

CHICO FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

Twelfth Month (December) 2022

Chico Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Clerk: Bob Runyan (bobrunyan@hotmail.com)

chicofriendsmeetingquakers.com

1601 Hemlock Street, Chico, CA 95928, (530-345-3753)

Chico Friends Meeting

Quaker Thought and Life 9:00 am on Zoom

Meeting for Worship on Zoom 10:00 am; in person 11:00 am each First Day (Sunday)

Each Wednesday, Meeting for Worship 7:00 pm and Quaker Exploration 7:30 pm on Zoom

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

Linnea Hanson, Editor (linneachanson@gmail.com)

Peter Milbury and Bill Carlson, Assistant Editors

ADVICES AND QUERIES ON 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?*

(From *Faith and Practice, A Guide to Quaker Discipline in the Experience of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*, 2001)



Chico Friends Meeting
MEETING FOR BUSINESS November 13, 2022
Minutes

Stand still in that which is pure.
~ George Fox, 1624-1691

Present: Bob Runyan, Jim Anderson, Linda Rowell, Susan Rahn, Janet Leslie, Tanya Heaston, Gayle Matson, Tom Head, Rebecca Senoglu, Kathy Runyan, David Potter, Susan Hughes
Regrets: Claudia Hanson, Christine Rowe, Linnea Hanson, Rick Narad, Bill Carlson

Opening worship and reflection on quote

We read the above quote and settled into silence to await responses to it.

Clerk's welcome and agenda review

Clerk Bob Runyan welcomed us and reviewed the agenda. He noted that Ministry and Oversight and Finance committees were not reporting today, but any questions for those committees might be brought forward at this meeting. The budget proposal report normally brought to this meeting will be brought to the next monthly meeting.

Reports:

Building and Grounds Committee

Tanya Heaston, Committee Clerk, reported. The committee is waiting for two more bids on ADA project work and will report to the Meeting when those are received. The committee is developing a checklist for keeping our buildings clean and will consult with Ministry and Oversight and Witness and Service committees before bringing a proposal to our Meeting for Business. Care days are scheduled for November 19th and December 17th from 9 to 12 noon. The committee will meet again December 1st at 10:30 A.M. on Zoom.

Witness and Service Committee

David Potter, Committee Clerk, reported. Collin Wolfe, resource person on death penalty issues, brought information on a death penalty case in Oklahoma, which the committee is following up on. Information on this will be included in our newsletter. Information on local actions regarding homelessness was discussed, including the possibility of a camping site in Chico. The committee discussed also a local town hall meeting, which was subsequently attended by committee member Susan Hughes. There is also some possibility of a program being brought to the meeting on this issue. The vandalizing of Congregation Beth Israel was discussed and plans were made to contact the synagogue and to bring the matter to the Interfaith Council. Reb Lisa from CBI subsequently responded to our contact with gratitude, offered thoughts on the problem of hate crimes, and noted that contributions for their security system could be made if there was a desire to offer concrete help. The committee will season the idea of a contribution. Considerable discussion has taken place regarding our experience in offering use of our building to Safe Space, and a report has been drafted for the Meeting's consideration. The committee feels careful consideration of the issues presented should be made before holding a threshing session on this issue. The report was then distributed to those attending, and will be included in the upcoming newsletter. The committee is exploring degrees of interest in a possible book group series or single session discussing George Lakey's book How We Win. This possibility will also be described in an article for the coming newsletter. A suggestion was made that some who did not have time to participate in such book group meetings could nevertheless read the book on their own and join informal conversations likely to follow. The committee also gave consideration to further work on environmental issues, including the prospect of meeting gatherings to address these. There was also a report of a recent trip to Israel-Palestine, where troubles are considerable. The recent Israeli election will likely move future policies to the right, boding ill for Palestinians. The travelers, Jim Anderson and Janet Leslie, have participated in a radio interview on KZFR and

are open to further discussions of their trip with the meeting. Finally, the upcoming Friends Committee on National Legislation annual meeting was discussed, and a number of our members plan to attend. Some group viewings on Zoom of certain sessions may be arranged and, if so, will be made known to the meeting. Prospective dates for such are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday of the coming week at Gayle and Tom's house. Details will be distributed electronically.

