

## PLENARY I

Plenary I began with worship at 6:48.

Presiding Clerk, Marilee Eusebio (Davis), welcomed us to the 65th Annual Gathering of Pacific Yearly Meeting:

“My dear Friends, I am very glad to be with you all again to laugh, play, sing, worship and to learn from one another. Our theme, Where Can We Be Stretched Anew?, offers us many opportunities to examine who we are and who we want to be. I would like to review some of our past as a guide to what we want to consider at this time.

Even before I heard of Tony Prete’s death last month, I had planned to use some words he left with us when he spoke to us in 2006 about the Sabbath and keeping it holy, the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment. He told us that in Exodus, this commandment begins with, “Remember the Sabbath”, and in Deuteronomy it begins with, “Observe the Sabbath”. I have thought about those words many times since his speech. The way I hope that we can use them this week is to **remember** that the inner light is in each of us and that we **observe** that aspect of each other in all our conversations.

Then just last year, George Lakey spoke to us about what sets people free to engage with and experience the spirit. He spoke of a container – something that is bigger than the sum of its parts. He says, if we only see ourselves as individuals in our Quaker meeting or in any group we associate with – we are going to miss the big opportunity for the Spirit to move. As a group, we can be the container that creates safety for people to expect the unexpected and experience life in the spirit. We need to be accountable, that is, live in truth even when it hurts, be present and be willing to struggle together.

This year we will look at deep and often difficult issues: racial justice, conversations about nuclear power, torture and information about the nature and substance of the Palestinian-Israeli tensions. Holding these topics and ourselves in the Light, we will see what love can do and how we can stretch ourselves anew.”

**Assistant to the Clerk**, Jean Lester (Orange Grove) called the roll. There were 28 Monthly Meetings represented and 8 Worship Groups at this roll call. (*complete list attached*)

**Visitors** from other Yearly Meetings: Vanessa Julye, (Central Philadelphia MM, PhYM), Janice Domanik (Lake Forest MM, Illinois YM), Tess Sollenberger,

(Bellingham, WA, NPYM), Andrew Secrest and Zoe Price (Berkeley Friends Church).

**Arrangements Clerk,** Pat Smith (Claremont), made announcements about parking, keys, committee meetings, worship sharing groups, and meals. She expressed thanks for the help from Junior Yearly Meeting with childcare during committee meetings and with moving luggage.

**Children's Committee and Children's Program:** Rhea Farley (Strawberry Creek) made announcements about the program and introduced the staff. She also organized a convoy to retrieve the materials for the Children's Program.

**Nominating Committee:** Clerk, DJ Bloom (Apple Seed), brought us 3 names to start service immediately: Amy Cooke (Grass Valley), for recording co-clerk, and Judith Favor (Claremont) and Stephen Myers (Sacramento) for reading clerks. These names will be brought back at the end of this session for action. We still need members for JYM, M&O, and Children's Religious Education Committees.

**Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee:** Mary Klein (Palo Alto), reported on the committee's work. Sarah Beutel (Mountain View MM, IMYM) has been released from the coordinator position and Alyssa Nelson (Davis) has been selected to replace her. Sarah and Alyssa expressed their gratitude for the support they have received.

**Secretariat:** Clerk, Don Bean (Conejo Valley), made announcements about The Daily Miracle, committee reports, and availability of past records.

**Junior YM:** Clerks, Hana Castanedo (La Jolla), Jayden Navarro (Santa Cruz) and Laura Adair (Central Coast) introduced their M&O Committee and announced the Prison Library Project. Melissa Lovett-Adair (Central Coast) acknowledged the invaluable contribution of our Friendly Adult Presence volunteers (FAPs).

**M&O Committee:** Brian Vura-Weis (Palo Alto) brought us the names of three friends to write this year's epistle:

*[Minute]* PYM approved the Epistle Committee of Lee Sisson (Orange County), Alyssa Nelson (Davis) and Cliff Lester (Orange Grove). *(Later it was pointed out that approval was not necessary – this committee is appointed by M&O.)*

**Registrar:** Liz Baker, (Modesto & Berkeley), made announcements about registration.

Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) presented an activity to prove we are not God's "frozen" people and to acknowledge our commonalities and diversity.

The names brought by the Nominating Committee will be held until the beginning of the next plenary session.

*The minutes of Plenary I were approved.*

**Assistant to the Clerk:** Jean Lester (Orange Grove) made announcements.

**Worship-Sharing:** David Morse (Orange Grove) explained the assignments.

The session was closed with silence at 8:09.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Harlow, Recording Clerk  
Marilee Eusebio, Presiding Clerk

# PYM Annual Gathering 2011, Plenary I

Monthly Meetings	
Appleseed	<b>X</b>
Berkeley	<b>X</b>
Big Island	
Central Coast	<b>X</b>
Chico	<b>X</b>
Claremont	<b>X</b>
Davis	<b>X</b>
Delta	<b>X</b>
Fresno	
Grass Valley	<b>X</b>
Guatemala	
Honolulu	<b>X</b>
Humboldt	<b>X</b>
Inland Valley	
La Jolla	<b>X</b>
Live Oak	<b>X</b>
Marin	
Mendocino	
Mexico City	<b>X</b>
Monterey Peninsula	<b>X</b>
Napa-Sonoma	
Orange County	<b>X</b>
Orange Grove	<b>X</b>
Palo Alto	<b>X</b>
Redding	

**X indicates present at roll call**

Redwood Forest	<b>X</b>
Reno	<b>X</b>
Sacramento	<b>X</b>
San Diego	<b>X</b>
San Francisco	<b>X</b>
San Jose	<b>X</b>
Santa Barbara	<b>X</b>
Santa Cruz	<b>X</b>
Santa Monica	<b>X</b>
Strawberry Creek	<b>X</b>
Visalia	<b>X</b>

Worship Groups	
Conejo Valley	<b>X</b>
Friends House	<b>X</b>
Kauai	
Lake County	<b>X</b>
Las Vegas	<b>X</b>
Maui	
Modesto	<b>X</b>
Molokai	
Oakland	
Ojai	<b>X</b>
Southern Humboldt	<b>X</b>
Ukiah	<b>X</b>
Whitleaf	
(Friends of Soledad)	

## PLENARY II

Plenary II began with worship at 10:30.

