



**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, Fourth Month, 2020

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REMEMBER: Now We May Donate to GVFM Online!

GIVE
(LIVE LINK)

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.*

HAPPENING NOW

- **Thursday, April 16, 2020:** Quaker Parenting in the time of the Covid Crisis, 1:00p.m. PST

HAPPENING LATER

- **Saturday, May 2, 2020:** Memorial Service for Bob Barnes, 2p.m., Friends Meeting House
- **Saturday, May 9, 2020:** Memorial Service for Dave Barnett, 2p.m. Friends Meeting House
- **May 15-17, 2020:** College Park Quarterly Meeting gathering at Ben Lomond Quaker Center

- **Sunday, May 31, 2020**, Listening Meeting for Parents
- **Sunday, September 13, 2020**: InterFaith March for Peace and Justice 1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.

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

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: Grass Valley Friends Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, April 12, 2020

We met virtually.

Present: Anita McCormick, Don McCormick, co-clerks; Amy Cooke, recording clerk; Gordon Starr, Mary Starr, Chamba Cooke, Dianne Marshall, Dorothy Henderson, Doug Hamm, Sandy Kewman, Reed Hamilton, Judy Hamilton, Fosten Wilson , Kathy McCreery.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM):** Sandy Kewman reported on the PacYM Representative Committee Meeting.

The meeting took place on March 6 & 7th, 2020 at Visalia Friends Meeting. We were welcomed by Darlene Franco, Chairperson of the Wukchumni Tribal Council of Tulare County, who brought a deep appreciation of the land to the Friends gathered.

The minutes of the proceedings and the [approved Minutes](#) are now posted at

Subsequent to that gathering, the clerk met with several Friends and this group came to discern that Annual Session 2020 will be held virtually. Many more planning zoom meetings will be taking place. If you have any suggestions based on your experience with virtual meetings your Representative to PacYM, clerks of PacYM and committee members, officers or the clerk can be contacted with recommendations.

- **Quaker Parenting in the Time of COVID**

Sponsored by Pacific YM Religious Education Committee & the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) Thursday, April 16, 2020 1pm Pacific Time

Quaker parents are facing all kinds of new wrinkles and daunting challenges in this time as we are physically separated from the outside world or continue in essential roles in the community with all of the risks that entails.

This session will feature Harriet Heath, PhD., retired psychologist and co-founder of the Quaker Parenting Initiative (QPI).

Join us for a special conversation to consider these issues with Harriet Heath, Ph.D., retired psychologist and co-founder of the Quaker Parenting Initiative (QPI). In a delightfully Quaker way, Harriet guides parents to find answers to these challenges using queries that connect a parents' deepest hopes for their children with the situation at hand.

Bring your questions, concerns, and insights to fold into our circle.

- What is life like being home all day?
- What do you need?
- What are your concerns?
- What have you learned you'd like to share?

For the Zoom link to **Quaker Parenting in the Time of COVID**, email **Beth Collea** at bethcollea@aol.com

For further information on the Quaker Parenting Initiative, see their [website](#) or check out QPI's [book](#) *Paths to Quaker Parenting*.

- **College Park Quarterly Meeting (CPQM):** May 15-17, 2020, held virtually, more information will be forthcoming.

QUERIES:

- Do the clerks and all other members of M&O need to contact every member in this time? Should we all be reaching out to each other?
 - Supporting ourselves through regular contact seems like a good way for us to care for each other at this time.
- Should we create a list of people to contact?
 - Sacramento Monthly Meeting divided up their members and attenders list and M&O took 5 or so people each and they are calling people every week.
 - Would it be difficult for some of our M&O members to take that on?
 - If people are led to participate in this, please email Anita.
- Dorothy noted that she called parents about the Children's Program. The idea of calling without an agenda, just to check in, feels joyful.
- Could there be a phone tree of people calling each other?

LAST MONTH'S ACTION ITEMS

- 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.

Report: Until the new committees are in place, Don and Anita propose being the point people for email and phone contact for GVFM. Should we use a phone number and email that can be forwarded to

whoever is clerk or co-clerk? Dianne Marshall is now the convener for the Outreach Committee and can explore with the committee how to anchor these issues. Anita and Don will talk to their son about setting up a generic email and phone account.

Obituaries for Friends Journal and Western Friend: the clerks and M&O have been doing this. We work with family members to draft the memorial minute and then we forward it on.

