

To Friends everywhere;

The epistle for JYM 2007 at Redlands covers the week in chronological order, mostly to highlight our gradual religious and social progression. On the first day of the week, the community building games and meetings we participated in greatly increased our cohesiveness as a group. The JYM participants seemed to support the quick integration of youth from different age groups and regions of California. Very quickly to show our desire to communicate with the parents and make them feel like a weighty member of the community, we established several business meetings in which the parents and sponsors could participate. Understandably, they showed a large desire to have a set of guides and rules under which the JYM community could find structure. Together, we addressed the concerns raised by the parents and sponsors.

Our Tuesday interest group presented by Vanessa Julye covering racism involved in Quaker history and modern Quakerism was met with much enthusiasm as well as active participation. Our conversation soon focused on the racism the youth saw in their own lives and schools which we believed was not recognized. We also expressed a strong desire to continue the focus group were it left off. Respectful Relationships further focused our group honesty and mutual respect for everyone.

Our Wednesday business meeting discussed an incident in which one of our rules had been broken by members of JYM. We established a consensus which we could apply to future transgressions, and the honesty and cooperation of the parties involved lightened our path.

The slight gloom presented by this heavy subject was offset by a spectacular game of Capture the Flag involving JYM, Young Friends, Upper Elementary and Middle School programs. In fact, the participants enjoyed playing so much that we ended up playing a second game with the Upper Elementary group and JYM the next day.

Wednesday evening involved doing service work at the Church of the Nazarene. During our time there we helped to paint a house, prepared grocery bags for the less fortunate, and served dinner to the community.

As a group we attended the meeting for memorials. Later that night we hosted an inter-generational dance, which despite being somewhat smaller than we had hoped was still loads of fun for everyone involved.

During that day, members of JYM expressed their opinion that the group during the week had not established a strong enough spiritual connection, but was very soon remedied at a very active and emotional meeting for healing.

The Thursday massage interest group, judging by the participants enthusiasm, was a very beneficial activity in the view of the Quaker youths.

The PYM Talent Night, also sometimes known as the "talent-free zone", was hosted and organized by two JYM members, Nate and Robbie. It included an entire section of horrible banjo jokes from Jacob Stone, as well as numerous jokes from Nate and Robbie during the set up time between acts. This year, many of the acts were performed by younger aged friends, although there were still a good number of acts from the older PYM community. The acts ranged from numerous songs (many of which included audience participation) to exciting Poi dancing with awesome glow thingies, also known as "glowy Poi things".

Nominations in the evening was a quickly progressing one by Quaker standards, made easier by the large number of teens graduating into the Young Friends program, and a desire to avoid the marathon session the year before. Finding consensus on this issue, many felt was evidence of the social awareness of the JYM youths involved.

Despite some minor confrontations, JYM continues to nurture peoples motivation and spiritual growth. We utilized our obstacles to strengthen and enrich the sense of spirituality and spiritual community. A good time was had by all throughout the final night, as well as the rest of the week.