

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
April 2019 Retreat  
Berea Friends Meetinghouse, Berea, KY

***On the weekend of April 26-28, 2019 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Berea Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.***



drawing by Nanseera

Focused on details

The paint smears and runs. Now the whole is perfection.

- Robert S.

I'm kinda at a loss for words about this retreat, I think the only word I can think of is crazy. It's the simple things, like throwing the unlabeled clay pieces in the woods with Ollie and Carlton, or making good new friends such as Carmella, or having fun interesting conversations in the "bean closet" that really made this trip. There's also the bigger things, such as you know, shaving and cutting my hair, thanks Ollie. I also learned a most definitely can't dance. I did enjoy listening to everyone talk about how art has helped them, and getting to share how it's helped me. Also it's crazy to think how quite a few people are graduating. I hope SAYF is something I keep coming to for a long time. So I guess I'll hopefully see you at SAYMA, stay fresh cheese bags. - Maddie

Dear SAYF,

This retreat was one for the books. It's been awhile since we hosted a retreat, and it was so nice to share our meeting with you. Even though I lost a bet, and couldn't break my rock, I still had a lot of fun. It's bitter sweet, because as I made new connections, I realized that it's many amazing people's last SAYF. I wish we could turn back the clock a little bit, so we could have just a little more time together. Also, cake baking was wild. Please come to SAYMA!

Stay Awesome Always,

Or at least until I see you next

- Marissa

P.S. Gerald, the beg is still alive, And outside.

Hey SAYF,

I don't wanna make this so long that it's miserable, so I'll try my best. This was definitely a smaller retreat, but I honestly loved it, for many reasons:

- All the art!
- Ofc seeing all of you wonderful people
- Cutting Maddie and Maggie's hair!  
But there's also one reason I loved it, but it also made me sad.
- Our last retreat with our graduating SAYFers

I'm not so sure about the rest of you, but the thought of them leaving, makes me incredibly sad. So many memories of the SAYFs I've been to, and they've almost always been here. Anyway folks, until we meet again.

Stay fresh,  
Ollie

Gonna miss you so much Jonas. Not ready for you to leave SAYF. Love Sunshine  
Wilton

Dear SAYF,

I have to say, I really loved this retreat. To be fair every retreat is amazing but this one was so much fun. Scrambling around the creek and murdering geodes was an experience I didn't know I needed to have until now (good luck with the extra big one Marissa). All the art we did was amazing - It was so cool to listen to everyone's experience and opinions on art and create some amazing stuff. I also feel like we had so many good, hilarious conversations at this retreat and I think this retreat really brought me closer to my community. Since, very sadly, I can't make it to SAYMA I want to issue an I love you to the graduates here - I'm going to miss you guys, and things won't be quite the same without y'all.

Infinite love,  
Maggie

P.S. I can't believe I almost forgot! I have short hair now! So does Maddie! Eternal thanks to Ollie for cutting my hair, I love it and I love you!

Dear SAYF,

I'm exhausted enough that I am positive several key events will slip from my mind in my assessment of this retreat, but, nevertheless, I will do my best to continue in the Oliver Epistle style and get those memories out, list fashion onto paper.

- 1) Memphis SAYFers proved to be very cool for picking me up when I didn't have a ride from Nashville

- 2) Ollieball is quite literally the best (and most strategic) game in existence. The Ollielympics has to be a thing.
- 3) Carlton is a master pot-pot potter, and whoever made the foot face sculpture thing is also excellent.
- 4) Yeah maybe I should learn what my shirt actually says before I wear it everywhere
- 5) I was worried I'd suck at the singing and dancing activity, but I took that fear and threw it out the window, the window, the second story window
- 6) Brvh Teo is a real hero for signing up to literally everything
- 7) Those collaborative art pieces were quite excellent, hope we get to do that activity again.
- 8) Heads really were shaved. Wow.
- 9) Nanseera and I overcame great bounds to become master collaborative artists.
- 10) Nanseera ALSO played the guitar and sang incredibly, along with Callum, and whoever else participated
- 11) Mikkah, despite being sick, ended up singing BEAUTIFULLY and used karate moves so effectively on the purple ball that the sky pissed itself in fear
- 12) David's IQ is infinite for thinking of hiding behind the door of the kitchen, and is even kinder for letting me hide there with him. Even so, bear was still crazy stuff.
- 13) Our "bonfire" wasn't too pretty, but it did the trick.

Yeah, that's it. Honestly, I thought that it was interesting how we had an art and music workshop thing, but when I felt most connected to those concepts, I was drawing for fun with Nanseera and singing along to tunes in a circle.

See you at SAYMA,  
Oliver

It has been very gratifying to host the SAYF retreat at Berea. I want to thank the FANs and SAYFers who were willing to travel so far to play, create, sing, dance and laugh with us. I only hope that you all found this time as enriching as I did. And a big thank you to the Berea SAYFers for their work on this retreat and willingness to stretch themselves in leadership.

May the light be with you!

Beth Myers  
Berea FAN

Dear Friends,

This is my last SAYF and while I'm sad to leave, I am so grateful for the time I've gotten to spend with y'all. In a way the brevity of these gatherings and of our being able to attend them teaches us to value all the amazing people we interact with in our lives. I love you all and I'll miss you next year!

Love, Nanseera

I'll do it this times)



Maggie



Nevin  
(I'm sorry)



Oliver



Nina Seena



Jonas



Javy



Crowbar



Callum  
(sorry they  
look angry)



Lucas



Mikka  
(feel better  
seen!)



Julia



Marissa



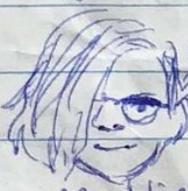
Korri



Carmetta



Ian



Maddie



glasses  
not eye  
brows

Olivia



walker



Carlton



David  
(also sorry)



Eli (me)



Jennifer



Beth



Mari



Robert



Kelly



Teo (I'm sorry  
I couldn't see you!)

Dear SAYF Community,

I have not been to Berea Retreat for some time. The whole weekend was just wonderful. I felt a lot of caring and loving among the SAYFers and FANs. Thank you for including me in this beautiful community. I was glad to experience art projects with everyone. The clay, dance, and painting activities were meaningful and they deeply touched my spirit.

Without having these activities, all these paintings in front of me now will be unexpressed or find other ways to surface...and...what would it be like then...?

Many thanks to Berea SAYFers and FANS!!!

with Light and Love,  
Mari

Thank you Berea! This was a full and fun retreat that caused me to be thoughtful about what my connections to art really are. As someone who feels “unartistic” it was cool to be invited in to try so many different mediums. Thanks for opening the possibilities for expressions. My favorite part of the retreat however was listening to the circle of singing! Go Friends! Way to express yourselves with LOUD! I’m looking forward to next year even though I will miss deeply our seniors.

With love and affection  
Jennifer

Well...It’s here I guess, my last retreat. I expected to be sad that this was the end, and I am. But more so I am filled with a reassurance that this place will always carry on regardless of if I’m here. I look around and see a group of beautiful young people who will flourish and grow. I wish I could stay to see it but I know it’s my time. Thinking back on my many years here I know how much SAYF has done for me, it’s a service I’ll never be able to repay. So I thank you all and I thank the SAYF Spirit for letting me stay, but now I must go.

Continue to be beautiful,  
Continue to be kind,  
I will always have love for this place  
and all the people in it

~ Jonas