Dianne Marshall will take the following to the Outreach Committee:

- Friends Journal and Western Friend listings and the CPQM listing.
- The Union listing

NOMINATING

The slate will be sent to GVFM Members next week.

NAMING

The Naming Committee has met and will be reaching out to people this week about serving on Nominating.

TREASURER

Quarterly Report: fosten gave the report. **The report came out in email and is appended.**

- ZOOM:
 - What are the costs for Zoom? It is approximately \$150 per year or \$14.95 per month. This decision will be made by the treasurer and Finance. Right now the clerk of Children's Program is using her personal Zoom and our Meetings are on Woolman's Zoom. However, once this over we may want our own account.
 - There are security issues with Zoom. Should we explore other options? If so, who would do that? Hackers could put malware on your computer. If you use a tablet or phone there is less exposure.
 - Amy will ask Carl to make a list of recommendations and their costs and bring it back to the May Meeting for Business.

MINISTRY & OVERSIGHT

State of the Meeting report, see appended.

The White Fragility Book Group would like to add a section.

Feedback:

- Nominating Committee needs to be added
- Interfaith March for Peace and Justice: September 13, 2020. In 2021 we hope that the March will be in the spring again. This is done in conjunction with the Interfaith group of Nevada County.
- "Early members" instead of "founding members."
- We were reminded that the Quarterly meeting clerk is interested in the present - not the future or the past. Who are we writing this for? We are writing this for other meetings. We threshed the purpose of the report. It is for meetings and it is for us. The nitty-gritty is useful.
- Do we need the sentence about the potential problem with the lease with Sierra Friends Center? What need are we meeting?

- We do not need the sentence about black mold - that is a specific issue and we do not know that that is what we had.
- Can the social justice section be broken into paragraphs?

The report will be reworked and sent to the meeting in anticipation of the May meeting for business.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Revised lease - Amy Cooke made the report. The changes recommended by Ministry and Oversight have been made and the new lease is ready to sign.
2. **Quaker and Beyond Mutual Aid Network | Young Adult Friends/Elder Assistance Project** - Chamba Cooke gave the report. **See appended report.** Our meeting is being asked to participate. There are specific requests being made. It was recommended that the Ministry and Oversight Committee review the requests.
3. Woolman at Sierra Friends Center report: All spring events and groups have been cancelled or rescheduled. Family Work Camp has been moved to August. We are in discernment about Camp Woolman. We have applied for funding under the CARES Act to mitigate the lost income, but the process has become snarled and delayed. Please hold us in the Light. We also held all the campers for whom Camp Woolman has been so important.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Anita and Don will talk to their son about setting up a generic email and phone account.
- Dianne Marshall will take the following to the Outreach Committee for discernment:
 - Friends Journal and Western Friend listings
 - The Union listing
- Amy will ask Carl to make a list of recommendations and their costs for virtual meetings and bring it back to the May Meeting for Business.
- Amy will send the completed lease to Anita and Don for signing.
- The White Fragility Book Group will add a section to the State of the Meeting report and send it out for review.
- Don and Anita will be reworking the State of the Meeting Report and the new draft will be sent to the Meeting members in anticipation of the May meeting for business.
- Dianne will provide a link in the newsletter for people to read the State of the Meeting report.
- Ministry and Oversight will review the requests from the Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Programs Coordinator:
 - 1) Review your MM's current support of your members and attenders.
 - 2) Pinpoint individuals in your community with specific needs, so that we can match them with friends who can be of assistance to them.
 - 3) Identify young adult friends with financial need and interest in perhaps joining us.
 - 4) Establish a contact from your MM, Worship Group or Quaker organization to stay in touch with us throughout the duration of this project. This might be someone from M&O.
 - 5) Consider a Meeting contribution to this effort, a request to members, or a fundraiser of some kind.

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.

Final Query:

Anita read a quote from a fellow Quaker. How are we caring for our community?

READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES

Note: The record and the minutes were read, corrected and approved.

Gratitude was expressed for the Clerks and their willingness to clerk in this unusual way.

If you are giving a report to GVFM, please send the actual report to the recording clerk at amyliette@gmail.com THE FRIDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

Newsletter Reminder: Please have items to Dianne Marshall by Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Amy Cooke, recording clerk.

