

Pacific Yearly Meeting University of San Diego, San Diego, California

8th Month 4, 2003

PLENARY I

The 57th gathering of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) opened with worship on 8th Month 4, 2003, at 7:50 pm in the Hahn University Center of the University of San Diego, San Diego, California.

Clerk Shan Cretin welcomed Friends to the annual session. Representatives of the University of San Diego greeted us with useful information about facilities and logistics.

Reading Clerk Lois Bailey read from the Epistles of the 2002 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and the 2002 New York Yearly Meeting.

Roll Call

Clerk Shan Cretin asked for approval to have acting Assistant to the Clerk Janet Leslie fill in for Assistant to the Clerk Kitty Bergel. Janet Leslie read the list of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. Friends from these Meetings and worship groups were present (See also Attenders List, ATTACHMENT A):

Apple Seed Monthly Meeting
Berkeley Monthly Meeting
Central Coast Preparative Meeting
Chico Monthly Meeting
Claremont Monthly Meeting

Conejo Valley Worship Group
Davis Monthly Meeting
Fresno Monthly Meeting
Grass Valley Monthly Meeting
Honolulu Monthly Meeting

Humboldt Monthly Meeting
Inland Valley Monthly Meeting
La Jolla Monthly Meeting
(celebrating their 50th anniversary this year)

Los Angeles Monthly Meeting
Marin Monthly Meeting
Marloma/Long Beach Monthly Meeting
Mexico City Monthly Meeting

Monterey Peninsula Monthly Meeting
Napa-Sonoma Monthly Meeting
Orange County Monthly Meeting

Orange Grove Monthly Meeting
Palo Alto Monthly Meeting
Redwood Forest Monthly Meeting
Sacramento Monthly Meeting
San Diego Monthly Meeting

San Francisco Monthly Meeting
San Jose Monthly Meeting
Santa Barbara Monthly Meeting
Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting
South Santa Cruz County Preparative Meeting

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Ukiah Worship Group
Visalia Monthly Meeting

Introductions

Clerk Shan Cretin read letters of introduction for Mary Ellen McNish and David R. Miller, members of Byberry Meeting in Pennsylvania. Mary Ellen is visiting as General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Philadelphia. David, Assistant Presiding Clerk of Friends General Conference (FGC), is visiting as one of the FGC's visitors to Yearly Meetings program.

Other visitors were introduced, including Nancy Yarnall, FWCC Western Field Staff from Corvallis, Oregon; Paul Lacey, Clear Creek Meeting, Richmond Indiana, and clerk of the AFSC board of directors; Karen Hayes, development staff for AFSC Pasadena office; and Vu-Duc Vuong, Regional Director of the AFSC Pacific Mountain Regional Office in San Francisco.

Logistics and Announcements

David Lederman, Orange County Monthly Meeting, introduced the Children's Program. An orientation meeting is scheduled tomorrow morning at 8:30 am for children and parents. Volunteers are needed to work with the children.

Sandy Farley, Palo Alto Meeting, introduced our new Middle School Program for 6th graders, planned as a transition between the Elementary Program and the Junior Yearly Meeting. It may eventually include grades 7 and 8 as well, with a focus on learning how to be Quaker.

Linnea Hansen, Chico Monthly Meeting, introduced the Junior Yearly Meeting clerks. Forest Parker, clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight, explained the expectations for participants in Junior Yearly Meeting. Parents and sponsors were reminded that Junior Yearly Meeting is not a 24-hour program and ends at midnight. The first Junior Yearly Meeting plenary will follow this session.

Young Friends Clerk Kate Newlin and the Young Friends Ministry and Oversight Committee -- Melina Larkin, Tesla DuBois, and Adrienne Pasta -- introduced the Young Friends program.

Secretariat Committee Clerk Larry Perry explained the location and functions of the Secretariat. Expect a *Miracle*, our daily newsletter, each morning -- available outside plenary room (ably edited again this year by Raph Levien). Committee clerks and other Friends reporting to plenary sessions are encouraged to submit both paper copies and electronic media files at the time reports are made, to assist the Secretariat in preparing minutes for these sessions in a timely manner

Messages left for Arrangements Clerks on a designated chair outside our plenary hall will be handled and resolved. In addition, Arrangements Committee members and clerks will be using walkie talkies to expedite problem resolution. Emily Leo is the Special Needs Coordinator; Friends needing assistance with problems with food, accessibility needs, wheelchair seating, listening assistive devices, or chairs for showers should contact her or may leave a message for her on the Arrangements chair.

The Clerk introduced Committee Clerks Jim Anderson (Ministry and Oversight), Leonard Joy (Peace and Social Order), Eric Sabelman (Unity with Nature), Carl Anderson (East-West Relations), Carin Anderson (Co-Clerk of Latin America Concerns), Keith Wedmore (Nominating). Friends who wish to bring a concern to a plenary session should speak to the presiding clerk or to one of the Committee clerks.