We followed the Witness and Service Committee report with a reading of the Safe Space report there referenced. The Presiding Clerk then opened the meeting to responses. Concerns arising included: do we have the resources and persons to take on these summer and winter usages? How much impact on the neighborhood would serving as an intake center involve? The possible ministry of hospitality we have discussed would not necessarily involve working with the Safe Space projects; there are other ways to exercise hospitality that are needed in our community. Would moving toward an early decision on this make sense, though we don't yet know the details for next year? Would serving as intake center be a problem because of weather, the mud and wet conditions likely to prevail then? Some of the rising issues might be overcome; for example, the pets issue. Perhaps the intake system could be made more efficient to reduce the numbers and time period involved. One friend feels we could find a way to do these things. Can we get the Safe Space usage request sufficiently in advance so we can make arrangements? This has not been the case in the past. We could hire a cleaning company if we find a fuller cleaning is required after uses. Each past occasion has created a great deal of work, and not much joy. Has it not been a leading but an "ought to be done" activity? Is this the ministry we are called to, among many others before us? What is our meeting's role in this community, what part are we to play? What resources do we have to serve the community? We need time to discern deeply around these questions. The need for advance time to discern seems important in this regard. Yet there is a sense of urgency of need that calls us, and we have a building; do we need to be flexible in our demands for advance requests? Still, there are advance preparations we could make. We closed the time of consideration and response and invite the W&S committee to consider what they have heard as they engage in further seasoning.

Nominating Committee

Gayle Matson, Committee member, reported, She presented to us a draft proposal of nominations, and read the names of those proposed to be newly nominated for service. This proposal will be considered again at our next meeting. Gayle answered questions and took suggestions. We are invited to address any questions or concerns in the intervening time to Nominating Committee members.

College Park Quarterly Meeting

Bob Runyan reported on the recent College Park Quarterly Meeting. He, Kathy Runyan, and Callum Standish traveled together to the Sierra Friends Center campus. The site showed evidence of considerable work in recovery from the fire. New staff presented themselves and toured the group around the campus. The Quarterly sessions included minimal business, singing and a family night. Kathy Runyan added additional observations. The site includes now a number of major improvements. Quarterly business did include addressing proposals arising from last spring, to appoint a committee to review the state of the quarter. This committee is empowered to add people to existing committees and will be reviewing the Quarterly Meeting as a whole in the coming months. Susan Hughes also attended and reported on some additional developments, including plans for scheduling again the family work camp. Susan Rahn and Linda Rowell also attended and Susan offered her own impressions of the time there. She appreciated particularly the worship sharing groups.

We approved the minutes and closed our meeting with worship.

Bob Runyan, Presiding Clerk

Jim Anderson, Recording Clerk

CFM DECEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

All events on Zoom Except Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, Singing Circle, Care Day and Peace Vigil.

Please visit our online calendar for recent updates: <http://www.chicofriendsmeetingquakers.com/>

