

## YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR & COORDINATING COMMITTEE

### PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

### REPORT TO REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

MARCH 5, 2016

## SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

This report focuses mainly on new items and updates from the Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) and Coordinating Committee (YPCC). Friends are encouraged to review the Youth section on the PYM website and our past reports for further details on our ongoing work and for background on of the YPC and YPCC's functions. See expanded details and list of weblinks included below.

### Action Item for RepCom:

- Proposed Travel Minute for Alyssa's upcoming visit to Australia Yearly Meeting: for the Presiding Clerk to present for consideration at Representative Committee (see attached)

### Requests and Announcements:

- Our *online calendar* has supplanted epistles as the main communication tool for events and activities: [pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/](http://pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/). YPC Epistles may still be sent out periodically. Our Facebook page is also active – follow us!
- Please reply to Jim Summers and Alyssa Nelson in response to three queries about our collective hopes for Alyssa's visit to Australia Yearly Meeting. (See subsection below.) We will also be asking Friends for input at Annual Session.
- Next application deadline for the Youth Programs Fund is March 20<sup>th</sup>. We encourage Friends to contact us to discuss ideas even before submitting the application: we can help you develop your project plan and application. [pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/](http://pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/)
- Meetings wishing to host a "Becoming Adult Allies to Youth" workshop should contact Alyssa

### Interest Group Proposals for Annual Session:

1. *Native Americans + Quakers + Land = Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp and ...?* (Alyssa Nelson & Jim Summers, YPCC, and campers and staff): Come hear stories of how we are growing intercultural and intergenerational relationships on the Land: Quaker Oaks Farm, the Wukchumni People, other Native Americans from the Fresno area, and the PYM Youth Programs Coordinator & Committee have been collaborating on a teen camp (held three times so far) on this ancestral Wukchumni land near Visalia, CA. Hear about Alyssa's conference presentation on this topic, made to the Indigenous People's Specialty Group at the American Association of Geographers annual meeting in March 2016. Explore how we can promote healing through engagement with the legacies of history and authentic connections with indigenous peoples' living cultures

throughout the PYM region and beyond. What broke our world(s) apart? What can make our world(s) whole and healthy? *Sponsored by PYM Youth Programs Coordinating Committee and Quaker Oaks Farm Spring Camp.*

2. *Betwixt and Between: Transitions for Children (and their Adults!) in our Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings* (Alyssa Nelson, Youth Programs Coordinator; Delcy Steffy, Religious Education for Children Committee; with participation from younger Friends): How can Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly meetings help children/young people with transitions between different programs or stages of involvement in Meeting life? What works well to steward and support so that these times become ones of growth in community, rather than loss of community as sometimes happens? How can we be responsive to what's spiritually alive in our communities of Friends and promote developmentally and experientially appropriate activities that engage youth and their adults through such times of change? Co-sponsored by Youth Programs Coordinating Committee & Religious Education for Children Committee (And we'd like to ask M&O to co-sponsor as well, if possible.)

A third interest group will be organized directly with JYM and YAFs at a convenient time for them. Anyone interested is welcome to attend:

3. *Resources to Support your BIG or little IDEA* (Jim Summers and YPCC members): Join us for an interactive workshop on how to develop ideas into projects/activities and how to ask for funding or other types of support from the PYM Youth Programs Coordinating Committee and its Fund (interest income from the Bob Vogel Endowment). Participants can review the policy and application online: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/>

## **EXPANDED DETAILS**

### **YPCC Committee Activities**

- Met as a committee at SCQM Fall Fellowship in November 2015. Our previous observation continues to hold true: "We have found this practice of coordinating with other gatherings allows our members to develop a better understanding of the varied cultures of youth and intergenerational events. This cross-fertilization is helping us envision how to serve the parts of PYM better."
- We have an active committee, with all 6 at-large and 4 youth-one-year slots filled. (Note as well that three of the at-large slots are filled by young-ish adults and the other three by elder-ish adults.)
- Committee continues to meet by conference call approximately monthly, with subcommittee work and email conversation in between as needed
- Continuing to explore on how best to serve the five Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in Hawaii, as well as Meetings in Mexico and Guatemala; this objective is being advanced in part by the addition this year of Bertha Peña (Mexico City MM) to our committee.

***The Youth Programs Fund (Interest from the Bob Vogel Endowment).*** We continue to award grants for “external” projects/activities proposed by others and to sponsor “internal” activities of this committee’s initiative, in accord with our Goals and Objectives and Fund Use Guidelines. Here are some highlights for the period July 2015 – February 2016 (including some future projects that we’ve already approved).

