



GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

*Of the Religious Society of Friends
College Park Quarterly Meeting,
Pacific Yearly Meeting*

13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959,
530-273-3183
Sierra Friends Center, Woolman Lane, off Jones Bar Road, Nevada City, CA 95959
<https://gvfriends.org/>

**First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House
10:00 am Silent Meeting for Worship**

Newsletter, Second Month, 2020

Table of Contents:

Calendar.....pg. 1	Listening Meeting for Parentspg.7
Glossary.....pg. 2	FCL-CA Report.....pg 7
Minutes & Record.....pg. 2	George Lakey’s <i>How We Win</i>pg. 8
Queries (2 nd Month).....pg. 6	<i>It’s Our Time</i>pg 9
Atria Meeting for Worship.....pg. 6	Our Library..... pg 9
On-Line Donations to GVFM.....pg 6	Nationwide Discernment – FCNL.....pg.10
First Day School Staffing.....pg 6	“Quaker Bee” for Peggy and Don.....pg 10
Sylvia and Aki.....pg 7	GVFM Contacts & Committees.....pg.11



We value the simplicity & tranquility of the Sierra Friends Center & want to ensure safety and clean dust-free air for the residents, visitors & neighbors of Sierra Friends Center. We expect observance of the 10 mph speed limit on Woolman Lane & on the school property.

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 –

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.*

HAPPENING NOW

- **Sunday February 16, 2020:** Listening session for the State of the Meeting Report
- **Sunday, February 23, 2020:** Rex Amber’s Experiments with Light. Don McCormick and Gordon Starr, facilitators.
- **Friday, February 28, 2020:** 10:30a.m. Friends Meeting and Singing at Atria

HAPPENING LATER

- **Sunday March 15:** Clerk's Meeting and Naming Committee
- **Sunday March 29:** Fifth Sunday Children's Program with special listening session for parents
- **Saturday, May 2, 2020:** Memorial Service for Bob Barnes, 2p.m., Friends Meeting House
- **Saturday, May 9, 2020:** Creating Communities Beyond Bias's 3rd Annual *Love Walk*
- **May 15-17, 2020:** College Park Quarterly Meeting gathering at Ben Lomond Quaker Center
- **May 31, 2020,** Listening Meeting for Parents (see page 8 for details)

[Ben Lomond Quaker Center](#) 2020 Program – Scholarship Funds are available to help you attend these sessions

- **Feb. 21st – Feb. 23rd**
How Then Shall I Live? with Lucretia Humphrey
- **Mar. 24th – Mar. 29th**
Practices for Supporting Faithfulness with Marcelle Martin
- **Apr. 17th – Apr. 19th**
Choosing Peace: Nurturing Ourselves as Peacebuilders in a Divided World with Bridget Moix

[Pacific Yearly Meeting Calendar - Youth Programs Fund](#) (of the Bob Vogel Endowment): Applications due on or before March 20, June 20, September 20, and December 20

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

QUNO: Quaker United Nations Office

FASE: Friends Association for Services to the Elderly

CPQM: College Park Quarterly Meeting

RSWR: Right Sharing of World Resources

First Day: Sunday

FDS: First Day School

F&P: Faith and Practice

GVFM: Grass Valley Friends Meeting

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 9, 2020

Present: Don McCormick, clerk; Amy Cooke, recording clerk; Chamba Cooke, Dean Olson, Dianne Marshall, Gordon Bishop, Pat Phillips, Judy Hamilton, Dorothy Henderson, Doug Hamm.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerk's Remarks: We are here to worship, not get through an agenda; or rather, we are here to worship and get through an agenda! We do both process and stay grounded in worship. We speak to the clerk, rather than to each other - this allows a greater opportunity to ground ourselves in spirit and when things are thorny it gives us a structure that can be helpful.

Query:

- What could we do to screw up the Meeting for Worship on the Occasion for Business?
 - We could interrupt the clerk
 - We could not raise our hand
 - We could speak to each other
 - We could speak to irrelevant things
 - We could speak on and on about our opinions

- A Friend noted that it is not the meeting that becomes “off,” it is me - I become disconnected with what is happening in the room spiritually
- Getting caught up in the content, and forgetting that this is a spiritual process
- Forgetting to pay attention to the deeper reality
- There are no reminders to bring us back - e.g., Buddhists use a bell
- Some of us cannot do handwork
- Impatience can rise up in us
- When thoughts, concerns, and issues get brought into the room with us
- When minutia are brought in that we do not really need to discern
- When we enter as a clerk, that can orient us to a deeper attendance; when we enter as the audience, we are more likely to interrupt, voice our own opinions, etc.