Presiding Clerk, Marilee Eusebio (Davis), opened the Plenary.

**Nominating Committee:** Marilee read the names brought forward at Plenary I, 2011:

**PYM Minute 2011.1:** We approved the following: Amy Cooke (Grass Valley): Recording Co-clerk, 2011-12. Judith Favor (Claremont): Reading Clerk, 2011. Stephen Myers (Sacramento): Reading Clerk, 2011.

**Epistle Reading:** Judith Favor (Claremont) shared the Epistle from North Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM), 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, Missoula, Montana: Friend-in-residence Bridget Moix's two year old son gave the metaphor of a "barquito grande" – a big little boat - that helps us sail over the Ocean of Darkness to the Ocean of Light. Friends are not alone in the barquito grande. Our community uplifts and multiplies our gifts.

**Young Friends:** YF Clerk Gabe Martinez (La Jolla), and Young Friends M&O Clerk Nora Cooke (Grass Valley), gave us information about their schedule and goals for the week. Young Friends are striving this year to strengthen the group and build community.

**Worship Sharing:** David Morse (Orange Grove): David shared some organizational details regarding worship sharing groups and thanked the leaders. Eric Sableman (Palo Alto) invited our participation in examining the multidirectional relationships between ourselves, our Meetings and the world. He noted that worship sharing groups stretch us anew and that we have a concern this year for racial justice. The M&O subcommittee on Racial Justice has expressed the hope that the focus of attention will be on the spiritual failure that gives rise to racism. Our query, "Where Are We Stretched Anew?" can suggest inclusiveness, that is, exploring openness to other people and groups.

**Ministry & Oversight:** Marilee Eusebio opened the report by introducing the members of the committee who all participated in the presentation. She explained that parts from the State of the Meeting Reports will be shared through various "stretching" exercises – putting our theme "How are we stretched anew?" into action.

Clerk of M&O Ruth Fraser (SF) led us in stretching with breathing and body exercises alternated with readings from the State of the Meeting Reports. We stretched to warm up, to reach up, to reach out and to experience overextending.

Stretching: warming up

In response to an increasing interest in developing a program for children, Mexico City Monthly Meeting is offering and supporting “*Cuentos para la Paz*” (Stories for Peace) for young children and their families the first Sunday of the month. The program coordinators select stories from different faiths and traditions to reflect the Quaker testimonies and bring these to life with interactive storytelling and hands-on activities. The program has brought families to Meeting that would probably not otherwise have found us. **Mexico City**

In the past year we have reached a period of transition. We are finally poised to begin construction on our long-planned building and renovation project. While we do not expect to be able to complete the entire project this year, in the next twelve months we should be able to finish the first phase of renovation of the Meeting House building itself. We have great hope that the physical remodeling of our property will also be a pattern for a renovation of the Meeting in other ways, that the new and refreshed spaces will be a spiritual ark for our Meeting community. **Berkeley**

There is a real joy in Meeting experienced in coming to know the power of the spirit. This is very much a part of our worship. Our differences are treasured and respected; this creates an atmosphere where all are free to pursue worship in their own way. This is very powerful. Meeting is seasoned by a core of friends that have been worshipping together for many years. Meeting is grounded, and there is comfort that comes with this grounding. This grounding allows us to move forward in loving ways, and facilitates working to seek unity. As a consequence, we continue growing in the spirit. We are grateful that individuals are able to ask for help more often than not when needed. If we only discussed the good things, then building our spiritual base would be more difficult. Some families with young children struggle to also participate in Meeting. We need to facilitate the participation of parents in the spiritual life of the Meeting and make Meeting activities more inclusive. **Inland Valley**

Stretching: reaching up

Taking on the ownership of our Meetinghouse and property has led us to explore our approach to simplicity and how our decisions may affect the ecology and the economy.

The Environment Committee has sponsored programs on nuclear energy, and has worked to make us aware of our fossil fuel footprints, both individually and as a Meeting. The Committee has also worked hard to ensure that our building and renovation project is as green as possible. **Berkeley**

As we reflect on the spiritual health of our Meeting, we wonder how well we are coping with burnout, disillusionment, lack of commitment and misunderstandings of Quakerism. Now and in the future, we will consider ways to address differences, particularly in our committee work. We strive to value opposing opinions and to be open to disagreement so that we can bring to our work a humble and worshipful attitude, free of the need to have our individual opinions prevail. We are ever mindful of the gap between the Quaker ideal and our own reality as we open ourselves together to the Spirit. We hope to learn how to better pray with our feet. **Orange Grove**

A few incidents of open disagreement in Meeting for Worship this year disturbed many of us, including those who felt voicing it more important than maintaining our traditional placidity. This led to some good after-Meeting discussions loosely based on George Gorman's opinions on proper Quaker worship. **San Diego**