APPENDICES:

- 1. Treasurer's Report**
- 2. 2020 Report on the State of Grass Valley Friends Meeting**
- 3. Quaker and Beyond Mutual Aid Network | Young Adult Friends/Elder Assistance Project**

Fourth Month Queries: The Meeting Community

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the "beloved community."

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other's needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?

Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?

Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God's love for the whole community?

How are love and unity maintained among us?

Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?

How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?

Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?

2020 Report on the State of Grass Valley Friends Meeting

Grass Valley Friends Meeting does important work. We help each other to know the Spirit and we also help others. Doing this inspires us to live simply and with integrity, and to build a world of peace, justice, and care for the earth.

We're Smaller: While as a Meeting we experience considerable unity, we continue to lose members and attenders. Two families moved away in part because of fire insurance problems. Some of our elders moved to a retirement home. To keep in touch with them we met with them for an hour of music and Meeting for Worship at their retirement home. It started with singing and this drew in other residents. The Spirit was strong here. Sadly this stopped with the onset of the pandemic. Also, some of our elders passed away this year, and we mourn this loss. Among them were two of our Meeting's earliest members. We will miss their presence, institutional memory, and wisdom. Many of us helped the family of one of them with their house and property after they died.

Outreach: We have learned from other meetings and churches. One idea came from the local Methodist church—welcome bags that we offer to new attenders. They contain information about our Meeting and Quakerism (and some chocolate). When Woolman Summer Camp next meets, we plan to use flyers to help families attending the to see that our Meeting is a place that they can come to year round.

In an effort to be more welcoming, we offer the Quaker Minute during announcements. It's a short explanation of a key Quaker concept. Also, the library now has a newcomers' section with free books, magazines, and pamphlets for visitors. (We are also considering developing a reading list for newcomers.) To encourage social connection between us we have offered potlucks at different members' homes. One couple hosted our Christmas party at their new home. Forty-two people attended and the children acted out the Psalm XXIII. And we hope to develop other places for people to connect, like seekers' meetings.

Children: Because it was difficult to get adults to staff the children's program, it was almost laid down. But after a large meeting of all those concerned, enough people volunteered so that we have two adults each week teaching the children. The committee is now our largest and is very dynamic. For several months, we also hired a teen to help with the program. All of this says to the children, 'You are important to us.' We are blessed to have parents who regularly bring their children to Meeting, especially since consistent attendance by young people can be rare in Quaker meetings. The children's program is now offered online. We find it is important to listen to our kids to better understand their needs, what they want, and what would be fun for them.

Getting Things Done: As a result of our shrinking membership, some of us are led to take on more responsibilities. It may be that if no one volunteers to be on a committee, we need to lay it aside for a time. We want outreach, peace, and social justice activities to happen, but we haven't done as much as we had hoped. Our Meeting has 46 slots for representatives and committee members but only 34 members, so we decided to reduce the number of committees to six: Children, Nominating, Stewardship, Welcoming, Ministry & Oversight, and Spirit/Witness.

Environmental, Peace, and Social Action: With regret, we ended our years-long practice of helping to feed the people at our local homeless shelter every month. Many of us are upset about this and unhappy that we aren't more involved in ongoing social action; it is such a central part of Quakerism.

On the other hand, we participated in an annual interfaith march for peace and justice, and one of our members is active in organizing it. This year's March will Sunday, September 13, 2020. Also, we co-sponsored, publicized, and put together a workshop for the community led by Quaker activist George Lakey on organizing nonviolent direct action campaigns for climate justice. Sixty people attended. Because it helped other

environmental, justice and peace activists learn to be more effective, it could have a big impact. A display and brochures about our Meeting helped get the word out about us.

A fourth Sunday Spiritual Life (Adult Ed) session on white privilege, in concert with PYM, inspired eleven of us to start a book group that read *White Fragility*. It was successful and is continuing to meet online—reading another book recommended by PYM, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*.

A fourth Sunday Spiritual Life (Adult Ed) session on white privilege, in concert with PYM, inspired eleven of us to start a book group that read *White Fragility*. Over the course of six weeks the group has grappled with the issues presented both individually and as a group. This book group is continuing to meet online. At the last meeting they individually responded to the queries offered from PYM. (See page 13 for reflections on reading this book from members of the book group which is included in the 2020 Report on the State of the Grass Valley Friends Meeting.)

