

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
**Nurturing/Steering Committee Retreat**  
**February 2014**  
**Asheville Friends Meetinghouse**

*On the weekend of February 28 – March 2, the Nurturing and Steering Committees of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Asheville Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.*

Nurturing & Steering Committees,

It's nice to have the windows open, it feels like spring ☺. This retreat felt extremely productive. It seemed especially instrumental in "shaping up" the nurturers. Hate to say it, but we needed it. Hope it continues thru to retreats.

Lately at SAYF I've felt like I don't know hardly anyone, and this retreat has really helped. Some of these nurturers I view as new, even tho I know them, and it was good to get closer to them. I also enjoyed feeling closer to the FANs at this retreat. Hope that's enough, cus I'm done.

Best wishes,  
Patrick Dunn

P.S. TRIPLE CAKE WOW OK

Dear SAYF, and anyone that happens to read this,  
Someone very special once said,  
"I'm sad because all the perfect ones don't know they're perfect."  
I want anyone who reads this to know that they ARE perfect.  
-Sven-Erik

April 2013

I love SAYF, and everyone involved in it. Everyone is so loving and awesome! It's been an amazing SAYF. I love you guys!

Love, Katye

Do other people notice how much I've changed, how much I've grown, since last year?  
Or is there a point at which my growth is so incremental that it goes unnoticed by others?  
Maybe I hide my struggle and my growth behind a façade of maturity and competence.  
Should I allow others more of a glimpse of my weakness and fear?

Dear NCSC,

*You guys know how at the beginning of every epistles book, there's that really intense sentence or two that's all like, "This is our story, they are our lives" so on so forth? I don't actually have anything to write about that, I just think it's cool.*

*This nurturing retreat was very productive in my eyes, from creating some awesome loops with Brodie & the Swags and playing B-B-Body to sitting down and creating the nurturer's responsibilities and discussing SAYF's growing population, I feel as though SAYF is finally moving in the best direction possible.*

*Much love to all, see you in March, 14*

*Anwar*

This SAYF has been extraordinary. I'm not exactly sure what about it has made it an outlier from the rest, but whatever it is, it had better keep doing its magic. I'm feeling more of a connection now that I have in the past 2 ½ years I've gone, which is a good thing in that sense, but bad in the sense that I'll be missing you more than ever.

- With love out the "wazoo"

-Levi

Dear SAYF,

This retreat has been a perfect mixture of contemplation, decisions, friends, Friends, and fun. The small number of SAYFers helped to make the spiritual environment so much stronger, and all the burdens I carried when I arrived have been washed away with the incessant love. Saturday's business meetings were tremendously fruitful, and I was glad to be able to help write the nurturers' expectations. Nurturers really do play a vital role in the SAYF community, and I am glad to be a part of them.

- Noah

P.S. Body! Body! Body! Oh wait, everybody's dead.

Being a nurturer is very strange. For me it's a mixture of stress and joy. I've always wanted to be a nurturer because I've always felt the calling to give back, but now that I'm here I realize there's a lot of hard work and pressure involved that I didn't expect. Despite the stress, I'm having so much fun with all of you and doing work with you. I agree with my mom in that we do work well together, and we are very productive. This helps me have faith in the SAYF community as things get harder and harder to manage with the growing population. I see so much in us, and know that the problems we went over will be resolved with hard work and lots of love. Thank you for this opportunity, it means the world to me.

Benjamin Chapman (Not putting full name because it's the only way to find me on google. I found my last epistle there because I used my full name.)

P.S. Sorry I can't come to SAYMA this year, but I'll be thinking of everyone.

Dear Community of SAYF

Now I have a piece of paper,  
a pen that writes,  
I can express myself  
if the right words come to me.

- Thankfulness -

I'm just thankful for you.

Thankful for the place,  
the program of SAYF.

It is always so neat to see  
where you are in your life,  
your joy and struggles,  
and how you are sharing  
all of that (or some) and  
how you are such loving  
and supportive to one another.

Thank you friends.

I am thankful...for me too.

Go well, Mari

I want to write an epistle because I don't nearly enough and I don't have many more chances. All I can think about, though, is how little time I have left here, and that's the last thing I want to think about.

I want to think about my first retreat when I swung for hours in the cold til my legs were so numb I couldn't stand. I want to think about all the stories I've heard of my sleep-talking antics. I want to think about all the nurturers I looked up to when I first started coming. I want to think about all the beautiful young new SAYFers who hold so, so much potential and that I know will keep this community what it is. I want to think about a lot of things I can't seem to put onto paper, but most of all I want all of you to think about how much I love you and please, don't ever stop thinking about it.

Rebecca

Feb/March 2014

I am overwhelmed with love for everyone at the Nurturer's Retreat. You are fantastic people. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with you. As adults, we often think we have all the answers. I have gently been shown that is not always the case. Just when I thought we had it all figured out, the youth are "but what about...?" And, more than once, the points the young people are making are more grounded in core Friends values than those of the adults. Thank you for opening my eyes. I am truly impressed and moved. I can't wait to come back for more!

Love,

Jennifer

*Thank you Friends for one of the most reeeelaxxed retreats I've ever been able to enjoy.*

*I'm very encouraged by the solutions you discerned for the challenges posed by the growth of our community. As always, you exhibited careful consideration and sensitivity in your process.*

*It continues to be an honor and a joy to serve Quaker principles with you, even when our own Steering Committee work takes us past midnight.*

*In peace,  
With Love and  
Appreciation,  
Aaron*

*P.S. After midnight, we really do let it all hand down and get really silly.*

## **November 2013**

### **Giant Crayon!**

**Normally I don't know what to do with myself during free time, but I managed here. I wish I hadn't been sick at SAYF but this is as good a place as any because everyone cares about everyone else and wants to help them. I love you guys so much, even when I got to bed early and panic and yell at people. See all of you in January. Happy Thanksgiving!**

**XOXO,**

**Grace**

**P.S. I'm thankful for you!**