PYM 2003-1 Friends approved the Epistle committee, nominated by Ministry and Oversight Committee: Jim Summers of La Jolla Meeting (convenor), Marilee Eusebio of Davis Meeting, and Carl Magruder of Humboldt Meeting.

Naming Committee

Eric Sabelman reported for the Naming Committee. PYM Nominating Committee consists of nine members with staggered 3-year terms. The Naming Committee nominates the following Friends:

For terms ending in 2005: Sharon Gates, Orange Grove Meeting; Rick Troth, Appleseed Meeting

For terms ending in 2006: Eric Moon, Berkeley Meeting; Jo Tyler, Orange County Meeting; Anthony Manousos, Santa Monica Meeting

These nominations, to be considered for approval on Saturday, will be posted outside the plenary room.

Assistant to the Clerk Janet Leslie read announcements. Meeting closed with worshipful silence.

Faithfully submitted,

Jan Tappan, Recording Clerk

Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk

8th Month 5, 2003

PLENARY II

The session opened with a period of worship. Lois Bailey read selections from Epistles from Alaska Friends Conference (including the Epistle of Alaska Youth Exchange) and from Monte Verde Monthly Meeting, Costa Rica.

Nominating Committee

Clerk Keith Wedmore explained their process and gave their first report in detail. (ATTACHMENT N, report as revised and finally approved)

Ministry and Oversight Committee

James Navarro explained the format of this morning's session: two parts, using two queries developed from themes recurring in the State of the Meeting reports from constituent Meetings.

The first query: "Given the despair many have felt in world affairs this last year, how has the Spirit worked within you to nurture your spiritual needs and to nurture the spiritual needs of others in your Meeting community?"

Laura Magnani, speaking to this query, recalled the depth and continuity of our fellowship, remembering some of those who are part of our heritage from the past. She called on us to acknowledge our despair, naming its facets, using it to lead us to find better ways to address the problems of our world. She spoke of the need to relate more closely with our elders, those who can guide and support us in responding to the needs of our world; of the resources that we receive from centering in the Spirit to find strength and vision; and, finally, of hope. She challenged us to change our relationships with each other, with all the people of the world, and with the planet itself.

Carin Anderson, accompanied by Chris Moore-Backman, sang a prayer she had written, asking for divine guidance from love to action. Friends then spoke out of the silence, responding to the first query.

The second query: "What religious experiences or programs have most deeply nurtured your spiritual growth?" After excerpts from two State of the Meeting reports, several younger Friends told us of experiences in their lives.

Davis Carlson, Chico Monthly Meeting: Experiences with Friends, especially camps at Quaker Center, have made it easier to understand and accept others. Understanding Quaker process and Testimonies has come from participation in Junior Yearly Meeting. Belonging to the Boy Scouts has given him experience with a wide variety of people, offering him challenges and chances to explore other approaches to religious experience, which he brings back to his relationship with Friends.

Alyn Euritt: She described herself as having "the temperament of a Pentecostal" and very disturbed by the atmosphere of violence she sees around her. Service camps at Ben Lomond Quaker Center gave her a new sense of grounding and prepared her for the special insight she found at a Catholic Mass. After this revelation, she revels in the beauty and richness of the world. She finds the revelation renewed in every Quaker meeting, making her feel complete.

Andre Nelson, Redwood Forest Meeting: "Quakerism has shaped my experience and me as a person more than almost anything." His experiences at Young Friends New Year's gathering has been the greatest influence on his spiritual life, showing him what love is. He feels the love, connects with the center and goes into the world prepared to connect with other people.

Arthur Carpenter, Orange Grove Meeting: Experiences with Friends in many ways have influenced his spiritual growth. It is friends more than Friends who have given him the strongest grounding at Quaker gatherings, and he can rely on Quaker meetings, wherever and whatever they are, to connect with the Center. "That is why I come back."

Again, Friends spoke to the query in a spirit of worship. After announcements and a period of silence, we adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,
Anne Friend, Recording Clerk

Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk

8th Month 6, 2003

PLENARY III

The session opened with silent worship. Lois Bailey read from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Epistle. Minutes from Plenary II were approved.

Introductions

Jim Lindburg of the Friends Committee on Legislation (California) and Andrew Watson from Mexico City Monthly Meeting introduced themselves.

American Friends Service Committee

Presiding Clerk Shan Cretin asked former PYM Clerk Ellie Huffman to clerk this portion of the session, as Shan currently serves as Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest Region of AFSC.