In a meeting where we gathered input for this report, a friend spoke movingly about raising his mixed race children here years ago. He got involved in our children's program, and soon, up to eight mixed race kids began participating. They went camping, visited an amusement park, did a road trip, and had discussions (about things like sex and consent). Looking back on this, he said that he could see where he had originally been in denial about the need for it. "Now what I can't see is my own denial in the present. I can't imagine there isn't need in this community that we can't touch. If we can open our eyes, we can meet that need. In the 80's it was a need for mixed race kids to meet." Can we open our eyes today to community needs that we can meet?

Woolman at Sierra Friends Center: There were potential difficulties with Sierra Friends Center's new lease for the Meeting House, but these were handled amicably among Friends. At the center's annual family work camp only 20% of the people were Quaker, but all participated in family Meeting for Worship, and many also participated in early morning Bible study and worship sharing. Also there are people who stay short-term in rental cabins. It seems we should have something that invites them to join us for Meeting for Worship. We have such beautiful grounds, that we wonder who in our community can we host and invite here after the pandemic? We could have big potlucks, or we could have a soccer game with the Unitarians.

The Meeting House & Signs: We moved or removed various posters and clutter from the walls and from outside the Meeting House. We put up more relevant educational posters about vocal ministry, welcoming newcomers, and Quakerism in general in places that didn't detract from the Quaker aesthetic of simplicity. Our Building and Grounds committee recently patched holes, painted walls, and performed other repairs to the Meeting House. Much-needed directional signs were put up at Jones Bar Road and on campus that we hope will help newcomers find us.

Community: Each week we have group singing that begins an hour before Meeting for Worship. Appreciation for it has been expressed and participation has increased. With the onset of the pandemic, we began meeting online. We have been pleasantly surprised at the high quality of our online Meeting for Worship, book group, and committee meetings. We have seen people in our online Meetings for Worship and children's program that we haven't seen for quite a while. A lot of work that supports the community is invisible because it is confidential.

Perhaps our greatest strength is the many people in the Meeting who have a strong Quaker practice. In our Meeting community, the Spirit is strong and noted by many. As one member said, "On Sunday mornings, I feel like, I'm going to my dear Meeting. I feel so accepted."

Please send any recommended changes to this report to Don McCormick donmccormick2@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Thank you.



QUNO- A Quaker Presence at the United Nations

By Shera Banbury

The Peace Building Commission of the United Nation is now 15 years old. QUNO has been at the forefront of the work to create and develop the architecture of knowledge to implement sustainable and peace-building programming, including publishing research about civil societies.

Quaker House has hosted many meeting, e.g. Camp for Peace Liberia in 2019. Quiet diplomacy presented in a practical way is invaluable.

Three new Program Assistants will be hired this year. They will work in Geneva. Currently, Rosemary Ventura, from Wisconsin, is one. She has worked in maternal health in S. America and Africa. You can read more about her in the “In and around the UN” QUNO newsletter on line.

UN Representative Rachel Madenyika, who leads QUNO’s conflict prevention program, met with 55 world reps at Wilson Park’s Winston House, a mansion with 6,000 parkland acres in the UK. Human rights and conflict prevention create sustainable peace.

Andrew Tomlinson, QUNO Director, wrote an article based on the 75th anniversary of the UN this year. QUNO offices in New York and Washington have been a part of its growth for 73 years.

This year, please consider purchasing a membership in our Quaker-founded UNA local Golden Empire Chapter that meets monthly (April 16) on the third Tuesday from 5-7 pm at Unitarian Universalist Community in the Mountains in Grass Valley. Call Katerina Scourtes, President, at (530) 913-7826.

Coronavirus and the 2020 Gathering: March 23, 2020 Update



Dear Friends,

After several meetings with a number of committee clerks, staff, and Gathering volunteers, it has become clear that **we cannot safely hold the in-person FGC Gathering this year** in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. We share the experience that the Gathering is deeply important for so many Friends. At the same time, the health and safety of our family of Friends must be paramount. We bring this disappointing news, while at the same time seeking how Spirit might lead us to embrace online tools to create remote Gathering offerings this summer to bring our community together in this time of challenge. While change is neither easy nor comfortable, let us take time to celebrate what has gone before, mourn loss of being together in person, and move with hearts open to a new way forward.

