

## Pacific Yearly Meeting Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report to Representative Committee 2020

I was very happy and grateful for my nomination to serve PYM as a Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Annual Gathering at Pendle Hill, October 3-6, 2019. I have never had the chance to attend it before and it was an excellent opportunity to visit that wonderful place. I chose to arrive the previous day, though due to my flights, I got to Pendle Hill on early evening and I had to walk in the darkness and find my way from the train station. The facilities are very beautiful and peaceful. We were 37 Friends gathered for the Fall Steering Committee Meeting of QEW, from Canada, Mexico, Kenya, and many parts of the United States. I met wonderful, inspiring, and very committed Friends. We enjoyed very kind hospitality and delicious fresh meals. We had very active days with early morning worship time, working groups, and committees. It was amazing the range of topics that we were sharing, like the awareness of microbes that live beneath our feet, the impact of climate change, the beauty of the Earth, acknowledgement and gratitude to the First Nations who are long-standing guardians of the Earth, and many others.

At Swarthmore College, we attended a public lecture on fracking by Sandra Steingraber, biologist, activist, and member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting. She emphasized the need to end dependence on fossil fuels. Her presentation was very interesting, accurate, and backed by scientific data. Her activism is an example for young students attending her lecture. On another day, Also Kallan Benson, 15-year-old Friend was invited to Pendle Hill to talk about her experience as a leader of youth climate change activists, she presented "Climate and Youth Rising", she shared about the Friday demonstrations ("Fridays for Future"), "extinction rebellion". I felt very moved and sad, as well as inspired, about our role in the future of our Earth and the negative impact that our(my) actions are producing. I wished the Religious Society of Friends had more young members!

We watched 3 videos: a film clip of a Scottish Friend addressing the Scottish Parliament; Quaker Earthcare Witness: A Panorama, telling our story produced by Barb Adams; and a film presenting views on the care of Earth by leaders from different branches of Friends. We also read the Kabarak message from the 2012 Sixth World Conference of Friends at Kabarak University in Nakuru, Kenya. I love that deep, spiritual, and ever-lasting message.

The standing committees (Finance, Nominating, Publications, Spiritual Nurturance, and Outreach) and working groups (Population, United Nations, FCNL Support Committee, No Name, and Mini-Grants) met individually to discuss their work and plans. A minute was approved from FCNL working group to lobby for: ban on fracking, no new fossil fuel infrastructure, end of fossil fuel subsidies, increased support for public mass transportation, and increased subsidies for clean renewable energy. It was clear the urgency to support activities to decrease the negative impact of the human behavior on Earth. There were very worrying comments like: "We only have a decade left to change the trend of climate warming," "Information is knowledge, and therefore empowerment and agency," "We are called to protect what we love," "We are living a spiritual crisis."

I was impressed by the commitment and work of Shelley Tanenbaum, whom I had met before in PYM and IMYM. When QEW's appeal to donate was mentioned, I was moved to donate regularly a small amount of money.

The PacYM Representative to QEW is Paty Constantino, Mexico City Monthly Meeting