

Epistle Committee, NPYM Epistle  
North Pacific Yearly Meeting 38th Annual Session  
“Practicing Hope: Living and Witnessing Our Testimonies”  
July 14-18, 2010 University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

**Children’s Epistles: Elementary**

Greetings to Friends everywhere from the elementary school children at North Pacific Yearly Meeting annual session in Missoula, Montana, July 22010.

We did a service project at the Native Plant Gardens. We pulled out cheat-grass and lots of weeds. Angus and Lauren pulled out spiked lettuce. Then we went to the green house and picked two plants. We planted bunch grass and other native plants. We got to look u close at dead bees through a microscope.

We went to a carousel with rings in a dragon’s mouth. At Splash Mountain, Georgia and Sharon pushed each other off the snake into the pool. Lauren’s and Angus’s favorite thing was the lazy river. Gabriel’s favorite was the inner-tube slide.

We made kites out of bags. We had to do many steps and then we went to the field to fly them. We felted soap: We took wool and we put it onto bars of soap and dunked it in hot and cold water.

Our Friend in Residence, Bridget Moix, came to talk to us about ‘War Is Not the Answer.’ We used pennies on a chart to mark how we think the government should spend money.

**Children’s Epistles: Central Friends Epistle**

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We are the Central Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, with Friends ranging from 10 to 14 years of age. We gathered in the mid-days of July 2010 from the 14th to the 18th at the University of Montana in Missoula. On the campus we felt we had much freedom in open space surrounded by beautiful valleys and mountains. Most Friends at this meeting felt awkward and uncomfortable the first night we had gathered as a community. However, as we played games, went on adventures and made new friends, we began to feel at home.

Some of the activities we had enjoyed most at yearly meeting were these: the trip to the Dragon Hollow Carousel, a water park called Splash Mountain, and community service projects. For the service projects we split into groups: some of us climbed Mount Sentinel pulling noxious weeds that are harming the native environment, while others traveled to Orchard Gardens to shovel topsoil. Both activities were multi-generational. We also played exciting games such as capture the flag with the Junior Friends and others, including ping pong and Chess.

We had a Friend-in-Residence named Bridget Moix who told us about the FCNL. She talked with us and asked us two questions: “How do you prevent conflicts?” and “If war was not the answer, what is?” We compared how we chose to spend tax money using co-operative groups

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and a shared idea about diplomacy and war prevention. She encouraged us to run for Congress because she preferred our priorities over Congress’ decisions on spending our money.

We also found more entertaining activities at a few different events such as Open Mic, Contra Dancing and Community Night. We had enjoyed time with Friends of all ages. We hope that as you gather and congregate, our voice has not fallen on deaf ears and has shed some light on our global Quaker community.

In peace and friendship,  
the ~Central Friends~ of NPYM 2010

Derik Lasowski	John Bennett	Morgan Sharp	Maya Whitley
Avery Cloninger	Olivia Cloninger	Solange Marcotte	Kai Whitley
Michael Bautista	Jonah Cross	Brayden Miller	Lathen Miller

### **Children’s Epistles: Jr. Friends Epistle**

Greetings:

In Missoula, Montana the Junior Friends arrive on the University of Montana in high spirits. A difference between the years before was that the attendance level increased to 23 Friends versus the years which had an average of 15 people.

The Junior Friends quickly began work on business and stayed connected with the greater meeting in hope to continue and strengthen our communication for the future. Besides the heavy work load we kept busy with various card games, Frisbee, and activities with the Young Friends such as the Fish Bowl. The Fish Bowl allowed for a chance for the Junior Friends to have a safe place to ask questions about relationships that we would not usually be comfortable to ask. In addition, we also took part in the float trip and a toga dance that lasted long into the night. The dance was preceded by the Feast of Love and Wink. Junior Friends found the Worship Sharing and volunteering were beneficial to our spiritual growth. Junior Friends hope that the following years will be as productive as this year.

### **Young Friends of NPYM Epistle, 2010**

To our Friends young and old, here and everywhere:

This year we, the Young Adult Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, continued in our role as the bridge between the youth of the Meeting and the adults, standing between old and new, people in transition representing and furthering the Yearly Meeting’s transitions.

In the spirit of this role, we have spent Annual Session in conversation with Friends young and old. We have spoken with Ministry and oversight and discussed the issue of membership. We have met with Nominating Committee in regard to servicing on NPYM committees. We have

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nominated representatives to Nominating Committee, Peace and Social Concerns, and Coordinating Committee. Young Friends continue to serve on Youth Committee and Ministry and Oversight.

We have also been deeply connected to the Junior Friends, engaging them in the now-traditional joys of Capture the Flag and the Feast of Love, as well as turning to the serious work of jointly talking with the Friend in Residence about career paths. This year we also discussed respectful relationships; we created a safe environment for Junior Friends to ask us difficult questions on a wide range of adult issues.

We missed absent friends and welcomed new adults, the constancy of our affection steadfast against the flux of the world and our lives. Facing difficulties of distance and role, we go onward, in courage and light.

The Young Friends