

The JYM Epistle of 2010

On Monday, the JYM community welcomed many new comers into the community this year. We began the week with our first business meeting and thoroughly discussed each and every Community Expectation and created some new ones as well. Because of the time, consideration, and effort put into this process, this week has been running very smoothly and our community has been strengthened by truly owning our Community Expectations.

On Tuesday we lead intergenerational games with the adults and children of PYM, which reinforced our connection with the greater community. After dinner, JYM reconvened in the Auen hall lounge and listened to two guest speakers talk about Casa de Los amigos in Mexico City and a Quaker trip to El Salvador, which many of our teens have participated in in the past. Later in the day we were joined by a number of Young Friends and other members of our community in a nighttime game of Capture the Flag.

The community also engaged in Men's and Women's groups led by the Young Friends in which JYMers split and engaged in bonding activities to further enrich the community as well as to create a close bond between Young Friends and JYMers.

On Wednesday we began our Chatboxes, led by Jayden and Diego Navarro. Chatboxes helped develop spiritual growth and critical thinking for JYM and Young Friends. Our positive experience with Chatboxes inspired us to reach out to the greater PYM, and lead the Chatbox discussions with Adults at dinner on Wednesday.

After lunch on Wednesday we headed over to a local bookstore where we assisted the Prison Library Project by reading and sorting letters and packing books to be sent to the inmates who requested them. This turned out to be a very powerful experience for many of the JYMers, hearing the stories of many inmates looking to better themselves through learning.

After dinner we took a trip to the pool with some of the Young Friends where we engaged in a game of Sharks and Minnows, and a game of Huggy Bear. Respectful Relationships began shortly after support groups that night. This was as always a growing experience for everyone and it strengthened our bonds with the Young Friends. Thursday after breakfast, Cathy Runyan and Dorothy Henderson led a short presentation on the Woolman Semester. We did some community building exercises and then settled down for an interest group for George Lakey, which was a very inspiring talk about activism and social service. Later, after Ultimate Frisbee with the Young Friends and lunch, JYMers settled into meeting for memorials. It was very moving for all, as a significant number of our members had experienced a loss in the past year.

On a lighter note, the all ages dance was fun and exciting. We enjoyed the company of the Young Friends as well as the children and adults. Afterwards, the JYMers and the Young Friends met and bonded in Men's and Women's groups.

On Friday, we enjoyed the company of a few members of the greater PYM community in our business meeting, which dealt with some rather serious issues that we tackled full-heartedly and with determination to come to consensus on the issues we were facing. We also nominated our Co-Clerks, M&O clerks, and M&O committee members for next year.

We later enjoyed a great game of WINK followed by Capture the Flag with the Middle Elementary School program and the Young Friends. We then separated into worship sharing groups and enjoyed a very powerful experience together. We then went to community night and enjoyed watching and participating in some of the acts. We then returned to our nominations process and chose Laura Adair, Jayden Navarro, and Hana Castanegro for our Co-Clerks, Eli fowler for M&O clerk, and Rose Mackenzie, Grady fowler, Marie Vastola, Tommy Rios, and Gabe Kittle for our M&O committee next year.

Overall, this JYM has brought new faces and new Light to our group and together, we have built a strong community through shared experiences over the course of the week. We were extremely pleased with how well we were able to integrate ourselves into PYM, and would like to extend our thanks to PYM for being so ready and willing to participate in welcoming us into the community.