

SAYF Worship Journal
April 22-24 Retreat
Memphis Friends Meeting, Memphis, TN

On the weekend of April 22-24, 2022 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at Memphis Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

Dear SAYF,

As I sit here, I realize my time here is almost up, I'll graduate at SAYMA. I think of all this community has given me, treasured friends, treasured memories. I will carry you in my heart always and forever and I will make the most of the time I have left with you all.

Much love

- David Myers

Dear SAYF,

Witnessing and experiencing those moments of connection at SAYF brings me such joy. Smiles, laughs, quiet snuggles, singing, piano playing, cooking, eating, puppy piles. It is such a contrast to the immense pain and cruelty that we witnessed at the Civil Rights museum and in the story of Harriet Tubman. I hope we can all expand our connection and find ways to repair and reconstruct our society. I'm daunted by that task, but I do think love and human connection must be some of the key ingredients.

Much love to all of you,

Chris

Dear SAYF,

My favorite part of this SAYF retreat was helping make the cake and the cake was good. I love spending time with you all.

Can't believe this is my last SAYF retreat before I see you all again at SAYMA. Time really does go by fast. I am really gonna miss seeing you all. Can't wait to see you all at SAYMA.

Love

Sun Shine Wilton

Cuddles, and touch, and no hint of Zoom! Looking back at history, National Civil Rights museum and Harriet Tubman but what will the next exhibit say about outlawing the teaching of Critical Race Theory? History is continuing in our name...

How to translate the love and acceptance here in SAYF to the rest of our lives?

Keep writing history/herstory/theirstory

Stoph

Memphis has a wonderful, under-the-surface beauty to it. The history is palpable: in the solemn line outside room 306, in the safehouses around the city that Jackie mentioned in her Harriet Tubman play, in the Mississippi River. It has made the weekend feel big to me, for lack of a better word. I wish I could stay longer, because I think I could spend weeks absorbing Memphis. Thank you to Walker and their family for planning something so meaningful.

And on top of it all, SAYF was still SAYF! Y'all are such goofy and loving people. I'm glad you eat cheese dip and lucky charms so I don't have to.

Much love,
Sadie

As always, my time with SAYF is extraordinary the way we make space for each other to be who we are...!

This feels like the last retreat of the year for me - I generally have responsibilities during SAYF @SAYMA that keep me from being a FAN. So I'll remember this retreat for its richness in content and in feeling. I look forward to the 1st Nurturing retreat in August 2022 to see what a summer of transition will bring. SAYF is the same and different every time.

I love you all and expect great and loving things from you in the world! No pressure.

- Jennifer Dickie
Memphis, April 2022

I'm sitting on the floor in a warm circle of friends on the last morning of this weekend's SAYF retreat. I use a wheelchair and brought my son Elijah to his first retreat. Everything about this weekend was wonderful. I feel profoundly grateful to be here with him and you!

Love,
Devin Lenz (Atlanta Friends)

P.S. I love this pen! Therefore, I shall keep it.

Pt. 1 There once was a meeting called SAYF
It was an incredible plafe.
I'm sad to be leaving
This good happy meeting
But I still haven't learned how to write limericks.

Pt. 2 Astounding madness -
Lucky Charms with cheese dip too?!!
Walker, you're the best.

Pt. 3 Super Awesome Yogurt Making Association

Pt. 4 Buckle up. Put some safety goggles on. Plug your nose. Do whatever you need to prepare, but NOTHING can truly get you ready for:
OLIVER'S X-TREME CAKE MONSTROSITY SHOWtm.

Hide your guacamole from him? No problem. He'll put eggs, takis, marshmallows, cheese dip, allegedly raw sewage (but not confirmed) and more in the grossest cakes you've ever tried. For some this task would be difficult. But for him?

It's just a piece of cake