We are clear in this decision, even as we reflect on the thousands of hours of planning so many Friends have invested, the loss of sharing in-person fellowship, and the financial strains cancellation of the in-person Gathering will cause for FGC. Why make the decision now, when so much is unknown? Both because so much is unknown, and because it's already clear that even if the threat subsides by June, many Friends will be unable to participate in an in-person Gathering this summer due to Covid-19 related financial, family, work, and school challenges. Acknowledging this reality and making this decision now will give FGC more capacity and time to plan alternative ways to speak to the needs of Friends now and in the months to come.

A virtual Gathering working group is forming to explore how to provide, in a new way, spiritual sustenance to all Gathering attendees, including youth, high schoolers, young adults, the FLGBTQC community, and Friends of Color. We will work to share online offerings during the week that would have been the in-person Gathering. Staff & volunteers will also look for ways to include those with limited or no internet access. If you feel called to contribute to this new approach, please be in touch with Lori Sinitzky, rising Conference Coordinator at loris@fgcquaker.org.

We are also responding to the understanding that Spirit has opened a way for us to explore what it means to stay connected with each other beyond the week of the Gathering.

It is our current expectation to hold the 2021 Gathering as a traditional in-person event. The FGC Long Range Conference Planning committee will be meeting to set plans in motion for the 2021 and 2022 Gatherings. We are exploring how we can bring some of the content lovingly developed and discerned by the 2020 Gathering Committee to the 2021 in-person Gathering. We also want to remain open that the world is changing, and we are committed to understanding and meeting the emerging needs of the Friends, Seekers, and Meetings we serve.

As events unfold and clarity increases, we'll be sharing more updates, both on here and the [Gathering update email list](#).

Faithfully yours, Frank Barch, Presiding Clerk, David Haines, Long Range Conference Planning Committee Clerk, Michelle Bellows, Long Range Conference Planning Committee Assistant Clerk, Patsy Arnold Martin, 2020 Gathering Co-Clerk, Tony Martin, 2020 Gathering Co-Clerk, Barry Crossno, General Secretary, Ruth Reber, Conference Coordinator, Lori Sinitzky, Rising Conference Coordinator

Quaker Religious Education for Children and the Covid-19 Sheltering at Home

Provided by Susan Hopkins and QREC (Quaker Religious Education Collaborative)
website: www.quakers4re.org

The Quaker Sparklers have been busy creating lesson plans for parents to use at home during the COVID-19 sheltering. These first 4 are hot off the press and we are sending them out. A few others are in the pipeline... And, they will all be more widely available soon through QREC and probably FGC.

[Valiant Together: Facebook Group for Quaker Religious Education During COVID-19](#)

Like the Valiant 60 of Quaker history, Quaker Religious Educators (RE) are reaching out through a new Facebook group to support families. The Spirit is rising! Join us as we work together to bring hope, creativity and the chance to go deeper during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Valiant Together* is a Facebook group hosted by QREC where the Quaker RE community of practice can share ideas and resources; where we can work together.

We all have questions, we all have ideas, and we are already working to spread love and creativity in these challenging times.

Join us! Resources for families and Friends in their homes are being posted at a new QREC Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ValiantTogetherQuakerRE/>.

Here are some really great resources for all to share (not just for the younger set):

- Rise Up Singing [FUN FOR \(COOPED UP\) FAMILIES](#)
- [FGC Spiritual Deepening Library](#):
- **Looking for children's books to read with your family?** The [Sparkling Still Online Library](#) is a treasure trove of beautiful books selected and reviewed by seasoned Quaker religious educators. The collection is searchable by topic and age group:
- ["Treeing Together" A Lesson for First Day School at Home:](#)
- [Lesson Plan for the Home: Remembering, Hoping, and Being Present](#)

Books about COVID-19 to share with Families:

Use these books to start a conversation about the pandemic; about feelings, worries, faith and hope.

For pre-school:

- ["Something Strange Happened in My City: A social story about the coronavirus pandemic for children"](#) by Dr. Shu-Chen Jenny Yen California State University, Fullerton

For older children:

- ["A Kids book about™ COVID-19"](#) by Malia Jones

All books and music are available on YouTube so can readily accessed

"Only when we see that we are a part of the totality of the planet, not a superior part with special privileges, can we work effectively to bring about an earth restored to wholeness.

Elizabeth Watson, [Your God is Too Small](#), 1886



A Body Prayer to Try at Home

Beth Collea, RE Coordinator, NEYM



I am stable. I am grounded. I feel the earth beneath me. I feel balanced. I can't be pushed from this place of physical and spiritual grounding easily.