MINISTRY & OVERSIGHT

Gordon Bishop gave the report, appended.

M&O is proposing that we host a Regional Meeting on one of the 1st two Saturdays in April (available at SFC). This is an invitation to nearby (1.5 hours) meetings to gather at enjoy fellowship, worship, and possible interest group/worship sharing. We have been asked by Friends at Chico Meeting to consider hosting. We are delighted with the idea.

What logistics need to be arranged for hosting a Regional Meeting? April is quite soon. Ministry and Oversight will be taking the lead on the arrangements. There will be tasks that will be needed in support of the event. Will GVFM members attend? Could it attract more people to our Meeting?

Could Outreach and Hospitality Committees help? The Children's Program committee would also need to help with the Children's Program for the event. Would Spiritual Life be involved in the content? Do we have the people power to do this?

Needed:

- Lunch preparation, serving, and clean up
- Children's program
- Registration
- Outreach to meetings
- Content for the day

We suggest that Ministry & Oversight consider these issues and get back to the Meeting via the email tree. They will communicate how they see us moving forward. They will: contact Chico Meeting, develop a list of positions, email the Meeting with specific requests, then determine viability.

State of the Meeting Report: Listening session on February 16th (3rd Sunday), 2020.

Committee Structure: We read the minute that was drafted last month for seasoning, and brought it forward for approval.

Minute 2020.02.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the new committee structure of five committees - The Stewardship Committee, the Welcome Committee, the Children's Program Committee, the Spirit/Witness Committee, and Nominating Committee - to take effect for the 2020-21 slate with the awareness that this decision is provisional upon future

discernment over the 2020-21 year. Approved.

Clerks Meeting: Gordon B will be contacting clerks of the meeting's committees to gather. This functions as a check in on the Meeting, but also as the Naming Committee (the group that helps create the nominating committee). 3rd Sunday of March, 3/15.

LAST MONTH'S ACTION ITEMS (Updates on things we said we were going to do)

- Information and phone number for Grass Valley Friends Meeting to be published in the world: Should we use Woolman's phone number?
 - The phone number in Friends Journal is disconnected and we have no website listed.
 - Listings: Who manages the Friends Journal and Western Friend listings? CPQM listing? This needs to go to the Clerks of the Meeting. Chamba will let Anita and Don know.
 - Obituaries: what are our responsibilities for Friends Journal and Western Friend? Whose responsibility is this? Clerks?
 - The Union?
 - What does the Outreach Committee do? (Outreach might not have a clerk right now)
 - Anita and Don will follow through.
- Dianne Marshall will contact Barbara Dean regarding our changing involvement in Hospitality House and publishing her contact information in the newsletter so that people can contact her regarding Hospitality House meals. Kathy McCreery did this.
- Ministry & Oversight will bring the proposed committee list to the February Meeting for Business in printed format. COMPLETED
- Lease: Amy Cooke, SFC director, will bring back the revised lease.

REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFICER REPORTS

Clerk: Don McCormick, clerk, reported that grassvalleyfriendsmeeting.com is a domain that has been taken. We do not know who has that domain.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Dorothy Henderson gave the report, appended.

There is a proposal for the 5th Sunday in March (March 29) that would bring parents in for sharing and listening around our Children's Program. The meeting encouraged the committee to ensure that there is follow up on the requests that come out of the listening session. We spent some time remembering some recommendations from the previous listening session - a later Meeting for Worship, a mid-week Seeker's Meeting, work days at people's homes, etc. A Friend asked, Could this listening session be an annual event?

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ministry and Oversight will consider the issues involved in hosting a Regional Gathering and get back to the Meeting via the email tree. They will communicate how they see us moving forward. They will: contact Chico Meeting, develop a list of positions, email the Meeting with specific requests, and then determine viability.
- Ministry and Oversight will research what is happening with the Greeter position.
- Anita and Don McCormick will follow through on the issues around our listings in Friends Journal and Western Friend, obituary postings in those publications, and bring back a suggestion for what phone number we should list in these publications and on the website.
- Amy Cooke, SFC director, will bring back the revised lease.

