

Dear Friends –

I'd like to share with you some of the highlights and themes from my last three months working as PYM's Youth Program Coordinator.

- The Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) workshop was a highlight in March. Seventeen people attended, representing 5 CPQM monthly meetings. Key discussions centered on building intergenerational relationships, qualities of a Friendly Adult Presence (FAP), and envisioning ways to improve our systems for supporting FAPs. The afternoon was

Meeting visits and events to date:

- CPQM Spring Quarter 2010
- YAF Gathering, Wichita KS
- Davis
- Strawberry Creek
- Ben Lomond Senior Camp
- PYM Annual Session
- Teen camping trip to Big Sur
- Grass Valley
- La Jolla
- Korea Town
- CPQM Fall Quarter
- SCQM Fall Quarter
- San Francisco
- Chico
- Quaker Heritage Day
- Santa Barbara
- RepCom
- Palo Alto
- FAP Workshop at San Francisco
- Claremont
- Orange Grove
- Inland Valley
- Reno
- Napa/Sonoma
- SCQM Spring Quarterly
- SCQM Young Friends Retreat
- CPQM Spring Quarterly
- Sacramento Valley Cluster Meeting
- Conversations with 216 Friends

spent in role-plays of difficult situations.

Participants developed some concrete ideas for the JYM committee to implement this summer.

Attendees gave helpful feedback on how to improve the next workshop, which is **scheduled for July 9 at the La Jolla Meetinghouse.**

- Several meetings are considering how to collaborate with other geographically close Meetings in order to create critical masses of teens. A few South Bay meetings have taken the plunge into experimenting with this structure, with the support of some committed adults.
- Quite of few PYM Meetings are in close proximity to colleges and universities and seek greater engagement with students there. I have explored a range of approaches with several meetings, including: having a nominated position tasked with outreach and relationship-building with students, hosting Quaker Quest-style discussions on campus, tabling at student registration, and ensuring that Meeting information is listed in campus resource guides.
- Several Monthly Meetings have used some of the time in my visits with them to guide them in considering ways to bolster their First Day School programs. Some promising approaches that various meetings are trying include: empowering teens and preteens to invite speakers to their class and to plan lessons for younger children; restructuring First Day School committees to lighten the burden on parents; and including youth on religious education committees.

In addition to visiting meetings and facilitating discussions about teen programming, I have also been

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busy supporting teen gatherings over the last few months. Teens gathered for an overnight retreat in conjunction with Santa Cruz Meeting's annual spring retreat. Teens at Southern California Quarterly hiked to the US-Mexico border, led by AFSC, gaining awareness of border and immigration issues. College Park teens (including some who had never been to a previous gathering) turned out en masse for Spring Gathering at Quaker Center. They took great leadership, facilitating chat boxes, engaging with children's program and participating in worship sharing.

I am sorry to say again, for anyone who has not heard this already, that I will be leaving the position of Youth Program Coordinator shortly after PYM's annual gathering. My partner and I will be moving back to Colorado to get married and live near our families. During the next two months, I will continue to visit Monthly Meetings and will focus also on three key tasks: the upcoming FAP Workshop in Southern California, a service trip for teens during the weekend before Yearly Meeting and creating a resource guide to facilitate a smooth transition for my replacement.

-Sarah Beutel

Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Program Coordinator