

CHICO FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

Seventh Month (July) 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 REACHING OUT

Friends fellowship begins and is nurtured within the home and Meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our beliefs into the wider community.

Share your Quaker faith. Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light and, as you learn, give freely from what you have gained. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, but do not be afraid to say what you value.

Welcome the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in your Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meetings, and the world community of Friends. Encourage discourse with Friends of pastoral and programmed traditions, and with members of other faiths.

Friends have a long history of involvement in public and private education, sharing our values with the world and nurturing future generations. Be mindful of the needs of children in your community and of avenues for deepening understanding between peoples.

- How does my life reflect Friends beliefs and thus encourage others to be interested in the Religious Society of Friends?
- Do I respond openly to inquiries about Quaker experience and belief?
- *What does our Meeting do to make others aware of Friends' principles and practices?*
- *What are we doing to help people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds feel at home among us and we among them?*
- *How do we encourage newcomers to return and participate in activities of the Meeting?*
- *In what ways do we participate in the life of the interfaith community and in the wider fellowship of Friends?*

Chico Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

6/8/25 Minutes

It has been the experience of this yearly meeting in the past to know that Friends have met in division and uncertainty, and that then guidance has come, and light has been given to us, and we have become finders of God's purpose. This gives us ground for confidence. We shall not be held back by the magnitude of the questions which are to come before us, nor by a sense of our own unworthiness.

(London Yearly Meeting, 1936, quoted in Britain Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, 2.91)

Present: Jim Anderson, Rebecca Senoglu, Kathy Runyan, Bob Runyan, Bill Carlson, Linnea Hanson, Claudia Hanson, Rick Narad, Kendall Moalem, Wendy Pine, Christine Rowe, Dan Shoemaker, Janet Leslie, Susan Rahn,

Regrets: Gayle Matson, Tom Head, Peter Milbury, Karen Burdette, Rick Burdette, Susan Hughes, Katherine Mackinnon

Opening worship

Clerk's welcome

Clerk Rebecca Senoglu welcomed us and read the quote above. We reflected together on these words. She then noted those who have sent regrets.

PYM Representative

Rebecca announced that Linda Rowell has resigned as our PacYM Rep and our alternate is unavailable to attend the annual gathering. We seek another who could serve there.

Minute 01-06-2025 We appoint Jim Anderson to serve as PacYM Representative at this upcoming session and to bring back a report to us of this gathering.

Reports

- **Witness and Service Committee**

Committee Clerk Janet Leslie reported on the recent meeting. The committee reviewed upcoming events. The Torres Shelter dinner program is going well. The shelter is adding a "navigation center" which will allow it to expand its services. Janet reflected on the long period of our work serving dinners there. Janet reported that we worked recently with Chico Peace Alliance to hold a potluck dinner welcoming and supporting Bob Sanders, who is biking across the country to witness against the war in Gaza. That was followed by our monthly singing circle, like the Torres service, a long term monthly community event. Other ongoing events were reviewed by Janet, all included in her written report. Janet announced the ANAR speaking engagement at First Baptist Church on June 27. This Palestinian program serves traumatized children in the West Bank. Finally, we were all encouraged to participate in the Plastic Free July program that we are observing with our neighbor community Congregation Beth Israel. Discussion followed, as Friends considered how to become more informed about and engaged in community events. Friends asked Ministry and Oversight to consider how best to inform Friends of activities in the community.

- **Naming Committee**

Bob Runyan, convener, brought for a second reading the names of Jim Anderson, Karen Burdette and Susan Rahn to serve as our Nominating Committee.

Minute 02-06-2025 We appoint Jim Anderson, Karen Burdette and Susan Rahn to serve as our Nominating Committee. Jim and Karen will serve two-year terms, and Susan a one-year term.

We heard a first reading of Peter Milbury proposed to serve as Nominating Committee alternate and the proposal of Jim Anderson to serve as clerk to the committee for one year.

