



# Grass Valley Friends Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959 (530) 273-3183

## Queries for February: Spiritual Life

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?*



From the Women's March in Oakland

First Days	9:00am	Singing at the Meeting House
	9:45am	Silent Meeting for Worship
Second Sunday:	9:45am	Silent Meeting for Worship, Potluck, Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

## Minutes and Record

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business 11<sup>th</sup> Day, Second Month, 2018

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

**Present:** Dean Olson, clerk; Sandy Kewman, Don Kewman, Don McCormick, Charity Bryson, Peggy Baldwin, Judy Hamilton, Reed Hamilton, Stuart Smith, Pat Phillips, Gordon Starr, Mary Starr.

**The Meeting opened with silent worship.**

**Thoughts solicited about Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business.**

*Active Listening; thankfulness for this community. As problems arise, seeking a solution; confusion; creating space for ongoing revelation; an open heart. We should address the Clerk if we wish to speak.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and EVENT CALENDAR

- **Sunday February 18: Clerks of ALL GVFM Committees will meet briefly after Meeting for Worship.** The clerks will serve as the naming committee to identify potential nominating committee members. Contact Kathy McCreery if you are unable to attend.
- **Saturday March 17: GVFM POTLUCK DINNER with visiting Friends General Conference Development Committee at 6:00 PM in the Sierra Friends Center Dining Hall.** Please bring a little extra food for our guests.
- **Sunday March 18: Friends General Conference Development Committee and our Spiritual Life Committee host a Discussion/Presentation led by Anne Pomeroy on "Faithfulness in Troubling Times" at 11:30 AM after Meeting**
- **Sunday March 25: Listening and Ideas for Annual State of Meeting Report at 11:30 AM after Meeting for Worship in Meetinghouse.** Please bring your ideas of what should be included in the annual report to the meeting on March 25 or communicate them to Dean Olson.
- **Sunday April 8: Special Discussion with Paula Palmer on "Right Relationship with Native Peoples" at 11:30 AM after Meeting for Worship in Meeting House.**
- **Sunday April 15: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business moved (this month only) to third Sunday at 11:30 AM**
- **Saturday April 21 Memorial for Sharon Stewart at GVFM Meeting House.** Contact Kathy McCreery or Peg Baldwin to help.
- **Friday May 18-Sunday May 20: College Park Quarterly Meeting at Ben Lomond Quaker Center [www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org](http://www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org).**
- **May 27, 2018: Nora Cooke & Michael Meade Wedding.** Please see [www.theknot.com](http://www.theknot.com) for information on Nora & Michael's wedding. Everyone is invited. PLEASE register if you are

coming so they know how many people will be there.

- **July 9-13, 2018: Pacific Yearly Meeting:** Walker Creek Ranch. Theme: "Radical Vulnerability."
- **July 1-7, 2018: Friends General Conference:** University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio. Registration opens on April 2. Scholarship assistance is available. See <http://www.FGCquaker.org>.
- **Reports:** Please send reports for the monthly Meeting for Business to Dean Olson, Clerk and Amy Cooke, Recording Clerk by the FRIDAY before Meeting for Business.
- **Volunteering at Sierra Friends Center:** There are numerous opportunities for contributing to Sierra Friends Center. Please email Amy at [amyc@woolman.org](mailto:amyc@woolman.org).
- **Spiritual Life:** The committee (Don McCormick, Sandy Kewman, Gordon Starr and Peggy Baldwin) welcomes ideas for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday programs. Next Program is about finding your way on the Spiritual Path scheduled for Sunday March 25 at 11:30 AM in the Meeting House.
- **Quaker Center Ben Lomond:** Upcoming programs. <http://www.quakercenter.org>

### February 23-25: What Canst Thou Say? Finding Our Quaker Voice in Public Life

How does our inward experience of Spirit manifest in our outward public witness, even in political activity? We will consider ways in which our spiritual conditions move us to engage in public or political action.

### March 19-24: Awakening to the Presence

What are the occasions for the awakening to the Presence in our lives and our response to that awakening? We will explore four dimensions: Individual worship, the gathered meeting, that of God speaking through the other, and the living out of Truth.