- Internal projects/activities funded or earmarked since last report (July 2015-now):
  - Registration and travel for two Wukchumni adults and two youth to visit PYM annual session 2015 (one day and one night) and present at one of our interest groups
  - Third year (2013, 2015, 2016) of co-sponsoring and partially funding the Spring Youth Service Learning Camp with Quaker Oaks Farm and the Wukchumni Tribe near Visalia, CA.  
[quakeroaksfarm.org/blogevents/service-camp-registration/](http://quakeroaksfarm.org/blogevents/service-camp-registration/)
  - YPC Committee member inter-visitation between Quarterly Meetings
  - Travel for facilitators to our Adult Ally workshops
  - Elder for the YPC at 2016 PYM Annual Session (travel and registration)
  - Elder for the YPC during her visit to Australia Yearly Meeting 2016, and possible young adult elder (partial travel and full registration/accommodations)
- External projects/activities funded or earmarked since last report (July 2015-now):
  - Travel expenses for a YAF work-party, August 2015
  - Travel and attendance assistance for the Western Young Friends New Years Gathering’s 40th/41st Anniversary, Part 2 (Dec 2015-Jan 2016)
  - Financial assistance for YAFs to attend the Western Mystics Retreat at Berkeley Meetinghouse, February 2016
  - Travel assistance for up to 5 young adults to attend the FCNL Spring Lobby Day 2016
  - Teen inter-visitation between Quarterly Meetings and other youth travel
- Information, application, and guidelines about the Fund are online:  
[pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/](http://pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/) (or find via the menu under the “Youth Programs” tab on the far right)
  - Applications are due four times during the year (March 20, June 20, September 20, and December 20).
- Financial summary of the Youth Programs Fund (interest from the Bob Vogel Endowment) that the YPCC administers:
  - Total of all income (interest) from the endowment received since we began in June 2014: \$32,983.20
    - December 2015 income: \$8,150.38
    - We project continuing to receive approximately \$7,000 in June and December each year.
  - Expenses and Fund Balance: Total spent or set aside from the start through 2/29/15: \$37,607.14
  - Remaining funds available through June 2016: \$2,376.06, plus any unspent earmarked funds when their grant periods expire

## The Youth Programs Coordinator

In addition to continuing her usual work, Alyssa has a few extra key tasks this year:

- *Children's Program*: This is the first year that the YPC has been able to provide extensive time as a resource and support person to the Children's Program Committee, which has been going through transformation this year
- *Transitions between Children's Program and JYM Ad Hoc Committee*, Convenor (separate report): helping CPC and JYM come to unity on an improved process for placing youth in programs, and interfacing with the Registrar
- Organizing a *Clerking & Eldering mini-workshop for JYM leadership*, in conjunction with Ben Lomond Quaker Center's upcoming workshop on eldering
- *Abuse Prevention Policy draft revision w/ M&O subcommittee*
- *Electronic Communications Subcommittee (of M&O)*, member – improving the website and email systems
- Preparing an *all-ages Respectful Relationships activity* for annual session Plenary (with Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk)
- *Conference presentation* on the Quaker Oaks Farm Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp and Native-Quaker collaboration at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (March-April 2016), in the Indigenous People's Specialty Group. (Alyssa holds a PhD in Geography.)
- *Australia Yearly Meeting* consultation and upcoming visit (see subsection below)

Ongoing YPC work includes:

- *Quaker Oaks Farm Spring Service Learning Camp* that we co-sponsor: planning, improving systems, fundraising, outreach, facilitation, evaluation
- *Supporting Monthly Meetings through Visits and Consultations*: this year so far -- Grass Valley, Palo Alto, Sacramento
- Attending and assisting at *Quarterly Meetings*
- *Junior Yearly Meeting (teens)*:
  - Support the JYM planning process and particular subcommittees by email and phone and the JYM planning meeting at Repcom.
  - A main role continues to be helping JYM to understand, coordinate with and navigate within the PYM and annual session structures, and helping other PYM entities understand and connect with JYM
  - Adult co-clerk of JYM, Steve Leeds, serves on the YPCC.
- *Young Adult Friends*: support the co-clerks to understand, coordinate with and navigate within the PYM and annual session structures, and help other PYM entities understand and connect with YAFs. One of the YAF co-clerks, Rebekah Percy, serves on the YPCC.
- Manage the *criminal background checks process for PYM youth workers* (mainly volunteer staff and committee members for JYM and Children's Program) with help and oversight from M&O and the YPCC Admin Supervisor
- *Communications*:

- Our *online calendar* has supplanted epistles as the main communication tool for events and activities: [pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/](http://pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/) Epistles may still be sent out periodically.
- Report to individual Friends and Pacific Yearly Meeting as a whole throughout the year via email; youth programs webpages; and Facebook pages for the Youth Programs, JYM, and the teens of SCQM and CPQM
- *Resource and support person for individual youth and adult allies to youth*

***Australia Yearly Meeting Invitation & Upcoming Visit.*** As we reported at Annual Session 2015, Australia Yearly Meeting invited Alyssa to visit, requesting to learn about PYM's youth programs; this includes an invitation to attend AYM in July 2016 along with visits to local and regional meetings and the Friends' School in Hobart (see the formal Letter of Invitation from AYM, attached), which Alyssa and the YPC Committee accepted. AYM will pay Alyssa's costs. As reciprocity, Alyssa has asked to learn about Australian Friends' relationships with First Nations Peoples and their work toward reparations and healing. Cathy Walling (Alaska Friends Conference) and, possibly, a PYM young adult will travel as elders with Alyssa, and AYM will provide local elders as well; the Youth Programs Fund (interest from the Bob Vogel Endowment) will pay for the elders' registration, travel, and accommodations (and Cathy has generously contributed a large portion of travel costs by using airline miles). Alyssa has been communicating regularly with Jenny Turton, AYM's Children and Junior Friends Coordinator to plan the itinerary and begin to understand AYM's cultural landscape and needs. She also had a video chat with a group of AYM Junior Friends (teens) at their first-ever national summer camp this January to help them envision for their upcoming Yearly Meeting and to prepare for her visit to AYM and local and regional meetings.

***Request:*** To help Alyssa prepare for the trip, we ask all PYM Friends to consider some queries and respond to Alyssa and Jim Summers, YPCC clerk, before Alyssa leaves for Australia.

- **What does PYM do uniquely or particularly well that Alyssa could share with Australia Yearly Meeting Friends?**
- **What do you hope Alyssa might bring back to PYM from this visit?**
- **What do you wonder about the Religious Society of Friends in Australia, or about their youth programs, or anything else?**

***Action Item:*** We have drafted a *Travel Minute* for Alyssa that we ask the Presiding Clerk present to Representative Committee for consideration (see attached).

### **Some Upcoming Events and Activities of Note**

See our online calendar for more: [pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/](http://pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/)

- "Spring Youth Service Learning Camp" with Quaker Oaks Farm and the Wukchumni Tribe. *Still accepting campers for the waitlist. **March 22-25***
  - Info and Registration: [quakeroaksfarm.org/blogevents/service-camp-registration/](http://quakeroaksfarm.org/blogevents/service-camp-registration/)

- “Couples Enrichment for Young Adult Friends,” **April 8-10 in Berkeley**. *Still accepting for the waitlist.*
- “Becoming Adult Allies to Youth” workshops: Meetings wishing to host a workshop should contact Alyssa

Submitted on behalf of the YPCC,  
 Jim Summers, Clerk, Youth Programs Coordinating Committee  
 & Alyssa Nelson, Youth Programs Coordinator

*YPCC members: James Summers (Clerk / La Jolla), Steve Leeds (Admin & Program Supervisor / San Francisco), Jennifer Carr (Las Vegas), Kylin Navarro (Berkeley), Lisa Hubbell (Strawberry Creek), Lynnette Arnold (Santa Barbara), Stephen Myers (Sacramento), Bertha Peña (Mexico City), Rebekah Percy (La Jolla), and Tommy Rios (La Jolla). Alyssa Nelson, Youth Programs Coordinator, is an ad hoc member.*