- Buildings & Grounds Committee

Linnea Hanson, co-clerk, reported, offering an update of recent work. The committee has developed a long-term capital improvement list, now in the hands of Finance Committee. The summer work this year will include work in the garden and painting around the new window. Linnea asks all committees to inform B&G of any building use scheduled so there can be coordination with their committee's work. She encourages us all to attend care days and contribute to our common work needs. On June 22 there will be celebration of the new window.

- Growing the Life of the Meeting Ad Hoc Committee

Rick Narad, committee convenor, reported. The committee met in May and plans a threshing session in the future. They find their work requires more than the current charge allows and ask that their charge be extended to December 31 of this year.

Minute 03-06-2025 We extend the charge of the Growing the Life ad hoc committee to December 31, 2025.

- Ad hoc Listening Committee

Kendall Moalem, committee member, reported. The committee has held four listening sessions recently in response to requests from Friends. They have distributed a document "Friends Listening to Rebuild Trust" to inform Friends of their work. Kendall shared an example of a Friend using the queries there and finding resolution and peace with an issue by writing responses to the queries. The Friend then did not need to have a listening session meeting. Friends are encouraged to use the document in this way. To be sure all have it, this document will be resent to all.

- Ministry & Oversight Committee

Kathy Runyan, clerk, reported. The committee will continue to include joys and sorrows in the introduction circle time, as this seems to be working well. They are working on new signs for information and guidance around our building, and are considering the text of the main sign. The present sign includes a small pride flag on the corner and this has raised the question of what the new sign should include. We are encouraged to reflect on this question. The committee continues to reach out to those in the meeting with needs for support. Finally, the committee feels we should move to an all-electronic newsletter, with paper copies sent only to those with special needs for such. Discussion followed of how to negotiate this transition to the new practice.

Worship sharing: the content of our signage

Rebecca invited us to settle into worship to share ideas on what should be included on our signs. These reflections will inform Ministry and Oversight in its discernment. Rebecca offered some history of the pride flag on the sign, and we settled into silence. Friends shared their views and concerns.

We closed meeting with a period of worship.

Rebecca Senoglu, Presiding Clerk

Jim Anderson, Recording Clerk

JULY 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/>

7/2	Weds.	(7:00 pm)	Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person. Contact Bob Runyan
		(7:30 pm)	Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person. Contact Bob Runyan
7/3	Thurs.	(7:00 pm)	Rise Up Singing Circle in person. Contact Leslie Howard
7/6	First Day/ Sunday	(10:00 am)	Quaker Life with Advices and Queries in person. Contact M&O
		(11:00 am)	Meeting for Worship in person. Contact M&O Committee
		(3:00 pm)	Make dinner and serve at the Torres Shelter. Contact Janet Leslie
7/7	Mon.	(3:00 pm)	Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel. Contact Loree Monroe
7/9	Weds.	(7:00 pm)	Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person. Contact Bob Runyan
		(7:30 pm)	Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person. Contact Bob Runyan
7/13	First Day/ Sunday	(10:00 am)	Singing in the Fellowship Hall, in person.
		(11:00 am)	Meeting for Worship in person.
		(12:15 pm)	Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.
		(1:00 pm)	Meeting for Business in person. Contact Rebecca Senoglu
7/16	Weds.	(7:00 pm)	Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person.
		(7:30 pm)	Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person.
7/19	Sat	(9:00 am)	Meetinghouse Care Day. Contact Tanya Heaston
		(6:00 pm)	Simple Supper at Kendall's
7/20	First Day/ Sunday	(10:00 am)	Quaker Life with a reading, in person.
		(11:00 am)	Meeting for Worship in person.
7/21	Mon.	(3:00 pm)	Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel. Contact Loree Monroe
7/23	Weds.	(7:00 pm)	Midweek Worship on Zoom and in person.
		(7:30 pm)	Quaker Exploration on Zoom and in person.
7/26	Sat	(12:30 pm)	Chico Peace Vigil. Contact Janet Leslie
7/27	First Day/ Sunday	(10:00 am)	Singing in the Fellowship Hall, in person.
		(11:00 am)	Meeting for Worship in person.
		(12:30 pm)	Potluck in person in Fellowship Hall.
7/30	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

Summer is here! Celebrate the warmer weather of summer by joining us for the Rise Up Singing Circle in person at the Chico Friends Meeting Fellowship Hall, Thursday, July 3, 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.

