contact Reed.
- Sierra Friends Center is planting over 4000 trees. The public is invited to take part over the first two weekends of December. There will be training and all tools are provided.
- Interfaith Nevada County will be taking part in the March for Peace and Social Justice on May 22, 2022.

### **ACTION ITEMS & ITEMS SEASONING**

- The Rental Agreement with Sierra Friends Center will be brought back to Meeting for Business for review in the 12th month meeting.

### **FEEDBACK**

How did you experience this meeting for worship on the occasion of business?

- The eldering was very helpful
- The moment of silence with gratitude brought us back to that place of worship after the discernment around holding hybrid meetings
- Appreciated the clerking - it would be wonderful to see Karen in the frame of the Zoom camera!

### **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 Dianne Marshall by Tuesday at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Amy Cooke, recording clerk

### APPENDICES:

1. Stewardship
2. Spirit and Witness
3. Hybrid Meeting Committee report

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### **GVFM Facebook Page**

- 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: <https://www.facebook.com/GrassValleyFriendsMeeting>

## ADVICES and QUERIES: ELEVENTH Month

In the words of William Penn, “*True godliness don’t draw men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.*” Elsewhere he commented: “*It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess.*”

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God’s purposes and build a just social order. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God’s law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience’s sake.

What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world?

Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?

*How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?*

*Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting?*

*How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?*

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**Please consider supporting Grass Valley Friends Meeting!**

**Click on the Give button below.**



***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](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.

**EARTH QUAKER ACTION  
TEAM**  
<https://www.eqat.org/about>



Share at Business Meeting  
by Friend Reed Hamilton

### Our Mission

Earth Quaker Action Team, EQAT (pronounced "equate"), is a grassroots, nonviolent action group including Quakers and people of diverse beliefs, who join with millions of people around the world fighting for a just and sustainable economy.

### The Challenge

Climate change is already causing deadly droughts, floods, and other extreme weather. If we do not take immediate action, the results could be catastrophic. At the same time, income inequality is reaching historic heights. Working class communities and communities of color are facing staggering levels of unemployment as businesses and the wealthy profit. We believe that there are better ways of doing business that reduce climate change and produce good jobs.

### Our Approach

EQAT's actions nonviolently confront the people who benefit from the current energy system, boldly challenging them to turn away from fossil fuels. EQAT uses nonviolent direct action because it works. Direct action has been crucial to the success of every major social movement over the last century. Direct action allows us to boldly challenge power and highlight injustice. As Dr. Martin Luther King elaborates in Letter From a Birmingham Jail, "nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue."

## MEETING HOUSE NEWS

Covid requirements – Based on county requirements, we thought, when meeting, we should ask that all attending should be vaccinated, sit three feet apart, except for family groups, and that all should wear masks except when giving ministry. A central microphone seemed like the best solution so folks on Zoom could see and hear ministry being given. Singing presents a challenge but we saw no way except to wear masks. We do not feel that we can offer refreshments at this time. Cleaning after the meeting would include wiping down all surfaces used including chair arms, door knobs, bathroom and kitchen. Sanitizing is not required. All this, again, will be based on County requirements.

**The Meeting House is now shoe free and we will need an area with a bench to take off and put on shoes.**  
In later discussion, it was agreed that SFC would provide booties for shoe coverings





## FRIENDS SPEAK

- **“Seeing the Inner Light at Ananda Village” by Don McCormick:** *Bless a temple? How do I do that? Do we even do blessings?* I asked myself these questions after receiving an email requesting participation in the blessing of a new Temple of Light in an interfaith ceremony at the nearby rural Ananda community. The language threw me. How does a Quaker bless something? I’ve never heard of that. What do I do? [Read more.](#)
- **“Visions of a Strong Quaker Future” by Johanna Jackson:**

How Do We Build a Religious Society That’s Creative, Relevant, and Thriving in 30 Years?

As Friends, we are called to be imaginative and brave in envisioning the future. Don McCormick (*FJ* Feb. 2018) asked us: “Why is there no vision for the future of Quakerism?” He offered several starting points. Ann Jerome wrote “Selling Out to Niceness” (*FJ* Sept. 2019) and described our urgent need for renewal. She called us to step into our witness in the world.

Cai Quirk and Alison Kirkegaard (*FJ* Feb. 2021) then asked us: “What could happen if we modern Friends embrace the heat of the transformative fire amongst us today?” They challenged us to welcome the heat of that fire. As Michael Sperger (*FJ* Aug. 2021) noted, “We seem convinced as a group that Quakerism is doomed to fade away.” However, “in every moment, the future contains a range of possible outcomes.”

We are at a crossroads. It is time to gather our creative power, admit the truth, and reinvent ourselves. We have the energy and ability to be thriving in 30 years. We need to form a collaborative vision and work intentionally toward our goal. [Read more.](#)

- **Quaker Speak: Spiritual Autobiography**

QuakerSpeak is a YouTube series that is put out by the national Quaker organization.

Lacking catechism or creed, Quakers have always relied upon Friends’ spiritual autobiographies to provide dynamic examples of our faith, from George Fox to John Woolman and beyond. “If you think about it,” says Don McCormick, “some of the most influential books in the history of Quakerism were spiritual autobiographies.”

Don recently taught a course on writing spiritual autobiography at his meeting, and made some important discoveries about himself in the process. “I began to realize that the spirituality in my life also has to do with the quality of my relationships,” he explains. “There was more spirituality infused in my life than I had realized... And I am just loving revisiting that and thinking about it and doing it.”

