

**GRASS VALLEY
FRIENDS MEETING**

*Of the Religious Society of Friends in the Truth,
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

Website: www.grassvalleyfriends.org (NEW)
Email: grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com

First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House (in-person and zoom)
10:00 am Silent Meeting for Worship (in-person and zoom)
To receive the zoom link, grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com.

Newsletter, Ninth Month, 2024

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MEETING CALENDAR

First Sunday

- Program to be announced.

Second Sunday

- Hybrid Silent Meeting for Worship Meeting, Potluck and for Worship on the Occasion of Business.

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
- ✚ 2nd First Day: A Story and a Craft or Activity
- ✚ 3rd First Day: A Story plus Time for Silent Worship

Third Sunday

- Program to be announced.

Fourth Sunday

- Spiritual Life

- ✚ 4th First Day: A Creative, Topical Curriculum
- ✚ 5th First Day: Family Worship (a story, singing and silent worship)
- ✚ Online Worship: Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:30 pm

HAPPENING NOW

- Saturday, September 21, 2024, 4:30p.m. – 7:00p.m., Quaker Potluck at Dianne Marshall & Lawren Giles' home (See pg. 7 for details.)

HAPPENING LATER

- Beginning September 10, 2024 – *Quaker Youth Leadership Training*. See the July-August issue of this newsletter for details.
- October 3-6, 2024 Quaker Earthcare Witness Fall Gathering *Water is Life*. See page 13 for details
- October 18-20, 2024 - College Park Quarterly Meeting, See page 8 for details
- November 13 – 17, 2024 – FCNL's *Advocacy that Never Gives Up*. See the July-August issue of this newsletter for details

NOTE: *College Park Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Ben Lomond Quaker Center this Fall. Details on page 8.*

GLOSSARY- Abbreviations and terms used in the GVFM newsletter.

SFC: Sierra Friends Center

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 Resource

UwN: Unity with Nature

Query: The Friends practice of examining our souls and seeking clarity. These questions & exercises help to give time to seek truth about us and our spiritual condition and to tap into Divine insight.

Threshing Session: A meeting at a separate time 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, speak to a point just made, or ask a question of a previous speaker.

MINUTES & RECORD: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business September 8, 2024

We met in a hybrid meeting in person at the meetinghouse and on Zoom.

Present: Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Gordon Starr, elder to the clerk; Mary Starr, Lo Hamm, Dianne Marshall, Reed Hamilton, Judy Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Stuart Smith, Amy Lisette Cooke, Chamba Cooke, fosten wilson, Sharon Davisson, Alan Stahler, Peter ORourke, Keith Runyan.

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerks' Remarks and Query

- Sometimes a split between ideas between two people (arguments) can bring us closer together. We can use this in Meeting for Worship for Business. A Bible story from Acts was told where the disciples are arguing about an issue involving the Gentiles and how to move forward with their involvement. The discussion is heated, and several disciples express different opinions. Eventually they found their way forward. How can we use this in our Meeting for Worship for Business?
 - Friends spoke out of the silence.
 - One Friend recalled a reading from a wedding he attended which said “the streams with obstacles are the ones that sing.”
 - Another Friend expressed a regular prayer for our country that we can find our way to work together again.
 - Conflict is an opportunity.
 - Another Friend recalled the long process in the past of discerning an divided issue in Meeting for Worship for Business. The meeting was split and there were very strong opinions. Through the process of silence and going to our hearts, the way opened. It is worship. The “I” disappears and the “We” arises.
 - Another Friend recalls how her family resolved conflict with a Family Council, including a Kids Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Spirit and Witness: Amy Cooke (2024-2027), Stuart Smith (2023-2026), Reed Hamilton (2022-2025), Sharon Davisson (2022-2025), Dean Olson (2023-2026), Dorothy Henderson (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk)

Amy Cooke gave the report, appended.

MINUTE 2024.09.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting will have a spot on the Meeting for Worship for Business monthly agenda for individuals to share their experiences from the wider Quaker world, in whatever way they are inspired. If possible, please send the message to the Clerk and Recording Clerk in advance of Meeting for Worship for Business. Spirit and Witness will create a reference list of Quaker organizations to be included in the newsletter.