- Don McCormick will research what happened with the email address for Grass Valley Friends Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sunday February 16: Listening session for the State of the Meeting Report
- Sunday February 23: Spiritual Life session after Meeting for Worship: Rex Ambler's Experiments with Light.
- Sunday March 15: Clerk's Meeting and Naming Committee
- Sunday March 29: Fifth Sunday Children's Program with special listening session for parents
- Saturday, May 2: Memorial for Bob Barns, Meetinghouse. 2 pm.
- May 15-17, 2020: College Park Quarterly Meeting gathering at Ben Lomond Quaker Center

MINUTES WE ARE SEASONING (These are items that have been presented to this Meeting for Business and are being held over for future discernment before approval. They will appear on the next month's agenda under Seasoned Minutes.)

There were no minutes brought forward for seasoning.

FEEDBACK AND REFLECTION

- Was there something that worked well?
- Could something be done better?

The query was useful, and brought to light things that would not of otherwise been exposed. Gratitude was expressed for the query, for the appropriate lightness that the Clerk brings to our meetings. It is refreshing to have us look at what does not work, and it led us to a sacred honesty - to speaking about the difficulties in Meeting for Business as well as the effective practices.

Our discussion on the Regional Gathering was valuable with the contribution of the steps being laid out. There was value in having all the issues surfaced in the Meeting for Business.

The discussion about the Parents' Meeting brought out how valuable it is to share resources that deepen our awareness of Quakerism. If we read something useful, share it!

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 **THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.**

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items in to Diane Marshall by Tuesday at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Amy Cooke, recording clerk.

APPENDICES:

1. **Ministry and Oversight**
 2. **Children's Program report**
-

“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*

Second Month Queries: Spiritual Life and Practices

The life of the spirit gains depth and vigor through devotional practices, prayer, study and meditation. Take time regularly for individual and family worship, discussions, readings from sacred texts, and other spiritual refreshment in order to live a more centered life and to bring a deeper presence to the Meeting for Worship.

Friends believe that the spiritual path is best found in community. Create opportunities in your Meetings for people of all ages to explore and express their evolving relationship with the Divine, their spiritual highs and their doubts. If different metaphors and language interfere with communication, listen more deeply, honoring the Spirit in which the thought and words have their beginnings.

- 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?*

Friday, February 28, 2020

Singing and Meeting for Worship at 10:30a.m.,

Atria, 150 Sutton Way, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Upstairs TV Lounge



REMEMBER: Now We May Donate to GVFM Online!

GIVE

(LIVE LINK)

First Day School Staffing

Seeking Adult Volunteers for First Day School: The Children's Program Committee is seeking adults who would ENJOY serving as a volunteer substitute for our First Day School **accompanying** adult. This is **not** substituting for the teacher, but only for the second adult that accompanies the teacher when the regular accompaniment is not available. We on the committee hope to have a healthy list of folks who would not only be willing, but enjoy being able to be with the children for the morning without thinking they have to create the curriculum or be in charge.

If this sounds delightful to you, please respond to Dorothy's email at dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com or phone her at 530 575-5988.

Sylvia and Aki by Winifred Conkling

Report by Hailey Wilson

Sylvia and Aki is about two friends Sylvia Mendez and Aki Munemistu Nakauchi. They know each other because the Mendez family lived on Aki's family's farm while they were sent to internment camps. Mr. Mendez took Sylvia with him to the internment camp to pay rent and she and Aki became best friends. This book is based during World War 2, when Japanese and Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps.

Aki was living on her family's farm and was going to Westminster school before she and her family were sent to internment camps. One day she came home from school and her father was not there. Her mother said he was taken to an internment camp. She and the rest of her family were sent to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. They would not let Aki bring her Japanese doll so she hid it in the closet.

Sylvia's aunt tried enrolling her, her brothers and her cousins into Westminster school but the school would only let her cousins in because they were white. Sylvia and her brothers had to go to the Mexican school. Mr. Mendez hired a lawyer and went to court. At court Mr. Kent, the school superintendent said a bunch of lies, including that all the students only speak Spanish. The court case took a long time and Mr. Mendez finally convinced the judge that all schools in that particular area had to let Mexicans and Mexican Americans go to the closest school. Later California decided that the whole state should do it also.

After Aki's family could go home, the Mendez family moved. Aki's family lived on the farm and the Mendez's lived in Santa Ana, California.

