

Liaisons, Clerks, and Representatives: Please distribute this epistle widely. Consider reading it aloud at Meeting for Business and including it in your newsletter. Thanks!

Dear Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends,

As you may have heard, PYM came to unity at Annual Session in August to continue the paid Youth Program Coordinator position along with its Supervisory Committee. PYM also agreed to accept a large gift of money from Pacific Friends Outreach Society (PFOS), which is laying itself down. This gift will be held by PYM as the Bob Vogel Endowment to support youth programs, and our Youth Program Committee will supervise the distribution of income generated by the endowment.

Since Annual Session, our committee has been discerning next steps while we also continue to provide program support to Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, Quarterly Meetings, PYM Committees, Quaker organizations, and individual Friends. This is a visioning year for us, with three active subcommittees working on big picture questions of resource support for youth programs and activities (including distribution of endowment income), improving communications, and developing a long-term personnel structure now that the pilot period has been completed. We hope to have a draft of our resource-support application available at Representative Committee meeting in March and to have our first funds available in summer.

In this process of visioning, we take as our starting point a sketch created during the first full day of Annual Session: in an intergenerational plenary activity conducted by our committee and our co-clerk Mary Klein, over a 100 participants envisioned PYM as a “City on a Hill.” Friends of all ages considered a giant paper mural depicting the path to this City of our hopes and dreams. We wondered and talked about, “What will it be like when we get there? What will we need to bring in our knapsacks for the journey?” We pasted notes and drawings onto the paper mural, painting a multifaceted picture of a loving, vibrant, multi-generational community of faith, fun, and service. Later that evening, about twenty of us gathered in an interest group to study and reflect on the responses. Our Youth Program and M&O committees are both now drawing on that information to strengthen our PYM community at Annual Session and throughout the year.

Although we hear statistical and anecdotal reports of declines in our Meetings’ enrolled membership, we also see stirrings of a vibrant future. Babies, seekers, and newly convinced Friends continue to arrive. Young children quickly grow into the double-digits. New teens soon become leaders of their programs, pass their roles to next year’s group, and leave high school for work, college, and adventure. Adults grow, too, supporting each other to become better allies to youth and each other. Nominating Committees look for meaningful ways to match the skills and interests of younger Friends with the needs of their Meetings and organizations. Do you know someone you could encourage to attend a

local or regional Friends' event? Or someone who has an unrecognized gift to offer? Perhaps a young Friend might be open to some gentle nudging to seek clearness about membership or a leading. How about young parents who need peer fellowship, mentoring, or rest? Any elders who would like to make new friends? The building of our City on a Hill (or eco-village, as the case may be) requires us bringing out the strength and light in one another.

While our Youth Program Committee works to bring this vision to life, as Coordinator I continue to provide support to and promote participation in existing programs and activities while encouraging new innovations. For example, a few days before Annual Session, twenty-five young adults (and a handful of older ones) converged at San Jose Meeting for a weekend of fellowship, fun, service, and worship. Together, we reflected on the theme of the pending Annual Session – *Being Reached by the Life* – and began to contemplate the deep meaning of “leadings.” We volunteered at Veggielution, shared meals, played games, and sat in waiting worship with San Jose Friends, who welcomed having young Friends outnumber them in the oldest meetinghouse in the Western US. Recently, I met with the middle school aged children of Sacramento Meeting and two of their adult allies; we made skits about the Meeting, one focused at the children’s peers and one at older people. In a similar activity, adults at Humboldt Meeting created skits about the life of their Meeting “as it is now” and “as it could be.” Each group reflected on how its Meeting could become its best self, how it might appear to outsiders, and how it might attract and keep new attenders. This question of outreach and inreach was also a strong theme in visits and phone conferences this Fall with Friends in Fresno, Inland Valley, Mexico City, and Orange County. At the SCQM Fall Fellowship, an interest group on outreach and inclusion drew Friends from multiple Meetings, and a teen-led activity on “Unity” sparked much laughter and contemplation. At the CPQM Fall Gathering, teen program clerks and adult allies led activities to promote awareness about transgender inclusion.

