

SAYF Worship Journal
Asheville Meetinghouse
March 25-27, 2011

The worship journal is the written reflection that closes the retreat with love and relative worshipfulness.

At closing circles SAYFers should look inward and reflect on their experiences, thoughts, and questions from the weekend.

The worship journal is the time we come together to express the feelings that you take from being part of a loving spiritual community.

There is no wrong way to write a worship journal, however it's shared with the wider community therefore you should not say anything private or offensive to others in it.

What did this retreat mean to you?

SAYF was exactly what I needed this weekend. I must say this in every one of these things but it is always true. The love and kindness and cuddleness of this community is unrivaled. The retreats inclusiveness theme was very much lived out. I felt unusually immersed in not only the lovely Quaker community, but also more connected to the outside community which is a nice change.

Talking with the Latino youth group really helped open my eyes to some important issues and mass was really beautiful. I love old cathedrals. The old bricks seem to absorb all of the faith of all of the thousands of people who have worshipped there. It makes me think of everyone who goes to mass or kneels at confessionals to feel clean and pure and scrub the stains of their souls and it is beautiful. But I can't help but like our way better. After a good SAYF I feel clean and pure and loving but I get to do that through cuddling and laughing and strangely being licked, or playing kung-fu bubbles, or being used as a pillow and that's pretty cool.

~ Ansley

Usually I don't write epistles, but today I am unusually awake. Must be because I fell asleep so early last night. I really dislike these allergies, sniffing and coughing through activities is not so much fun. Not to mention I need a great deal of sleep. Oh well, this retreat was fun anyway. The immigrant activity was very informative, I had no idea until yesterday about HB11 or anything like it. I took a lot of naps, so I didn't to play bubble-fu or do things like it, but I did decorate some cupcakes, they were so pretty, and they tasted really good. Going out into downtown Asheville was awesome, even though I didn't manage to get anything. I don't think I have much more to say, I loved seeing everyone again, we have a wonderful melting pot of people, like our stone soup, nobody ended up getting the stone though, Oh well.

Hopefully, I'll see you at the next retreat.

♥ Miyoshi

This SAYF was a teacher for me. I have now realized that I have a definite uncalled for fear of human beings whom I have not yet met. I think that sayfs help me to get over this odd revelation. You're all so different. I love it here because there's a lot of people to know when the weekends over. Thank you all for being awesome. (don't worry I'm only doing three shoutouts)

Emma – life as rateeted dinosaurs fits us well.

Oliver – and so the family mooned the frog for the next 20 years.

The essa's - GUESS WHAT? I LOVE YOU.

♥ Indigo

I love Asheville and its lovely Meetinghouse. Walking downtown was a lot of fun, especially the Coffee Bus, which is an old double decker bus turned into a coffeeshop. The Catholic Mass was one of the coolest experiences. I loved the interior and the exterior of the cathedral. I also loved the music and the singing sounded beautiful. I still can't believe Zan thought I was Catholic after I tried following along with everybody else.

Cupcakes are yummy, even for breakfast. Wink was fun. I love bubbles and Quakers. I love the mural in this room.

The jovenes were a cool group. I learned a lot about immigration issues. The activities were fun and educational. On my paper about education to me, I wrote "Educacion es muy importante". It's important to have education, especially in foreign languages.

I love you all. See you in April.

Signed, That One Guy (Braden)

This was a large retreat with a bunch of people and several newbies but the weekend went smoothly because y'all love and respect and nurture one another so well. I am always awed by the care and trust you show one another; the humor and good grace with which you accept your differences and allow them as true strengths.

And how I enjoyed being "Martha" in the kitchen with Laura, Kim and Robin! I'm not much of a cook but I love community and working with you removed the element of work from our tasks.

Props to Robin for all her hard work and grocery store runs and to Wren for the plans for the weekend. Ceal would have loved the immigrant presentation.

Love to all.

Mary Linda

Dear SAYF,

Whatever.

Love,

Lekey

P.S. The undocumented persons workshop was amazing, informative and emotional. I am so thankful for everything I have, especially you all.

FRIENDS! Word of the retreat. Or every retreat. For being Quakers we're not very good at the whole silence thing. So I really appreciated that thing with the group that came in yesterday morning. Its hard to realize the impact of something until you meet someone it's impacting & realize how they're just like you.