Paul Lacey, Clerk of the Board of Directors of AFSC, began by recalling a sign he had seen outside a small town in Ohio: "God bless America. United we stand. All you can eat." This can be seen as summing up a belief that America is especially blessed by God, entitled to a leading position in the world and to as much of the world's resources as we can get. In contrast, the testimony of Friends is to stewardship. We are called to reach out to other peoples of the world, to become partners in caretaking, the loving nurture of others. Although it may be difficult to see how small things like sending blankets helps, we must do what we can. (ATTACHMENT B)

Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of AFSC, reviewed the structure of AFSC, particularly noting connections to PYM Friends. (ATTACHMENT B) She then told us of experiences in her life that had led her to apply for the position of General Secretary. During her first year, six goals were set for AFSC. After September 11, 2001, work for peace has had to take priority over other projects. First came the "No More Victims" campaign, then AFSC took an active role in founding the "United for Peace and Justice" coalition which includes NAACP, AFL-CIO, NOW, MoveOn.org, and other groups, and, most recently, the "Win without War" coalition. AFSC is currently working with the "misleader campaign" to call the current U.S. administration to account for lies they have told the American people. AFSC is encouraged by an approach from the Ford Foundation to fund ways to increase grassroots involvement in four geographic regions. In conclusion, "We know that love is with us on the path and that love will be with us at the journey's end."

There was a time for questions from Friends. Some were concerned about the discernment process for accepting money from the Ford Foundation. Mary Ellen responded that the Ford Foundation money is for AFSC to continue with its present work, not to meet Foundation requirements. In the discussion of this report, one Friend expressed a concern that the information about the discernment process used when accepting the Ford Foundation grant could have been presented with more clarity. Clarifications were made by both speakers. Paul Lacey further responded to the difficulty, always present, of being certain that funds from various sources are untainted. If AFSC could ensure that all donations were "untainted", it would be almost impossible to raise funds for its work.

Peace and Social Order Committee

Clerk Leonard Joy gave the attached report. (ATTACHMENT C)

John Holding reported for the Alternatives to Violence Program Subcommittee. (ATTACHMENT D) In response, Friends reported activity in their Meetings and requests from Friends for help in moving forward.

Hubert Morel-Seytoux informed us about plans and activities supporting "Health Care for All Californians". He then read a draft minute on this subject, to be considered at an interest group later this week.

Unity with Nature Committee

Clerk Eric Sabelman reported for the Committee, reviewing its history. (ATTACHMENT G) This year it has been difficult for the Committee to meet. With the separation from responsibility for publishing, especially *Earthlight*, the Committee is seeking a new goal, for instance, researching ways of living more intentionally, in care of the earth, and then passing these ideas on to Peace and Social Order for action. Although there is much reason for despair, one duty of the Committee is to increase and share awareness of the beauty, harmony, and joy of God's creation.

Jennifer Caron of Orange Grove Meeting, intern with the Committee, reported movingly on her work on the Tar Creek superfund site. She spoke of the wounding of the earth, of people at the Tar Creek site, the importance of nature and its effects on the human spirit. Friends were deeply moved by Jennifer's account. (ATTACHMENT H)

She also told us that the difficulties arising from how the Committee was able to implement the internship caused her pain and affected her work to some extent.

After a time of silent worship, the session adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,

Anne Friend, Recording Clerk
Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk

8th Month 7, 2003

PLENARY IV

The session opened with silent worship. Minutes from Plenary Session III were approved.

Sierra Friends Center

Amy Cooke reported that after the closing of John Woolman School, Sierra Friends Center was envisioned as a center serving all ages. However, the need for serving high school students has not been forgotten. A program of a "Semester at John Woolman" for high school juniors and seniors will begin this year. Amy described the curriculum to be used this semester. They intend to keep the program grounded in the testimony of John Woolman, to be true to his vision of integrity. Responding to questions, she described some other programs offered. There will be ways adults can be involved in the John Woolman semester; Saturdays will include regular presentations by Friends of their experiences with activism.

Treasurer's Report

Sherri Sisson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002. (ATTACHMENT F) She thanked the Finance committee for doing extra work to support her in the transition to new methods of record-keeping. Reminding us that we had planned on drawing \$18,000 from reserves to balance the PYM budget, she noted that we had to transfer only \$7000. Sherri answered a number of questions about details of the report.

PYM 2003-2 The final financial report for FY2002 (first column of ATTACHMENT F), including session expenses for PYM 2002, was accepted.

One Friend reminded us that the financial reports do not reflect the true cost of our Yearly Meeting sessions. We must also consider the environmental cost of PYM in such things as use of fossil fuels, waste of water, and use of products of factory farming.

Finance Committee Report

Steve Birdleough, Clerk of Finance Committee, presented a first reading of the budget for FY 2004. (ATTACHMENT F) Final approval will be considered after we have heard the report of our Statistical Clerk.

Steve also gave a report of Finance Committee discussions (ATTACHMENT F) and asked that Friends bring questions and concerns directly to them.

PYM 2003-3 Amending PYM policy covering reimbursement of travel costs, Friends approved increasing allowable travel reimbursements for committees to include costs of travel to meetings of other Friends' organizations.

PYM 2003-4 Friends approved a one-time transfer of \$1,000.00 from “Officer's Expenses” (line item 5203) to capitalize the Holding Corporation.

Finance Committee recommends that Yearly Meeting apply for status as a religious non-profit corporation. Following discussion, Friends concluded we need more information about this recommendation and asked the Committee to make a more detailed report -- to include information about the costs and consequences of this action -- and to submit it to Ministry and Oversight and other interested Friends for review.

