

CHICO FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

Fifth Month (May) 2025

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

Clerk: Rebecca Senoglu (rsenoglu@yahoo.com)

chicofriendsmeetingquakers.com

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

Chico Friends Meeting (CFM) Common Meeting Times:
Singing or Worship Sharing each First Day/Sunday, 10:00 - 10:50 AM in person.
Meeting for Worship in person 11:00 AM - Noon each First Day/Sunday.
Midweek Meeting each Wednesday on Zoom and in person with Meeting for Worship from 7:00 - 7:30 PM followed by Quaker Explorations from 7:30 - 8:30 PM.

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

Linnea Hanson, Editor (linneachanson@gmail.com)

Peter Milbury and Bill Carlson, Assistant Editors

ADVICES AND QUERIES ON HARMONY WITH CREATION



Sunbow & Tree at Dawn

Thank you to Jackie Sudicky for sharing

"It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part thereof?"

William Penn,

(Some Fruits of Solitude 1693. 12 & 13)

God is revealed in all Creation. We humans belong to the whole interdependent community of life on earth. Rejoice in the beauty, complexity, and mystery of creation, with gratitude to be part of its unfolding. Take time to learn how this community of life is organized and how it interacts. Live according to principles of right relationship and right action within this larger whole. Be aware of the influence humans have on the health and viability of life on earth. Call attention to what fosters or harms earth's exquisite beauty, balances and interdependencies. Guided by Spirit, work to translate this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

- In what ways do I express gratitude for the wondrous expressions of life on Earth?
- Do I consider the damage I might do to the Earth's vulnerable systems in choices I make of what I do, what I buy, and how I spend my time?
- *In our witness for the global environment, are we careful to consider justice and the well-being of the world's poorest people?*
- *Does our way of life threaten the viability of life on Earth?*

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

† Some queries are intended for individuals.

Italicized queries are intended for the Meeting collectively.

Chico Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business, April 13, 2025

The unity we seek depends on the willingness of us all to seek the truth in each other's utterances; on our being open to persuasion; and in the last resort on a willingness to recognize and accept the sense of the meeting as recorded in the minute, knowing that our dissenting views have been heard and considered. We do not vote in our meetings, because we believe that this would emphasize the divisions between differing views and inhibit the process of seeking to know the will of God. We must recognize, however, that a minority view may well continue to exist. When we unite with a minute offered by our clerk, we express, not a sudden agreement of everyone present with the prevailing view, but rather a confidence in our tried and tested way of seeking to recognize God's will. We act as a community, whose members love and trust each other. We should be reluctant to prevent the acceptance of a minute which the general body of Friends present feels to be right.

As a worshipping community, particularly in our local and area meetings, we have a continuing responsibility to nurture the soil in which unity may be found.

In a meeting rightly held a new way may be discovered which none present had alone perceived and which transcends the differences of the opinions expressed. This is an experience of creative insight, leading to a sense of the meeting which a clerk is often led in a remarkable way to record. Those who have shared this experience will not doubt its reality and the certainty it brings of the immediate rightness of the way for the meeting to take.

Chapter 3 » 3.06, Quaker Faith & Practice, Fifth edition, The Book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

Present: Rebecca Senoglu, clerk, Gayle Matson, recording, Bill Carlson, Jim Anderson, Linnea Hanson, Bob Runyan, Christine Rowe, Rick Narad, Janet Leslie, Linda Rowell, Tom Head, Kendall Moalem, Kathy Runyan, Susan Rahn.

Regrets: Peter Milbury, Claudia Hanson, JM Rodriguez, Susan Hughes, Peter Klement, Tanya Heaston

Approve Gayle Matson as Recording Clerk.

Clerk's welcome.

Reports

- Treasurer, Christine Rowe (See written report.)

The Treasurer reported that we are within budget for our first quarter of 2025.

She also updated us about our insurance renewal with increased premiums and asked for a budget augmentation of \$500 to cover the increased cost.

01-04-2025 We augment the 2025 budget of \$500 for insurance, which is line item 14 on our approved budget.

The Treasurer reported about changes in California insurance law and the implications for required building maintenance. Issues specific to the building will be referred to the Building and Grounds Committee for consideration and remediation.