12/1	Thurs.	(10:30 am) (7:00 pm)	Building and Grounds Committee Rise Up Singing Circle: Contact Leslie Howard at leslie.t.howard@gmail.com for more information
12/2	Fri.	(11:00 am)	Witness and Service Committee
12/4	First Day (Sunday)	(9:00 am) (10:00 am) (11:00 am) (afternoon)	Quaker Thought and Life (QTL): Advices and Queries, Read-Discuss on Zoom Meeting for Worship on Zoom Meeting for Worship in person Deliver Dinner makings to the Torres Shelter (Contact Janet Leslie at janleschico@gmail.com)
12/5	Mon.	(10:00 am)	Finance Committee on Zoom
12/7	Weds.	(7:00 pm) (7:30 pm)	Worship on Zoom Quaker Exploration on Zoom
12/10	Sat.	(10:00 am)	Chico Peace Alliance
12/11	First Day (Sunday)	(9:00 am) (10:00 am) (11:00 am) (1:00 pm)	QTL: Discuss on Zoom Meeting for Worship on Zoom Meeting for Worship in person Meeting for Business in person
12/14	Weds.	(7:00 pm) (7:30 pm)	Worship on Zoom Quaker Exploration on Zoom
12/15			Newsletter Deadline for Articles
12/17	Sat.	(8:30 am)	Meetinghouse Care Day
12/18	First Day (Sunday)	(9:00 am) (10:00 am) (10:10 am) (11:00 am)	QTL: Discuss on Zoom Meeting for Worship on Zoom Singing outside Fellowship Hall Meeting for Worship in person
12/21	Weds.	(7:00 pm) (7:30 pm)	Worship on Zoom Quaker Exploration on Zoom
12/24	Sat.	(12:30 pm)	Chico Peace Vigil, Quakers encouraged to attend
12/25	First Day (Sunday)	(9:00 am) (10:00 am) (11:00 am)	QTL: Discuss on Zoom Meeting for Worship on Zoom Meeting for Worship in person
12/28	Weds.	(7:00 pm) (7:30 pm)	Worship on Zoom Quaker Exploration on Zoom

CHICO FRIENDS MEETING EVENTS & NEWS

Rise Up Singing Circle by Leslie Howard

Rise up singing meets indoors again. Cold weather has brought an end to our Rise Up Singing Circle meetings on the lawn in front of the Fellowship Hall. Our new time: 7 PM-9PM, still first Thursdays, which will be December 1 for this coming month. Our new place is the main Meetinghouse, which has many advantages. There is heat! The ceilings are high and we have ceiling fans for ventilation, so we will be less

likely to spread flu, COVID, or colds (but please attend by Zoom if you feel any of these might be coming on). We can space the chairs 6 feet apart. There is no noise from outdoors so we can hear each other better. The only downside is that Meetinghouse policy does not allow food in the building, so we have to forego snacks. Bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall will be available. Please join us and feel free to bring friends, instruments, and holiday spirit. Zoom will be available for those wishing to participate by computer or phone. Please send your email to leslie.t.howard@gmail.com if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation or be added to the email list. We are hoping to see you.

Make A Joyful Noise! by Rebecca Senoglu

It's been a long time since Quaker voices have been heard together in song on First Day. For me, singing uplifts the spirit and opens the heart for worship. Fortunately, we will have a chance to sing together soon! Ministry and Oversight Committee announces that we will experiment with singing songs from the Worship in Song Friends Hymnal outside on December 18 (the third Sunday) from 10:10 until 10:50 outside the Fellowship Hall. The Singing Circle on the first Thursdays of the month has been doing this, with masks optional, and it has worked well. In fact, we have invited that group to join us in hopes that we may have more singers (and maybe instruments!). Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Buildings & Grounds News by Tanya Heaston

Here is what is happening in and around CFM:

Our next Care Day is December 17th, 9:00am – 12:00pm. Come help us do a little rain dance on Saturday Dec. 17th, as we will continue to clean, tidy, and spruce up the grounds and prepare for winter weather – hopefully RAIN. If you can't attend on Saturdays, you are welcome to come over anytime and help with the gardening, cleaning and other projects. Contact Tanya and set up a day and time to rake, tidy the buildings or wipe away cobwebs.

Come and enjoy fellowship as we work together on small projects, gardening and keeping our buildings and grounds looking great. Thanks to all who help keep our buildings and grounds beautiful!

Update on Plans for the ADA Project The committee is waiting for two more contractors to reply to our request for bids, before we can bring anything more about the cost to the Meeting for Business.

Cleaning CFM Buildings The committee is looking at developing a cleaning checklist and will be sharing ideas with the Ministry & Oversight and Witness & Service committees before bringing the information to the Meeting for Business.

CFM On-Line Calendar. Don't forget to check out the on-line calendar at <http://www.chicofriendsmeetingquakers.com> before planning your next event.

