

## JYM & JHYM Programs Fall, 2020

Since the start of the pandemic, we have been working hard to find creative ways to provide New England Quaker youth with meaningful connections and spiritual sustenance without in-person retreats. We've learned that just moving our retreats to a Zoom format isn't enough. Shorter blocks of time, more frequently, are more accessible and sustaining for many of us.



Over the coming school year, our priority is to provide more flexible opportunities for faith formation, loving care, and relationship building. We will have some weekend virtual retreats. We will have more virtual workshops and hangouts and try some other programs, too. No matter what we do, we want to be sure you know you are loved, you belong, and we are all here for each other!

### **The JYM-JHYM Newsletter**

Since last March, I've been publishing a newsletter every 2-3 weeks. Content includes current program offerings for children, teens, parents, and families, education and skill-building resources for noticing and interrupting racism and patterns of oppression, and photos. Registration information and links for all of our programs are in these as well. Make sure you are receiving them – let Gretchen know if you're not!

### **Family Nights**

An opportunity for Quaker families to connect with each other for some Friendly fun. These one-hour Zoom-based family programs are geared towards Quaker families with children -- but all are welcome to join. Family Nights may include singing, an experiential activity, a story, and opportunity for sharing. We hope to have different Friends and local Meetings lead these programs. Be in touch if you have an idea.

### **JYM and JHYM Zoom “Hangouts,” Workshops, and Special Interest Groups**

The list of current offerings (mostly 1 hour) are updated in each JYM-JHYM newsletter. The JYM Hangouts are one-time programs that may include games, stories, or activities. Several ongoing JHYM groups are also open to Young Friends (high school). Current offerings include ones centered around Art, Photography, Songwriting, and Racial Justice, as well as “general hangouts” that don't have any plan other than seeing friends and being together.

### **JHYM Friendly Fridays**

These once a month, two-hour gatherings will provide time and space for fun, conversation, shared interests, and for lifting up the skills and leadership of JH'ers. The first one is Friday, Oct. 2 from 7-9pm. A schedule for the next several months will be set soon after this initial experiment. JH'ers are asked to register ahead of time..

### **Retreats**

We know that weekend retreats are a central part of NEYM's Youth Programs. Because of the uncertainties of this time, retreat dates will be publicized 6-8 weeks prior to each one. This will allow us to better match the needs, schedules, and interests of youth and families with the realities of responding to Covid-19. Our virtual retreat weekends generally incorporate four or five blocks of time (1-2 hours each) and an off-screen suggestion over the course of Friday evening to Sunday noon. The first retreats are:

JHYM: October 16-18, 2020 (deadline Oct. 3 for receiving a pre-retreat package)

JYM: November 6-8, 2020 (deadline Oct. 21 for receiving a pre-retreat package)

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What ages are JYM and JHYM?**

JYM hangouts and workshops are for children in grades 1-6. JYM Retreats are geared for grades 2-6. JHYM is for middle schoolers in grades 6,7 and 8. Why is 6<sup>th</sup> Grade listed in both groups? We recognize the unique developmental variations in one amazing year of childhood! Sixth graders **may choose** which program to participate in (no, sorry, they can't do both!) An increasing number of sixth graders have been moving up to JHYM recently, but we do have a few who remain in JYM as long as possible. Either is okay!

### **How do you welcome new attenders to your programs?**

Helping young people create safe, welcoming, and inclusive communities is one of the core aspects of all of our programs. We will do all we can to help you/your child feel at ease. We're still learning some of the nuances of what this means on virtual screens – and welcome suggestions and feedback.

### **What kind of adult presence is on the Zoom programs?**

Both in person and on Zoom, NEYM's volunteer youth staff are a remarkable crew of Friends with a variety of gifts and spiritual journeys who really enjoy being with each other as well as with young people. All have gone through an application process in compliance with NEYM's Child Safety Policies. We welcome your questions – or inquiries to be considered.

### **Is there a cost to these programs?**

This is a time of financial hardship for many, and for this reason, we are not asking for payment for any of our virtual programming including retreats.. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

### **For more information**

explore our website: [www.NEYM.org](http://www.NEYM.org)

for detailed information on our programs and other resources for supporting youth and families in local meetings

contact JYM-JHYM Coordinator

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