Contributions to other Friends organizations: Steve reviewed the reasons for adding Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, and Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, noting the benefits that PYM receives from association with these national groups.

A Friend concerned about the needs of families and the benefits to our children of attending PYM suggested we consider eliminating fees for children up to a specified age. (Currently, children five years old and younger attend without charge.)

Regarding financial reports, Friends expressed concerns about being asked to accept a complex report with a very short time to consider it. Some wanted reports to be easier to read, while others requested that we find away to retain the details in any revised format.

Epistle Committee

Jim Summers introduced the committee (himself, Marilee Eusebio, and Carl Magruder) and read a first draft of our Epistle. Friends are encouraged to bring comments to the members of the committee.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Sandy Farley introduced PYM delegates to the FWCC conference in Auckland, New Zealand next January: herself, Donna Smith of Redwood Forest Meeting, and Gloria Kershner of Grass Valley Meeting. She reminded us that we can forward through them our Minutes or other concerns to FWCC.

Friends suggested we forward PYM Minute 2002-4, relating to support of the peace communities of Colombia. Friends were concerned that the Minute as written would need editing for use at FWCC; that we should mention similar accompaniment work going on in other places; that an accurate compilation of action minutes be prepared for our representatives to carry. We could ask our FWCC representatives to review all minutes of action by PYM and carry those concerns that seem more appropriate to FWCC. Friends observed that giving our delegates a mandate just to listen would be appropriate, given that our nation is most feared by other people of the world. While there was not unity in recommending specific Minutes to be carried forward, Friends expressed trust that our FWCC delegates will serve us best by letting the Spirit guide their participation. Friends were encouraged to offer their prayers for our delegates and for FWCC.

Minutes of this plenary were read, corrected, and approved. The session adjourned after a period of silence.

Faithfully submitted,

Anne Friend, Recording Clerk
Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk

8th Month 7, 2003

PLENARY V – Memorials

Members of our Ministry and Oversight Committee led us in our memorials session. M&O Committee members Jim Anderson, Jeannie Graves, Ellie Huffman, and Sally Davis – and two Young Friends, Eleni Richey and Michael Pratts – read the names of 35 deceased Friends, interspersed with poems.

Anna Alexander, Redwood Forest
Lawrence Aller, Santa Monica
Alice Bender, Honolulu
Lee Bowman, Sacramento
Dorothy Bruff, Redwood Forest
Doak Cox, Honolulu

“To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:
To love what is mortal;
To hold it against your bones knowing
Your own life depends on it;
And, when the time comes to let it go,
To let it go.” -- Mary Oliver

Nan Degelman, Davis
Richard Ernst, Redwood Forest
Meta Ruth Ferguson, San Diego
Jean Flores, Strawberry Creek
Ida Fugoli, Palo Alto
Margaret Gray, Honolulu

“Unencumbered with
The mortal aspect of herself
She will rise
To join those
Blessed with an awareness
Of God’s love.
La Dona”

Jack Haller, Mendocino
Kate Hearst, Berkeley
Leonore Hollander, Redwood Forest
Robert James, Grass Valley
Catherine Langston, Orange Grove
Barbara Laslett, Berkeley

“These words spoken
In an hour of silence
Make up a life
I didn’t know.

“Each person speaking
out of the loss
adds a color, an edge,
a piece to be found...

“This was a life I saw,
a life lived here,
a life lived no more.
I know why I came.” -- John Pixley

Walt Lindauer, Redwood Forest
Margaret Mints, Orange County
Bill Moyer, San Francisco
David Neptune, San Diego
Arlene O’Bryan, San Jose
John Peckham, Marin

“I share with you the agony of your grief,
The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.
I know I cannot enter all you feel
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;
I can but offer what my love does give:
The strength of caring,
The warmth of one who seeks to understand
The silent storm-swept barrenness of so great a loss.
This I do in quiet ways,
That on your lonely path
You may not walk alone.” -- Howard Thurman

Kelly Peckham, Redwood Forest
Rudolph Potochnik, Delta
Aibi Reed, La Jolla
George Rudenko, San Fernando Valley
Paul Ruhlen, Palo Alto

“If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and sea are one.” Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Jim Standish, Palo Alto
Lee Storey, Santa Monica
Judith Stronach, Berkeley
Ben White, Davis
Katharine Whittaker, Berkeley
Bill Williams, Davis

“Death is the end of a stage, not the end of the journey. The road stretches beyond our comprehension.”
-- Oliver Lodge, *Life and Death*

“I find my words turning into a prayer. Dear God of all time and all creatures, help me to live fully within this cycle of infinity that is your gift to me. Make me less fearful of the measure of time and more fully alive in the time that simply is. Help me to live time, not just to use it; to breathe it in and return it in acts of love and presence.”
-- Avis Crowe, *Reflections on Time*

8th Month 8, 2003

PLENARY VI

Our session opened with worship. Reading Clerk Lois Bailey read from the epistle of the 2002 Community of Friends Evangelical Churches of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo Friends Yearly Meeting).