What’s next? On the attached calendar, I draw your attention to a teen clerking workshop to be held on Friday, January 17th in San Francisco, before CPQM Winter Quarterly Meeting, led by members of the CPQM Teen Program Committee. Take note of the “Parenting Supported by Friends’ Beliefs, Testimonies and Practices” workshop offered by Quaker Center in February –a chance for your Meeting to use its Annual Pass to Quaker Center—, and remember that summer camp registration time will be here before we realize it! Stay tuned for the announcement of dates and locations for my Adult Allies to Youth workshops this spring. Also, I am working with a local planning committee to engage youth in the upcoming Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) weekend to be held in Sacramento, March 14-16, where young adult Kylin Navarro (Strawberry Creek) will be co-leading a workshop on servant leadership with a member of Sacramento Friends Church, and Jim Anderson (Chico) and Stephen Myers (Sacramento) will be collaborating with evangelical Friends to put together an evening of music and singing. Keenan Lorenzato (Davis/Guilford College) will also lead a workshop on leadership in a parallel FWCC consultation in North Carolina in April. Registration is open

and more information is available on the FWCC Section of the Americas website: scholarships and childcare are available, but space is limited, so sign up soon if you're interested!

Want to learn more about *your* PYM youth program and current events? Find out much more on our page on the PYM website:

<http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/category/pym-docs/ypc/> and our Facebook page: "[Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Programs](#)". In particular, please notice these documents on the PYM website:

- Evaluation Report to Representative Committee 2013, and Annual Report to PYM 2013
- Previous Youth Program epistles
- Minutes from Annual Session, especially:
 - Plenaries II & IV: Continuance of the paid Youth Program Coordinator position
 - Plenaries V & VI: Acceptance of Bob Vogel Endowment from PFOS
 - Plenary VIII: Change of composition of YPC Supervisory Committee
 - *Minutes available at:* [http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2013/pym-docs/2013 annual session epistles minutes and reports/](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2013/pym-docs/2013%20annual%20session%20epistles%20minutes%20and%20reports/)

I send much gratitude to the Friends who served as welcoming hosts during my recent visits. Please remember my open invitation to arrange for me to consult with your Worship Group, Meeting, organization, or committee. I'm excited to see some of you at the Western Young Friends New Year's Gathering very soon (all ages welcome and registration still open)! Best wishes to you all in the New Year.

Yours in service,

~Alyssa

Alyssa Nelson, Youth Program Coordinator, Pacific Yearly Meeting
(530) 563-6369 (cell) / pym.youthcoordinator@gmail.com

Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee members are: Sophie Brinker, Jennifer Carr, Mary Klein (co-clerk), Steve Leeds, Hannah Mackinney, Thomas Rios, Sandra Schwartz, Jim Summers (co-clerk), and Nathan Walker. One spot is open.

2013-14 Ongoing Calendar of Events (updated 12/16/13)

~ Intergenerational and youth-focused activities in PYM and beyond ~

Email pym.youthcoordinator@gmail.com to have youth events included on the PYM calendar.

<http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/events/>

Please support young Friends and families in your area to attend events by helping them register, figure out payment and/or scholarships, and arrange transportation.

- September 27-29: **Teen Retreat and Service Project: Annual FCLCA Harvest Festival at Palo Alto Friends Meeting.** <http://www.quakerharvestfestival.org/>
- October 12: **Woolman Semester Harvest Work Day** <http://woolman.org/calendar>
- October 18-20: **College Park Quarterly Meeting**, Sierra Friends Center
<http://collegetpark.quaker.org/>
- November 2-3: **Southern California Quarterly Meeting Fall Fellowship** (with additional teen overnight on Friday at Santa Monica MM), Temescal Canyon
<http://scqm.org/>
- November 15 (Leaders) & December 1 (Pilgrims): **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Applications Due (2014 Peru & Boiliva)**, (pilgrims 16-18 years old).
<http://www.fwccamericas.org/QYP-Andes.shtml>
- December 6-8: **5th Annual Music and Dance Weekend at Ben Lomond Quaker Center** <http://www.quakercenter.org/> (see website for complete list of workshops)
- December 6, 7, 13 & 14: **Woolman Semester Wrap-Up Events: Peace Documentaries, Sustainability Project Presentations, Baccalaureate & Graduation** (Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City CA). ***All are welcome.*** Woolman Semester is accepting applications. <http://semester.woolman.org/>
- December 27 - January 1: **Year-End Retreat at Ben Lomond Quaker Center**
<http://www.quakercenter.org/>
- December 28 - January 2: **Western Young Friends New Year's Gathering** in Northern California this year, near Sacramento. ***All ages welcome.***
<http://www.newyearsgathering.org/>
- January 17: **Teen Clerking Workshop** at San Francisco Meetinghouse— all PYM teens welcome. Sponsored by CPQM Teen Program Committee. Contact Adult Clerk, Kathy Runyan, kathyrunyan@hotmail.com.

