

Pacific Yearly Meeting Children's Program

Report to Representative Committee (RepCom) 2023

The Children's Committee is gratified by this year's theme: "Beloved Community Part II: Centering the Voices of the Next Generation." We thank the Clerk for her message and feel that it does indeed speak to our Condition.

We are grateful for the amount of interest and attention that the Yearly Meeting is giving to our next generation, which does include those who are not yet in their teens, but are watching and learning what the adults in all the generations in front of them value. We want to make sure that they know that they themselves are valued.

This year we are again directing the Children's Program's energies into two parts. The continuation of the Children's Program at Annual Session is one part. Another important part of our work has become organizing Field Trips for Quaker children during the rest of the year. We are organizing the following field trips:

A quick overview of family-oriented Quaker activities of Winter through Summer 2023:

- March 5th - Davis - Lunch and birding after meeting
- April 1-2 - Santa Cruz & BLQC - beach time, with *optional overnight* at Quaker Center
- April 22nd - Southern California Quarterly Meeting
- April 29-30 - Walker Creek Ranch - outdoor educational *overnight*
- May 19-21 - College Park Quarterly Meeting - BLQC
- June 17-25 - Quaker Camp (sleepaway camp) - BLQC
- July 2-8 - Friends General Conference - The Gathering (nationwide) in Oregon

July 21-26 - Pacific Yearly Meeting - Mt Madonna

- We are looking forward to building up the Children's Program from last year, as we are welcoming new teachers. We have some difficulties with the Mt. Madonna site:
 - There are still insufficient camping facilities for families
 - We are uncomfortable with the communication interaction with MM staff. They seem to hear us when we meet with them, but at the Annual Session, there are things that have changed.
 - We are still struggling with the opportunity for the younger children to play in water, which is an important way to build community in the summertime.

- There are several separate organizations which use the Mt. Madonna site, and it's not always easy to communicate with all of them
- Having access to the Gaga Ball pit is important to the upper elementary students. We would love to have that right. Also, there is a Ropes Course - can we make this available? This could be wonderful for the right ages.

This committee is also interested in sponsoring some online parenting support and religious education interest groups that might meet during the rest of the year as well as having one during the Annual Session.

PacYM CPC will continue to focus on connecting and inviting families and their children into our Quaker Meetings: Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly, and to keep our children engaged as they mature into Junior Yearly Meeting and then into YAFs!

Committee Members:

Molly Bishop, Redwood Forest, co-clerk

Rhea Farley, Strawberry Creek, co-clerk

Sandy Farley, San Mateo Worship Group

Theresa Cox, Berkeley

Delcy Steffy, Sacramento

Keenan Lorenzato, Youth Programs Coordinator (ex officio)