

Epistles from Children, Central Friends, Junior Friends and Young Friends  
NPYM Annual Session  
Reed College/ July 2007

### **Children's Program Epistle - Grades 3-5**

Dear Friends everywhere,

This Annual Session we learned lots and had lots of fun. We would like to share some of the things that we did and learned with you now.

We sewed our own pillows and stuffed them ourselves. We learned many different games such as: cat and mouse, cat loves dog, and some from home. Another really fun part was the hike down to the lake and on the way we discovered the edible fruits, Oregon grapes and green plums. On the way there was a giant hamster wheel. At the lake, we saw blue herons, ducks, and beavers. For Family Night, we did a skit on the Elephant's Child, which was funny and interesting. In our time together we sang songs like Pharaoh, Pharaoh and read stories like Moses and John Woolman. We hope that your time has been as fun as ours.

Sincerely,

Savanna Avila-Crump  
Zachary Cullers  
The 3rd-5th Grade Epistle Committee

### **Central Friends Epistle – Grades 6-8**

When Central Friends met on Thursday night, the weather was a bit dreary but it did not reflect our high spirits. There was excitement but members of the group brought their own anxieties.

Some came from Montana, others from Washington, still others from just a block away. We found that we bonded quickly. The friendships we developed helped make the planning of the skit easier. The skit, took place at the Powell's Potter Party. Everyone made their own contribution to the script and choreography.

The Central Friends also had many activities including the ivy pull, taking a trip to Oaks Park and Mr. Scott Swimming Pool. The Ivy Pull took a lot of planning and teamwork on our part to make it a successful inter-generational service project. About 25 people of all ages from ages 5 on up participated. The group included the upper elementary kids.

## **Junior Friends Epistle**

Dear Friends,

Thirty joyful high school age Quakers came together at Reed College in Portland, Oregon for the Junior Friends portion of NPYM. The theme for the weekend was Quaker leadership, leading and being led, which many Junior Friends failed to identify with.

We had two business meetings, covering pressing transportation issues, nominations from our diligent nominating committee, and future volunteering opportunities. As well, we had a special business item that evolved into an out trip to the opening celebration for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, the seventh and final book in the series.

We encouraged intergenerational extravaganzas with the Central Friends, Young Friends, and larger gathering. We played capture the flag, danced, and held an open discussion about spirituality and Junior Friends. We also joined worship sharing groups with the entire gathering.

Our lack of sleep helped us create an outrageous skit for community night.

This gathering was made particularly enjoyable due to a great many new people: we nominated and approved three new advisors – Kat Willard, Judy Visscher, and Ethan Perkins, and welcomed twelve new Junior Friends to the program.

However, in the balance of Junior Friends, six much beloved friends are graduating into college and the NPYM Young Friends program. We wish them luck and happiness on their journey.

In Peace,  
The NPYM Junior Friends.

## **Young Friends Epistle**

Young Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting convened in the luxurious simplicity of the Anna Mann cottage at Reed College. We continue to grow in size and cohesion, welcoming new Friends as well as old. In worship sharing and conversation we worked to discern the identity and direction of our community in the Spirit. Friends spoke of the need for community in which we are vulnerable with and accountable to each other, and the importance of continuity in that community.

Faithfully  
Young Friends of NPYM