A second new requirement is a written safety plan for building emergencies, including exit and evacuation procedures. Kathy Runyan volunteered to take on this project and will report back at the May Meeting for Business.

The Treasurer also asked for assistance analyzing the new provisions of the 2025 policy from Church Mutual. Gayle Matson volunteered to assist.

- Witness and Service Committee, Janet Leslie, Committee Clerk. (See written report.)

Janet Leslie reported on the committee's consideration of the far-reaching issues brought to it by the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the possibility of restructuring the work of the committee. The committee was unable to develop a unified response to the Ad Hoc Committee's request, and Janet reported that she encouraged Witness and Service Committee members to respond individually to the Ad Hoc Committee. Janet also reported that we hope to initiate a Plastic Free July campaign again this year.

- Ad Hoc Committee for Growing the Life of the Meeting, Rick Narad. (See written report.)
The Ad Hoc Committee's written report was read aloud. The report offered four ideas for consideration before the nominating process begins for 2026 nominations.
 - a. Reduce all committees minimum suggested size by one. If Spirit moves and there is inspiration or resources for more than these numbers, then a committee can be larger, but the Nominating Committee will seek to fill each committee with at least this many members.
 - i. Ministry and Oversight - 3 plus the Clerk ex officio
 - ii. Building and Grounds - 3
 - iii. Witness and Service - 3
 - iv. Nominating Committee - 3
 - v. Finance Committee - 2 (Finance Clerk and Treasurer)
 - b. In 2026, the priority for each committee will be to examine its current functions and activities, structure, and powers, to discern possible changes. This should be done through the lens of "will this grow the life of the Meeting in spirit, witness and numbers?" and might result in laying down or restructuring some activities. These will be reported back to the Meeting for consideration.
 - c. Simplify expectations of the Nominating Committee. Members and attenders are contacted by the Nominating Committee with an invitation to prayerfully consider how they are willing and able to serve, and throughout the fall the committee discerns how the gifts of Friends may best serve the Meeting. If there are positions on the slate that the Nominating Committee cannot fill, the committee simply reports the vacancies to the Meeting for Business and the Meeting will consider how best to address the situation.
 - d. Consider the positions of liaisons and representatives to other organizations as a lower priority than committee positions and leave those positions vacant.

These recommendations will be seasoned for a month and taken up at our May Meeting for Business. Much appreciation was given to the committee for its good work.

- Appoint the Naming committee
A question arose as to whether Friends serving on the Naming Committee would be exempt from subsequently serving on the Nominating Committee. It was generally agreed that flexibility in this regard might be necessary for Chico Friends Meeting, but agreed that it should be avoided if possible.

3-4-2025 We appoint Bob Runyan to the Naming Committee, and Paul Harris, if he is willing to serve, or Kendall Moalem, as an alternate if she is willing.

- Ministry & Oversight Committee, Kathy Runyan, Committee Clerk. (See written report.)
Kathy Runyan reported that we have changed the time of our Mid-Week Worship and Quaker Explorations to begin at 7:00PM.
Kathy presented two queries for consideration by those present, and asked for Friends to speak out of worship:
What aspects of our current pattern of closing Meeting for Worship diminish your spiritual experience?
What aspects of our current pattern deepen your spiritual experience of Meeting for Worship?

Friends shared various responses which were noted by our Clerk for discussion at the next Ministry and Oversight Committee meeting.

Kathy asked for Friends to offer their thoughts or feedback on our current experiment, lasting for the past six months, of substituting a Worship Sharing session before Meeting for Worship on two Sundays each month in lieu of our Quaker Thought and Life Sessions. Kathy noted that while our QTL sessions were hybrid (Zoom and in person), the Worship Sharing sessions are in person only.

Kathy also reported that the M&O committee continues to hold our concern for relationships in Chico Friends Meeting, especially with regard to speaking to one another with kindness and respect. The Listening Committee is carrying these concerns into their work.

03-04-2025 We approve the draft of the State of the Meeting report as it was presented at the March Meeting for Business.

- College Park Quarterly Meeting Representatives Committee consideration
Rebecca reported regarding a request from CPQM to consider proposed restructuring of the CPQM Business Procedures. Several Friends offered comments about the proposal, and we were, in general, supportive of the proposed changes. Additional comments, questions or concerns should be conveyed to our CPQM representative, Jim Anderson.