## YPCC REFERENCE MATERIALS

- PYM Web Pages Maintained by the YPC
  - Main Youth Page: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/>
  - Calendar (list and table formats): <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/>
  - JYM/Teens: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/jym/>
  - YAFs: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends/>
  - Adult Allies to Youth / FRAPs: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/adults/>
  - Children’s Program: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/children/>
  - Resources & Funding: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/>
- Facebook Pages Maintained by the YPC:
  - PYM Youth Programs Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Yearly-Meeting-Youth-Programs/114350215310651?fref=ts>
  - Also helps moderate Facebook pages for JYM, CPQM teens, SCQM teens
- Links to our epistles, other reports, and other documents from main YPCC web page: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/>
- Recent Reports:
  - Report to Annual Session 2015  
<http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2015/documents/ypc/youth-programs-report-to-annual-session-2015/>
  - Report to RepCom 2015  
<http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2015/documents/ypc/youth-programs-report-to-repcom-2015>
- YPCC Goals & Objectives: [http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/ypcc\\_GoalsObjectives\\_2014\\_06\\_AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/ypcc_GoalsObjectives_2014_06_AnnualReport.pdf)

**Attachment 1: LETTER OF INVITATION from AYM -- received via email/pdf 8/19/15**



19 August 2015

Alyssa Nelson  
Youth Worker  
Pacific Yearly Meeting  
USA

Dear Alyssa

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Australian Friends to formally invite you to attend our Yearly Meeting 2016 in Hobart, Tasmania, from 2 to 9 July 2016.

I understand that you are already in communication with Jenny Turton, the Children & Junior Young Friends Coordinator for Australia Yearly Meeting, about the possibility of sharing your expertise and gifts in working with children and teenagers, particularly in the development of programs that assist the transition of teenagers through Junior Young Friends (12 to 18 year olds) to Young Friends (18 years and over).

Yearly Meeting 2016 will be held at The Friends' School in Hobart, Tasmania, from 2 to 9 July. Australia Yearly Meeting has set aside funds to pay for your return airfares from the US to Australia and will cover the costs of your registration, meals and accommodation at the Tower Motel close to The Friends' School during Yearly Meeting. Jenny Turton, with whom you will be working closely, will be accommodated at the same venue.

If you are able to extend your stay with us beyond the 9 July, Jenny, in conjunction with our Children & JYF Committee, will contact Regional Meetings about the possibility of them hosting you for visits post-Yearly Meeting.

In Friendship

*Julian Robertson*

Presiding Clerk, Australia Yearly Meeting

**Australia Yearly Meeting**  
The Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) in Australia Inc.  
Incorporated in the ACT  
PO Box 556 Kenmore  
Queensland 4069  
Australia

Tel (07) 3201 2685  
Email [ymsecretary@quakers.org.au](mailto:ymsecretary@quakers.org.au)  
Web [www.quakers.org.au](http://www.quakers.org.au)  
ABN 16 036 715 933

## **Attachment 2: TRAVEL MINUTE, PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION AT REPCOM**

5 March 2016

Dear Friends in Australia Yearly Meeting,

Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends introduces Alyssa Nelson (Davis Friends Meeting, California, USA), whom we have employed as our Youth Programs Coordinator since 2011. We recognize Alyssa as a trusted and experienced Friend who has been moved to a ministry of participation, inclusion, diversity, unity, solidarity, and liberation among youth and adults. In the same vein, Alyssa carries a concern for right relationship with indigenous peoples –having experience that includes co-creating an annual service-learning camp for Quaker and Native American youth and adults– that we believe will be strengthened by learning from Australian Friends’ relationships with First Nations peoples and efforts toward reparation and healing.

Alyssa came to Friends at age 25 with experience in social and environmental justice work and a yearning for spiritual community. By now, Alyssa has over 20 years’ experience in participatory youth and community development, and holds academic degrees in Religion (AB), Experiential Education (MS), and Geography (PhD) that she draws upon in her ministry. She has lived and worked with indigenous communities as a participant-facilitator in the American Friends Service Committee’s Mexico Summer Service Project and as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali. Alyssa attended the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends and has served as a representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation. Her offerings to our community have included a weekend workshop at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, “Seeking Spirit All Together: Intergenerational Faith, Fun and Fellowship through Service” and day-long workshops on “Becoming Adult Allies to Youth.” She acts as a resource person for individual Friends of all ages; committees of our Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings; and Quaker organizations within PYM.

We are pleased that Way is opening for Alyssa and our Youth Programs Coordinating Committee to accept your invitation to have Alyssa attend Australia Yearly Meeting in July 2016 and to travel among your local and regional meetings and The Friends’ School in Hobart. We hope your community benefits from the time you spend with Alyssa and that we and the wider body of Friends are also enriched as a result. We entrust Alyssa to your care and look forward hearing how Spirit is moving among you and to reading your words of endorsement upon her return.

In the Light,

Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk  
Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends