

[Web version includes photos.]

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

Greetings, Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends!

I've just returned from an invigorating week at Quaker Oaks Farm so excited to tell you about the Spring Youth Service Learning Camp put on in partnership with the local Wukchumni Tribe. Teens and adults enjoyed games, archery, crafts and camping together in our tent village on the Visalia meetinghouse lawn. We journeyed to Kings Canyon National Park to visit our ancestor trees, the giant sequoias. On the last day, we helped rebuild the Wukchumni sweat lodge in a new location, as is done each springtime for the new year, and some participants experienced their first sweat. Half of us stayed even longer to join in the Wukchumni Spring Ceremonies and the Visalia Friends Easter breakfast and meeting for worship under the farm's namesake Valley Oak.

Campers told us, "I learned more about Native Americans in a day here at camp than in my whole time in school!" and "it's so nice to be out in nature this week instead of at home in the city." Others asked lots of questions about Quakers, learning why 'Quaker' used to be a derogatory term or wanting to know more about Friends' use of silence. Many were sad for camp to end, and we heard lots of ideas for how to make camp even better next time because they want to come back.

At camp, 17 teen-aged campers and about the same number of staff and elders, including Friends, Wukchumni Yokuts and other Native Americans from the Fresno American Indian Health Project spent four days building community through shared learning, play, meals and even chores. A day camp for younger children also attracted a variety of enthusiastic participants. Besides spending a refreshing amount of time outdoors in this rural part of the lovely California Central Valley near Visalia, we engaged in core activities of the "Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)" curriculum, an experiential learning module in some ways similar to Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP).

"The GONA curriculum engages youth in understanding the impact of historical trauma, healing from the effects, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. [GONA] events focus on four basic themes present in most indigenous worldviews and allow communities to identify their unique resources, opportunities, and strategies for promoting spiritual and emotional balance,... driven by the themes of belonging, mastery, interdependence, and generosity. Youth engage in developing open lines of communication, participate in discussions on historical trauma and related challenges in the community, and prioritize local community prevention efforts. The uniqueness of the strength-based GONA curriculum is the opportunity to address real-world issues that youth face while building upon the community-identified strengths, resiliency, and hope for future generations." captus.samhsa.gov/grantee/capt-clients/sts/gona

We were fortunate to also have Woolman Semester alum Genevieve Kules, now a student at Pitzer College, lead a participatory video and photography project to document the camp experience; she will continue working with campers to finish their digital stories and produce a short

documentary. Quaker Oaks Farm board members and the camp planning committee expressed much gratitude for the support received from our PYM Youth Programs Fund (Bob Vogel Endowment) and other contributions that helped make this amazing gathering possible.

The YPC Committee will be co-hosting an interest group at Annual Session about this ongoing collaboration at Quaker Oaks: come hear about this intercultural, intergenerational work toward restorative justice and our developing relationships with this ancestral Wukchumni land now held in trust by Visalia Friends Meeting and managed by Quaker Oaks Farm nonprofit. Be on the lookout for more about this unfolding story an upcoming article in *Western Friend* by Farm board members Darlene Franco (Wukchumni Tribe chairwoman) and Melissa Lovett-Adair (Central Coast Friend).

And now for some more Youth Program Highlights... (see calendar for more details)...

... for Everyone:

- Attached is a current **calendar of events**. It's also online, linked from pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth. In addition to the list-style calendar, you can now view or subscribe there to a Google calendar.
- **Funding and Support for Bright Ideas:** Have an idea for an event or project that can't be funded otherwise, or need some help with design and implementation? Our YPC Committee manages the **Youth Programs Fund** (interest from the Bob Vogel Endowment) and is available for consultation. The next request deadline is June 20 for funding in July 2015. We accept applications on a rolling quarterly basis (March 20, June 20, September 20, December 20), with decisions within a month. We are open to requests for other forms of support at any time, and we'll have designated times at Annual Session to familiarize you with the process and brainstorm ideas. Descriptions of the fund's purposes, policies and application are online at pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding.
- Read more about the work of the YPC Committee in **our YPCC report to Representative Committee** from the end of February, where committee clerks and PYM officers came together to plan for Annual Session and address pressing items of business: pacificyearlymeeting.org/2015/documents/ypc/youth-programs-report-to-repcom-2015 The Young Adult Friends co-clerks and the Junior Yearly Meeting (teen and adult committee members) also met in conjunction with RepCom to plan their activities for Annual Session.
- **Registration for PYM's Annual Session** will be opening very soon. Watch the PYM website for updates, and ask your Meeting's PYM Rep if you have any questions. Register early to get the best rate. Financial assistance is available – if you need it, ask!
- *Extra, Extra, Read all about It!* Sally Kingsland (Strawberry Creek-PYM & Canberra Regional-Australia Meetings, and a JYM Adult Committee member) recently published an **article in *The Australian Friend***, sharing what she's learned from PYM youth programs. She writes, *"It is very clear to me that the revitalisation of our Society, that so many people long for (and express in many different ways), must have young people at its core.... The inclusiveness of JYM also flows through to the YAFs who are probably the most radically inclusive group I've ever encountered.... Some years the teen leadership require very little adult support and intervention; other years they need much more. This requires maturity on the part of the adults who support them." australianfriend.org/af3183*

- Gatherings such as **Spring Quarterly Meetings** (SCQM 4/25 in La Jolla, and CPQM 5/15-17 at Quaker Center), **family camps at Woolman and Quaker Center**, and **PYM's Annual Session** include fun and spiritually deepening activities and community-building for all ages. Connecting with Friends at the regional level is especially helpful for young folks who don't have a large peer group locally and for newcomers and experienced Friends alike.
- Please remember my open invitation to **consult with your Worship Group, Meeting, organization, or committee**. Looking forward to seeing Orange Grove, La Jolla, and Friends House folks soon!

... for Teens:

- Spring Quarterly Meetings: There's funding available for **teen intervisitation between SCQM and CPQM**. Ask your QM teen program clerk (Kathy Runyan or Kate Watkins). Thanks, Bob Vogel Endowment!
- **Clerking Workshop at Quaker Center** the last weekend of May. Financial and transportation assistance may be available upon request. The more teens who come, the more the organizers can address your specific needs. quakercenter.org/clerking-serving-the-community-with-joy-and-confidence
- **Summer Camps:** Registrations are now open for Quaker Center, Woolman, and Mountain Friends camps. Quaker Center's Peace Action Camp will be held in Sacramento this time, including outdoor adventure and working with the Friends Committee on Legislation of California. Woolman's Teen Leadership Camp is now offering sessions focused on hiking, farming/cooking and bike touring/repair.
- **JYM:** keep an eye on your webpage for updates on registration and activities at this year's Annual Session! pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/jym
- **Woolman Semester** is accepting applications for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. semester.woolman.org

... for Young Adults:

- Updated YAF webpage: pacificyearlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends
- Have you seen the recent **article on "Radical Vulnerability" by two of our YAF co-clerks, Elena and Kylin**, on p. 26 of the latest issue of *Western Friend* (Mar/Apr 2015)?
- YAFs have been organizing **leadership-, community- and skill-building events** with help from the Youth Programs Fund. See your YAF webpage for details.
 - On March 13-15, YAFs hosted an Alternatives to Violence Project "Basic Training" at the Berkeley Meetinghouse and are considering a follow-up workshop and other similar activities. Many thanks to the AVP facilitators who donated their time and expertise: Vicki Carroll (Central Coast), Stephen Matchett (San Francisco) and Sue Torrey (Central Coast).
 - Again this year, YAFs will host a **YAF & Elders Retreat** during the weekend prior to PYM's Annual Session (July 10-13) at the Berkeley Meetinghouse, and all are welcome to join in this weekend of service, spirit, and fellowship; the 2015 PYM Annual Session keynote speaker, Lloyd Lee Wilson, and invited guest Paula Palmer will also be attending.

- Have you registered for the **Clerking Workshop at Quaker Center** the last weekend of May? Arthur Larrabee, who is well known for these workshops among east coast Friends will facilitate. Financial and transportation assistance may be available upon request. Let's get a critical mass of young Friends there! quakercenter.org/clerking-serving-the-community-with-joy-and-confidence
- **Western Young Friends New Year's Gathering's 40th anniversary** used a grant from the Youth Programs Fund to attract over 70 Friends, including about 10 children! *"At this, the fortieth year of the Gathering, we have struggled with what it means to be he, she, and ze. How does the Spirit shine its Light so we can see beyond labels? Through deep listening, we reach for our true nature, forgiving ourselves for the messy space in between."* newyearsgathering.org/epistles.htm
- **New England Yearly Meeting YAFs** hold similar seasonal gatherings and have posted epistles that may speak to PYM's condition. They ask to be held in the Light as they seek "how to honor our ministries and leadings, as well as keep our community vibrant and cohesive." neym.org/young-adult-friends/epistles
- Called to **serve as a camp counselor or FRAP**? Have some experience you're willing to share with others? Sign up for our **Adult Allies to Youth Workshop**: April 18th or May 2nd! See calendar for details.
- **Quaker Voluntary Service** is accepting 2nd round applications for 2015-2016 in Atlanta, Boston, Philadelphia and Portland . quakervoluntaryservice.org/apply

... for *Adult Allies to Youth*:

- There are many ways for adults to act as allies to youth, and we put together a web page just for you! pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/adults
- **Adult Allies to Youth Workshops**: 1) at Orange Grove Meeting, April 18, 10AM-5PM, and 2) at Friends House in Santa Rosa, May 2, 10AM-5PM. Contact Alyssa Nelson.
- JYM will be looking for **Friendly Responsible Adult Presences** for day and evening shifts at Annual Session. Contact adult JYM co-clerk Steve Leeds (San Francisco) or keep an eye on the adult allies webpage.
- PYM will also be looking for **Children's Program Teachers**. Contact CP clerk Heather Levien (Berkeley MM).

Peace & Spring Joy to you all,

~Alyssa

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Youth Programs Coordinating Committee members: Lynnette Arnold, Jennifer Carr, Mary Klein (co-clerk), Steve Leeds, Stephen Myers, Kylin Navarro, Thomas Rios, Jim Summers (co-clerk). Two youth slots are vacant. Inquire within!

~ Intergenerational and youth-focused activities in Pacific YM and beyond ~
2015 Ongoing Calendar of Events (updated 4/9/15)

Also see in Google Calendar format from link at: pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth

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

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.

- Spring: **Becoming Adult Allies to Youth Workshops: Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) and Beyond**, one in Northern CA and one in Southern CA, with the PYM Youth Programs Coordinator. Contact Alyssa Nelson. pacificyearlymeeting.org/2015/documents/ypc/adult-allies-frap-workshops-2015
 - April 18 (Sat), 10am-5pm, Orange Grove Meetinghouse (Pasadena, CA)
 - May 2 (Sat), 10am-5pm, Friends House (Santa Rosa, CA)
- April 25: **Southern California Quarterly Meeting** (hosted by La Jolla Meeting, CA). scqm.org
- May 15-17: **College Park Quarterly Meeting** (Ben Lomond Quaker Center): collegepark.quaker.org
- May 22 & 23: **Woolman Semester Baccalaureate & Graduation** (Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City, CA): **All are welcome.** Woolman Semester is accepting applications. semester.woolman.org
- May 29-31: **Clerking Workshop** (Ben Lomond Quaker Center, CA, see website for complete list of workshops) quakercenter.org
- June 5-10: **Continuing Revolution: A Young Adult Friends Conference on Equality** (Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA). "Designed for all young adult Friends who feel a movement in our generation to create the world we believe is possible, and to live into Right Relationship with the Divine, one another and the earth." Rolling application period: apply early. pendlehill.org/yafcon
- June 20 (and the 20th of every month that has a solstice or equinox): **Youth Programs Fund Applications Due (Bob Vogel Endowment)**: pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding
- June 14-21: **Woolman Family Work Camp** (Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City, CA) woolman.org
- **Ben Lomond Quaker Center Youth Camps** quakercenter.org *Quaker Center's annual passes can be applied to camp!*
 - **Peace Action Camp**: outdoor adventure and nonviolent direct action for rising 10th through 12th graders, June 21-27, field location TBD.
 - **Quaker Camp** (4th-6th grade) & **Service Camp** (7th-9th grade) run concurrently at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, August 1-8.
- **Camp Woolman** (Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City, CA) camp.woolman.org/dates-rates
 - **Teen Leadership Camp** (ages 15-16): June 28-July 11 (Hiking), July 12-18 (Farming/Cooking), July 19-August 1 (Bike Repair / Bike Touring)
 - **Sierra Friends Camp** (ages 9-14): June 28-July 11, July 12-18, July 19-25, July 26-August 1.

- **Mountain Friends Camp** (Santa Fe Tree House Camp, New Mexico) for 10-15 year olds. Teens ages 16-17 can apply to serve as Counselors in Training. Come for 1 or 2 weeks, and Family Camp, too. July 4-11, July 12-25, Family Camp July 26-29. mountainfriendscamp.org/parents
- July 5-11: **Friends General Conference: "Seeking Wholeness"** (Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina) fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering
- July 10-13: **PYM Young Adult Friends & Elders Retreat** (Berkeley Meetinghouse): Pre-Annual Session weekend of service, spirit, and fellowship with young adults and older adults of PYM. Contact YAF co-clerk, Kylin Navarro. pacificyearlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends
- July 13-18: **PYM Annual Session** (Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma, CA). Financial and transportation assistance available – just ask! pacificyearlymeeting.org
- July 15-29: **Pine Ridge Reservation Work Camp** (South Dakota), sponsored by William Penn House. williampennhouse.org/2015Workcamps
- July 27-August 1: **BLQC Family Work Camp** (Ben Lomond, CA) quakercenter.org
- September 20: **Youth Programs Fund Applications Due (Bob Vogel Endowment):** pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding
- September 26: **Annual FCLCA Harvest Festival Fundraiser** (Palo Alto Friends Meeting, CA) quakerharvestfestival.org
- December 20: **Youth Programs Fund Applications Due (Bob Vogel Endowment):** pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding

CHECK IT OUT:

- **AFSC Peaceful Alternatives for Youth:** afsc.org/program/providing-peaceful-alternatives-youth
- **Ben Lomond Quaker Center Workshops** (year round) 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!* quakercenter.org/annual-pass
- **Casa de los Amigos & Mexico Monthly Meeting:** casadelosamigos.org/en
- **El Salvador Projects of Palo Alto Friends Meeting:** pafmelsalvadorprojects.org
- **Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA):** fclca.org
- **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for Young Adults:** fcnl.org/about/opportunities_for_young_adults_with_fcnl
- **Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program (Progresá)** guatemalafriends.org
- **Honolulu Meeting Guest House, and Hawai'i Peace and Justice Office:** hawaiiquaker.org/guest.html
- **Quaker Earthcare Witness:** quakerearthcare.org
- **Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS):** quakervoluntaryservice.org
- **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC):** fwccamericas.org/about_us/programs/youth.shtml
- **QuEST: Quaker Experiential Service and Training:** quest-seattle.org

Want to learn more about *your* PYM youth programs and current events?
 See past epistles, reports and more on our page on the PYM website: pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/
 and on our Facebook page: "[Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Programs](https://www.facebook.com/PacificYearlyMeetingYouthPrograms)"