When planning an event or use of a room or the yard, please check the CFM On-Line calendar to see if the day and time is available. When your committee chooses a date, make sure to call or email Linnea Hanson to put their dates/time/place of use on the on-line calendar. Linnea is our Calendar Coordinator and has can upload the information. Please make sure to plan time and people, to clean-up at the end of activities, as CFM does not have a weekly housekeeper to clean-up after use.

Handy-Person Needed. Are you handy with a hammer and saw? Can you change a lightbulb or fix an electrical outlet? Please let B&G know if you would like to help with some small projects around the Meeting House. We have several small jobs that need attention and could use people with a variety of skills. If you are interested and are available to do small repairs please let Tanya, the clerk of B&G know. Thanks.

Are we going to continue providing a meal each month to the Torres Shelter? By Janet Leslie

For more than a decade now, Chico Friends Meeting has provided a simple home-style dinner one Sunday a month to guests at the Torres Shelter. Since COVID, we have been providing the ingredients and menu for the meal rather than preparing and serving it ourselves, which for so long had been a joyful and community-building experience for our many volunteers.

We had four teams, but one moved out of town this year and one is moving on to other projects, so the two remaining teams are JM Rodriguez/Peter Klement and Jim Anderson/Janet Leslie. To do this on our own will be challenging, with or without returning to in-person meal prep and serving (which we'd like to do, because it raises our spirits and is so much fun).

Are there members/attenders of Chico Friends Meeting who are drawn to join as team leaders in this form of community service and community building? And as volunteers?

True North Housing Alliance, which manages the Torres Shelter and other service to unsheltered people, has faced a hard time these past few years, both organizationally and financially. They put on another wonderful "Empty Bowls" fundraiser in October, but they need our help--whether in the form of volunteer labor or financial contributions. What shall we do? Please let Witness & Service Committee and the Torres Team Leaders know.

Book Group Possibilities by David Potter

The Witness and Service Committee has been asked to organize a book discussion about the book, How We Win by George Lakey. A video about this was viewed and discussed at Quaker Thought and Life. We have also considered the possibility of a regularly-scheduled ongoing book group to discuss books on peace and justice related topics.

To help with planning it would be helpful to know how much interest there is in these possibilities. If you would like to participate in either a one-time group to discuss How We Win or an ongoing Peace and Justice book group please communicate your interest to David Potter, Janet Leslie, or Tanya Heaston. Also, let us know if you would like to host a book group in your home.

Hospitality Summary, Safe Space Cooling Center Experience

A Report from the CFM Witness and Service Committee 11/13/2022

Over the past several years, Chico Friends have encouraged the use of our Meetinghouse and Fellowship Hall as drop-in cooling centers for unsheltered people and pets during several of the hottest weeks of the summer, and for several weeks of overnight shelter during the winter. This arrangement has been made in cooperation with Safe Space, a non-profit organization serving people experiencing homelessness in Chico.

The Witness & Service and Building & Grounds Committees, along with a few other Meeting volunteers, have overseen the project with Safe Space. Friends have received the requests from Safe Space, discussed the viability of the requests with their respective committees, brought recommendations to Meeting for Business, prepared and executed building use agreements, readied the spaces for occupancy (moving furniture and boxes of supplies), notified neighbors, fielded comments from neighbors, communicated with other groups using the space, responded to on-site concerns, overseen the final clean-up, restored the spaces and property at the conclusion of the engagement (moving furniture and supplies again), and debriefed the experience with Safe Space staff and with their respective committees in order to summarize and report back to Meeting for Business. Each request has been considered separately and the above steps repeated.

The Witness & Service and Building & Grounds Committees have accumulated and documented their experience and "lessons learned" as a hosting facility, as well as feedback from Safe Space regarding the suitability of our buildings for Safe Space operations. In addition, the Witness and Service Committee has suggestions for Chico Friends about seeking clarity regarding our intentions and capacity for an ongoing ministry of hospitality for unsheltered people. We have detailed these experiences and recommendations, below.