Stretching: reaching out

Our worship is deep and meaningful, and our outreach into the community is inspired by our inward leadings. . . . Members and attenders continue participating in the Chico peace vigil that has occurred on Saturdays for over 50 years. . . . We collaborate with others who are engaged in peace activities, such as the community Pathways to Peace, Celebration of Abraham; and work with the Chico Peace and Justice Center. One member was called to travel to Palestine to witness for peace, to return forever changed. . . . We have learned that there are many opportunities to reach out, and that is how we grow in love too. Reaching out can be as simple as visiting while riding the bus, or following-up with written contact to our visitors. **Chico**

This past year has seen our Meeting supportive of causes related to military member and veteran suicides. One member led a silent vigil intended to draw attention to this serious issue. To further our support for veterans, particularly those who are homeless in our communities, we volunteered to help with the

annual Stand Down event that provides medical, clothing and meal assistance to veterans. **Redding**

We have acknowledged growth of a different kind: the blossoming of a life-long dream for Veronica Obodo-Eckblad to bring medical care to her home village in Nigeria. She has worked with a clearness committee for over a year and this spring we recognized Veronica's leading with a formal minute and set up a "Fund for Leadings" to accept donations. Veronica, her family, 3 others from DFM and 5 others went to Nigeria in February in the first step toward establishing a medical clinic there. We sent them off with a sharing hour about Nigeria and the mission and also heard a riveting report on their mission afterwards. **Davis**

Our Meeting has joined the Progressive Christians Uniting to support social awareness and social action and has become aligned with California Faith for Equality to support gender, gender variety, and sexual orientation equality. We participated in the first multi-faith march for Marriage Equality in California during in Claremont's Fourth of July parade. This action reflected our meeting's marriage minute which states that Claremont Meeting will refuse to sign any civil marriage license until civil marriage licenses are available to every couple, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. **Claremont**

We are learning to be comfortable in working with and for wounded military people. One Friend has instituted a writing project among hospitalized veterans who are struggling to recover. We are finding ways to work with Veterans for Peace, contributing to their "Compassion Campaign" which provided cold weather gear for the homeless and veterans. **La Jolla**

Stretching: overextending

Often we try to be a large Meeting, but become overextended and search to find balance. Our Meeting faces size and structure issues as well as issues of personal balance in our lives. How do we balance personal independence and needs with community relationship? How could our structure help us better serve God? How do our action and our spirituality weave together in Quaker expression? From Faith and Practice, "Is the life of our meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives?" These are the queries we hope to live with as we move forward into the coming year. **Central Coast**

We have had to become creative with our budget because of the increase in costs charged by PYM. While funds from individuals have fallen short of what is needed, we may have to resort to planning additional fund raiser activities. One

Friend mentioned a concern about the low number of members in our meeting (eight). He would like to see an initiative within the meeting to help long term attenders examine the option of requesting membership in the meeting. **Redding**

The Oversight Committee and individual members increased efforts in . . . identifying and responding to the needs of Friends by sending out cards to Friends who are ill, injured or have had surgery, have suffered the death of a loved one, or are facing other challenges. Meeting continues to respond to the special needs of a Friend diagnosed with brain cancer by providing transportation to and from doctor's appointments and treatments and offering emotional support in a variety of ways. **Sacramento**

In a time of decreasing personal incomes we struggle to finance both the building project and to support the financial needs in the community at large. **Berkeley**

We still sometimes have trouble processing situations with difficult or challenging people. Ministry and Oversight Committee regularly discusses past situations as well as the possibility of developing guidelines for what to do in general. However, the committee has not found clarity on what to bring to the meeting as a whole. This feels like an area where we are somewhat stuck. **San Francisco**

Though we were able to seat a re-energized Nominating Committee, it was still difficult to find volunteers for all the necessary tasks and committee work. Our ongoing challenge remains---how to integrate our need for simplicity and respite, with our call to be active in the world and within our Meeting community. **Visalia**

First Day School remains suspended since no children are currently attending. It is difficult to attract new families with children when we have no program or core group of children. **Conejo Valley WG**

The economic downturn has affected contributions and we are concerned about meeting our Outreach Budget. La Jolla Meeting has had a "Sharing Fund" since its inception. This fund has been used much more than usual in the past year or two, necessitating repeated requests for donations. **La Jolla**

We feel we have a grounding of the Spirit in our midst although it may not be apparent in outward expression. Marloma Long Beach Meeting is mindful of its decreasing numbers and is concerned about our ability as aging seniors to meet rental, PYM, and SCQM financial obligations. **Marloma Long Beach**

Our membership, being a good size for worshipping together, still struggles to fill meeting offices. The demands of constructing a new building have been an exhausting drain on the available time and energy. **San Diego**

### **The Future of Pacific Yearly Meeting Sub-Committee:**

Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest) addressed the work of the committee, acknowledging participants and commending their work. Full reports are available in the Quiet Room and on-line.

Purpose: Do we have a clear and unified vision of PYM (the monthly and quarterly meetings and all committees, individuals, Rep com, etc) as distinct from the Annual Gathering?

It is easier to see that of God in every one when we are in community. Annual Gathering provides opportunities to come together, to learn of the inspired work of others in this community, to better live our testimonies. How do plenary sessions fit? Our business process takes too much of our time and is done by only those who have the time and means to attend the Annual Gathering. Rep Comm is open to all and perhaps more of the business should be turned over to that meeting.

Brian Vura-Weis (Palo Alto) spoke to representation issues. We see the need for more active participation from all meetings, greater use of technology to improve regular contact, and more consistent flow of communication to and from monthly meetings and PYM, its committees, Representative Comm and Annual sessions. There will be an open discussion this week on this work for the meeting representatives.

Ruth Fraser (San Francisco) – The Future of Pacific Yearly Meeting Sub-Committee will be laid down as having completed their assigned tasks. Further development of this work will continue through two new sub committees: one to support communication with and between meetings, and a second one to continue envisioning the future of our annual gathering. Please contact M&O about serving on those committees.

Marilee Eusebio (Davis) called for discernment regarding the size and geography of PYM, the ecological footprint of annual gatherings and committee meetings, and our ability to fill committee positions. Monthly Meetings are asked to hold discussions about the holding of Annual Gatherings and report their discernment.

A job description is being developed for the newly created program called Pacific YM Visiting Friend which will replace the Brinton Visitor.

Q&A: items were clarified and suggestions made -

- Perhaps we could name the new visitor program after Joel and Hannah Bean.
- A friend suggested publishing a report on the attendance at the Annual Gathering regarding numbers, costs, what meetings attenders come from and reasons Friends do not attend.
- A Friend would like more open discussions about how we use our money. She feels that we are afraid to talk about how financial priorities are discerned.
- Brinton Visitor Program was not laid down for financial concerns within our own YM. Records and comments from visitors are available from Sally Davis (Redwood Forest)

Robin Durant (Orange Grove) led a closing exercise to hold the Meeting, perhaps visualizing a dome over the community, weaving a carpet under us all or feeling arms encircling us.

M&O will hold an open session on Wed to hear more comments and questions.

*Minutes of Plenary II were approved with minor corrections.*

**Announcements:** Several logistical announcements were read by Jean Lester (Orange Grove). Brian Vera-Weiss (Palo Alto) encouraged the gathering to attend the All Ages Games and asked worship sharing group leaders to lead their groups to the Games!

**Closing Worship:** Plenary II closed with silent worship at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Harlow and Amy Cooke, recording co-clerks  
Marilee Eusebio, Presiding Clerk

### PLENARY III

Plenary III began with worship at 10:30.

Presiding Clerk, Marilee Eusebio (Davis), opened the Plenary.

**Epistle Reading:** Judith Favor (Claremont) read from the New Zealand Aotearoa/Yearly Meeting in Auckland: The opening confirmed that the Quaker Settlement is “turangawaewae” – our place to stand – with the Maori as the indigenous people of their land. Friends called for engagement in the constitutional review currently taking place in New Zealand. They shared their grief at the devastation wrought by the recent earthquakes. They held the challenges of the prison system, the environmental cost of travel to the Yearly Meeting, and prayed for the passion and energy of early Friends to transform themselves and their world.

#### **Introduction of Visitors:**

Kathy Hyzy (Multnomah, NPYM) editor of Western Friend;  
Eisha Mason, AFSC Interim Regional Director for the Southwest  
Tricia Sellick, AFSC Regional Director for the Middle East

**Committee to Name the Nominating Committee:** Sherri Sisson (Orange County) joyfully brought us these names to season for service on the Nominating Committee:

Carl Anderson (Strawberry Creek) 2011-2012  
Stephen Matchett (San Francisco) 2011-2014  
Liz Baker (Berkeley) 2011-2014  
Maggie Hutchinson (Orange Grove) 2011-2014  
David Barrows (San Diego) 2011-2012 (for Clerk)

She expressed thanks to Jeff Kroeber (San Jose) for his great help and to everyone who responded or made suggestions.

**Nominating:** DJ Bloom (Appleseed) presented a minute for our consideration regarding the Friends Peace Team Board. Rachel Fretz (Santa Monica) is no longer a representative as she is serving under a leading and her expenses are paid from a separate fund for leadings under the care of M&O. Therefore a second representative position is not needed.

**PYM Minute 2011.2:** Pacific Yearly Meeting approves laying down the second position of representative to the Friends Peace Teams Board.

The Nominating Slate and the pink survey for serving PYM were handed out to the gathering. Friends were encouraged to fill out the pink survey promptly and return it to the Nominating Committee. The Nominations were read in their entirety for seasoning by the Gathering. Clarifications were given in response to queries from the floor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Ed Flowers (Apple Seed). Reps, officers and committee clerks should apply for travel expenses to this Annual Session.

He explained that the figures shown in this report will change by the end of the fiscal year on September 30. In 2011, the Session Account had to "borrow" money from the General Account in order to pay the required deposits with Claremont-McKenna. This and the attendance of only 245 at this Annual Session explain the sharp increase in Annual Session fees this year. The volatility in income over the past 6 years has led to a net decrease in the Annual Session Reserve to nearly zero. *(full report attached)*

General Account revenue of \$121,282 (from Monthly Meeting assessments) is very close to the budget of \$125,000.

Year-to-date, we have spent \$1,888 on teleconferencing. At 7 cents per minute, that's 14 minutes per dollar. So for \$1,888, we can talk for 26,432 minutes. Or 440 ½ hours. Or slightly more than 18 days. Or, if two Quakers were to have a meeting and wanted to spend the entire amount, they could talk, nonstop, for 9 days.

**Finance:** Donna Smith (Redwood Forest) presented the 2011-12 proposed budget. An open committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7/27, at 3:30pm for discussion of questions, concerns or recommendations regarding the budget. All changes to the budget should be made before it is brought back to Plenary for action on Thursday at 10:30am.