Closing worship

Rebecca Senoglu, Clerk

Gayle Matson, Recording

MAY EVENT CALENDAR

All events in person except Wednesday midweek worship and Quaker exploration, which are on Zoom and in person.

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

| | | | |
|------|------------------------------|---|--|
| 5/1 | Thurs. | (7:00 pm) | Rise Up Singing Circle in person . Contact Leslie Howard |
| 5/4 | First Day/ Sunday | (10:00 am) (11:00 am) (3:00 pm) | Quaker Life with Advices and Queries in person . Contact M&O Meeting for Worship in person . Contact M&O Committee Make dinner and serve at the Torres Shelter. Contact Janet Leslie |
| 5/5 | Mon. | (3:00 pm) | Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel. Contact Loree Monroe |
| 5/7 | Weds. | (7:00 pm) (7:30 pm) | Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person . Contact Bob Runyan Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person . Contact Bob Runyan |
| 5/10 | Sat. | (9:00 am) | Meetinghouse Care Day. Contact Tanya Heaston |
| 5/11 | First Day/ Sunday | (10:00 am) (11:00 am) (12:15 pm) (1:00 pm) | Singing in the Fellowship Hall, in person . Meeting for Worship in person . Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting for Business in person . Contact Rebecca Senoglu |
| 5/14 | Weds. | (7:00 pm) (7:30 pm) | Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person . Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person . |
| 5/18 | First Day/ Sunday | (10:00 am) (11:00 am) | Quaker Life with a reading, in person . Meeting for Worship in person . |
| 5/19 | Mon. | (3:00 pm) | Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel. Contact Loree Monroe |
| 5/21 | Weds. | (7:00 pm) (7:30 pm) | Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person . Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person . |
| 5/24 | Sat | (10:00 am) (12:30 pm) | Chico Peace Alliance. Contact Janet Leslie Chico Peace Vigil. Contact Janet Leslie |
| 5/25 | First Day/ | (10:00 am) | Singing in the Fellowship Hall, in person . |

| | | | |
|------|---------------|------------|--|
| | Sunday | (11:00 am) | Meeting for Worship in person. |
| | | (12:30 pm) | Potluck in person in Fellowship Hall. |
| 5/28 | Weds. | (7:00 pm) | Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person. |
| | | (7:30 pm) | Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person. |

CHICO FRIENDS MEETING EVENTS & NEWS

Rise Up Singing by Leslie Howard

Spring is in the air! Celebrate the warmer weather of spring by joining us for the Rise Up Singing Circle in person at the Chico Friends Meeting Fellowship Hall, Thursday, May 1, 7-9 pm. As always, feel free to bring friends, musical instruments, and snacks to share. We have copies to share of Rise Up Singing and Rise Again, the compilations by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson of words and chords to almost 2,400 great songs. There are sure to be songs there that will please you.

We are now meeting in the Fellowship Hall, where kitchen and restrooms are close at hand. This is a cozy space and we are sitting a bit more closely to each other, so feel free to wear a mask if you feel you should, and please stay home if you feel you have any symptoms of illness, COVID or other.

We have enjoyed having an increased number of singers lately and hope that many of you will be inspired by the joy of singing, warmer weather, and good fellowship to join us. Contact Leslie Howard for more information at leslie.t.howard@gmail.com.

Ministry and Oversight Committee News by Kathy Runyan

After hearing that people appreciate the 10AM start time and worship sharing, but miss the Quaker Thought and Life content, we have decided how to move forward. On 1st Sundays, we will continue to read the Advices and Queries for the month from the Pacific Yearly Meeting book of Faith and Practice and invite responses. On 3rd Sundays, we will read a piece of early or contemporary Quaker writing or a Bible passage and share our reflections. We will hold these Quaker Life sessions in person in the Meetinghouse on 1st and 3rd Sundays from 10:00-10:50 AM. For Quaker Explorations in May, Bob Runyan will be facilitating the reading and discussion of a Pendle Hill Pamphlet written by Dan Wilson called, *The Promise of Deliverance: The Assurance That There Is a Power by Which Disaster Can Be Abolished Forever*.

Dinner at the Torres Shelter on Sunday, May 4--Come help! By Janet Leslie

Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner to the guests at the Torres Shelter.

Please sign up with Ashley Milbury (unabashedly@icloud.com).