Dinner at the Torres Shelter on Sunday, Sunday July 6--Come help! By Janet Leslie

For 15+ years now, we,--Chico Friends Meeting--have been providing dinner to the staff and guests at the Torres Shelter every month! Let's continue this service! Ashley Milbury is the team leader for July, so please let him know how you can help: Contact Ashley at unabashedly@icloud.com

You can choose 3-7 pm (both food prep and serving), or 3-5:30 pm (just prep), or 5:30-7 pm (just serving), or to provide backup. Thanks for your help!

The guests and staff are so warmly appreciative of our help and the homestyle meal we provide. In June, Jim Anderson and Janet Leslie and a great team--Ashley Milbury, Bob Runyan, Doug Fogel, Kathy Runyan, Kendall Moalem, and Paul Kirk--prepped and/or served the dinner, and Leslie Howard contributed brownies. We all enjoyed the good company and being part of this continuing community effort.

Meeting for Worship and Singing with Diana Fogel by Loree Monroe

Please join us for Meeting for Worship and Singing on Monday July 7 and July 21 (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

Care Day, Saturday July 19, 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.

Electronic Copies of Newsletters by Kathy Runyan

In an effort to reduce the use of resources to print and mail copies of the CFM newsletter, the Ministry and Oversight Committee is planning to provide electronic copies as the default method of delivery in the future. We will notify those who currently receive a printed newsletter by U.S. Mail of this upcoming change. If someone cannot access the newsletter by email, we will make an exception. We will continue to have a small number of printed copies available for pickup at the meetinghouse as well as for the archives.

PLASTIC FREE JULY from your Witness and Service Committee

July is upon us and we have once again agreed as a Meeting to join the global campaign to avoid single-use plastic during the month, and hopefully beyond as well. As we did last year, your Witness and Service Committee asks that we switch to durable reusable items, avoiding plastic packaging and refusing to buy items packaged in single-use plastic containers. If you have or discover particular common products with alternative packaging, please bring a sample to include on the table at the back of the Fellowship Hall, which we will maintain during the month of July. Look also for materials we have put in the Fellowship Hall to educate us all about the health and environmental issues associated with micro plastics and plastic waste.

Please join the more than 100 million participants of this campaign by signing on to take the [Plastic Free Pledge here](#) . Also, please visit the PacYM Unity with Nature web page titled [The Problem with Plastic](#) and scroll

down to find a variety of online petitions and other actions you can take to help mitigate the problem, and to learn more about the human health problems presented by micro plastics in our environment (and in our bodies).

Once again this year we are partnering with Congregation Beth Israel on this campaign. Beth Israel is planning to show the award winning documentary that Chico Friends showed last year, called [The Story of Plastic](#) . We will announce the date for that and other collaborative events associated with Plastic Free July. Watch for updates via the Chico Friends Meeting listserv. For more information about Plastic Free July, please call or email Gayle Matson or Janet Leslie.

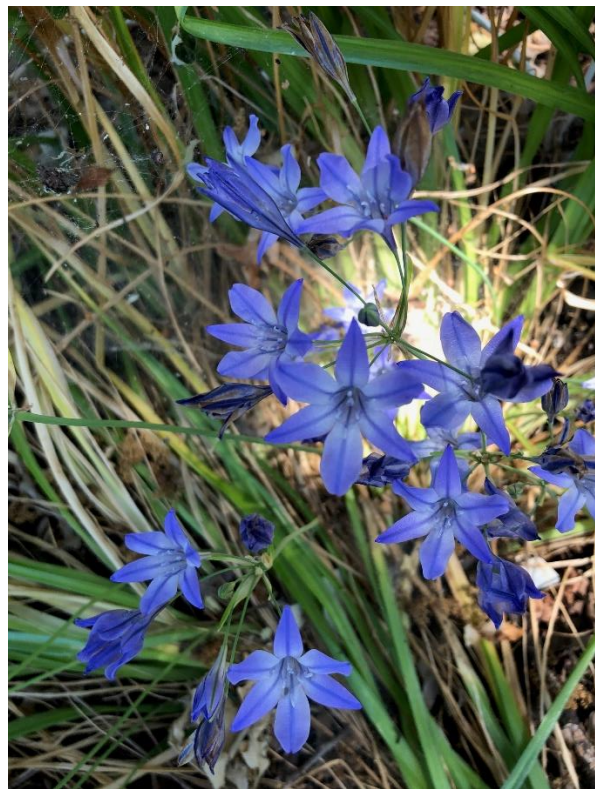
Simple Supper July 19 at Kendall's home 6-8:30pm by Kendall Moalem

