

Dear Friends around the world,

We are the Junior High Yearly Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting gathered at Castleton University in Castleton VT from August 5-10 2017.

Our theme this year was living in Transformation. Opening worship featured a story about a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. The speaker talked about how the caterpillar's resistance to change was similar to society's resistance to change. Later, Noah Merrill talked to us about a personal experience that led him to a spiritual transformation and how we may use events in our lives to accept spiritual transformation. Afterward, we took time to share our own experiences with spiritual transformation. We were able to take these stories to a deeper level in our small groups by answering queries. We also listened to individual stories from a panel of four Friends about spiritual leadings which then sparked many more conversations within our small groups. On Tuesday, a former JHYM staffer named Eppchez came and presented us with a one person show about environmental issues. Over the course of the week we in JHYM were invited to explore transformation in many different ways.

We had very full week and were offered different activities to grow our community. Members of JHYM got acquainted and reacquainted with each other with ice breaker games like "The Big Wind Blows" and "That's Me". We were offered other activities like Capture the Flag, painting Affirmation Rocks, and a pool party. The Affirmation Rocks we painted had complements on them and were hidden around the campus for other people to find. On Tuesday, JHYM went to our annual trip to Bomoseen State Park where we held our traditional regatta, a competition where we make and race rafts. We used watercolor to meditate on the obstacles in our lives. Sadly, the 8th graders were sent off with our annual 8th grade circle, they will start Young Friends next year. As acts and audience, JHYM members participated in Coffee House, our showcase of NEYM individuality. Painting t-shirts was an enjoyable way to wrap up the week and say goodbye to new and dear Friends.

We are sad that NEYM is over for the 2017 year and we cannot wait for next year's new 6th graders.

Thank you,

Everyone in the JHYM community