- **Sharon Stewart:** Please mail cards to her address. They will be forwarded to the family. There is a memorial being planned for April.
- **Greeters:** The Meeting needs Greeters! Please email Sandy Kewman if you can help.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### MINISTRY & OVERSIGHT

**See report, appended.** Don Kewman gave the report.

**First Day School (Judy Hamilton, Gordon Starr, Dean Olson presented):** Discussion of Idea of “all day” Kids and Family Day Retreat on Sunday April 29 in conjunction with the day we hold family worship. Opportunities for parents to share concerns and ideas as well as community building and recreation were suggested. What can the meeting do to support families with Children? Judy Hamilton, Sandy Kewman, Dean Olson, Gordon Starr, agreed to help organize and Dean will ask Karen Olson if she will also assist. Judy will send out a “hold this date” to parents of young people.

**Charity Bryson** read selected items from newsletters of the Strawberry Creek Meeting, Palo Alto Friends Meeting, and Redwood Forest Meeting

**NOMINATING:** Proposal to Naming Committee to consider reducing the size of the Nominating Committee to 4 people requiring only 2 nominations this year from Naming Committee and M and O may also wish to consider whether the size of M and O could also be reduced to 4 people.

Proposed that there be a Clerk or position that takes care of the closet. Meeting for Business agreed to this new position.

Gordon proposed that Business Meeting Minutes be appropriately archived and stored. It was agreed there should be both a paper and electronic record (maybe separate from newsletter) and possibly stored in a fire-resistant file cabinet. Second, it was discussed whether full confidential M&O minutes be archived for future release (perhaps decades later). Several felt this was not advisable.

#### PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Peggy Baldwin gave the report.

Peggy reported on recent information from the American Friends Service Committee regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict. Their staff is on a list of 20 organizations that may be denied entry to Israel beginning March 1 because of their support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

A letter in support of AFSC written by our meeting to the Ambassador to the U.S. from Israel is appended to these minutes.

A slight change in the letter was approved to say: “and consider allowing the other 19 NGO’s to continue their work in Israel”. Dean will contact AFSC again to obtain their input on the timing and appropriateness of the letter before sending it. As timing may not allow seasoning of this letter, Meeting agreed to give discretion of the Clerk regarding sending the final letter.

A proposed resolution forwarded by Paula Orloff to Peg Baldwin to ask Nevada County Board of Supervisors to move governmental funding from militarism to human and environmental needs was read. It was agreed to put the letter in the GVFM newsletter and to ask folks to consider individual letters as well as a possible March 11 Business Meeting endorsement of the resolution with seasoning until the April 15 Business Meeting. In the interim, feedback regarding the published resolution should be directed to Peg Baldwin or Dean Olson of the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

#### REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Placer County Worship Group (Stuart Smith)** On hold due to Smith family demands.

**College Park Quarterly Meeting Representative (Sandy Kewman)** gave report (appended).

#### JOYS, CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS, MOURNINGS

- It was noted that there were 11 children attending First Day School today.

- Sylvia Osman is enjoying her new home at Atria and would like a ride to/from meeting. Her address is 150 Sutton Way, Grass Valley 95945 Room 223 (530-273-8762)
- Holding members of our Meeting in the Light: Dave Barnett
- Gordon appreciates dinners and relationship with extended family
- Dean and Karen considering downsizing to smaller residence soon.

#### ACTION ITEMS AND MINUTES

- **Peace & Social Justice:** Minute 2018-02-01: The meeting agreed to send a letter under the auspices of GVFM with minor changes (appended) from GVFM in support of AFSC being allowed by the State of Israel to continue their work in Israel/Palestine
- **Nominations:** Minute 2018-02-02: Meeting approved of a new position of Closet Clerk to oversee use and maintenance of the meeting closet.
- **Ministry & Oversight:** Recommendation was accepted by Meeting for Business to move the April business meeting to Sunday April 15.

#### 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 [amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com) THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

**GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items in to Anita and/or Don McCormick by Tuesday at 10 am.**

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Don Kewman, acting recording clerk.

**APPENDICES:** (posted on the website, [www.gvfriends.org](http://www.gvfriends.org))

1. **Ministry & Oversight report**
2. **Peace and Social Justice Letter**
3. **Peace and Social Justice Petition to Nevada County Board of Supervisors**
4. **CPQM Representative Report**

---

#### 1. Ministry & Oversight

Ministry and Oversight - Report to Meeting for Business - February 2018

- Sharon Stewart memorial will be held Saturday April 21st, 1pm at Grass Valley Friends Meeting. Kathy McCreery and Peg Baldwin are coordinating, Dean Olson clerking.
- We are in contact with Meg Palley's family to determine if they want to have a local memorial. There has already been a Celebration of Life at Redwood Forest Meeting in Santa Rosa, on what would have been Meg's 100th birthday.
- There will be a clerk's meeting Sunday February 18th after Meeting. The Clerk's Meeting will serve as the Naming Committee with clerks attending from all the committees. If you are a clerk, please contact Kathy McCreery if you are unable to attend.
- Friends General Conference Development Committee is coming to GVFM March 16th to 18th. There will be a potluck dinner in the Sierra Friends Center Dining Hall on Saturday the 17th open to all members/attenders of the Meeting (please bring extra food for our guests), and a member of the Committee will offer an after meeting session "Staying Centered in Troubling Times" on Sunday the 18th.
- We recommend changing the April Meeting for Business from the second Sunday 4/8 to third Sunday 4/15, to accommodate a session on 4/8 with Paula Palmer who will present on her work on "Right relationship with Native Peoples"

Don Kewman and Kathy McCreery

Co-Clerks, M & O

## 2. Peace and Social Justice Report

### Letter in Support of AFSC.

GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

Nevada City, California

Dear Ambassador Dermer:

Our Quaker Meeting is deeply concerned over your government's threat to ban American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) along with 19 other human rights organizations whose staff may be denied entry to Israel because of their support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement.

In its over 100 year history, AFSC has consistently and diligently stood with communities facing oppression and violence around the world. You may already know that in 1947, AFSC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in part for their support for Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust. And that AFSC is honored at your Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem. And, that according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, AFSC's work was unique, in that unlike other relief organizations, AFSC assisted those who were not already being helped. They received the peace prize along with another Quaker organization, British Friends Service Council, for rescuing and assisting more than 22,000 Jews and Christians before, during and after World War II.

As our organization helped those in need back then, they have continued this same concern and practice for the past 70 years, now not only being involved in Israel and in Palestine, but also many African, South American, North American and Asian countries valuing every individual's right to live in safety and peace and to have their human rights respected. AFSC is no different now than it was during and after WW II except for the people and countries in which they are now involved. Their legacy is speaking truth to power and standing for peace and justice without exception, in Israel, occupied Palestine, and around the world.

As you are aware of all the tension now going on in our country, the United States, you too are aware of what democracy looks like in your country. And

being one of the key world religions, your faith keenly knows what it is like to be a David against a Goliath. Though your country strongly condemns the BDS movement, it is a nonviolent movement.

AFSC states its principles of a "Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel." It upholds the right of Palestinians and Israelis to self-determination and emphasizes that ending Israel's occupation and addressing the Palestinian refugees' right of return is prerequisite to realizing a just peace. We share this because we want to emphasize we acknowledge the right of each side, Israeli and Palestinian, in these serious issues. AFSC will continue to work with both Palestinians and Israelis to achieve a just and lasting peace, committed to supporting nonviolent activism designed to achieve this end.

Like many other American faiths and organizations, we are keenly watching whether your government will act on this threat toward these 20 human rights organizations. We are holding the hope that you may see it is a nonviolent action, a way people not in power have to express what they do not condone. We are asking that your government rescind any legal steps to block the 20 NGO's entry into Israel. The strength and vitality of a democratic country is its ability to contain a wide spectrum of viewpoints from which it has the opportunity to work out what is best and right for all people it is responsible for. As within our country, we feel you too hold the potential to act in such a way.

