

Pacific Yearly Meeting
64th Annual Gathering
Young Friends' Epistle 2010

From Friends Here to Friends Everywhere

Young Friends came together at Pacific Yearly Meeting of 2010 the week of July 26th through July 31st at Claremont, McKenna College in Claremont, California, searching for the flow of the spirit. Old faces were warmly embraced along with new ones. We were inspired to be part of the container of non-violent process, started by George Lackey, as well. In light of perceived obstacles Young Friends were quick to reach unity in order to move forward in the beginning of the week. We came in lacking firm grounding since Clerks nominated the previous year were unable to attend this annual gathering, but we found new direction by putting faith in two new Young Friends, Nate Secrest and Martin Walden. As we settled into silence in a communal room, older Friends singing folk songs were led by Spirit to be the soundtrack of our business meeting. This was due to the inadequate meeting space that was provided to us, which also caused Young Friends to continuously shift meeting locations. With a fresh start, along with our numerous separate responsibilities with the greater Yearly Meeting, we were still able to come together with the broader community in many activities including: intergenerational games, Respectful Relationships, capture the flag, chat boxes, swimming, and worship sharing.

From our challenges we grew and matured through the unexpected opportunities that found us. Young Friends became open to change as the Spirit flowed freely. Though the process often placed us out of our comfort zones, we found hardship to be the pathway to peace. We closed our week together in deep worship, and then welcomed new Young Friends into our container with ice cream and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Nate Secrest and Martin Walden