You can choose:

- 3-7 pm for both food prep and serving (and eating dinner too, if you wish), or
- 3-5:30 pm just for prep, or
- 5:30-7 pm just for serving, or
- to provide dessert (fruit, brownies, cookies) or backup. Thanks for your help!

The guests and staff are so warmly appreciative of our help and the homestyle meal. Come and join us!

Meeting for Worship and Singing with Diana Fogel by Loree Monroe

Please join us for Meeting for Worship and Singing on Monday May 5 and May 19 (every other Monday) at 3 pm in Diana Fogel's room at Arbor Post Acute, 1200 Springfield Dr., Chico. Loree will appreciate the company more than usual on those two dates. Thanks. Contact Loree Monroe at loree.monroe@gmail.com for details.

Building & Grounds News by Tanya Heaston and Linnea Hanson

The New Fellowship Hall Window is IN!

Building and Grounds committee (B&G) is delighted to let you know that our new 4'x 8' window has been installed in the Fellowship Hall. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by and gaze out over our yard and handicap

ramp. View the spring leaves and flowers as you sit in the flood of light filling the room. Enjoy fellowship, tea, and cookies in the bright and cheery room.

B&G will be working on a variety of repairs this spring. Work will be done to finish up the prep and painting around the new Fellowship Hall window. In preparation for summer there will be several garden chores to catch up on. B&G asks committee clerks to communicate their use of the buildings and grounds to avoid repair work being planned during events. Emails will be sent out to the committee clerks to let them know when work will be done on a planned project.

Care Day, Saturday May 10th, 2025 9:00am to 12:00 pm. Please come and join us! Many hands make light work. Each month we volunteer and work together to do the normal clean-up in the Meetinghouse and the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend and to help keep our buildings and grounds clean and ready to share with the community. There are always jobs in the garden, and spring cleaning of the buildings.



Photos by Linnea Hanson and Tanya Heaston

"Process is what you do to make cheese" by Janet Leslie

Who was the Quaker who reportedly said this? Most likely someone who was tired of hearing about *Quaker Process*. How is it that we've come to use *Quaker Process* to describe our decision-making practice? Is this some ancient unquestionable true path?

When did we start using that phrase? I don't recall hearing it years ago when I first encountered Quakers, nor have I seen it in early Quaker writings. Now it seems to be all around us, and I started wondering why we're using it so much and whether it means something about who we are as Friends. I'm curious about words and their meanings, so I looked up *process*: As a noun, a series of actions or steps toward achieving a particular end. As a verb, to perform a series of operations to change or preserve (like processed food, e.g. cheese).

But does this matter? What do we mean it to mean? Quakers use all sorts of words in particular ways. Still, I wondered, so tonight I went looking in Quaker sources.

My rapid quick perusal of some Quaker writings failed to unearth references to *Quaker Process* before the 20th century. In our Pacific Yearly Meeting's 1965, 1973, 1985, and 2001 books of Faith and Practice, the earliest use of *process* that I found at all was in 1985, in a section heading, *The Friends Process for Making Decisions* and spoke of a method, practice, procedure, manner or way of making decisions. All these Faith & Practice books and the others I consulted stressed that, as stated in PacYM's 2001, "*Friends conduct business together in the faith that there is one Divine Spirit, which is accessible to all persons. When Friends wait upon, heed, and follow the Light of Truth within them, its spirit will lead to unity. This faith is the foundation for any corporate decision.*"

North Pacific YM (2018) includes *Quaker Process* in its glossary, describing it as "Practices typically used by Quakers to make corporate decisions, such as taking *the sense of the meeting* and writing *minutes*, as well as typical ways the community functions, such as the reliance on *committees* and *clerks*. Mathilda Navias, in her *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* (2012) used that wording, adding "*The key is not the particular forms used but that they are undergirded by seeking God's will*".

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting observes: "*Note, specifically, that there is no such thing as, 'Quaker Process,' as a fixed and static idea. While Quaker Process has become a term of art for some, it indicates different things at different times to different groups of Quakers. As there is no single kind of 'Quaker process', it is wiser to speak about a specific Quaker tradition, Faith and Practice, or decision-making process.*"

Is "Quaker process" Quaker, growing from religious conviction? Or is it an outcome-oriented secular practice looking for results? Do we gather to be guided by God, that spirit of love and truth? Or to carry out our own agendas? What are the practices--and words--that help or hinder us?