Kendall will host our next CFM Simple Supper on Friday, July 19 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Reach Kendall with questions and directions to her house: kmoa.wheels@gmail.com.

Please mark your calendars and do advise me if you plan to come so I can prepare a vegetarian main dish for all. Your salad or dessert offering is welcome but not required; we always have enough and more!

There's space for 5 cars in my curved driveway if you pull all the way in toward the previous car. Alternately along the roadside in front of neighbors 1 or 2 doors west OR 2 doors east along my side of the street. Personalized "Valet" parking / pull out is available if needed!

Look forward to a nice visit over good food.



Ithuriel's Spear in flower next to the oak tree. Photos by Linnea Hanson

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>

Family Work Camp, Tuesday, July 29th, through Sunday, August 3rd.

Family Work Camp is a joyous celebration of community, collective effort, Spirit and fun. After gathering for dinner on Tuesday, July 29th, we'll spend the next four days divided into work crews. Our work will be guided by Quaker Center Maintenance Technician Ben Hofvendahl, by other Quaker Center staff, and, as always, by participant volunteers. We'll work on various projects for three-hour shifts between breakfast and lunch, and then spend the afternoons and evenings doing other things together, such as hiking, singing, resting, visiting the San Lorenzo River or a nearby Friends' pool, or doing nothing at all. For decades, FWC has been a special favorite for parents, grandparents, teens and children.

Announcement for Pacific Yearly Meeting by Linda Rowell

Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session, July 11-16, 2025 at Whittier College in Whittier, California.

Call to Annual Session by Robin DuRant, Clerk, Pacific Yearly Meeting.

THEME: Find Your Balance, Heart Reaching Forward.

Dear Friends, Last year my life got difficult; fractiousness at Meeting, family drama, health concerns, and other heavy loads. One night while participating in a pre-recorded yoga class, I toppled over. Sitting there, I thought, "I can't do this." Just then the teacher's voice said, "Find your balance, heart reaching forward." That invitation/prayer resonated with me immediately and sustained me through the following months of rapprochement at my meeting, healing of my body and soul, and renewal within my family.

With daily political and social blows, with outrage, fear, and anger leading the headlines, our society has become self-righteously polarized and isolated. How can we maintain our equanimity and reach out with generosity? How can we say to Friends and our neighbors, "You are my beloved community; you are safe here," and make it so?

We can find balance by standing up carefully, planting our feet firmly, maintaining flexibility and responsiveness, and reaching out for a railing, wall, cane, or a friend's arm. Can we help each other balance? We can reach forward with our hearts by returning again and again to the seed of our faith, in worship, prayer, devotion and trust in the divine and each other. Can we be trustworthy?

Our plenary speakers, "common folk" and "devoted" will share their experiences and discoveries in finding balance and moving forward: John Pixley, Claremont; Aaron Terry, Honolulu; Amy Cook, Grass Valley.

Registration opens May 15, 2025.