The per member share of cost, or assessment, will be lowered to \$87 per member for CA and NV, and raised to \$15 for Mexico and to \$41 for Guatemala and Hawaii.

**AFSC:** Laura Magnani (Strawberry Creek), interim AFSC Pacific Mountain Regional director, presented Trisha Sellick, AFSC Middle East Regional Director. Laura also noted that AFSC is accepting money for the Horn of Africa crisis.

Trisha Sellick greeted the gathering. She shared a picture of blue and yellow fishing boats from Gaza – these boats are a common sight all around the Mediterranean, and she noted that Gaza is a vital and integrated part of this region.

Sixty per cent of the population of the Middle East is under 25 years old. Trisha noted how that changes the feeling in the region. Most of those young people are educated and getting organized. They are participating in the politics of their country and are pushing for change. They are wary of Western intervention and regime change brought about by external power. They want to take the future into their own hands. The AFSC works with young people – not only because they are a large part of the population, but also because they have much to teach. Trisha shared her experiences working with the impassioned youth of this region. She noted that the young people do not say, “We have tried this before, and we know it won’t work.” They have a belief in what is possible and they invite optimism.

AFSC provides training for youth coaches, who then work with youth in the villages. Over 50% of the participants are girls. Girls relish the opportunity to meet with each other and contribute to their communities.

Trisha reminded us of the presence of Palestinian Christians. Their message, of peace anywhere in the world, is an important statement. Jean Zaru, clerk of the Ramallah Meeting, has published a book, Occupied with Nonviolence: a Palestinian Woman Speaks (2008), which Trish highly recommends.

AFSC Palestine Youth Program is a program under occupation. Maps show the various efforts to identify territories from 1947 to the present. Walls are built that ignore agreed on boundaries. Aggressive settlement also ignores boundaries. In the West Bank the critical issue is natural resources which are controlled by those not living there. Movement between areas is time consuming and difficult or impossible. Blockades prevent the rebuilding of destroyed homes. One great hope for change is among the young Israelis and groups such as Just Jerusalem, Breaking the Silence (the voices of soldiers), and Palestinian Christians who have written the Kairos document stating that “this is God’s land”. She urged us to understand the role of US financial support for Israel – greater than the combined

amount for all other areas in the world. Trisha's email address, [jerusalem@afsc.org](mailto:jerusalem@afsc.org), allows us to continue the dialog with her.

Julie Harlow and Amy Cooke read the minutes Plenary III. *The minutes were approved.*

**Announcements:** Jean Lester (Orange Grove) made several logistical announcements.

**Closing Worship:** Plenary III closed with silent worship at 12:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Cooke and Julie Harlow, recording co-clerks  
Marilee Eusebio, Presiding Clerk

## PLENARY IV

Plenary IV worship began in silence at 10:30.

Presiding Clerk, Marilee Eusebio (Davis), opened the Plenary.

**Epistle:** Stephen Myers (Sacramento) shared the epistle from the 330<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, gathered on the theme, “We Make the Road by Walking: How Are We Called to be Prophetic in Our Witness?” Guest speaker Shane Claiborne presented on the “Economics of Rebirth,” calling Friends to renew their dedication to simplicity, stewardship and responsibility. Friends renewed their commitment to supporting those who resist war taxes, to becoming more engaged with eco-justice issues and to collaborating with others in the “hope beyond despair.”

**Epistle Committee:** Marilee announced that Sandy Kewman (Grass Valley) will replace Alyssa Nelson (Davis).

**Friends Association for Service to the Elderly (FASE):** Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest) read the report on Friends House Santa Rosa which includes a brief history of Friends House and description of its facilities. It is the lowest-priced multi-level retirement community in California.

It has a board and committees which reach unity rather than majority rule; a community comfortable with simplicity; and a pricing model committed to offering accommodations and services at the lowest feasible cost.

Now, for a myriad of reasons including the skilled nursing unit’s age and three years of general economic retrenchment, Friends House faces financial challenges.

Uncertainty surrounding Friends House’s composition – whether to keep or close the skilled nursing unit – and pricing, is causing the residents much concern.

Friends House needs your spiritual and financial support and, if you are thinking of where to live in retirement, your consideration. *(full report attached)*

Without the use of a phone booth, Lanny changed his attire and returned for the next report.

**Holding Corporation:** Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest) The report contains explanation of the legal definitions of the Holding Corporation and its functions. Its basic responsibility is to hold and disburse the proceeds received from laying down San Fernando Valley Meeting and selling its meetinghouse.

This year \$50,000 was dispersed to Chico Friends Meeting and \$50,000 to Inland Valley Friends Meeting for their new meetinghouses.

As of this writing, there have been no new requests for funds to help monthly meetings, preparative meetings or worship groups acquire new meetinghouses. *(full report is attached)*

**Nominating:** DJ Bloom (Apple Seed) brought the gathering a name for Ministry and Oversight: Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), 2014. The name of Lucia Van Diepen (Live Oak/Marin/Soledad WG) was removed from the Nominations slate for the position of Registrar 2013. The position of Registrar for 2013 is thus open, and Friends are asked to consider service in this position.

**PYM Epistle:** The first reading was presented by Cliff Lester (Orange Grove), Sandy Kewman (Grass Valley) and Lee Sisson (Orange Grove). Comments may be directed to the Epistle Committee.

**Finance Committee:** Donna Smith (Redwood Forest)

The following Budget Augmentation requests were approved to offset unexpected costs and to fully fund travel expenses.