Suitability of our Spaces for Safe Space Operations

Winter Overnight Shelter

Safe Space does not consider CFM to be a viable option for winter shelter, because we do not have enough floor space in either the Meetinghouse or the Fellowship Hall to accommodate the number of overnight guests and cots they typically host during the winter. It worked for them to use the Meetinghouse for overnight shelter

during the height of the “COVID era” in 2021, because their capacity for overnight guests had been greatly reduced. They believe they have enough space in larger churches lined up for 2023 and do not anticipate making additional requests to Chico Friends for winter overnight shelter.

Summer Cooling Center

Safe Space did not find the Fellowship Hall to be an adequate space for summer cooling. In addition to its limited space, the Fellowship Hall’s cooling system was evidently overwhelmed by the number of people in attendance, so that guests were both crowded and too warm. Use of the Meetinghouse for a cooling center worked well the previous year. Concern about pets (and possibly pet accidents and fleas) on the Meetinghouse carpet led our committees to offer the Fellowship Hall rather than the Meetinghouse for the cooling project this year.

Future Requests

It is probable that we will be asked again to participate as a cooling center during the summer using our Meetinghouse space rather than the Fellowship Hall. We may also be asked to lend our lawn area in front of the Fellowship Hall as an intake center during Safe Space’s winter campaign. This would involve maintaining popup tents (supplied by Safe Space) for about 10 weeks, from 5:00PM to 7:30PM to receive and register guests for overnight accommodation at another site. Guests would remain on the property until they are transported to the overnight location. We have not provided this service in the past, and we have not yet been asked.

Lessons Learned

- A minimum of two CFM volunteers are needed to serve as contacts with Safe Space staff to troubleshoot, respond to neighborhood issues, and otherwise coordinate Safe Space operations on CFM property.
- One of the two volunteers should serve as a “Building Manager,” responsible for overseeing the checklist of “in” and “out” responsibilities, including clean-up. The same person who does “checking-in” should do “checking-out.”
- We need comprehensive checklists for both an initial and a final walk-through for both buildings to ensure that groups using either building know exactly what needs to be done at the end of use.
- In addition to a cleaning checklist, we must be specific about the cleaning standards and who will provide cleaning supplies. For example, rather than “clean litter from outdoor area,” we need to say “remove any litter or trash from the outside areas, including cigarette butts from areas where smoking has been permitted” to better communicate the cleaning standards we are looking for.
- The cooling center generates quite a bit of trash for disposal. We need to confirm details about putting trash cans out and any extra trash pickup required.
- A “coaching conversation” should be had with Safe Space to clarify our expectations regarding final cleanup. Additional cleanup may still be needed after the buildings’ use. This additional cleaning has been an unwelcome burden on the Building & Grounds Committee, who would prefer to hire a cleaning service to do the “deep cleaning” required after a Safe Space engagement, if it is needed.
- There will, inevitably, be some loss of items during a Safe Space engagement. This is just a reality, and we need to either accept that items may disappear, or we need store all CFM items out of the sight and access of guests.
- We should identify a clear and consistent communication protocol between Safe Space staff and CFM during Safe Space operations, including identifying who will be copied on emails or texts.
- Have a designated key for Safe Space engagements. The designated “Building Manager” should be responsible for key handout and retrieval.

Hospitality Challenges

Some of what is burdensome for our committees is the time required for a periodic “reinvention of the wheel” each time a hospitality request is made. Each request seems to reopen the same, somewhat unresolved set of questions:

- Do we have enough willing volunteers to offer this kind of hospitality? Who will serve in the key roles described above?
- Are we willing and able to absorb the cost of running our air conditioning system for a cooling center in the Meetinghouse?
- How will we seek and respond to input from our neighbors about any impacts or concerns they may have about the project?
- Are we going to welcome pets into the Meetinghouse despite the possibility of pet accidents and fleas on the Meetinghouse carpet?
- How can we best address these issues ahead of time so that we are clearer and better prepared to address use requests in the future?