- January 18 (plus teen overnights on Friday and Saturday): **College Park Quarterly Meeting** <http://collegepark.quaker.org> [SCQM Friends are always invited, but especially when the Joshua Tree Campout isn't happening.]
- February 14-16: **Parenting Supported by Friends' Beliefs, Testimonies and Practices** <http://www.quakercenter.org/> (see website for complete list of workshops)
- February 14-17: **FLGBTQC MidWinter Gathering** (Seattle WA – *Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns*) <http://flgbtqc.quaker.org/>
- February 28 - March 2: **PYM Representative Committee Meeting & JYM Planning Meeting** (Orange Grove Meeting, Pasadena CA). Register by 2/14: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2013/pym-docs/pym-repcom-2014/>
- March 14-16: **FWCC Consultation in Sacramento CA.** <http://fwccamericas.org/events/2014-Consultations.shtml>
- March 22-25: **FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend**, <http://fcnl.org/events/slw/>
- April (dates pending): **Adult Allies to Youth Workshops**, one in Northern California and one in Southern California, with the PYM Youth Program Coordinator and experienced adult allies to youth.
- April 19: **Woolman Spring Clean Day.**
- April 26 (*plus teen overnight*): **Southern California Quarterly Meeting**, hosted by Santa Monica Meeting. <http://scqm.org/>
- May 16-18: **College Park Quarterly Meeting** (at Ben Lomond Quaker Center): <http://collegepark.quaker.org/>
- May 14-17, 23 & 24: **Woolman Semester Wrap-Up Events: Peace Documentaries, Sustainability Project Presentations, Baccalaureate & Graduation** (Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City CA): *Students present their favorite pieces of work from this semester and celebrate graduation with the community. All are welcome.* Woolman Semester is accepting applications. <http://semester.woolman.org/>
- June 15-22: **Woolman Family Work Camp** (at Sierra Friends Center) <http://woolman.org/>
- June 29-July 5: **Friends General Conference** (near Pittsburgh PA) "Let Love Be the First Motion" <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>
- **Ben Lomond Quaker Center Youth Camps** (Ben Lomond CA) <http://www.quakercenter.org/> . *Quaker Center's annual passes can be applied to camp!*

- **Quaker Camp** (4th-6th grade) & **Service Camp** (7th-9th grade) run concurrently, June 22-29.
- **Peace Action Camp**: outdoor adventure and nonviolent direct action for rising 10th through 12th graders, July 27 – August 2, field location TBD.
- **Camp Woolman** (Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City CA): <http://camp.woolman.org/dates-rates>.
 - **Teen Leadership Camp** (ages 15-16): two 2-week sessions: 6/28-7/13 & 7/13-7/27.
 - **Sierra Friends Camp** (ages 9-14): four 1-week sessions, combinable into multiple week stays: 6/28-7/5, 7/6-7/13, 7/13-7/19, 7/20-7/27.
- July 11-14 (tentative): **PYM Young Adult Friends Retreat**: service, spirit, and fellowship for young adults and older adults of PYM. Tentatively to be held near Petaluma CA. Contact pym.youthcoordinator@gmail.com to get involved.
- July 14-19: **PYM Annual Session** (Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma CA). Scholarships and transportation help available – just ask! <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/>
- July 2014, TBD: **Pine Ridge Reservation Work Camp** (South Dakota), sponsored by William Penn House. <http://williampennhouse.org/workcamps>
- August 4-8: **BLQC Family Work Camp** (Ben Lomond CA) <http://www.quakercenter.org/>
- Year-Round: **Ben Lomond Quaker Center Workshops** are open to Friends of all ages– a great opportunity for intergenerational learning in community– and childcare is available. Annual passes for individuals and Meetings are good for a year from date of purchase for camps and workshops. Buy two and send a youth-adult pair to each workshop! <http://www.quakercenter.org/>

CHECK IT OUT:

- AFSC Peaceful Alternatives for Youth: <http://afsc.org/program/providing-peaceful-alternatives-youth>
- Casa de los Amigos (Mexico): <http://www.casadelosamigos.org/en/>
- Honolulu Meeting Guest House, and Hawai'i Peace and Justice Office: <http://www.hawaiiquaker.org/Guest.html>
- Quaker Voluntary Service: <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/>
- QuEST: Quaker Experiential Service and Training. <http://www.quest-seattle.org/>