Listening Meeting for Parents

Fifth Sunday on May 31, 2020 – We will share story-telling with the children of the Meeting for the first 20 minutes of this fifth First Day. For the balance of the Meeting, teachers will be with the children out for First Day School, and the adults will remain to listen and explore issues, questions and suggestions of the parents who attend our Meeting. [Do join us.](#)



Report provided by Amanda Wilcox

On behalf of all of us here at Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) and the FCL Education Fund- board and staff -we would like to thank you for your support as we begin our 68th year of lobbying and bringing your voice to the state Capitol. Your activism, involvement, and contributions through Meetings, fundraisers and individual giving really made a difference. Because of you, last year we were able to successfully co-sponsor sentencing reform, play an important role in the campaign to end child poverty, organize interfaith support of environmental and social justice legislation, and weigh in on over 100 bills. But the policy making process in California moves on, and the new year of the Legislature, year two of the 2019-2020 session, has begun.

What's on the agenda as we begin this new year? Landmark bills to curb plastic pollution are still on the table, and FCLCA will again be organizing multi-faith support. We are still very active in the campaign to end child poverty, supporting both budget asks and bills to expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit to immigrant taxpayers, and to expand childcare and paid family leave. Our state budget is a statement of our values as

Californians as well as a financial plan, and we'll be actively engaged in the budget decision-making process that takes place until mid-June. We'll also be weighing in on criminal justice reform bills and developing our recommendations on the many crucial ballot initiatives we expect to see this year. And we're providing coordination to the California Interfaith Coalition, which brings together Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, Lutheran, Jewish and Quaker statewide advocacy organizations to collaborate on issues of mutual concern.

One of our goals this year to increase support for activists in our circle, by providing online action alerts and in-district visits. If you are interested in meeting with your state legislators or helping to coordinate a team, please let your FCLCA General Committee representative (Amanda Wilcox for GVFM) know or contact Kevan Insko, co-director, directly at kevan@fclca.org.

How We Win: Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigns for Climate Justice” with George Lakey by Don McCormick



Over 60 people attended this workshop. George gave great advice on how to effectively organize nonviolent direct action campaigns. Someone from the local Sunrise Movement was there. I was disappointed that George didn't mention that a group of his students founded Sunrise. His experience in activism started in the late 1950's with demonstrations against atmospheric nuclear testing and is still going strong. He was arrested just a few weeks ago in a demonstration in D.C. urging Congress to act responsibly in the climate crisis. He has accumulated a great deal of wisdom about effective nonviolent action in his 82 years.

After the three hour workshop, he lead seven of us (including Reverend Kevin) in a sing along of Broadway show tunes. I learned that Paul Robeson couldn't stomach the original lyrics to "Ol' Man River," so he rewrote them so the character singing them had more dignity. For example, "Get a little drunk and land in jail" became "Show a little spunk and land in jail." He showed them to Oscar Hammerstein who agreed that Robeson's lyrics were better.

The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains was a great place to hold the meeting. They had all these things we needed and hadn't anticipated, additional copies of handouts, chairs, easel paper, tables, etc.. Special thanks.

IT'S OUR TIME: A strategic plan from *How We Win*

What's the plan, in steps?

- Campaign + campaign + campaign + alternatives → a grassroots-based movement
- Movement + movement + movement + vision → movement of movements
- Movement of movements scales up, escalates nonviolent disruption, makes country ungovernable by the economic elite →

*Power shift, then transition to justice,
equality, individual freedom, climate adaptation*

Has this strategy been pursued before on large scale?

- *U.S.:* Yes, twice in 20th century -- 1930s and 1960s/70s. Both times, the steps were interrupted. Therefore, the magnification of our problems today.
- *Nordic countries:* Yes, in the 1920s/30s. Favorable conditions there supported escalation to a power shift, with resulting world-historical levels of equality, justice, individual freedom, climate adaptation.

Do Americans have the opportunity to try again?

Several strong trends at last bring conditions favorable to this strategy. This is our time.

How can I as an individual make a difference?

“Stop being an individual.” (Bill McKibben) Practice team behaviors. Options: joining or starting a nonviolent direct action campaign, building alternatives, or helping build a vision. Choose! And join others to breathe, exercise, pray, sing, play.

Where can we learn more about making a difference?

- With others, watch films about successful movements and learn from them.
- Read *How We Win* (George Lakey, 2018) and use the powerful resources listed there including the Global Nonviolent Action Database (which you can Google!).

Our Library

Please remember that our library collection honors publications that are by or about the Religious Society of Friends' faith, practices and lives of Friends. Please resist contributing objects or other various things without checking in with our librarian, Dianne Marshall. Unannounced stuff and items such as maps, magazine collections, encyclopedias, travel books, text books, damaged or mildewed books are not a part of our collection.

Thank you!