Another challenge is the fact that the Building and Grounds Committee remains currently responsible for residual impacts from our hospitality arrangements. Safe Space did not complete their cleanup to our satisfaction after their use of the Fellowship Hall in August. This kind of shortfall between how organizations clean up and our actual expectations might be inevitable; filling the gap should not fall on one committee or person. We need to have a plan for dealing with cleanup that does not always burden the same Friends. Finally, are we as a Meeting committed enough to a ministry of hospitality that we want to plan for ways to make our Meetinghouse more hospitable and/or accessible to unsheltered guests and their pets? What would we need to do to make it so? Does it make sense to do that? One persistent concern with using the Meetinghouse for Safe Space clientele is that allowing pets on our carpeted floors in that building may result in a flea infestation or accidents from pets (or people) that cannot easily be mopped or cleaned. If we are asked again to offer our buildings for cooling or other hospitality needs, will we once again scramble to decide whether or how to respond to the request, burdening a few volunteers with the lion’s share of the work? Will we respond with a prepared and organized commitment to faith-based service with broad involvement from our Meeting? Or will we decide that we simply do not have the volunteer resources to provide hospitality in this way? Near-term consideration of these questions with a threshing session will help us navigate subsequent requests from Safe Space and may bring CFM toward greater unity in general.

WIDER QUAKER COMMUNITY

News from Ben Lomond Quaker Center:

Join us for worship daily from 7:30 – 8 a.m. Pacific time through our online Meeting for Worship from anywhere in the world.

Wednesday Morning Worship Sharing Continues on Zoom at 10 a.m. (PT) every week.

Quaker Center: <http://www.quakercenter.org/>

Music & Dance Retreat December 2-4, 2022

This is a mostly self-led weekend for Friends to share their love of Music and Dance. Workshops begin the first night of the program, according to participant interests (Songwriting, Broadway tunes, Hymn sing, Folk dancing, etc.). Contra Dance is Saturday Night with caller and fiddler; Friends are invited to join the band.

Year End Retreat with Brent Bill December 28-January 1st

[Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times: Quaker Lessons on Blending Faith, Daily Life, and Activism](#)

We'll explore the themes of [Brent Bill's book](#)— from how the first Testimonies sprang from the daily life and faith of the early Friends to how to be a people of hope and witness today. We'll look at how the lessons we learned (and continue to learn) inform our individual and corporate witness today.

Pacific Yearly Meeting Announcements by Linda Rowell, Rep. to PacYM.

1. **New Paths to Membership:** The Pacific Yearly Meeting Worship Committee is offering an online conversation about creating new paths to members in the Yearly Meeting. We would like to address the needs of people for whom membership in a Monthly Meeting is not accessible, not a workable structure— but who identify as practicing Quakers and as being part of their Quaker community. Especially some of our young people, who grew up in Pacific Yearly Meeting, have not felt that they have an open path to being acknowledged as members. We want to hear from people who have an interest in at-large membership in the Yearly Meeting — What are your needs? How can they be met? If you want to join the online conversation, or would like to communicate your thoughts to the Committee, contact Committee Clerk: Gail Eastwood (eastwood@asis.com).

2. Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative Committee Meetings for 2023 will be held on Zoom on Saturday, February 25, 2023 and Saturday, March 4, 2023. Monthly Meeting Representatives, Committee Clerks and other interested persons are invited to join these meetings. Mark your Calendar!

Our Quarterly Meeting by Janet Leslie, CFM representative to CPQM

The next meeting of our regional Quaker community (College Park Quarterly Meeting) is a one-day gathering on Saturday, January 14. Our Winter meetings have rotated between Berkeley, San Francisco, Santa Rosa (Redwood Forest), and Palo Alto Friends Meetinghouses, with Spring in May at Ben Lomond Quaker Center near Santa Cruz, and Fall in October at Sierra Friends Center near Nevada City.

To know more about the October 14-16 gathering just past, please read the report at our November 13 Meeting for Business and talk with those who participated—Bob and Kathy Runyan, Linda Rowell, Susan Rahn, and Susan Hughes. For more general information, the website is <https://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org/>

Sierra Friends Center is now offering various programs for people of all ages. For more details please check their website, www.woolman.org.