We heard and approved revised minutes for Plenary III (regarding responses to the report from AFSC) and Plenary IV (regarding FWCC and environmental costs of PYM sessions).

Naming Committee

Steve Smith of Claremont Meeting reported for the Naming Committee their nomination of Marilee Eusebio to serve as Nominating Committee clerk starting in January 2004. (The committee will function without a clerk until then.)

Nominating Committee

Keith Wedmore reported for the Committee. No changes have been made to nominations proposed on Tuesday at the initial Nominating Committee report. Two clarifications were made: Margaret Mossman is no longer on the Discipline Committee, and Sandy Farley is no longer on the Peace and Social Order Committee.

PYM 2003-05 Friends approved the nominations presented Tuesday, as corrected. (ATTACHMENT N)

Keith Wedmore proposed a few additional nominations, to be considered for approval at tomorrow's plenary. Friends encouraged us to order our activities so that there is room in our lives to reflect our concerns.

Statistical Clerk

Gary Wolff, Statistical Clerk, reported that Yearly Meeting experienced a net increase of five members this year (ATTACHMENT J). The Statistical Clerk maintains a mailing list of Pacific Yearly Meeting clerks and contacts, and can provide mailing labels for PYM mailings to our officers, Committees, and constituent Monthly Meetings and worship groups. Gary's statistical reports will be posted outside the plenary room.

East West Relations Committee

Carl Anderson, clerk of the East West Relations Committee, presented a travel minute for Julie Harlow, who will be traveling with a concern for the contribution Friends are making in the areas of the former Soviet Union.

PYM 2003-6 Friends approved the travel minute for Julie Harlow.

Peace and Social Order Committee

Leonard Joy, clerk of the Peace and Social Order Committee, reported that they, joining Unity with Nature Committee in supporting Jennifer Caron's concern for Tar Creek, had approved a minute to support Jennifer in approaching legislators and advocating for Tar Creek toxic site cleanup.

Steve Birdleough read a proposed minute supporting a single payer healthcare system, which emerged from an interest group on the topic. Friends expressed concerns about the minute as drafted.

After discussion, Friends approved these minutes:

PYM 2003-7: Pacific Yearly Meeting endorses the concept of universal access to health care. We do this in the spirit of our Testimonies of Community and Equality. We believe that financial considerations should not be the mechanism by which the level of quality of the service, and its availability, are determined.

PYM 2003-8: Pacific Yearly Meeting recommends that Monthly and Quarterly Meetings take time to study the issue of a universal single payer healthcare system. We particularly recommend that Meetings in California consider supporting California SB 921 (Kuehl), participating in the debate and proceeding with thoughtful seasoned actions.

Leonard Joy reported on Britain Yearly Meeting's process for renewing interest in Quaker social testimony there. Peace and Social Order Committee is exploring a possible process similar to that adopted by Britain Yearly Meeting. (last paragraphs of ATTACHMENT C)

Latin America Concerns: Colombia.

Chris Moore-Backman and Carin Anderson reported on their work in Colombia. In February, Chris returned to Colombia to explore ways PYM Friends could continue to assist the people there. After a period of discernment, Chris and Carin bring to us three ways that we can continue to nurture our relationship to the peace communities of Colombia: a health promotion project, a trauma healing project, and in face-to-face relationships. Individuals from Pacific Yearly Meeting have funded the training of a nun in the trauma healing project, but both the trauma healing training and the health promotion project need further funding. Chris and Carin will continue to visit Colombia and encourage others to visit as well, through delegations that will be visiting this fall.

Assistant to the Clerk Janet Leslie read announcements. The meeting adjourned after a period of silence.

Minutes of this plenary were read, corrected, and approved.

Faithfully submitted,

Jan Tappan, Recording Clerk
Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk

8th Month 9, 2003

PLENARY VII

Reading Clerk Lois Bailey read to us from the 2002 Joint Nordic Yearly Meeting Epistle.

Ministry and Oversight Committee

Jim Anderson, Committee Clerk, gave the attached report (ATTACHMENT M) The Yearly Meeting has a website – www.quaker.org/pacific-ym -- thanks to the Subcommittee on Electronic Communication and Records. The work of the Quaker chaplains interest group will continue through the year.

A question was raised about whether we have ever formally approved having a website. We have not. However, we will continue operating the website informally, evaluate the results, and expect a recommendation in a coming year from our M&O Subcommittee on Electronic Communications. Suggested guidelines will be distributed.

A questionnaire regarding possible changes in the administration and structure of PYM was circulated before the Yearly Meeting session. Responses, discussed in an interest group, were thoughtful and valuable and will be further considered in the coming year.