[View Youtube Video.](#)

- **The complex futures of blended meetings for worship by Rhianna Grant**

Posted on [October 16, 2021](#) | [10 comments](#)

Is your Quaker community struggling with decisions about online worship, in-person worship, and how and when and whether to combine them? If not, great. But if your community is finding this difficult, it might help to know that you’re not alone. In this blog post, I want to share some things I’m hearing from Quakers in meetings around Britain, and pose some questions which I think need further exploration. Please share your own experiences in the comments – there are clearly a wide variety of situations and it’s beneficial for all of us to hear from as many as possible. So far, I’ve heard... [\(more\)](#)



Never before probably  
has the need for  
interfaith  
commitment been  
nearly as great as it is  
at this very moment.

Walter Cronkite

## **SIERRA FRIENDS CENTER COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING**

*Volunteer and help us with a reforestation project at the Sierra Friends Center campus!*

On August 20, 2020, the lightning-started Jones Fire raged across Woolman's campus and decimated the forest at Mel's Pond. Quickly, a tree salvage operation occurred to recover the marketable timber, but it left a burn scar of about 75 acres on this hillside. A deep layer of mulch has covered this site for a year, helping build the health of the forest floor. Help us restore this burned to its majestic state once again.



Our goal is to plant 4,000 seedlings within 10 days: Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Giant Sequoia in a patchwork of small groves.

When: 10 am - 4 pm

- Dec.4-5 (Sat-Sun) Community Volunteers
- Dec. 6-10 (Weekdays) School Groups
- Dec, 11-12 (Sat-Sun) Community Volunteers



Tree planting days will be led by forest science and land management experts. We will learn from them about fire ecology in our region and silva-culture reforestation methods.

- Sierra Streams Institute
- Bear Yuba Land Trust
- Under the Trees: Kevin Whitlock
- Forest Silviculturist: Kristen Winford

No experience necessary. Must be able to walk on uneven ground and dig small holes with a spade for seedlings.

### **Out-of-Town Volunteers are Welcome!**

Overnight accommodations in A-Frame cabins are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Cabin fees are waived in exchange for 2 days of planting. Meals may be purchased in our Dining Hall.

Pre-registration is required. Send an email with your preferred dates to [info@woolman.org](mailto:info@woolman.org)

## **Open For Business: Philadelphia Quakers, Thanksgiving, and the Limits of Revolutionary Religious Freedom** [Tara Thompson Strauch](#)

Extract



Sarah Josepha Hale, Author of "Mary had a little lamb."

In 1863, Sarah Josepha Hale rejoiced that after a decades-long campaign, Thanksgiving had become a national holiday. Hale was not alone in her desire to unite patriotism with spiritual devotion. In her personal correspondence with the president, Eliza Gurney also spoke of the blessings God had bestowed on the nation. Gurney, a devoted Quaker, had met with Lincoln in 1861 to give him spiritual comfort and had continued writing with him ever since. After his public proclamation of Thanksgiving, Gurney wrote to him to demonstrate her "cordial approval of thy late excellent proclamation appointing a day of thanksgiving" despite the fact that as a Quaker she did "not set apart especial seasons for returning thanks."

Gurney saw the holiday as an effective means of making less devout Americans conscious of their God-given blessings and thus supported the federal holiday even while she refused to celebrate it.



<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gurney.htm>

### **From "Singing With Lucretia Mott" by Stanford Searl**

It's really annoying,  
To read your sermons and addresses  
Because for you  
It's all so simple:  
God has come to teach us Inwardly and directly;  
The rest is all about fruits,  
So that the ripeness is all.  
You said  
The great principles of justice and truth and love  
Are Imprinted onto our hearts  
So...What's the problem?

# 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](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com)
- Communication/Email Coordinator: Judy Hamilton [judywestonhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:judywestonhamilton@gmail.com)
- Directory Coordinator: Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) [ntowhee@gmail.com](mailto:ntowhee@gmail.com)
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- Newsletter Editor: Dianne Marshall  
[dmarshall@pacific.net](mailto:dmarshall@pacific.net)
- Newsletter Distribution: Pat Phillips
- **Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) [ntowhee@gmail.com](mailto:ntowhee@gmail.com)
- **Librarian & Newsletter Editor:** 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)
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- **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/Facebook Coordinator: Amy Cooke [amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com)
- Zoom Coordinators: Hailey Wilson  
seahorseleaf@protonmail.com, Stuart Smith  
[sewsmitharts@yahoo.com](mailto:sewsmitharts@yahoo.com)

### REPRESENTATIVES:

- |                               |                          |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. AFSC:                      | 5. FCLCA:                | 9. QUNO: Shera Banbury                                 |
| 2. College Park<br>Quarterly: | 6. FGC Liaison:          | 10. Right Sharing of World Resources: Judy<br>Hamilton |
| 3. FASE:                      | 7. PYM: Don<br>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

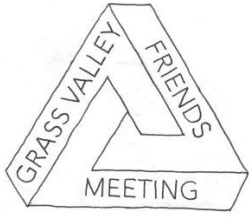
**Spirit/Witness:** **Judy Hamilton**, Gordon Starr, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Bishop, Dorothy Henderson, Anita and Don McCormick (ex-officio Co Clerks),

**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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Nevada City, CA 95959  
Return Address Requested