

SAYF Worship Journal

January 2024 Retreat: Quaker Values and Civil Resistance
Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse

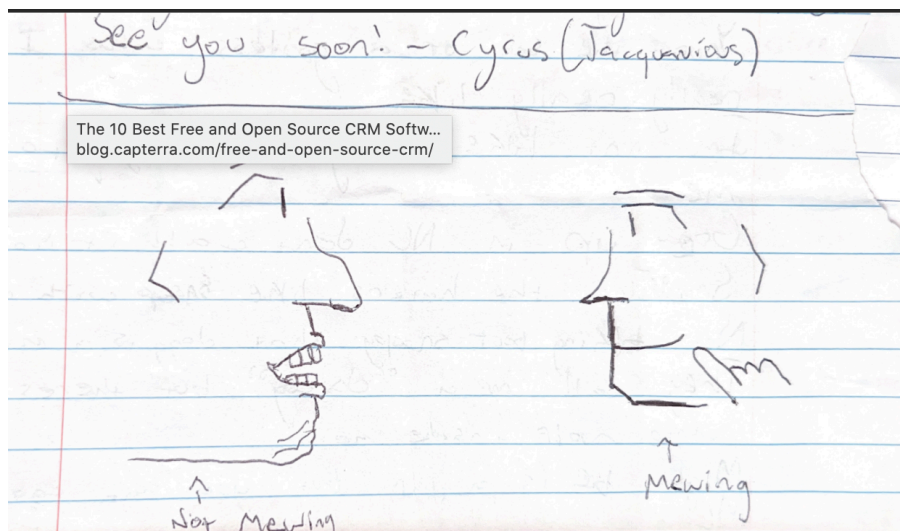
On the weekend of January 12-14, 2024 the Southern Appalachian Young Friends met at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.

I feel like I learned a lot this retreat, especially about a lot of heavy topics. Some of it was hard to hear about, but it's important information and I'm glad I know about it now. Yet again I feel difficulty in putting everything we did into words so here are a few main points that I really enjoyed.

- meeting new people
 - sleeping in a big pile in the middle of the floor
 - getting to use my pillow and blanket about 50% of the time (it was taken by Adelani and Sam for the other 50%)
 - going on a walk in the square
 - making bracelets
 - cleaning up the materials of said bracelets
 - finding a very fun new game because of George
 - cleaning dishes with CJ
 - discovering how and why gift cards are an absolute scam
 - talking about silly minecraft youtubes
 - admiring how good some people are at drawing
 - forgetting my jeans and having to go outside in shorts
 - still being warm despite the previous statement due to Zoe lending me their sweater thing
 - discovering I'm much better at smashbros than Cyris
- Thx for another fabulous retreat - Kai K.

Pickle tag: There's no need for drinking brine,
Bar Jonas Pickle made this rhyme.

He's back in green
He's sour and mean
He's got three words and he sings easy
Names BJP you heard it in back
Spitting bars faster than a government
official
attacks
Ask yo momma what she wants for
dinner, you know
what's the planet always been shunned,
pluto
I'm a sun that's hotter than the one in
the sky
Your the son of a goddess who I
really really like
I'm not like Johnny don't be trying to test
me
Grew up in NC don't call it no SC
Smoking the haters like snoop with a blunt



Not talking bout snoopy that dogg is a mutt
They call me a "dawg" but theres
some wolf inside me
Might be a jar but you can't cage this
MC
"I Love Bar Jonas Pickle" - Obie from Garfield
"BJP changed my life!!" - Robinson
"you not even te fart" - Ice Spice

In all seriousness this SAYF was wonderful. Being able to balance the fun of playing cards games (boo Kai), playing frisball (and losing) and hanging out with friends with the seriousness of learning about Cop City and the war in Gaza is nice.
See you soon! - Cyrus (Jacquamous)

I often find my brain focusing on debilitatingly sad and seemingly insurmountable problems in our world, be that Palestine, cop city, racial violence, deforestation or any myriad of other issues we face. Partially because the twitter scroll hole is a depressing place. It can be really lonely sometimes, to feel immobilized and powerless, consuming this content alone. And the answer feels deeper than "get off of social media for your self care and mental health."

It was powerful to see us sit and learn and process and reflect together this retreat. These are heavier topics than we often talk about, but it feels apt for a group of young people interested in justice to tackle questions of such weight, especially on the eve of MLK day, who gave his life for the struggle for justice.

Your collective reflections on peace and violence, policing, death, resistance, and empathy across difference were profound and I was impressed with our ability to hold such large topics together. In many ways, that feels like an answer, albeit a simple one: we are stronger together, whether we are resisting and struggling together, caring for ourselves together, cooking together, cleaning together, building the world we want to see together. Being together in love is a radical act, and it's one I'm honored to do with you all.