In faith and hope, Janet Leslie



WIDER QUAKER COMMUNITY

News from Ben Lomond Quaker Center:

Join us for worship daily from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Pacific time through our online Meeting for Worship from anywhere in the world.

Wednesday Morning Worship Sharing Continues on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. (PT) every week.

Upcoming Programs at Ben Lomond Quaker Center by Paul Harris, Quaker Center Liaison.

Find detailed information at <www.quakercenter.org>

Quaker Practice and Science Learning, with John Erickson, May 16-18, in person.

How is the search for understanding of our natural world similar to Quaker practice? What does scientific investigation have in common with spiritual seeking? Let's explore these questions through a weekend of science activities, reflection and sharing, nature walks, stargazing, fellowship, and fun. Children are welcome.

Note: this program will have several all-ages sessions, and childcare will otherwise be provided.

Announcement for Pacific Yearly Meeting by Linda Rowell

Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session will be held at Whittier College on July 11-16, 2025, Whittier, California. Theme: "Find your balance, heart reaching forward." In Person & On Line.

Pacific Yearly Meeting: We are a wide variety of unprogrammed Friends (Quaker) Meetings in California, Hawaii, Nevada and Mexico City. We do things year-round, but our main gathering, the Annual Session, occurs once a year in the summer. Our book of Faith and Practice describes the beliefs of Friends, the structures and processes of Pacific Yearly Meeting and the spiritual foundation of these processes, and our way of worship.

Interest Groups at Annual Session: Interest Groups are sessions that focus on a particular topic and are sponsored by a Pacific Yearly Meeting Committee, Friends Organization or Monthly Meeting. Typically there are three or four 90-minute time slots during Annual Session that are allocated for concurrent interest groups.



Photo by Linnea Hanson

Quotes from the Motto Calendar for May:

But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in. Leonard Cohen

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. John Muir

The Earth has its music for those who will listen; its bright variations forever abound. With all of the wonders that God has bequeathed us, there's nothing that thrills like the magic of sound. William Shakespeare

If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden. Frances Hodgson Burnett

“Goodnight stars, Goodnight air, Goodnight noises everywhere.” Margaret Wise Brown

Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder. E.B.White

The Motto Calendars were initiated by Thomas Scattergood, a Philadelphia Quaker and a direct descendant of the founder of Friends Hospital in Philadelphia.

WIDER CHICO AREA COMMUNITY

Chico Peace Vigil by Janet Leslie, Clerk, Witness & Service Committee

Here's a photo of the local folks who turned up Saturday February 15 for the Peace Vigil. Chico Friends Meeting members and attenders have been there since 1979, but you may notice that there was only a couple of us there that Saturday. Our participation has dwindled. Is this something that we still support? I hope so, as this witness is important and well-received, with waves and "thanks for being here" and sometimes conversations. Rarely there's a gesture or incomprehensible shout from a car window, but the cheerfulness and camaraderie of the vigilers always lifts my spirits. Consider joining us! Bring your own sign or select one from those provided. 12:30-1:30 pm every Saturday on the four corners of 3rd & Main Streets in downtown Chico.



CHICO FRIENDS MEETING, 5th MONTH, MAY, 2025

(All events in person except Wednesday midweek worship and Quaker exploration, which is on Zoom and in person.)

| First Day (Sunday) | Mon | Tues | Weds | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | | | | 1 7:00 pm Singing Circle | 2 | 3 |
| 4 10:00 am, Quaker Life, in person 11:00 am In-person Worship +Afternoon: Torres Dinner | 5 3:00 pm Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel | 6 | 7 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration | 8 | 9 | 10 9:00 am Meetinghouse Care Day |
| 11 Regular Schedule: + 10:00 am Singing, in person +1:00 pm Meeting for Business, in person | 12 | 13 | 14 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Regular Schedule: +10:00 am Quaker Life, in person | 19 3:00 pm Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel | 20 | 21 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration | 22 | 23 | 24 10:00 am Chico Peace Alliance 12:30 pm CFM at Chico Peace Vigil |
| 25 Regular Schedule: +10:00 am Singing, in person 12:30 pm Potluck in FH | 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>

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