Shalom,

Dean Olson, Clerk  
Grass Valley Friends  
13075 Woolman Lane  
Nevada City, Ca. 95959

### 3. Peace and Social Justice Petition to Nevada County Board of Supervisors

*Local Peace Budget Resolution* from David Swanson of World Beyond War

TO: *Nevada County Board of Supervisors*



*Whereas* President Trump has proposed to move billions from individual and community needs to military spending,

*Whereas* the military budget already comprises more than half of discretionary spending,

*Whereas* we can help alleviate the refugee crisis by ending, not escalating, wars that create refugees,

*Whereas* President Trump himself admitted that the enormous military spending of the past 16 years has been disastrous and made us less safe, not safer,

*Whereas* fractions of the proposed military budget could provide low-cost housing, free, quality education, end hunger and starvation worldwide, convert the U.S. to clean energy, provide quality health care for all, provide clean drinking water everywhere it's needed, build fast trains between all major U.S. cities, and increase non-military U.S. foreign aid,

*Whereas* even 121 retired U.S. generals have written a letter opposing cuts to non-military foreign aid,

*Whereas* a December 2014 Gallup poll of 65 nations found that the United States was far and away the country considered the largest threat to peace in the world,

*Whereas* if the United States provides clean drinking water, schools, medicine, and solar panels to others, it would be more secure and face far less hostility around the world,

*Whereas* our environmental and human needs are desperate and urgent,

*Whereas* the military is itself the greatest consumer of petroleum we have,

*Whereas* economists at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst have documented that military spending is an economic drain rather than a jobs program,

Be it therefore resolved that the County of Nevada, California, urges the United States Congress to move our tax dollars in exactly the opposite direction

proposed by the President, from militarism to human and environmental needs.

*If you approve, please send this resolution to our California Senators, Representative Doug La Malfa, the Speaker of the House, the House Majority Whip, the House Minority Whip, The President of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Senate Minority leader.*

#### 4. CPQM Representative's Report

CPQM Rep to GVFM report

January CPQM 2018

One hundred and one Friends attended the January 20<sup>th</sup> gathering of CPQM at the San Francisco Friends Meeting. There were 78 adults, 9 teens, 10 children and 4 preschoolers who participated.

After a period of worship with the whole body, we began by acknowledging the Ohlone people who lived in the Bay Area south to Salinas valley long before the Spanish colonialists and other Europeans who came after. Today around 300 Ohlone people live in the area.

The theme of the gathering was "Seeking the light together". A quote from George Fox's Epistle was read, "Keep within. And when they say, 'lo here: or lo there is Christ' go not, for the Christ is within you."

Margaret Sorrel, clerk of the board of Friends House (Also known as FASE) in Santa Rosa gave the annual report to CPQM. She shared that all of Friends House evacuated in the Santa Rosa fire for up to 14 days. The experience strengthened their community bonds. They are grateful for the director and all the staff for keeping everyone safe during the fires. All the board members are in unity with Quaker values which have infused Friends House from its beginning. The financial picture of Friends House is better than previously and donations are always very helpful. The board is seeking skilled board members. Friends House holds two community outreach events a year, Jazz in July and a Holiday Faire in November. Currently there are 3 apartments available. Their skilled nursing beds are almost always full. Margaret encouraged Friends to visit Friends House.

Alvaro Alvarado and Patricia Portillo, Friends from Sacramento MM gave a presentation on their work to establish a foundation to support undocumented college students in Sacramento. It is called Sacramento Friends Meeting Scholarship for undocumented college students. The website is <http://www.quakerundocumentedstudentscholarship.org/donate.html>

Amy Cooke, Director of Sierra Friends Center, gave an update for the center.

David Hartsough announced that Rev. William Barber is revitalizing MLK's Poor Peoples' Campaign. Its aim is to unite poor Americans of all racial and ethnic groups to work for a better living in this country. Trainings have begun, and the action will begin in May. See <https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/> for more info.

In the afternoon children and other Friends stood outside the SFFM house as other participants of the Women's March arrived. Friends were invited back to the meetinghouse at 4pm if they wanted to participate in the Women's March. A meeting for worship took place during the march. During the final plenary we heard from the Registrar, the teens and the children about their day's activities. The children had studied the story of the mustard seed and some shared what seeds or ideas they were carrying back to their meetings. After a period of worship, the meeting adjourned to regroup for the weekend of May 18-20, 2018 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

---

## Fundraiser for Shendo Ellis-Lavigne

Hilary Ellis-Lavigne

This fund raiser is for my son Shendo. He is currently receiving services at The Center for Spiritual Emergence in Asheville, North Carolina. I have only been able to pay for one month of Community Supported Housing and Intensive Outpatient treatment. My goal is for him to be able to remain there for at least another month on a similar schedule which would then taper off to one or two session/s a

week for a final two weeks to a month as he prepares for reentry into day to day life.

