

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Pacific Yearly Meeting  
At the University of San Diego

To Friends Everywhere,

The Young Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting came together in August, 2003 for the annual PYM gathering. New Friends and old ones participated jointly in many of the traditional Young Friends activities, which brought us together as one.

After brief introductions and a few fun games, we experienced our first of many sleep-deprived nights. The days that followed brought exciting activities such as an evening trip to the beach, a capture the flag game with the Junior Yearly Meeting, a dance DJed by some of our Young Friends, late night card games, swimming in the pool, and a talent night.

Never before has there been a PYM without some challenges; we faced our share this year. Early in the week we discovered that a member of our community, Paul Ruhlen, had passed away in the last year. We worshipped together in honor of his life and the joy he brought to ours.

As in many years past, the Young Friends felt a degree of distance from the greater PYM community. We continued an ongoing discussion about the importance of maintaining and strengthening our community of Young Friends while also participating in the life of the greater Yearly Meeting. We found difficulty in balancing our involvement with the Young Friends community and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. This was a challenge that we faced both as a community and as individuals.

Spurred by the request of JYM, the Young Friends decided to bring back the Respectful Relationships discussion after an eight-year hiatus. This discussion provides a safe space for open and honest dialog on the difficult topics of sex, drugs, alcohol, and most importantly respect for self and others. The JYM committee's decision to bring the program back was based upon the emphatic testimonies of Young Friends who had experienced the program years before.

Our week ended on a positive note. The last evening included a celebration welcoming those JYMers who will be joining us as Young Friends next year. This was followed by "spontaneous" worship by the fountain. We are looking forward to reconvening soon at Spirit and Light gatherings throughout the year and again at PYM 2004.

In the Light,  
Young Friends, Pacific Yearly Meeting, 2003

Kate Newlin  
YF Clerk