AFSC Update by David Potter, AFSC Liason

AFSC is involved in so many admirable activities, it can be hard to know what to report about. In a recent publication, "2022 Highlights of Courage" AFSC chose 4 concerns for special recognition.

1. **Protecting the Rights of Migrants.** Border Patrol has a long history of human rights violations against immigrants. Recently, AFSC helped expose secret units covering up abuse by agents. These shadow units had no congressional authority and were illegally interfering with cases. With partners in the Southern Border Communities Coalition, AFSC contacted members of Congress and called for an investigation. These efforts led the Secretary of Homeland Security to announce the closure of the units by September.

2. **Helping People Achieve Stable Housing.** AFSC's Atlanta Economic Justice Program helps people learn their rights and organize to demand fair treatment from landlords and affordable housing managers. In 2018, AFSC was contacted by residents of Forest Cove, one of Atlanta's largest affordable housing complexes. Families faced collapsing ceilings, rodent infestations, and leaks. Some tenants experienced health issues, while awaiting repairs and cleanups that never came.

AFSC worked with residents to establish a tenants association. In January, the association delivered a demand letter to the owner asking for rent cancelation, expansion of the maintenance team and improved security.

3. **Holding Corporations Accountable.** Two years ago, AFSC and partners launched the "No Dough for the Occupation" campaign, calling on General Mills to stop manufacturing Pillsbury products on stolen Palestinian

land. In June, 2022, General Mills announced that it had divested its Israeli business altogether, selling its stake in its Israeli subsidiary and ending its sourcing of Pillsbury products from the factory in an illegal settlement. This is just part of AFSC's work for a just peace in Palestine.

4. **Healing the Wounds of War.** AFSC worked with partners to establish Building Bridges in Burundi.

The results were powerful. More than 65,025 Burundians participated in trainings on conflict prevention and resolution, with many receiving help from mental health professionals. Over 18,000 youth and women took part in savings and loan groups. The majority had growth in their businesses and created more jobs, despite the pandemic. Most profoundly, community councils saw major success—helping resolve longstanding disputes and diverting thousands of cases from the legal system.

"Predictable, Inevitable, Irrevocable" by Janet Leslie

As Friends know, Jim Anderson and I spent several weeks in October with Quaker Voluntary Action (QVA) in Israel-Palestine, and then the time since recovering and sorting out what we experienced there and how to share what we saw and heard and learned. Still in process.

Very briefly, we stayed in Tel Aviv (Abraham Hostel), Jerusalem (Ecce Homo Pilgrim House), and a family guesthouse near Ramallah in the West Bank. We had good local guides on walking (Tel Aviv and Jaffa) and bus tours (Green Olive "dual narrative", Committee Against House Demolitions), Yad Vashem and the Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, a visit to Ramallah Friends School and to an Israeli settlement, group and individual explorations of Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Ramallah, two days of picking olives in a family orchard in Jifna, and a lot of walking! In the company of a variety of British volunteers plus one Irish and one Canadian.

Jim and I went a few days before the QVA and stayed a few days after, which were precious times with Ramallah Friends Meeting, plus new and favorite coffee shops, ice cream, bakeries, a little hotel on the third floor of a commercial building, and just being there among such welcoming people. Life is hard for Palestinians, and unstable for everyone, but for me, being there and meeting all these people is a gift from God. I'm including two links here:

(1) [Quaker Voluntary Action](http://www.qva.org.uk): www.qva.org.uk. QVA is the small British group with whom we spent most of this most recent time in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. QVA organizes working retreats in Britain, Europe and beyond, with volunteers participating in practical projects and reflective sessions building experiential learning and community, peace and justice.

(2) [Friends of Sabeel North America](#), Sabeel being an ecumenical Christian Palestinian liberation theology (and action) movement centered in Jerusalem. Most recently, I read this "Predictable, Inevitable, Irrevocable" article by Jonathan Kuttab which I want to share along with my encouragement to Friends to connect with FOSNA's work, here is the link:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/fosna/FMfcgzGqRZbhhWPBCRkxvwZKBGCFgFTg>

Please contact Jim or Janet for more information about QVA, Sabeel, Israel-Palestine.

