

SAYF Worship Journal

April 2017 Retreat

Asheville, NC

On the weekend of April 21-23, 2017 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at Asheville Friends Meeting in Asheville, NC. This is our witness. This is our story.

I could cry. And there are two reasons why. I feel like crying because I don't want to say goodbye to my graduates, and am not ready to have next year be my last. However, I also could cry right now out of joy. This retreat kept me so happy. Correction * These people kept me so happy. I laughed more than I had in a while and I actually smiled so much that my cheeks hurt. It's almost like a dream to me. In the moment it's so pure and joyous but I can never remember the things that made me laugh so hard. But the one thing I always remember, is the love I have for my SAYFers.

Til I get to hug you again,

Your Friend,

Julia

Dear Y'allns,

Whilst in the van on the way to SAYF, I thought it wouldn't be very good because a lot of my buds weren't coming. For those in the van with me for the first couple of hours, you prolly noticed I was a lil gloomy. Then, Ella and Cora and I had a great music session and watched half of Fried Green Tomatoes, which made me super duper Alice Cooper happy. I got to SAYF and instantly remembered the warm hugs and the pure love being expressed to me. On Saturday, I layed in the sun for a bit to think and be alone, and it reminded me of the love I have for all of you. Also, the egg fights were so great. Thanks Jona for having so many blackheads.

Your local mung bean, Kenya Clo

(P.S. Darren Romeo is a straight up dick)

(P.P. S. We are princess)

Here is my last joke.

Mr. Opperknockitie was a name renowned far and wide. Musicians like Yo Yo Ma and other equally impressive names payed big money for the one thing Mr. Opperknockitie provided, cello tuning. Despite offers of grandeur and wealth, Mr. Opperknockitie refused to tune the same cello twice, for strange reasons lost to time. This was quite the inconvenience for Marlowe Fettuccini, the most famous young cellist in all of Italy. He found himself outside the Opperknockitie household holding the perfectly tuned cello he had just dropped on accident. He plucked the strings, and a disgusting sound reverberated around the alleyway. Knowing that he had a concert in 20 minutes, Marlowe raced back up to the home of Opperknockities, and burst in, saying...

"I just dropped my cello and now it's out of tune!"

Mr. Opperknockitie looked up from the cello he was currently tuning and slowly said...

“Opperknockitie tunes but once...” Much love - Levi

Dear Friends,

It felt like the wait wasn't quite as long this month and I think that's partially because I didn't want it to be the Seniors' last retreat. I hope that their last one was one for the books. For me, this retreat was very healing and the vibe was superb. A lot of my closest pals couldn't make it to this retreat, but that just gave me an opportunity to grow closer to other SAYFers. This weekend definitely had its ups and downs - from whipping up a fire theme song to Patrick 2.0 falling out of a tree. I wouldn't trade it for the world, any of it. It's very hard to express how grateful I am that Lorentho and I stumbled across SAYF and words just don't seem to do my gratitude justice. All Love. Until next time. XOXO

My first SAYF was incredible! I felt so welcome here, and I had a whole lot of fun. I'm excited to go again.

Dear Friends,

So it seems my time with this community is finally reaching its end. It's been over six years since my first non-SAYMA retreat at this very meeting house, and looking back, it's hard to believe how quickly the years have gone by. When I first started, SAYF was filled with wonderful people, whose names are not familiar to many here now.: Zan the Wink God, Patrick Dun and Austin Gittemier the siracha bros, and many others. But as those sayfers have moved on, new and equally wonderful younger sayfers have come to take their place. And now here I am, about to do the same, and allow the next generation to fill my shoes.

On an equally sentimental note, I just want to say that this has been an incredible last regular retreat for me. Despite my seniority within the sayf community, I often find myself too socially awkward to effectively involve myself at Sayf. At this retreat however, I made an extra effort to socialize in the last of my time here, and I had a blast. This is an absolutely wonderful community, and I'm sure every one of you will help keep it strong and lively in your respective tenures here.

Much love,
Ethan

P.S. the Senior Feels™ are hitting super hard holy crap. Are any of the other seniors getting this?

This retreat was crazy! From throwing Kraft singles, to Lorenzo falling, it was pretty interesting. It is also the seniors last retreat, which is kind of sad. I love you guys! Bear was cool, and I loved helping with the rap. I also gave Oliver a new nickname, olive oil. Over this weekend I have strengthened my bonds with many. Other bonds have just begun. Stay awesome always, or at least until I see you next.

Hey guess what? It's Free Real estate.

Dam this was a good weekend. Well I think I learn a lot about genders and making my own t shirts. Yea I did have a good weekend instead of falling off roofs and cussing. Yea it was peaceful. This was one big old house oh yea that cheese is still on the porch roof just sitting there crazy. Anyway these are some good people I'e hang out with and I hope to see y'all again.

- Crowbar

Lawn Chair. Ave



SAYF,

My body is tired, my face hurts from laughing, and I'm not too crazy about the thought of making the long haul back home; but my heart is incredibly happy and that makes up for all that. I loved being here while the petals were falling off the tree in the front yard and the leaves were the nice vibrant shade of light/bright green that they only get in the spring. I loved seeing your faces and I loved seeing my brother's face mixed in there as well. That made me SO happy. Thank you for being such a welcoming community. I have so much love for all of you and am so thankful to get to see my brother welcomed into this wonderful community.

All the love,
Cora