Some of you who are reading this will know Shendo and will know about some, if not much, of his journey and struggles and the effect of it all on Shendo himself, and his family and friends. It has been a long and difficult path, with little or no respite for us all. In my search for help and support for Shendo and a life without crisis and chaos, I was finally introduced to the concept of "Spiritual Emergency". I couldn't believe it...at last I was reading about something which I had been witnessing but had no reference or name for and here it was in black and white...it described exactly how Shendo had been showing up. I read more..."*One of the most important implications... is the realization that many of the conditions, which are currently diagnosed as psychotic and indiscriminately treated by suppressive medication, are actually difficult stages of a radical personality transformation and of spiritual opening. If they are correctly understood and supported, these psychospiritual crises can result in emotional and psychosomatic healing, remarkable psychological transformation, and consciousness evolution*" (Grof & Grof, 1989, 1990).

I felt an overwhelming sense of hope. I sent the descriptions of Spiritual Emergence and Spiritual Emergency to Shendo. In less than a week he was on a plane from Florida to Asheville, North Carolina.

His housing costs are \$800 per month, and treatment \$150 per hour. Please consider giving as much as you are able...no amount is too small. To make a donation, go to:

<https://www.youcaring.com/shendoellislavigne-1090895>



Shendo and Hilary on Mother's Day last year

---

**Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contacts – updated 1-24-18**

- **Clerk of the Meeting:** Dean Olson, (530) 273-2094, [deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com),
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson, (530) 265-6533, [fostenw@yahoo.com](mailto:fostenw@yahoo.com)
- **Ministry and Oversight:** Kathy McCreery (530) 265-6533) and Don Kewman (530) 272-3736 Committee Co-Clerks, Peggy Baldwin, Gordon Bishop, Don Kewman, Dean Olson.
- **Intergenerational Ed.:** Judy Hamilton, Sandy Kewman, Karen Olson, John Inman.
- **Library:** Christie Monson, Sylvia Osman, Shera Banbury, Joanna Mlodzinska, Elissa Preston.
- **Librarian:** Dianne Marshall [dmarshall@pacific.net](mailto:dmarshall@pacific.net), (530) 274-1922
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke, [amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com)
- **Recorder:** Sharon Davisson, [skdavisson@gmail.com](mailto:skdavisson@gmail.com), (530) 265-6287
- **Outreach:** Sandy Kewman – Committee Clerk (530) 272-3736, Gordon Starr, Sharon Davisson, Gordon Bishop, Hilary Ellis-Lavigne and Ted Smith.
- **Spiritual Life Committee:** Gordon Starr – Committee Clerk (530) 878-1237, Sandy Kewman, Peggy Baldwin, Don McCormick.
- **Finance Committee:** Mary Starr – Committee Clerk, Reed Hamilton, Don Kewman, Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, Ex Officio member.
- **Directory Clerk:** Sandy Kewman (530) 272-3736 [srosekewman@gmail.com](mailto:srosekewman@gmail.com)
- **Newsletter Editors:** Dianne Marshall [dmarshall@pacific.net](mailto:dmarshall@pacific.net) (530) 274-1922, Anita McCormick [anita@webstop.com](mailto:anita@webstop.com) (310) 993-6821, Don McCormick (310) 597-9469.
- **Newsletter Distribution:** Charity Bryson, [quakercrone@comcast.net](mailto:quakercrone@comcast.net), (530) 477-9232.
- **Peace and Social Justice:** Dean Olson, (530) 273-2094, [deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com), Karen Olson, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips.
- **Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson, (530) 273-2094 [deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com)
- **Sierra Friends Center:** (530) 273-3183 [info@woolman.org](mailto:info@woolman.org)
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Gordon Starr – Committee Clerk (530) 878-1237, Reed Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Pat Phillips.



Grass Valley Friends Meeting  
13075 Woolman Lane  
Nevada City, CA  
95959