**PYM Minute 2011.2:** For Junior Yearly Meeting, Committee Expense Acct # 5227. Originally budgeted at \$500. Request augmentation of \$300 bringing total to \$800.

**PYM Minute 2011.3** For Western Friend Board, Travel Expense Acct# 5271. Originally budgeted at \$1000. Request augmentation of \$800 bringing total to \$1800. For FGC Central Committee, Travel Expense Acct # 5278. Originally budgeted \$750. Request augmentation of \$250 bringing total to \$1000.

Treasurer Ed Flowers also reminded us of the need to fill out the proper form legibly and completely if we want travel expenses for this session.

Details of the 2011-12 Budget have been available in the Quiet Room and an open meeting was held to answer questions and concerns.

A transfer of \$8000 is being made from the Youth Program Coordinator Fund to the General Fund so that it can be used to pay expenses of the YPC.

Several Friends requested that the YPC financial activities be shown distinctly so that they are easily differentiated when the time comes for the 3 year assessment of the YPC program.

**PYM Minute 2011.4:** The 2011-12 Budget was approved as presented.  
*(attached)*

*Minutes of Plenary IV were approved to this point.*

There were reports from Peace and Social Order Committee and from Unity with Nature Committee including proposed Minutes. Both of these reports and the proposed Minutes brought concerns and questions about the process by which proposed minutes come to a Plenary. There were also many suggestions for wording changes which confused us about what we might be approving. The notes on these reports and approved **PYM Minute 2011.7** opposing torture will be carried over to Plenary VI.

Jean Lester (Orange Grove) read announcements.

**Closing Worship:** Plenary IV closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Cooke and Julie Harlow, recording co-clerks  
Marilee Eusebio, Presiding Clerk

PLENARY V

**MEETING FOR MEMORIALS  
PYM 2011**

FAYE ALA'ILIMA, HONOLULU  
CHARLES BASS, SACRAMENTO  
ELEANOR BECKER, MARIN  
EDITH COOPER, CLAREMONT  
ELEANOR FOSTER, SANTA CRUZ  
DOROTHY GOETZ, RENO  
JIM HARRIS, SACRAMENTO  
AMY HOWELL, ORANGE GROVE  
ELLIE HUFFMAN, MONTEREY PENINSULA  
JOHN JAQUETTE, HONOLULU  
GLORIA JOYCE, LA JOLLA  
EDWIN WALTON KENDIG, MARLOMA/LONG BEACH  
CAROLYNA MARKS, STRAWBERRY CREEK  
FUMIYE MIHO, HONOLULU  
DALE OLSEN, MARIN  
KAREN PEACOCK, HONOLULU  
RICH TITTLE, STRAWBERRY CREEK  
SHERRY WALDEN, CENTRAL COAST

## PLENARY VI

Plenary VI worship began in silence at 10:40.

Presiding Clerk, Marilee Eusebio (Davis), opened the Plenary.

**Epistle:** Stephen Myers (Sacramento) shared epistles from the 136<sup>th</sup> annual sessions of the Illinois Yearly Meeting, gathering under the theme of “Seeking and Sharing Our Spiritual Home.” We explored creating and sharing sacred space, and envisioning plans for new site usage in the context of the Testimonies of Stewardship and Community. Also in the context of sharing our spiritual home, we labored through various workshops, presentations and business sessions regarding our response to torture.

**Committee to Name the Nominating Committee:** Clerk Marilee read the names that had been brought to us at Plenary III:

**PYM Minute 2011.5:** The following were approved for the Nominating Committee:

Carl Anderson (Strawberry Creek) 2011-2012  
Stephen Matchett (San Francisco) 2011-2014  
Liz Baker (Berkeley) 2011-2014  
Maggie Hutchinson (Orange Grove) 2011-2014  
David Barrows (San Diego) 2011-2012 (as Clerk)

**Final Nominating Committee:** There are no changes from the nominations read in Plenary IV.

**PYM Minute 2011.6:** The Nominating Committee Report for PYM 2011 was approved.

It was noted that there remains an opening for Junior Registrar 2013. If Friends are led to this service, please come forward to the committee.

**Statistical Clerk:** Lee Knutson (Palo Alto/Monterey Peninsula) reminded us that those who celebrate the most birthdays, live the longest. Our 37 constituent Meetings have a total membership of 1417, a reduction of 32 members. Over the past 10 years we have experienced an overall decrease of 4.26%. (*full report attached*)

In response to a question, treasurer Ed Flowers (Apple Seed) said that most meetings have sent in their assessment.

**Registrar's Report:** Liz Baker (Berkeley/Modesto) brought the Registrar's Report. Of the 246 people attending the 65<sup>th</sup> session of Pacific Yearly Meeting, there are 6 people attending under the age of 5, 20 people attending who are 6 years old to 12 years, 32 people are aged 13 to 18 years, 177 are over the age of 18, and 11 people declined to state their age. The full report is appended.

**Western Friend:** Kathy Hyzy (Multnomah, NPYM), editor of The Western Friend. She encouraged everyone to pick up a copy, especially if you haven't read one in a while as it is constantly evolving. All writers are volunteers. There are coupons available to reduce the price. In addition to the publication of the magazine, workshops have been sponsored on finances for Friends and on story telling. Another workshop is scheduled on Marge Abbott's book, To Be Broken and Tender at Ben Lomond Quaker Center at the end of September.