On Right Relationship: from Gerald Hewiston's Journey Into Life: Inheriting the story of early Friends, the 2013 Swarthmore Lecture of Britain Yearly Meeting: Submitted by Christine Rowe

"We need to be in Right Relationship with our personal Inner Clerk, with the intense power of God, and with the community around us to whom we feel bound. Such right relationship is not a matter of words, or even

deeds. It is a matter of being entire, complete, as a tree is wholly a tree, albeit root, trunk, bough, branch and leaf. With such complete integrity, entire wholeness, all actions flow from a state of ease and inner rest and poise. Acting from this condition, from this calm and balanced centre, all work is then Spirit-led activity. Our work as human beings is to align ourselves with blessed purposiveness, so that the outward work of our hands is the result of the inner work of our heart.”

This wisdom resonates among Quakerism’s roots because complete integrity was the aim of the first Friends. As they listened to the Light, they proclaimed spiritual Truth while standing up to Injustice. As Soldiers of the Lamb’s War, they carried faith-in-practice unto civil disobedience, often at high costs. Their aim echoes that of France Yearly Meeting’s 1943 Epistle: “We do not ask that you pray that we be safe. We ask that you pray that we be faithful.”

That process resonates for me between Quakerism and indigenous wisdom based on lived experience. I’m a convinced Friend of Celtic-Irish Cherokee Descent who aims to honor the Earth as well as ancestors. Right Relationship speaks to me as The Beauty Path, which names the Beauty of All even in the worst of times. Such faithfulness is the stuff of Spirit-led activity. It arises from listening through the heart while bearing witness to the wholeness of All That Is, including its brokenness.

Quakers’ nearest name for Beauty is the Light—or that of God—in All. The Beauty Path seeks out and co-creates harmony with all our Relatives: Standing People, Swimmers, Crawlers, Four Legged, Winged Ones, Water, and so on. The path resonates with Friends’ lived testimonies such as Peace and Equality. The wisdom and courage of Beauty is what I hear in George Fox’s 1663 epistle written while he was imprisoned:

“Sing and rejoice, ye Children of the Day and of the Light; for the Lord is at work In this thick Night of Darkness that may be felt: And Truth doth flourish as the Rose, and the Lilies do grow among the Thorns, and the Plants atop of the Hills, and upon them the Lambs do skip and play. And never heed the Tempests nor the Storms, Floods nor Rains, for the Seed Christ is over all, and doth reign. And so, be of good Faith, and Valiant for the Truth.”

Right Relationship is transformative, from “the inner work of our heart” leading to “the outward work of our hands.” A grounding question to carry with us is from Jonathan Dale of Britain Yearly Meeting, “Do we recognize that we may need our hearts broken open if God is to break through?” Indeed, the Beauty Path embraces what Quakers name as “tender and broken”; these help to mend the Circle of Life.

May we listen to our roots. May we hear all the way down to the taproot of the shared Tree of Life. May we be courageous in walking The Beauty Path. May we be Valiant like our ancestors.

Source: <https://quakerearthcare.org/listening-to-roots-walking-in-beauty/>

Quotes from the Motto Calendar for July:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants. Isaac Newton

Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow. William Pollard

The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history. Carl T. Rowan

May you replace ease with effort, may you feel joy in always scaling new mountains, may you never rest from your pursuit of knowledge; may you desire to always be a little bit better than yesterday and a little bit less than tomorrow. That's what will make you a whole human being and bring you true happiness. Rabbi Benjamin Blech

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow. Anthony J. D'Angelo

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, 7th MONTH, JULY, 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	2 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	3 7:00 pm Singing Circle	4	5
6 10:00 am, Quaker Life, in person 11:00 am In-person Worship +Afternoon: Torres Dinner	7 3:00 pm Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel	8	9 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	10	11	12
13 Regular Schedule: + 10:00 am Singing, in person +1:00 pm Meeting for Business, in person	14	15	16 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	17	18	19 9:00 am Meetinghouse Care Day 6:00 pm Simple Supper
20 Regular Schedule: +10:00 am Quaker Life, in person	21 3:00 pm Meeting for Worship with Diana Fogel	22	23 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	24	25	26 12:30 pm CFM at Chico Peace Vigil
27 Regular Schedule: +10:00 am Singing, in person 12:30 pm Potluck in FH	28	29	30 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 pm Quaker Exploration	31		

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

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