Naming Committee

As previously announced, Marilee Eusebio has agreed to serve as Nominating Committee Clerk for the coming year. The other Friends asked to serve on Nominating Committee, and their terms, are: Sharon Gates, term to end 2005; Rick Troth, 2005; Eric Moon, 2006; and Jim Summers of La Jolla Meeting, 2006 (Jim to be approved at Representative Committee in March, 2004)

PYM 2003-9 We approved these new members (and clerk) for our Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee

Clerk Keith Wedmore read again the names of Friends announced yesterday as additions to the first report.

PYM 2003-10 We approved the nominations of these Friends. (ATTACHMENT N)

One Friend questioned the inclusion of Pacific Friends Outreach Society (PFOS) members in the Nominating Committee report. PFOS, an independent corporation, appoints its own officers and board members, and their names are listed with PYM nominations -- along with the Naming Committee Report, JYM and Young Friends officers -- to provide PYM Friends with convenient access to this information

One Friend felt the nominee for clerk to Ministry and Oversight Committee inappropriate. The Nominating Committee has heard the concerns and still brings the name forward. There was an opportunity for discussion, but there were no further comments. The Friend who spoke his reservations stood aside, and the nomination stands as approved.

Registrar

Stephen Matchett introduced Co-registrar Kim Lacey and gave the Registrars' report (ATTACHMENT K).

Other Reports

At our presiding clerk's suggestion, Friends agreed to include committee reports not heard in plenary, and other reports of interest to Friends, in the packets of PYM Minutes. (ATTACHMENT P, *Friends Bulletin* Annual Report to Yearly Meetings)

Finance Committee

Steve Birdleough discussed changes to the FY2004 budget as originally presented. Junior and Young Friends have asked to have a retreat immediately before PYM in 2004. Steve specified the changes in the budget that this will require. Young Friends have asked for support for some Young Friends to attend the gathering of Young Friends in Britain in 2005. Changes to the budget will be required and have been suggested.

Steve gave further financial details, including the need to set this year's per-member assessment at \$36, except for maintaining the assessment at \$10 per member for Mexico City Monthly Meeting.

Yearly Meeting financial support for Pacific Friends Outreach Society (PFOS) was discussed. Finance Committee feels that further discussion by Yearly Meeting is needed and is not recommending any change at this time.

One Friend spoke with a concern that the contribution to Pacific Friends Outreach Society should be withheld until the relationship with PFOS has been discussed at a PYM session. Other Friends united with the Friend who spoke. Presiding Clerk Shan Cretin asked former PYM Clerk Margaret Mossman to clerk the meeting so Shan could participate in the discussion.

Friends spoke of the history of PFOS as a nonprofit corporation whose formation was directed in a formal minute by PYM. Friends noted that support for PFOS is independent of a decision of whether PYM should be held there. Other Friends spoke of their belief that PFOS is of value to PYM; that it is possible for individual Friends to accept the budget without feeling real clarity about PFOS, given the decision at our 2001 session to contribute \$500 a year to PFOS.

Acting Clerk Margaret Mossman spoke to the lack of unity about PFOS within the Yearly Meeting and the need for larger discussion. She also noted that it is the custom of Friends to require unity before changing a previous decision.

Additional comments supported the need for further examination of this issue, recommended that we continue to support PFOS at the level previously set, and asked the board of PFOS prayerfully to consider the issues raised in this discussion.

PYM 2003-11 Friends approved the following minute:

We regret that time did not allow us to examine the question of PFOS's value to PYM further at this Yearly Meeting session, recognizing that practice of Friends is to change previously-approved decisions only when in unity. Therefore, we accept budget line item 5259, and we ask our clerks to focus on the question of PYM relationship to PFOS and its financial and other support at Representative Committee next March and at our 2004 summer sessions.

Chris Moore-Backman, Stratton Jaquette, Gloria Kershner, Anne Friend, and Marie Fredell, at their requests, are recorded as standing aside from approval of this minute.

PYM 2003-12 Friends approved the FY2004 budget as presented to this plenary. (ATTACHMENT F)

The extended discussion sparked by the PFOS line item in the budget used the time allotted for hearing epistles and for closing worship. Therefore, Friends agreed to hear our Epistles in an informal session during the lunch hour and to have a brief time of worship together before we depart.

Commencing that extended session the Presiding Clerk, wearing a balloon hat presented to her by Young Friends, called us to re-gather. Epistles from Pre-school, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and Middle School Friends, from, Junior Yearly Meeting, and from Young Friends were read and accepted.

Our Pacific Yearly Meeting epistle was read. Friends felt that mention should be made of the blessings arising from our efforts to deal with difficult issues.

PYM 2003-13 Our Epistle was accepted, with this suggested addition to be made by the Epistle Committee.

Margaret Fruth asked to be recorded as standing aside from our acceptances because the locale is "exclusive and not accessible".

Friends thanked the Presiding Clerk and all who have worked for PYM during this session. The meeting closed with silent worship to meet next at Mount Madonna Conference Center, Watsonville, California, August 2-7, 2004.

