

Junior High (JHYM) Yearly Meeting Retreats (*Grades 6-8)

2017-2018

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2017

Framingham Meeting

Spirituality is Not Just for Old Women: Our Annual Service Retreat

What does it mean to be spiritual? How can nurturing it be such a positive thing if there is so much war and strife in the world done in the name of religion? Friends use many words for that of God but are encouraged to always listen to the truth that is underneath all those words. Can you question the existence of God, or consider yourself an atheist and still go to Meeting for Worship? Come and explore the answers to these and so many other questions at our first retreat of the year! On Saturday afternoon, we will go off on Service Projects in the Framingham Area and put our hearts into action. Registration begins August 14.

Dec. 1 - 3, 2017

Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA

Sanctuary

In a world of war, torture, poverty, and ignorance, it requires a real leap of faith to create and embrace places of Sanctuary.

I saw this quote while running through O'Hare Airport almost 15 years ago, and it has continued to inspire and challenge me. What do we need to take leaps of faith – emotionally and spiritually? What happens when we do? How can we help this community become a more *safe and loving circle where transformation can unfold*? And, what do each of us need to become living, breathing sanctuaries for the Spirit? Registration begins Oct. 1.

Jan. 12 - 14, 2018

Westport (MA) Meeting

Lamps, Life Boats and Ladders: The Music Retreat

Based on a quote by Rumi, this theme feels like an excellent way to explain what JHYM means by “soul music!” What music helps illuminate the Divine all around you here and now? What music do you hold onto when you are feeling overwhelmed by the storminess of life? What music lifts you up and out of despair, depression, or drudgery and helps you see the bigger, more hopeful picture? This is our annual music retreat, and you are asked to bring one piece of music that fits one of these descriptions. The experience of hearing and being heard through music, combined with the afternoon workshops and the evening coffeehouse, makes this annual retreat a highlight of the year. Don't miss it! Registration begins Dec. 3, 2017.

March 2 - 4, 2018

Wellesley Meeting

Honesty

Honesty is one of the cornerstones of relationships and community. Sometimes “bending the truth” is the kinder thing to do. How does wanting to be kind, well liked, or out of trouble influence what we do or don't say? Do we take all our words seriously – from admitting responsibility to saying *I Hate* when what we really mean is *This Bugs Me*? What does the Society of Friends have to tell us about speaking truth to ourselves, to each other, and to the wider world? Honestly – we could explore this topic for an entire retreat year and not be done! Registration begins Jan. 14.

April 27 - 29, 2018

New Haven Friends Meeting

Whatever Lifts Up Your Heart is a Prayer

I so love this quote, by Brother David Steindl-Rast. (Look him up if you want to be truly inspired.) What is prayer? More than definitions, we'll share our personal experiences and try out some guided techniques that others have found to work – from drawing to walking to doing guided meditations. This being our last retreat of the year, we'll also be honoring and celebrating the 8th graders as we begin to anticipate them moving up to Young Friends in the fall. This will be the first time JHYM has been at New Haven Meeting in many, many years – don't miss it! Registration begins March 4.

June 15 - 17, 2018

Westport (MA) Meeting

Challenges, Triumphs & Movin' On: The 8th Grade Retreat

Going to high school and Young Friends in the fall is a major transition to honor and celebrate. We'll eat delicious food, sing, laugh, enjoy each other's friendship, and possibly go on a field trip. We'll also take time to talk about tender topics like self-care, friendships and relationships, sexuality, and the excitement and emotions that are part of the package of *Moving on Up*. Register for this anytime!



JHYM Retreats are sponsored by New England Yearly Meeting, under the care of the Youth Ministries Committee. For more information and to register, go to our website at www.neym.org/jhym or contact Gretchen Baker-Smith, at hellogretchen@gmail.com or 508-287-6441 (cell phone).