**Youth Program Coordinator:** Sarah Beutel (Mountain View MM, Denver, Colorado, IMYM) gave her report as the outgoing Youth Program Coordinator. She began by quoting Christina Van Regenmorter, who speaks of the aching of teens for spiritual community. Sarah has observed that the Youth Program Coordinator is a resource, an interpreter, and a catalyst. She noted that her work has been most successful when Friends have gotten actively involved in the reflection and planning needed to try something new. She thanked the young Friends' for sharing their lives and their vision with her. *(full report attached)*

Many in attendance spontaneously and silently expressed their appreciation for Sarah.

**Mary Klein** (Palo Alto) read the report from the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee on the first 16 months of this program. The goal is to provide PYM with continuous support, coordination and inspiration for our collective growth in faith and fellowship as an intergenerational community. Sarah Beutel was hired April 1, 2010 and the supervisory committee continued "building the train while it was moving forward". A formal evaluation in April 2011 confirmed that the job is not to host activities but to encourage and coordinate resources. *(full report attached)*

Alyssa Nelson, who has 15 years experience working with youth and communities, has been hired to start August 1, 2011.

Alyssa Nelson (Davis) spoke to the gathering as the incoming Youth Program Coordinator. She queried, "How are love and unity maintained among us?" She spoke of being deeply moved by the challenge to us of living our testimonies more fully. She expressed thanks for Sarah's work, for the committee and for the gathering. (*full report is attached*)

**Site Committee:** For the committee, presiding clerk, Marilee Eusebio, reported that they have learned that Walker Creek is not available until the week of August 13. We will be looking at the implications of this date change.

**Carry Over Items:** We approved the notes from yesterday on the reports from Peace and Social Order and from Unity with Nature. In the course of approving these minutes we revisited our approval of the Minute on torture. We recognized that while there had not been full agreement about the exact content of the minute or comfort with the process by which it had been brought, we were in unity on our complete opposition to torture.

**Peace and Social Order:** Anthony Manousos (Santa Monica) greeted the gathering with Shalom, Shanti, Salaam, Peace, and asked us to stretch into our desire for peace. The committee has been creating community through teleconferencing, and Friends are invited to join them.

Support from PYM and Santa Monica Monthly Meeting has helped Anthony sustain his travels within the Interfaith Movement. Based on his work, he has written *Quakers and the Interfaith Movement*. He encouraged Friends to participate in interfaith conversations in our communities.

Alvaro Alvarado (Sacramento): There are students, undocumented but unafraid, across the country lobbying for the Dream Act (<http://dreamact.info/>). He invited Friends to the interest group on undocumented students to hear from them and learn more about their dreams.

Lucia van Diepen-Zegward (Live Oak/Marin/Soledad WG) called for Friends to resurrect the spirit of abolition with a concern for the homeless. This issue represents chronic and systemic violation of human rights. Lucia reminded us that Lucretia Mott said that we are all complicit in social disparities. Friends are asked to explore ways and means to implement immediate action as well addressing the structural violence that gives rise to homelessness.

On behalf of the Peace and Social Order Committee, Jeff Kroeber (San Jose) and Anthony Manousos (Santa Monica) presented a proposed Minute on Torture, published in the Daily Miracle and on-line.

We approved the minute by Peace and Social Order, with minor changes, as reflecting our underlying unity against torture. Questions and concerns arose about how the minute is to be used and the process of bringing minutes for discernment to the body of Pacific Yearly Meeting. There were a number of Friends who did not unite with the minute based upon these concerns. Roena Oesting (La Jolla) is recorded as standing aside.

**PYM Minute 2011.7:** As Friends, we stand firmly opposed to torture committed by anyone in any setting. We support the work of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (<http://www.nrcat.org/>) as well as of Quakers' Initiative to End Torture (<http://www.quit-torture-now.org/>). We urge elected officials to bring to justice those who have authorized torture in violation of international law. We urge our governments to stop preventing the victims of torture from seeking redress and just compensation in our courts. We are also deeply concerned that cruel and inhumane punishment such as involuntary long-term solitary confinement are taking place in prisons in California and throughout the USA and the world. Finally, we support the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which can help prevent torture and abuse by requiring a ratifying country to establish National Preventative Mechanisms (NPMs) to monitor the treatment of prisoners. In addition to the NPMs, OPCAT allows for international oversight of places of confinement to ensure that torture and other abuses are not occurring.

As Quakers, we believe that torture is a moral and religious issue. We believe that there is "that of God" in every human being and therefore everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. Torture does incalculable and long-lasting damage to the torturer, the torture victim and the witnesses of torture. Torture erodes a nation's moral fiber, diminishes its moral standing in the world, incites retaliation, and puts at risk the lives of its citizens abroad and at home.

We urge an end to this practice.”

**Unity with Nature Committee:** Clerk, Marilee, introduced the UWN Committee noting that the committee wished to bring forward a minute for approval. It was her decision that there was not enough time for adequate discussion and it would therefore be accepted as a report and a recommendation.

Committee clerk, Joe Morris (Santa Monica), reported that the committee has monthly conference calls and continues to make Earthcare Mini-Grants available for meetings' environmental projects.

Joe presented some background on the issue of nuclear power and reported on a proposed minute. Some monthly meetings have held discussions on this issue and sent comments and questions to the committee. UWN suggests that all meetings hold threshing sessions, not aiming to find unity or make a decision, but to listen openly to each other and to stay informed on all perspectives on this issue. They recommend the book Fueling our Future.

The Clerk did not test for unity on approving the proposed minute. As stated earlier, there was not adequate time for thorough discussion. It is accepted as a report and a recommendation from the committee. It is attached for consideration by monthly meetings. The committee's frustration was acknowledged. (*full report is attached*)

*Minutes of Plenary VI were approved.*

Jean Lester (Orange Grove) read announcements.