Faithfully submitted,

Anne Friend, Recording Clerk

Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk

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Pacific Yearly Meeting 2003

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PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

of the RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING, 2003 EPISTLES

Dear Friends Everywhere,

It feel great when we see each other, even once a year. We play Legos. Sometimes we eat together. We play Pokemon and Infinity Warriors of the High Mist, after breakfast.

We like to read your epistles, especially from preschool kids like us. It is great to know each other. We like you a lot. Thank you, India, for saving the tigers. Save the rainforests, please with peanut butter and jelly on top. And a cherry.

The Epistle Committee of PYM Preschool

Epistle from the Lower Elementary Group, PYM 2003

Greetings!

During this week, we created our community in many ways. From the book, Benjamin the Meetinghouse Mouse, we learned about queries. Queries are big questions that we think about. There are many answers, but there is not a single answer that is the only right answer. Every day we considered a question or two about community, from the children's queries. For example: Do I forgive people? Do I apologize? Do I know the difference between tattling and telling to get help?

We also learned new skills with clay. We used three or four different kinds of clay. It was fun to squish it through our fingers. We used eraser clay to make erasers. Jayden, Shea, and Anthony made castle gates and a dragon's cave, plus towers for the castle.

The community dance was lots of fun. Some of us played tag, and there was lots of dressing up. There was a guy in a bathrobe, someone in a tiger suit, and lots of JYM girls in togas made from sheets.

The last thing we want to mention is the book, The King's Equal, by Katherine Paterson. We Love this book. It's about a greedy prince, a kindhearted girl, and a magical wolf. We hope that you will read this book, and that you will love it, too.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney, Hannah, Robert, Jayden, Sammie, Clare, Grady, Anthony, Shea, and Sam

Upper Elementary

We each made a collage about ourselves. It was easy and hard. The magazine were full of war pictures. Some of us thought the weapons were really cool. But they really aren't, because they're made to kill.

There's war on TV, too. There's also violence in lots of video games. Becca came to tell us about studies about TV and violence.

Chris came to talk about the civil war in Colombia. It's scary, because they've been fighting for over forty years.

Barbara told us about poverty in Mexico and doing community service work there, so we built a playhouse for the pre-schoolers.

Ellie showed us polymer clay, and it was great fun. We played "blind leading the blind." One partner led the other. One partner touched stuff to guess what it was.

Elbow tag is fun, because you're running around chasing and getting chased. We learned about each other, about cooperation, trust, and how bad war can be. We had a pretty good week.

The Upper Elementary of PYM 2003

Eli, Tommy, Rose, Richard, Simeon, Lee, Maya, Ian, Lena, Rosie, Lyman

Teachers: Maya and Terry Jo

Epistle from the Middle School Program of Pacific Yearly Meeting 2003

To Friends Everywhere;

The new middle school program at Pacific Yearly Meeting this year was exciting in many ways. We always began our morning program with a Seneca Spirit Circle, physical warm-up, and a temperature reading where we took turns asking for appreciations, concerns, and excitements. After other activities we closed with silence.

This year some of our main morning activities were crocheting granny squares to make vests for young children in Afghanistan. We made collages after interviewing Ernest Bicknell and Joan Rawles-Davis about their life stories. Jennifer Caron came and showed us pictures and told about her work at a toxic waste site near Tar Creek, Oklahoma.

We taught each other games. We learned the Biblical story of the tower of Babel and turned it into a skit for Family night. We held business meetings to plan how to use our time.

In the afternoons we went to the pool, made beads with Ellie Hitchcock, and assembled friendship kits for expectant mothers in Iraq. These kits contain baby blankets, soap, washcloths, a baby hair brush and comb all in a zip lock bag.

We would like to give a big THANKS to our morning teachers, Sandy Farley and Jane Blount, as well as our afternoon leaders, Zac Moon and Michael Eastwood. We would also like to give thanks to Ernest Bicknell and Joan Rawls-Davis who let us interview them, also to Jennifer Caron who shared with us about Tar Creek. Thanks also to the Children Program committee who provided snacks and substitutes (Karen Morgan and Anne Bleile-Kratzer) when a teacher had to be out.

Thanks to the Yearly Meeting for creating a program for us.

From the middle school group, written by epistle committee,
Gracie Sullivan and Kylin Navarro

The middle school group: Lena Bichell, Rosie Bichell, Kat Gore, Kylin Navarro, Bekah Percy, Gracie Sullivan, Rowan "Bob" Torrey-Love

From Junior Yearly Meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting

To Friends --

Jumbled together, from all parts of the west coast (plus Ohio and France), a community of the young gathered. This would be a group that would trudge through worship, silence, heat, smell, sweat, and grim together for a week that would serve as a “coming-of-age”. Some came with guardians, others with sponsors, and some on their own accord. Regardless of these different backgrounds, each member of the future Quaker society was valued as an equal member of the community.