WIDER CHICO AREA COMMUNITY

Chico Peace Alliance by Janet Leslie

The Chico Peace Alliance is a new and growing grassroots organization of people who see a need for a positive, non-violent political alliance of local people and groups concerned with peace and justice issues locally, nationally, and globally. Website (www.chicopeacealliance.net) has lots of information and you can sign up there to receive the newsletter.

There's an open in-person general meeting each month on a Saturday morning plus smaller groups meeting online or in-person at various times. A Steering Committee helps us move forward together, and Working

Groups address concerns for War & Militarism, Peace Education, Economic Justice, and Coalition-Building & Communication.

I'm in the "War & Militarism" working group, and we're planning a study group starting in December, probably meeting monthly to explore "*Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy*", a paper and a group discussion guide prepared by Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). These are available for download on the FCNL website at www.fcnl.org/dismantling-racism-and-militarism-us-foreign-policy. We're looking at an initial meeting (on zoom) the 1st or 2nd week in December. Anyone interested in this is welcome. Please talk with Janet Leslie to know more.

Vandalism at Congregation Beth Israel by Janet Leslie

Congregation Beth Israel is just a few blocks away from our meetinghouse on Hemlock Street. On 11/2, their building was found to have been vandalized with swastikas and a burned sign. We contacted Reb Lisa Rappaport, CBI's leader, who thanked us for our concern and appreciates our support. She made suggestions about standing up against hate and building community, and said that contributions can also be made to a fund to help them improve their security systems.

Christmas at the Jesus Center by Janet Leslie

The Jesus Center invites volunteers for preparing food, serving a meal, offering hope and conversation at Christmastime (as well as Thanksgiving) to Shelter participants on their new facility on Fair Street--contact Volunteer Coordinator Makayla by emailing voluneers@JesusCenter.org. They also suggest, "*Perhaps prayer is something you'd like to offer or the financial support to make a meal like this possible. All generosity is felt, it is loved and appreciated, no gift is too small.*"

Peace Vigil in Downtown Chico by Janet Leslie

Every Saturday, local people gather on the corners of Main and 3rd Streets from 12:30 to 1:30 pm to stand for peace and justice. Everyone is welcome to join us for all or part of the time. Our Meeting encourages us to participate as we can and especially to be a presence on 4th Saturdays. Bring your own sign or use one from the wide array brought each week. We stand and chat and wave at cars and talk with passersby, and feel gratitude for being able to raise our (visible) voices in support of those things we treasure and the possibilities for good changes in local and national policies and practices. It's fun. Here is a November photo with Collin, Jim, and Janet present--Judith Stone took the photo:



CHICO FRIENDS MEETING—12th MONTH—DECEMBER, 2022

(All events by Zoom except Meetings for Worship and Business, Singing Circle, Care Day and Peace Vigil)

First Day (Sunday)	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30 am B&G 7:00 pm Singing Circle	2 11:00 am W&S	3
4 Regular Schedule: 9:00 am Quaker Thought 10:00 am Zoom Meeting for Worship 11:00 am In-person Worship +Afternoon: Torres Dinner	5 10:00 am Finance Committee	6	7 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	8	9	10 10:00 am Chico Peace Alliance
11 Regular Schedule: +1:00 pm Meeting for Business, in person	12	13	14 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	15	16	17 8:30 am Meetinghouse Care Day
18 Regular Schedule +10:10 am Singing outside Fellowship Hall, in person	19	20	21 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	22	23	24 12:30 pm CFM at Chico Peace Vigil
25 Regular Schedule	26	27	28 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	29	30	31

Please visit our online calendar for recent updates. <http://www.chicofriendsmeetingquakers.com>

**Chico Friends Meeting
1601 Hemlock Street
Chico, CA 95928**

«First» «Last»
«Address»
«City» «State» «Zipcode»