Ron Ferguson,
Clerk, FCNL General Committee

Nationwide Discernment – Call from FCNL

The Friends Committee on National Legislation has always relied on the discernment of meetings and churches to ground our advocacy in the testimonies and concerns of Friends. **We hope that your Quaker group will take part in this [nationwide discernment](#) that will determine what issues our FCNL community sets as priorities in the next Congress.**

As we seek to uphold and advance those values in a challenging political environment, we ask your meeting, church, or Friends group to reflect once again on these questions: How are Friends called to influence our government today? What issues should be the priority for our advocacy efforts? Where is the Spirit leading us?

You and your meeting should have received materials in January from our Policy Committee about how Friends can participate in and submit worshipful discernment by April 10, 2020. If you would like to review those materials, and see where you can submit Friends' concerns electronically, please visit www.fcnl.org/priorities.

We thank you if your meeting or church contributed last year to the updating of FCNL's policy statement, [The World We Seek](#), which was approved by General Committee in November 2019. It is a moving document to read and reread, one which gives me hope and offers practical and compassionate responses to the world around me. It also makes me thankful for FCNL as a Quaker-led organization that welcomes and takes seriously the spiritual leadings of Friends from across the nation. Please join us from now until April in discerning God's guidance for the way forward in FCNL's work of advocacy.



In peace and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ron Ferguson'.

Ron Ferguson

Clerk, FCNL General Committee

Quaker Bee--a gathering of more than Quakers to help out

You are invited to participate in a *Friends of Dan & Peggy Baldwin* fundraiser Friday, March 13, 2020 (to be confirmed) at the Nevada City United Methodist Church, 5:00p.m. – 7:30p.m. This will be an evening of supper, raffles, entertainment and more. Funds raised will go towards on-going care for daughter, Eve, who is experiencing mental illness without the benefit of sufficient medical insurance to address all that is needed

Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contact Information (Updated 6-9-19):

Office Holders:

- **Clerk of the Meeting:** Don McCormick (310-597-9469 donmccormick2@gmail.com) and Anita McCormick (310-993-6821, anita@webstop.com)
- **Directory Clerk:** Sandy Kewman (530) 272-3736 srosekewman@gmail.com
- **Email Tree Distributor:** Pat Phillips 530-913-1338 pephillips1949@gmail.com
- **Hospitality House:** Beth Kemplin beth.kemplin@victor.org 530-205-9608 and Sharon Davisson sharondavisson42@gmail.com 530-265-6287
- **Librarian:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net, 530-274-1922
- **Mail Clerk:** VACANT
- **Newsletter Distribution:** Ruth Charity Bryson
- **Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Marshall dmarshall@pacific.net (530) 274-1922
- **Placer County Worship Group:** Stuart Smith sewsmitharts@yahoo.com 916-663-3539
- **Recorder:** Pat Phillips patphillips49@yahoo.com, 913-1338
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke, amyliette@gmail.com
- **Sierra Friends Center:** (530) 273-3183 info@woolman.org
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson, (530) 265-6533, fostenw@yahoo.com
- **Website Maintenance:** Amy Cooke, amyliette@gmail.com

Committees:

- **Buildings and Grounds:** Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Pat Phillips
- **Finance Committee:** Mary Starr, Don Kewman, Reed Hamilton, Fosten Wilson, Treasurer, Ex Officio member
- **Hospitality Committee:** Beth Kemplin, Kathy McQueery, Peggy Baldwin
- **Intergenerational Education Committee:** Judy Hamilton, <Judywestonhamilton@gmail.com>, Karen Olson (Resource), Anita McCormick, Sandy Kewman (sub)
- **Library Committee:** Shera Banbury, Hailey Wilson, Dianne Marshall (ex-officio/Librarian)
- **Ministry and Oversight Committee:** Genevieve Buckley, Gordon Bishop, Judy Hamilton, Mary Starr, Anita McCormick, Don McCormick
- **Nominating Committee:** Pat Phillips, Dave Kemplin, Doug Hamm, Karen Olsen
- **Outreach Committee:** Gordon Starr, Sharon Davisson, Gordon Bishop, Hilary Ellis-Lavigne, and Dianne Marshall
- **Peace and Social Justice Committee:** Dean Olson, Karen Olson, Reed Hamilton, Beth Kemplin
- **Spiritual Life Committee:** Gordon Starr, Sandy Kewman, Amy Cooke, Don McCormick

Reminder:

*This information is updated as of 6/9/19.
Committee Clerks to be announced.*

**Newsletter items for the 3rd month issue are due
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 by 10:00 a.m.**

No PDFs and no formatting, please.

Grass Valley Friends Meeting

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