**Closing Worship:** Plenary VI was closed with silent worship at 12:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Cooke and Julie Harlow, recording co-clerks  
Marilee Eusebio, Presiding Clerk

## PLENARY VII

Plenary VII worship began in silence at 9:20.

Presiding Clerk, Marilee Eusebio (Davis), opened the Plenary.

**Epistle:** Judith Favor (Claremont) read the epistle from Ireland YM whose gathering had the theme “Let your Life Speak”. They urged us to consider how we introduce ourselves to others. Because of a familiarity with the term “Quaker”, the listener may presume understanding and inquire no further. The use of the word “Friend”, however, requires us to give an explanation of who we are.

**Treasurer:** Ed Flowers (Apple Seed) explained that an announcement in the Daily Miracle was in error: It has **not** been decided to set up a Young Friends PYM Attendance Assistance Fund. This is not yet a line item. More work will be done on this suggestion before it is brought to Plenary for action.

There is also a typo in the Miracle that incorrectly says the assessment is \$90 – the correct amount is \$87 per member.

**Site Committee:** Jim Updegraff (Sacramento) reported on behalf of the committee. For the 2012 Annual Meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting the committee is completing negotiations with Walker Creek Ranch in West Marin County for the second week of August, beginning August 13. There were concerns expressed about the gathering taking place so late in the summer. Some Friends will have conflicts with schoolschedules. Friends expressed regret concerning the conflict. Negotiations are already in process for 2013 so that we can avoid scheduling the gathering so late in the summer.

The Clerk read the name of Joyce Samati (Strawberry Creek) nominated as Junior Registrar. This will be brought to Rep Com for action.

**Preschool Epistle:** The children presented a handwritten scroll describing their activities for the week, complete with artwork. *(scroll attached if possible)*

Dear Friends Everywhere,

In Preschool Program, we made food play dough. Emily let us do things on the computer. We read “Old Turtle” and “the Broken Truth.” We liked finger painting. We played with our friends. We found a nest. The mommy bird didn’t need it anymore. We drew many pictures. We dressed up. We sang music with the elementary school kids. We did water play and played with

seeds outside. Getting wet made us laugh. It was an all-good week. P.S. We found another nest with a dead bird in it.

**Middle School Epistle:** Members from this group read their rhyming epistle. *(attached)*

**Junior Yearly Meeting:** Laura Adair (Central Coast) introduced the other 2 current clerks, Jayden Navarro (Santa Cruz), and Hana Castanedo (La Jolla), and the new clerks, Rose Mackenzie (Orange Grove), Brendan Fagen (Reno), Tommy Rios (La Jolla), who read the epistle from JYM *(attached)*

**Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC):** Jim Anderson (Chico) presented on behalf of FWCC, the Friends organization representing the great diversity of Quakers worldwide. Representatives from our yearly meeting participate in the Section of the Americas annual gatherings and the committees of the section, and bring that experience back into our yearly meeting. In addition, Robin Mohr (San Francisco) has begun service as Executive Secretary of the Section of the Americas, based in Philadelphia. Four supported delegates Hulda Muaka (Palo Alto), Lanie Clark (Santa Barbara), Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica) and Sarah Rose House-Lightner (Orange Grove) and a number of other Friends in open spaces will travel from Pacific Yearly Meeting to Kenya next April. Shayne Lightner and Sarah Rose House-Lightner are with us at this gathering as well as Anthony Manousos (Santa Monica), Ruth Ross (Orange Grove) and Donna Smith (Redwood Forest) who are attending in open spaces. In addition, Patricia Constantino (Mexico City) will serve as the Latin America delegate and Jill Anderson Wright (Mexico City) will be attending in an open space. We hold them in the Light and look forward to hearing from them at the 2012 gathering of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica) expressed his honor at traveling as a delegate to the FWCC gathering. He will be convening the four delegates, and if Friends have anything in particular they would like them to carry to the Sixth World Conference of Friends, they should contact him ([lightneris@earthlink.net](mailto:lightneris@earthlink.net)) or one of the other delegates.

**Young Friends:** Nora Cooke (Grass Valley) presented a 21st century style epistle in the form of a Power Point presentation, a collage of photos and a summary of their activities from this session. *(attached)*

**PYM Epistle:** The PYM Epistle was read. *(attached)*  
The PYM Epistle was accepted with gratitude for the work of the committee.

**Clerk's Closing Minute:** Clerk Marilee Eusebio (Davis) addressed the gathering, expressing her observations of our gathering. She noted our stretching in multiple ways. We joined with her in gratitude to Sarah Beutel, outgoing Youth Program Coordinator; Vanessa Julye, visiting Friend from Philadelphia; and Janice Dominick (Illinois Yearly Meeting). We look forward to welcoming them back to PYM sometime in the future. Marilee reminded us that together we are working for the Kingdom of God, and we hold our gathering in the Light.

*Minutes of Plenary VII were read and approved.*

**Announcements:** Jean Lester (Orange Grove), Assistant to the Clerk.

- If Friends can gather with 50 friends or more, Roena Oesting (La Jolla) will arrange for Elizabeth Fry to speak.
- Please keep the evaluations coming in.
- Nominating Committee will hold a clerking session at lunch, followed by an evaluation at 1 pm.

**Closing Worship:** The presiding clerk announced that this 65th Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting would be closed following Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Cooke and Julie Harlow, recording co-clerks  
Marilee Eusebio, Presiding Clerk