Going to mass was interesting and a good idea. It may be much different from Quaker meeting but I did notice one part where people sat in silence for a few minutes offering up prayers. I'm just a little worried that a lot of us sort of used it as an opportunity to confirm our own beliefs rather than to be open-minded to others' beliefs. There were many parts of the service that I appreciated, and there's something majestic about a whole churchful of people offering up the same prayers.

So I liked this retreat. It was kind of cramped and hot but that's okay. The taco stuff was excellent enough that I didn't have dinner.

And now (even though they're obnoxious) shoutouts.

Miyoshi: So how 'bout I knit you a hat & you crochet me one. And then we trade back massages.

Hannah: "No, the horse IS the beverage!"

Ian: Now my hair is minty-fresh. THANKS.

Lekey: Why are you always so awesome? ♥♥ Also: Use fire ALL THE TIME! Sayf in A TREE!

Madelyn: Avec le bouche comme un poisson? * 3*

Zan: I'm glad we had a lil chat.

Guthrie: I really liked your icing facial hair.

Tim: Don't let me wear your jacket. Things will get run over. ♥ ☹

Rebecca: Pretzels & icing = best idea everrrr.

Gregor: You seem pretty cool. At least, you knew what was going on in mass.

Ansley: I was surprised when your hair ACTUALLY smelled like grapes.

Well that's about it. This notebook is new so I need to write some messages in it. I hope I see y'all in April.

♥ Taylor

PS Madelyn, you're all the way over there. We can't write a story. Tristesse. I guess a refrigerator fell on you.

So, the essa are back, and this makes me happy. As does everyone, of course. You're all so great, I can't put nit into words. But anyway, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to come to my next (and last) retreat, but then I remembered that it was in April. So, yeah. Short anecdote there. This retreat was fun. Mass was kind of interesting. Stone Soup was good. Cupcakes are always good. Deporting undocumented immigrants is not good. Joseph has great ears. I love your ears Joseph, but Marvel is still better.

See you guys in April,

Ian

This was an awesome first retreat and it is awesome that I am part of the SAYF community. Noah

I first came to SAYF when I was twelve. I am now sixteen. My year has been pretty eventful. One of the hardest things I did was to come back from Oregon to TN. By coming back I accepted a huge weight on my shoulders. I have gotten very discouraged at times, it had taken me three years to get myself out to Oregon and now I am trying to get my whole family out there. But SAYF has helped me a lot, SAYF retreats give me a lot to look forward to. I am going to try my best to be to the April retreat. Luckily it is in Knoxville. After that In will be in Texas. I'm gonna need to but a cowboy hat, or maybe a bandana. I had a terrific SAYF thanks to everyone. I'm just going to shoutout a few people.

Caty You are an awesome Friend. Ainsley Dspite what you may think you are a lot of fun to talk to, Zan you rock, Lekey You da bomb, Cray, you are the funnest of Mixed Quakerly Martial Arts Partners, Braden Miyoshi, Ainsley and Caty, You are the best people to play mono-poly together, Delaney, you are my favorite pixie.

I will probably fly back for SAYMA. I love you all very much.

PS Thank you to all the FAPs for being cool adults.

Love, happiness to all,

Patrick Myers

Peace Out

Seriously Ian. How do you “accidentally” punch someone in the face while doing this little piggy? Probably the same way you accidentally lock someone in a trunk while unloading groceries.

Throbbing nose aside, this retreat was good. What did this retreat mean to me?

It meant meeting some amazing teens with so much courage and potential. It meant learning to value my education and all the opportunities I've been given. It meant seeing a different religion and finding peace during mass. It meant being all wrapped up and bundled in love and body odor and cupcake icing and light. So I guess you could say that it meant a lot to me.

Coming down the homestretch of my SAYF career is scary. What will I do without this semi-monthly oasis of calm and love? But I don't want to think about that right now.

I want to think about: How much I love you all, how lovely Asheville is, how much I love English Breakfast tea with milk & sugar, how incredible the Jovenes we met yesterday are, how happy I am to be squished between Emanuel's shoulder and Wren's legs, how nice this weekend was, how I get to spend a whole van ride with people I love, and how I'm going to take a nap as soon as I finish writing this. And because I so desperately want a nap I will stop writing. I love you all so much.

Yours smittenly,

Delaney

Dear SAYF,

This retreat was really fun! Walking downtown was really cool but I wish I had more time.

☺ The food was really good too. Well that's all I really have to say besides 1 Shout Out Rebecca - I love you Sister!!

~ Nick

This retreat came in perfect timing. I had applied for high school and finished 2 projects on Friday, so SAYF kept me sane as I wait for the outcome.

Shoutouts :D

Flannery & terra: thank you. :D

Rebecca: Stomach! Ily ^ _ ^

Jordan: Why you be hatin' my hair? D':

Patrick (nurturer): You're great at wink!

Keegan: Rebecca loves you D:

Everyone else: I still love y'all. We just don't talk enough.

~ Guthrie

→Retreats left before I graduate (not counting SAYMA) One.

→ It's crazy. I can't believe that my time as an active member of the community is slowly but surely coming to an end. I don't want to believe it almost. This community has done so many wonderful things for me over the last 4 years, and it has helped me to become the person that I am today. Thank you to every last one of you for making this amazing and diverse community possible. I love you all so very much.

→ This retreat in particular was exactly what I needed. As school draws closer to the end and graduation approaches, things are starting to become increasingly stressful and this beautiful Asheville retreat was exactly the kind of break I needed from it all. I enjoyed learning about what the immigration system is really like, and I also enjoyed mass at the basilica, despite the fact I initially did not want to go. I also played my first game of wink in a long time. My God I forgot how painful it is to play that, especially when Ian is your partner. Still, I had tons of fun.
SHOUT-OUTS

1. Everyone I love you.
2. Thomas: You're awesome and can be quite adorable. I ♥ your drawings.
3. Ansley; Your hair smells like grape. It makes me hungry. ☺

→ well, that's all I have to say right now. Hopefully I'll see most, if not all of you in April.

♥ Autumn ♥

Okay, this retreat was really nice. I had a great time. I loved getting to go back to downtown Asheville. The double-decker bus café has excellent beverages. Oh yeah and we got some cool newbies. I really enjoy hearing Zeke talk, the thing I appreciate most was that even though I had horrible luck up until I got here, I completely forgot my problems in the company of such fine people. Also, the coolest people ever came back. Tessa, Gressa, and Indigo haven't been here in over seven months. I love them so. Anyway, I hope everyone enjoyed the retreat especially the newbies and I can't wait to be back amongst you all.

Love, Tim

P.S. Noah is super adorable just like the rest of the Huber-Feely's.

P.P.S. I wonder if Zeke likes New Boyz?

P.P.P.S. Zan I love you that's all!!!

Pineapple had a best friend...who was a pineapple! They lived on a land in the ocean. (Gressa story).

I continue to be really moved by the Latino youth who joined us at this retreat, and hope that everyone can take away an increased sense of both the privileges that we take for granted, and the need for us to keep awareness of others whose struggles for those things are still on going. Specifically, these are young people just like you, whose parents' lives were so difficult that they moved their families here, in the hope of giving their children a better life. Like you, they are now old enough to be looking towards their own future, they have gone to the same schools as you, done the same work as you and had the same dreams and goals. But now they have to deal with the realization that, by no fault of their own, they don't have the options and opportunities that you do.

Hopefully, in some way, our understanding and acceptance will help them some day to be a part of the dreams we all share.

Sorry this is so long,

Love, Wren

This was a well needed weekend. Though it did not live up to my fullest expectations, it was in no way a disappointment. Downtown Asheville is a marvelous place to get lost in with your best bros by your side. The Catholic mass was just what I'd expected it to be, Holy and thoroughly boring. I've been to 3 in my life, and I wouldn't mind if that number never changed. Not gonna lie, Joseph's mine craft almost made me J***. It was most excellent. If I don't shout you out, don't hate me okay?

Willamae – WHY ARE YOU NOT HERE! We need someone to lower Ian's manliness level by like a million!

Terra – George used "Banhammer!" Lincoln's quick wit and shield of SAYF deflects it; confusing george! (next turn). HI MOM! HI DAD!

Angelina – Another heart will be coming your way soon.

Ian- Stop being so manly, you're making us look bad.

Gregor – AHHH! Ah? Ah. Ah, Ahh.

Joseph – untitled folder.

The End, Lincoln.

Since I'm writing this on the carpet, it may not turn out great. It was a lot of fun. I enjoyed all of the activities. This weekend seemed to go by so fast. I'm not looking forward to the car ride home. This is my 4th retreat. Writing on the carpet is giving this paper so many holes...its sorta ridiculous.

~ Katie