What exactly was it that we learn during this week of bonding with our closest comrades? We learn the process and spirit of Quaker life and its meaning to our generation. Through plenaries and worship, we found within ourselves the Light that can carry us through the rest of our lives, if we so choose. Maybe it wasn't something that was simply interjected into one our hectic yet effective business meetings; maybe it was something that could only be understood in the enlightening and precious silence. Still, climbing through rough edges with your peers satisfies a spiritual hunger deep within yourself.

The growing process can be symbolized as a multi-story edifice. Each floor has its own focus, but is connected to the store (or household) goal as a whole; the building is ever protruding upward. We came together in our informative interest groups, on the sandy beaches, inside the comfort of our dorms, on the dance floor, and during the cacophony that was running/sweating/screaming capture-the-flag epidemic. Your journey with your companions and your goals, during the week, are a mere pit stop in the quest of your life, treat every experience as such.

In all the week was a success. The new were readily embraced by the surviving, who were eager to share what experience they had gathered in past years. Even through set-backs, such as the closing of the Palomar Lounge, the glue held us all together and carried us through. It was this very matter that was the focus and energy of the group. In addition to paving the way for the future of the meeting, we also took some time to patch some holes we'd made. We are, all in all, human. As some of the elders of JYM left for Young Friends and beyond, they leave an essence that will never be forgotten and cannot be replaced.

To Friends Everywhere,

The Young Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting came together in August, 2003 for the annual PYM gathering. New Friends and old ones participated jointly in many of the traditional Young Friends activities, which brought us together as one.

After brief introductions and a few fun games, we experienced our first of many sleep-deprived nights. The days that followed brought exciting activities such as an evening trip to the beach, a capture the flag game with the Junior Yearly Meeting, a dance DJed by some of our Young Friends, late night card games, swimming in the pool, and a talent night.

Never before has there been a PYM without some challenges; we faced our share this year. Early in the week we discovered that a member of our community, Paul Ruhlen, had passed away in the last year. We worshipped together in honor of his life and the joy he brought to ours.

As in many years past, the Young Friends felt a degree of distance from the greater PYM community. We continued an ongoing discussion about the importance of maintaining and strengthening our community of Young Friends while also participating in the life of the greater Yearly Meeting. We found difficulty in balancing our involvement with the Young Friends community and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. This was a challenge that we faced both as a community and as individuals.

Spurred by the request of JYM, the Young Friends decided to bring back the Respectful Relationships discussion after an eight-year hiatus. This discussion provides a safe space for open and honest dialog on the difficult topics

of sex, drugs, alcohol, and most importantly respect for self and others. The JYM committee's decision to bring the program back was based upon the emphatic testimonies of Young Friends who had experienced the program years before.

Our week ended on a positive note. The last evening included a celebration welcoming those JYMers who will be joining us as Young Friends next year. This was followed by "spontaneous" worship by the fountain. We are looking forward to reconvening soon at Sprit and Light gatherings throughout the year and again at PYM 2004.

In the Light,
Young Friends, Pacific Yearly Meeting, 2003

Kate Newlin, YF Clerk

To Friends Everywhere,

Pacific Yearly Meeting met at the University of San Diego, August 4-9, 2003, in an urban setting, overlooking Mission Bay, on the north bank of the San Diego River.

During one plenary session, Laura Magnani spoke to the query "Given the despair many have felt in world affairs this last year, how has the spirit worked within you to nurture your spiritual needs and to nurture the spiritual needs of others in your meeting community?" At another plenary Jennifer Caron spoke movingly of her experiences working at the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Oklahoma. These ministers called us to be present with our despair at a nation and a world that seem to have lost sight of the common good and are in immanent danger of destruction. We were invited to fully experience our despair, pain and grief. Through these we are connected to God, creation and one another. This connection can bring us deep joy and the impulse to move in accordance with Divine will for the redemption of the planet. The unity of our various work for peace, justice, and the restoration of the Earth is obvious, and we hope in this way to live our testimonies, not merely profess them. We pray for courage to assess the costs of continuing to do business as usual.

As we shared our spiritual lives with each other, we realized that we long for the birth of Spirit into the world as action. We found the courage and energy to labor deeply with each other. Many more Friends than expected attended Bible study groups with the theme "Waging Peace: Biblical Perspectives on War, Peace, and Justice." Many interest groups wrestled with how to turn this session's spiritual insights into practical actions.

One important question was whether year-round staff for PYM would further our witness. Friends from PYM, along with AFSC staff, General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish, and Paul Lacey, clerk of the National Board of Directors, discussed the work of the AFSC and relationships between local and national AFSC programs. Junior Yearly Meeting Friends and Young Friends touched many with accounts of their spiritual journeys and their participation in interest groups and other activities of our community. A peace vigil in Balboa Park with San Diego's peace community provided an opportunity for witness on Hiroshima Day.

As we leave this particular place to return home, we take with us a sense of unity of the earth and its inhabitants and an urgent desire to bring our community back into the kind of union with God that was the basis of the beginning of our religious society.

Shan Cretin,
Clerk, Pacific Yearly Meeting