- One Friend questioned the phrase “Quaker world” and wondered how that includes non-Quaker activities. It was clarified that this is specifically for the Quaker organizations and how we report on them.
- Another Friend wondered if there would be a sign-up, or if it would be an open space for speakers to step forward. Spirit and Witness talked about this, and thought it would be helpful for the Clerk and the Recording Clerk to know in advance who will be speaking and to have something sent in advance to be noted. But, they also acknowledged that sometimes something moves in us during worship and it should be shared.
- Another Friend wanted to make sure we keep the focus of sharing the joy of how these organizations are working in the world, and it can include non-quaker organizations.

- Another Friend questioned when the list will be sent to the Newsletter. A beginning list will be sent in time to include in the Newsletter this month.
- Due to the way the job descriptions for our committees are worded, we will not need to change any of the job descriptions with this Minute.

MINUTE 2024.09.02: Grass Valley Friends Meeting releases Dayton Mason from membership in Grass Valley Friends Meeting. We will send a registered letter notifying him in the next 30 days.

MINUTE 2024.09.03: Grass Valley Friends Meeting releases Coleman Watts from membership in Grass Valley Friends Meeting. We will send a registered letter notifying him in the next 30 days.

Stewardship: Gordon Starr, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, David Bowman. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Mary Starr (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian), Hailey Wilson (ex-officio Tech Support).

Gordon Starr gave the report, appended.

- The 2024-2025 Budget was presented. The budget is now being seasoned until the 10th Month.

MINUTE 2024.09.04: Grass Valley Friends Meeting agrees that all financial files older than seven years will be disposed of. Any documents that contain confidential information will be shredded, in accordance with current law.

Welcome: Peter O'Rourke (Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Cheryl Hendrickson, Cindy Bliss, Lo Hamm, Judy Hamilton (ex-officio email coordinator), Nancy Anderson (ex-officio directory clerk).

Peter O'Rourke gave the report, appended.

Nominating Committee: (terms as noted) Judy Hamilton: 2022-2024, Gordon Starr: 2022-2024, Dean Olson 2023-2025, Sharon Davisson 2023-2024.

Judy Hamilton gave a brief update.

- Nominating is aware that the Recorder position will need to be filled but we are waiting until a new nominating committee is brought forth to work on filling this position.
- The Naming Committee will meet this week to move forward.

Children's Program: Keely McDonald, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, David Cowan, Lo Hamm.

There was no report.

OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer: No report given.

Pacific Yearly Meeting: No report given.

College Park Quarterly Meeting: Doug Hamm gave the report.

Interfaith Nevada County: No report given.

CLERK'S REMARKS:

- This Clerk asks for your patience and love as we move forward with a new(ish) Clerk, Recording Clerk, and Treasurer. We appreciate everyone's input and advice as we continue to learn in these roles.
- Thank you to our committees and committee clerks. Our committees are functioning well, which makes our Meeting for Worship for Business run smoothly. Some might call Meeting for Worship for Business boring, or straight forward, but it really shows how well our committees are discerning and bringing their work to the greater meeting.

ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

MINUTE (Seasoning until 10th month): Grass Valley Friends meeting approves the 2024-2025 Budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **College Park Quarterly Meeting** will be October 18-20, 2024 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.
- **Facebook:** please 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, and it helps our visibility. Follow this [link](#).
- The **2023-2024 PacYM General Directory** is temporarily unavailable while the website redesign is in progress. When available, the Directory is for use by members and attenders of monthly meetings and worship groups within Pacific Yearly Meeting and by Friends serving on Pacific Yearly Meeting committees. It is not to be shared beyond this community. Dorothy, Doug, and Don have the new password for the PacYM Directory.
- **Carl Magruder:** You can follow Carl's healing journey on the CaringBridge.org website [HERE](#). Friends have also set up a daily Meeting for Healing from 7:30 to 8 am (Pacific) on Zoom [here](#) or contact Amy Cooke at amyisette@gmail.com for the link.
- **Contributions to Grass Valley Friends Meeting** are gratefully accepted. You can give by mailing a check to Mary Starr or through Tithely on the website or our newsletter. Our treasurer is asking for additional funds this month in order to fund our year end donation.

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 jenniferjksmith@gmail.com THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS. Please write reports in **12 point, Times New Roman font**. This formatting will match the formatting in our Meeting for Worship for Business Minutes and Record. And, if possible, write reports in Google Docs and share with both Dorothy and Jennifer.

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items into Dianne Marshall by Tuesday at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.
Respectfully recorded by Jennifer Smith, recording clerk.

APPENDICES:

1. Spirit and Witness Committee report
2. Stewardship Committee report
 - a. Budget Report.
3. Welcome Committee report
 - a. A Conversation with Rashid Darden, the Associate Secretary for Communication and Outreach for Friends General Conference
4. Children's Committee report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Pacific Yearly Meeting Monthly Report
7. Interfaith Nevada County report
8. Information: Organization Representatives by Committee

ADVISES AND QUERIES: NINTH MONTH ~ Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Inaction is a form of action. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. In making your insights clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

- Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?
- Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?
- *Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?*
- *Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?*
- *Do we give prayerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?*

GVFM Treasurer's Quarterly Report, 9-1-2024

Summary = We're doing okay but have some year-end challenges.

- **Donations for the Month of August: \$792.00 Expenditures: \$620.00**
 - A small, positive cashflow

Thanks to each of you for your contributions, both in service to the Meeting and financial are deeply appreciated. *To assure our capacity to pay Quarterly Meeting membership fees and to make GVFM's financial contributions to selected programs and organizations, please add as much as you are able to your regular contributions.* Money contributions can be in-person, mailed to my address below, or online by using the "give" button in our newsletter (below) and at grassvalleyfriends.org.

Mary Starr, Treasurer, P. O. Box 506, Applegate, CA 95703 Email = mstarr2133@aol.com

Your Donations Keep GVFM Viable! Thank you! Donate here!



← This button will take you to a secure site.

- Giving is easy! Click on the Give button above or go to grassvalleyfriends.org and click on "GIVE" You'll go to a secure site for donations. Monthly contributions are very important. *You may now change the dollar amount of your gift without making a new donation request!*
- Or mail your donation to **Mary Starr Treasurer, P. O. Box 506, Applegate, CA 95703.**
Thank you.

STAY IN TOUCH! [Grass Valley Friends Meeting Facebook link](#)

Are you a Facebook user? Do follow the Grass Valley Friends Meeting page or join the Facebook Grass Valley Friends Meeting group. When you share a post from the page, your friends will see it, and it helps our visibility.

LET'S VISIT! Monthly Potluck

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Time: 4:30p.m. – 7:00p.m.

Place: The home of Lawren Giles and Dianne Marshall

Address: 12816 Lost Lake Road, Grass Valley

RSVP requested: dmarshall@pacific.net

Driving directions and where to park will be provided when you RSVP.



***"...let us storm the gates of heaven, let us shake up ourselves
and our plaster saints from the sleep of years."***

~ from Dangerous Prayers, by Regina Sara Ryan

Dean Olson Published “Yulica” a Moving Article in the September Western Friend

Dean Olson published a moving article in the September issue of *Western Friend*. In it, he tells the story of the transfer of ownership from Sierra Friends Center to the Nisenan. He also summarized what has happened to the Nisenan over time and it is the best summary of this that I’ve ever read. He writes about this from a personal angle. The article was very moving. You may read it online if you have a *Western Friend* subscription or by looking at the copy of this magazine in the GVFM Library. - Don McCormick

Relationships in the Quaker Community: Unusual Connections and the Joy of Helping

This is the title of an article by Don McCormick that appears in the September issue of *Friends Journal*. Much of the article is about relationships in Grass Valley Friends Meeting, and it is in part based on the Spiritual Life session on relationships in the Quaker community that Don led. The first paragraph reads:

Are relationships in the Quaker community unusual in some ways? Well, generally they’re like any other relationships: some bad, some good. But when I compare relationships I’ve had or seen in the Quaker community with relationships at work, with neighbors, at school, or in other religious groups, I see differences. Two questions remain. The broader question is: what are these differences? The deeper question is: what causes them?

You can read the entire article at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/relationships-in-the-quaker-community/>

A Call to Homeland Return: A leading form for two Friends inspired by the Nisenan Tribe’s efforts to regain their homeland, which is presently owned by a Quaker center in Nevada City, Calif.

“A Call to Homeland Return” is the title of an article about the transfer of the land from Sierra Friends Center to the Nisenan tribe. It is by two members of Santa Cruz Meeting, Hans Brinker and Nancy Wood, and appears on the *Friends Journal* website. The first paragraph reads:

In the fall of 2023, when we heard that the Woolman at Sierra Friends Center Board had announced its intent to enter into a purchase agreement with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe to return their homeland, our hearts were opened and a leading took shape. We recognize that we are all living on Indigenous land. Given this and our nation’s unjust treatment of Indigenous peoples for centuries, we felt strongly in support of the transfer of this land, the site of an ancestral Nisenan village called Yulića, from a Quaker center to the descendants of those villagers as a form of reparations and step toward healing. We wanted Quakers across the country to know about this historic moment and invite them to help make it possible.

You can read the entire article at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/relationships-in-the-quaker-community/>

College Park Fall Quarterly Meeting: Friday, October 18th to Sunday, October 20th, 2024

All are welcome to join us for the 255th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting (CPQM) at Quaker Center. This event will be hybrid (both in person and online).

CPQM is a quarterly regional gathering of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in northern California and northern Nevada. It is a cherished gathering for children, young people and elders.

College Park Quarterly Meeting has held its **spring** gathering at Quaker Center for over 70 years. However, this will be an unusual **fall** gathering, as the autumn meeting has traditionally been held at Sierra Friends Center in Nevada City. Due to last year’s closure of Sierra Friends Center and the [ongoing “Homeland Return”](#)

[campaign](#) to return the land to the descendants of its original inhabitants, Fall Quarterly will be held here at the Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

For more information and to register, please visit www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.com.

A Conversation with Rashid Darden, the Associate Secretary for Communication and Outreach for Friends General Conference - Don McCormick

I just had an exciting conversation with Rashid Darden, the Associate Secretary for Communication and Outreach for Friends General Conference. We talked about outreach activities our monthly meeting can do.

Website

He was very complimentary about our website. He said it:

- Was up to date
- Had a nice banner
- Had pictures of people in the meeting
- Had subtle rainbow colors in the color scheme that communicated that our is an affirming meeting, without being too on the nose

He suggested that it would benefit from more pictures of people—the more, the better. People don't want to join an abstract idea, they want to join with other people. Even if the pictures are of the same 12 people over and over again, it's OK. The pictures can be portraits, even; they don't all have to be action shots.

“Be Prepared”

He said that to be a welcoming meeting, we need to prepare for the variety of new people who may show up, and we should prepare in advance for the moment they arrive, so they feel welcome. Working on anti-racism, for example, is one way to prepare. Also, we shouldn't panic if the new people who show up aren't young people. I agreed, pointing out that the average age of a new person in British meetings is 43. We can still grow, even if the typical person who joins us is middle-aged.

World Quaker Day

A World Quaker Day event can be a good way to get new people to show up. We should encourage people to invite their friends and family to worship on World Quaker Day—the first Sunday of October. We can invite them in person and through our social media. Typically, meetings do something simple for World Quaker Day—like worship and a potluck. But here are some other ideas <https://www.worldquakerday.org/resources/>

It's a good idea to send out a Media Advisory (what used to be called a Press Release). Or we could write a column for our local newspaper. It could

- explain that we are hosting a World Quaker Day celebration,
- include some quotes from our clerk
- include some quotes from Rashid

I found some newspaper articles about World Quaker Day. They could provide models for us.

- [Newton Quakers Celebrate World Quaker Day](#)
- [Wilton Quaker Meeting Invites People to World Quaker Day October 1](#)
- [Newtown Quakers Celebrate World Quaker Day Sunday, October 6](#)
- [Newton Quakers plan to celebrate World Quaker Day](#)

TO DO: Plan to do something for World Quaker Day, even if it's only an after-worship potluck.

Events

World Quaker Day is a good example of the kind of thing that can be used as an event. For other events, we might invite a speaker someone from FGC. They could talk about anything that would interest the general public. We would invite friends and family, and issue a media advisory.

For example, we might ask:

- the president of FGC, Barry Crossno, to give a talk,
- Rashid,
- the FGC Bookstore person,
- someone from the FGC anti-racism task force,
- authors of Quaker books, or
- authors of Pendle Hill Pamphlets.

They would probably give talks on Zoom. The person doesn't have to be a Quaker. (Tanya Luhrmann, a Stanford anthropologist who does research on the experience of people who talk to God and to whom God speaks would be interesting.)

Gordon's "Birthing the Christ Within" might also be an event that would interest the general public.

The meeting could be a hub for spiritual conversations about things that interest us (for example, like environmentalism-we could ask Keith) and other people as well. We could ask family and friends to attend.

Write for the Local Newspaper

If our meeting writes a minute of conscience, a minute is nothing but an op-ed written by a religious group. But if we submit it to the local paper, it's important that it be clear that it comes from a Quaker viewpoint ("As a Quaker...").

Create a Mailing List

We could create a mailing list; it could be for people who don't necessarily want to be Quakers. We could send out something once a month.

Regular Activities

It's best if we have a robust bunch of activities that happen on a regular basis. Like a Thanksgiving lunch every year. Or Gordon's "Birthing the Christ Within" presentation.

Describing Our Meeting in Positive Ways

Rashid asked me to describe our meeting and he made some suggestions for describing it in more positive ways. When I mentioned that the meeting was small, he said I could emphasize that it's a meeting where people knew each other well, and where people want to get to know other spiritual seekers. I said that I thought our meeting had a real spiritual focus, and he said that we could emphasize how spiritually enriching our meeting is. When I mentioned that our meeting was out in the boonies, was a 12 mile / 20 minute drive from the nearest city (Grass Valley), and there was no bus service, he suggested that we describe it as "worth the drive" to be involved in such a spiritually enriching community.





Making Queer Quaker History

Exploring the stories of Quaker participation in the gay rights movement and how Quaker congregations became more open and affirming for LGBTQ+ people during the mid-twentieth century

This fall, AFSC is co-sponsoring the Making Queer Quaker History event series through Beacon Hill Friends House with Brian Blackmore, AFSC's Director of Quaker Engagement. The series of lectures and workshops intends to share the often-untold stories of Quakers' influence and involvement in the project of gay liberation during the mid-twentieth century. Bringing to light this crucial history offers the opportunity for us to reaffirm Quakerism's commitment to inclusion and justice and bring the Quaker community together for further exploration of unexamined aspects of queer Quaker history.

Lectures and workshops are being offered in a hybrid format (over zoom and onsite at Beacon Hill Friends House) throughout September and October. Tickets for all events are available on a pay-as-led/sliding scale. Learn more and [register here!](#)

In Peace, AFSC Quaker Engagement
American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102



QUAKER ACTION WORLDWIDE

Here we present you with a partial list of Quaker organizations who welcome your knowing of their services, your participation and your support. If you are called to join in any of these efforts, we welcome you to share your firsthand experiences through your ministry and by submitting articles to this newsletter.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Founded in 1917, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. <https://www.afsc.org/>

Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Quaker Center is a retreat and conference center in Northern California. now offers a place of retreat and contemplation, of renewal and growth, for individuals, families, Friends meetings and other organizations or groups who unite with the Quaker principles of simplicity, justice, peace and respect for “that of God” in every person. <http://www.quakercenter.org/>

Friends Committee on National Legislation

The Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. <https://www.fcnl.org>
See also: Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA): a nonpartisan, statewide public interest lobby <https://fclca.org/>

Friends General Conference

Friends General Conference is an association of local and regional Quaker organizations primarily in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. <https://www.fgcquaker.org>

Friends World Committee for Consultation

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) fosters fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. <https://www.fwccamericas.org/>

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) is a Quaker presence at the United Nations, representing Friends’ concerns for global peace and justice to the international community. <https://quno.org/>

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is an independent Quaker not-for-profit organization. RSWR provides grants for marginalized women in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and India to fund individual micro-enterprise projects. <https://www.rswr.org>





Fall Gathering

October 3 @ 8:00 am - October 6 @ 1:00 pm EDT

Fall Gathering: Water is Life

With Keynote Speaker Dr. Lyla June



Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 3-6



Join us at our Fall Gathering at the Norbertine Spirituality Center at Santa María de la Vid Abbey in the beautiful high desert of Albuquerque, New Mexico, from Thursday, October 3rd to Sunday, October 6th.

Here in the heart of the desert, where water is a precious and often elusive resource, our theme, Water is Life, takes on a profound significance. The arid landscape mirrors the spiritual dryness we may sometimes experience. Yet, even in this seemingly barren environment, life finds a way to flourish.

Like water, our lives are interconnected, flowing, and changing. We will explore the ways in which water sustains life on our planet and how it mirrors our own spiritual journeys. May this time together be a refreshing spring, nourishing our souls and strengthening our commitment to Earthcare.

The structure of the Gathering is slightly different than in years past: From the evening of Thursday, October 3rd, to the morning of Friday, October 4th, the Gathering will primarily focus on the essential business of our community. **Read more about [Our Agenda](#) here.**

Friday afternoon until the end of the Gathering will offer a deeper dive into our theme, “Water is Life.”

Through workshops, plenary sessions, and shared reflection, we will explore the interconnectedness of water, creation, and the Earth. We will have ample opportunities to connect with one another, share our wisdom, and learn about practical steps toward Earthcare.

We welcome visitors for any and all of our weekend together.

On-site registration is closed. [To register for our online hybrid Gathering opportunities, click here.](#)

THE OLD THREADS ARE UNRAVELING ~ Julia Myers

*"The old threads are unraveling,
Get your needles ready.
We are stitching a new quilt
of Humanity.
Bring your old t-shirts,
worn out jeans, scarves,
antique gowns, aprons,
old pockets of plenty
who have held Earth's treasures,
stones, feathers, leaves,
love notes on paper.
Each stitch
A mindful meditation.
Each piece of material
A story.
The more colour the better,
so call in the Tribes.
Threads of browns, whites,
reds, oranges
Women from all nations
start stitching.
Let's recycle the hate, the abuse,*

*the fear, the judgment.
Turn it over, wash it clean,
ring it out to dry.
It's a revolution
of recycled wears.
Threads of greens, blues, purples
Colourful threads
of peace, kindness,
respect, compassion
are being stitched
from one continent to the next
over forests, oceans, mountains.
The work is hard
Your fingers may bleed.
But each cloth stitched together
Brings together a community.
A world, our future world
Under one colourful quilt.
The new quilt of humanity."*



Grass Valley Friends Meeting Contact Information (1-16-24)

COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

Stewardship: Mary Starr, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, Gordon Starr, Doug Hamm, David Bowman. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Fosten Wilson (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian), (ex-officio Tech Support).

Welcome: Peter O'Rourke (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Cheryl Hendrickson, Cindy Bliss, Lo Hamm, CJ Patterson, Judy Hamilton (ex-officio, email coordinator).

Spirit and Witness: Amy Cooke, Stuart Smith, Reed Hamilton, Sharon Davisson, Dean Olson, Dorothy Henderson (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk of the Meeting),

Children's Program: Keely McDonald, Dorothy Henderson, Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, David Cowan, Lo Hamm.

Nominating Committee: (terms as noted)

- Judy Hamilton: 2022-2024
- Gordon Starr: 2022-2224
- Sharon Davisson: 2023-20205
- Dean Olson: 2023-2025

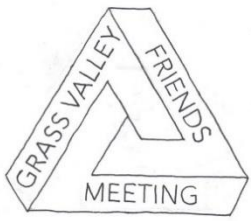
OFFICER HOLDERS

- **Clerk:** Dorothy Henderson (530-575-5988) dorothyjohenderson@gmail.com
- **Elder to Clerk:** Gordon Starr (530-878-1237) gstarr121@aol.com
- **Recording Clerk:** Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) amylisette@gmail.com/Jennifer Smith (916-663-3539) sewsmitharts@yahoo.com
- **Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Marshall (530-274-1922/530-263-0151) dmarshall@pacific.net
- **Newsletter Distributor:** Pat Phillips 530-913-1338 pPhillips1949@gmail.com
- **Email Coordinator:** Judy Hamilton judywestonhamilton@gmail.com (530) 277-8818
- **Treasurer:** Fosten Wilson (530-265-6533) fwkm@protonmail.com
- **Tech Support/Zoom Calendar:** Hailey Wilson seahorseleaf@protonmail.com
- **Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Peter O'Rourke (209-291-8211) peterorouke2001@yahoo.com, Amy Cooke (530-559-9158) amylisette@gmail.com
- **Librarian:** Don McCormick (310-597-9469) donmccormick2@gmail.com
- **Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson (530-364-8351) ntowhee@gmail.com
- **Mail Clerk:** Dean Olson (530)270-9366 deanolson44@gmail.com

Representatives: one-year terms

Please note: Most organizations no longer have representatives from GVFM. They are held in two committees, Welcome and Spirit and Witness. The following organizations are the exceptions:

- **Interfaith Nevada County:** Dianne Marshall
- **Sierra Friends Center:** Gordon Starr
- **Pacific Yearly Meeting:** Doug Hamm
- **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Doug Hamm



13075 Woolman Lane,
Nevada City, CA 95959
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