I reach up in gratitude for all that is above me—the sky, the firmament, the stars and planets of the night sky, the clouds and sunshine of the day. It is part of me and I am part of it.



I gather the world of animals and sea creatures to my heart. I celebrate the world of plants. I am grateful for all of them. I am part of all of life and all of life is part of me.



I reach out to my whole human family in love and service, witness and welcome. They are part of me and I am part of them.



I reach inward to listen for the still, small voice. God (the Spirit) is part of me and I am part of God (the Spirit).
(Stay in the prayer position, quiet and still, for a few seconds.)



Palo Alto Friends Meeting El Salvador Projects

Dear Friends,

During these day of uncertainty and where many of us around the world are confined to our homes with little contact with other people I ask if any of you that have supported our educational programs in El Salvador would be interested in corresponding (twice a year) with one of our university students. This year due to more donations we have several new students for whom we don't yet have what we call corresponding sponsors. This is not a financial responsibility but rather a commitment to receive and respond to student letters. Please let me know at rpbroz@gmail.com if you may be interested.

In Peace and may we all get through this as best as possible, Robert Perry Broz Moran

Editor's Note: Robert Broz came to the Grass Valley Friends Meeting in 2019. To read Robert's full letter, contact Dianne Marshall at dmarshall@pacific.net and she will email it to you.

Click here for more information about the [Palo Alto Friends Meeting El Salvador Projects](#).

Reflections from the *White Fragility* Reading Group

- *White Fragility* helped me understand the different experience a Black person has in Nevada County as opposed to the acceptance that a White has.
- The book made me aware that it begins within me. The book brought home for me the need as a white person to be more sensitive and open to how our whole culture is a "white's only swimming pool" where that sign has blown down, but the attitude still is alive and well.
- Most of my life I have lived with amnesia about racism because I have lived mainly in separated white communities and have benefited unconsciously from white supremacy. I have only an intellectual understanding of racism.
- An awareness of how we as whites, and a religion which is white from its start, have had no full choice to avoid the prejudice that the distinctions "white race" and "other races" creates. And seeing the distinction as invalid does not make it go away from our unconsciously inherited prejudice.
- Although DiAngelo's book sort of drove me nuts (her unqualified assertions, straw man arguments, white-is-bad stance, and making things up), I got a lot out of our group's deep sharing and connecting with each other around this important issue.
- Our reading and discussion of *White Fragility* has helped sensitize me to the micro-aggressions that pervade our culture, and within this awareness to have the courage to address these.
- The book made me aware of how pervasive white supremacy is incorporated into our life and how little awareness I had/have of this process. Through the group, I have come to see how important it is to stop the continuation of whiteness as the norm and feel committed to changing this in myself.
- Whiteness is a social construction that I was born into and that offers me not only privileges, but blindness as to my participation in the oppression of people of color.
- Robin DiAngelo's tour de force exposing how racism within our culture has seeped into even the most benign minds has served as a jarring wake-up call. Rising above our historic failings is a profound challenge and leaves none of us resting on our laurels.

The reading group is continuing to meet online and will now engage together in the experience of reading and doing the exercises in *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. We are also planning to present our experiences thus far in an upcoming Spiritual Life session in our Meeting.

Much of Robin DiAngelo's book is dedicated to pulling back the veil on so-called pillars of whiteness: assumptions that prop up racist beliefs without white people realizing it.

Keeping Quiet by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
for once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be
confused with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.



INTERFAITH MARCH FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

Peace & Justice: A Reality for All

Save the Date:

Sunday, September 13, 2020

1:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.

Grass Valley, CA

Details to follow

The Interfaith March for Peace & Justice is an outward expression of these Guiding Principles:

We believe:

1. All people should be free to practice their faith without fear of discrimination, intimidation, or reprisal.
2. Multiple religions can coexist peacefully and contribute to the common good.
3. Equal justice and equal protection under the law are rights to which all people are entitled.
4. Governments should protect those who are most vulnerable and never fail to seek justice for acts of violence perpetrated against minorities by those who claim superiority or dominance.

This event, by design, is intended to be non-partisan, positive, and unifying. We hope to connect people; we want to find common ground and we want to communicate a message of respect, peace, and love.

Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contact Information (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
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- **Mail Clerk:** VACANT
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- **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 5th month issue are due
Tuesday, May 12, 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

