

## **Junior Yearly Meeting Epistles**

### **Summer Sessions 2015**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade JYM Group Epistle**

JYM Volunteers: Faith Brzostoski, Will Tesdell, Andrew Wolf

We joined together as a group--families, Friends, and soon to be friends at Silver Bay, NY. At the beginning of the week, some of us thought that there would be some fighting, but there was only play.

Each day we sang, read stories, played games, and worshipped together. We learned to settle into silence. Little by little each day, our silence became longer. We learned the Sign language for "me too."

We liked going to the beach. (me too)

We liked our High School beach buddies and playing Duck, Duck Goose with all of the kids at the beach.

We liked Cafe Night.

We liked Games.

We really liked the animals at the nature center, especially the turtle and snakes.

Some of us liked B.O.B., the Big Orange Ball...some of us really did not.

We liked the songs.

We liked when Abby, Richard and Rima came.

We liked painting the sky of blue, sea of green and our yellow submarine.

We loved our Emps and Volunteers.

And we felt we opened up our hearts to the visitors and all who came to our group. (Me too!)

#### **JYM, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade epistle**

Group leaders: David Gerhan, Kai McGiver, Theresa Oleksiw

We gathered with the expectation of sharing a fun week together. After a story, and learning a little more about Quaker worship, we settled into silence. After-wards we discussed what kinds of rules and expectations might help make the week be the best it could for everyone involved. We had a discussion about the theme of this years summer sessions, and began talking about things everybody has in common. This led to an art-project we would revisit each day, designing our own shelters. After working on our shelters, we played a quick game outside, and said goodbye for the day.

On Tuesday, we settled in for a story, and worship. We then headed off to the Silver Bay wildlife center, where we saw all sorts of animals. After returning to work on our shelters for a bit, we were visited by Chris and Mike from Powell House who played some fun indoor games with us. After we played another quick game outside before saying goodbye for the day.

On Wednesday, we settled in for story and worship. We went outside and played games until the 7-8's arrived to pick us up and bring us to the beach, for beach day! We played down there for a while until we returned to Bay View to work on our shelters, and play outside until it was time to go.

On Thursday, after our story and worship, we set off on our hike to see what kind of shelter a bear finds. We went through the woods, and arrived at a bear cave, where we got the opportunity to practice waiting patiently. After coming back from our trek, we played some fun indoor games, and then either continued working on our projects, or played outside before saying goodbye.

On Friday, we gathered for a story and worship, and then spent some time playing games until we were visited by Rima Segal, who shared some stories with us. After that, we went to the boathouse for final singing and worship before saying one final good-bye.

### **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade JYM Epistle**

Group Leaders: Virgil Bunting, Bryant Henning, Margie Morgan-Davie-Davie

Read by:

Tallulah Klein - Brooklyn

Caroline Lape - Westbury

Jack Kane - Albany

River Festa-Rios - Brooklyn

Devante Hooper - Manhattan

The 5-6 group met every morning at Silver Bay in Munn Hall. We had a good time getting to know new friends through games, crafts, and other activities. We had a number of visitors through the week, who helped us understand and build community: Ben talked about how the Yearly Meeting used to be divided into two; Bill talked to us about conscientious objection; Chris & Mike used games to teach us about being a community; Abby did a guided meditation with a lesson on using our senses; and Richard taught us dances and rope tricks. In between these activities we went to the beach and played games, such as Gaga and Outbreak, organized by the Games Committee. The Fund Fair Committee organized crafts to make prizes for our cool bean bag toss game at the fair. We ate plenty of yummy snacks. The week finished with songs and worship with the rest of Junior Yearly Meeting. We generally had a roaring good time, and look forward to coming back next year.

### **Epistle for Junior High (7, 8, 9) group.**

The leaders were: Mark LaRiviere, Susan Stillman, and Patrick DiGiovanni.

The epistle presenters were: Chelsea-Clare Wilhelmsson (15th Street), Jack Lawson, Starianna Wolf (Rochester), Irena Rosenberg (Ithaca), and Analea Blackburn (Genesee Valley).

The epistle was:

Enlightening, Ally, Beach, Bulls-eye, Peace

This year's clerks were Abigail Byrtus (Shrewsbury) and Eric Menzel (New Brunswick).

Clerks for 2016 are: Analea Blackburn (Genesee Valley) and Kaya Gibbs-Hobgood (Brooklyn?), with alternate clerk Abigail Byrtus.

## **Epistle for Senior High (10, 11, 12) JYM Group**

JYM leaders were Sylke Jackson and Luke Jones.

Columbine Loza and Erin Clark presented the epistle.

This year's clerks were Soren Grunder and Amariah DiGiovanni, with Lucy Jackson and Simon Michaud as alternates, but they really all worked together as a team.

The rising clerks for 2016 are Juliet Ramey-LaRiviere and Kwame Gibbs-Hobgood (co-clerks) with Roman Gavrila and Elsa Mohlke as alternate clerks.

The graduating class is Leila Archibald, Erin Clark, Soren Grunder, Columbine Loza, Margaret Matthews, Maeve McGee, Simon Michaud, Griffin Perry, and Joe Laswon Tyler.

It was just yesterday we found our self identities  
But today we cling together  
Bananas come in bunches  
And sometimes so do people  
For a week we'll be side by side  
Like canoes in silent worship

And just as rolling water  
Collects all that it sees  
We gathered up the young ones  
And swam in groups of threes  
Then ducks and geese got restless  
Running to and fro

We spoke of two row wampum  
And a game of ha arose  
We took trips to the past  
And dreamt of a future yet to come  
Then from trust newly found  
Community was built

We learned of hospitality  
The universe's vast expanse  
And the stars inside us all  
But most importantly  
We learned of our potential  
On this pretty little planet