Until next time
Asa

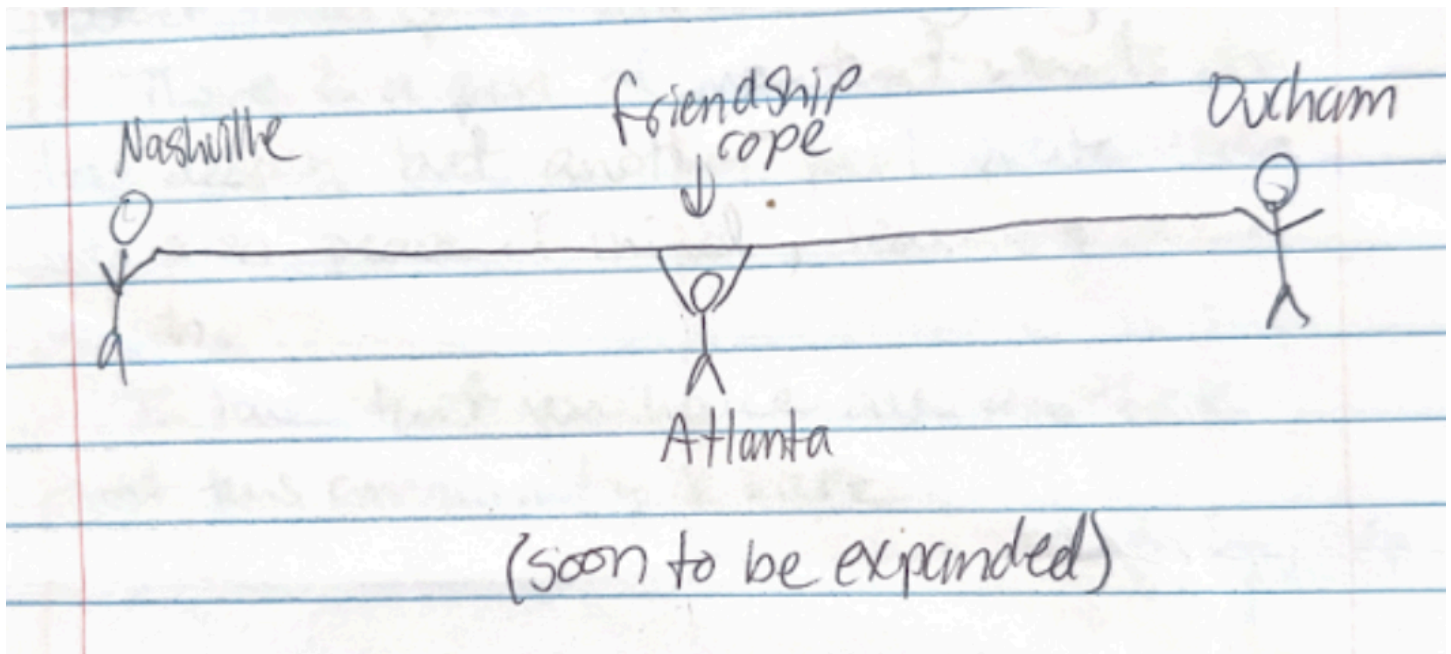
This place, these people, our shared experiences. It's magical. SAYF is a community, an identity, a family. I love being part of the push and pull, the growing and learning. I hope I give as much as I get out of our time together.

All of my love to all of you, lovelies! Find joy and rest,
Aunt Jenny

This SAYF I had lots of fun connecting with everyone and somehow finally getting an interest in art (a plus is I can share it), giving gifts, playing bear of course, and really just talking with people. Every time I come to SAYF I have a great time and this is no exception. I am going to miss you all a lot, but there is always another SAYF that I can get lots of great memories from.

:) George

Just wanna say I loved this SAYF and I love this community. I liked talking about current issues and discussing different viewpoints. Other than the serious stuff, I enjoyed making bracelets and making HUGE ropes, the friendship rope is stronger and longer! I missed SAYF during the single month it was away, and I'm glad it's back with people I love spending time with. I've said it once and I'll say it again, thank you SAYF!!



On my to-do list leaving the retreat, I have writing a letter to my senators and representatives to urge them to demand a ceasefire in Palestine. As well as refer to the Friends Committee website to learn other things I can do. And secondly to check with stopcopcity.org. But there is also a part of me heavy with doubt that my voice matters. As well as concern that I will follow through rather than get distracted by my own life. There is a part of me that wants to feel deeply but another part protecting my own peace of mind, leaving me numb. I love that you have one another, that this community is here.

FAN Danielle

thing

like what how did i actually sleep tonight - we stayed up a while last night and i'm still tired af anyway i had so much fun this retreat. like playing dungeon game (forgot what it's called) with like 9 other people, just dance with another large group, making kandi and rainbow loom bracelets, playing in frosty fest (team friends FOR THE WIN) with elijah, and could you believe it? I lasted 2 whole days without committing any felonies! must be a new record for me

jokes aside the workshop thing was cool too, i think i now understand that conflict better than before

anywayyyy i forgot what to say here alsdkjlfjslfsdj;aljsdkl;f

signed, your resident silly funny goofy little gay silly. lila

if team friends doesn't win i swear to god/nsrs

This was an incredible retreat to kick off the new year. I feel closer to you all than I ever have. Too much went down for me to tie it all together, so here are a few highlights:

- Playing the piano (typically with accompaniment) including learning a new song from Miles, and teaching one to Laela.
- Goofing around with Noah, Adelani, Sam and others (with much bonking of plushies)
- Accelerating rubber bands to ridiculous speeds with Noah and Morgan
- Playing George's fantasy card game
- Generally having a great time with loads of great people

I also appreciated the more serious discussions of politics, peace and justice, but most especially, I noticed that nobody (to my knowledge) let the heavy topics depress them for long.

We just can't help but have fun, and that, to me, is what makes SAYF beautiful.

- Lucius

Dear SAYF,

I am so glad I came. I now feel connected to the group and have friends to hangout with that I love so much. I didn't go to sleep overthinking, but surrounded with people I enjoyed a lot. I could go on and on if I could but to make things easier here's a list 😊

Happy stuff

- seeing friends after so long
- the longest rainbow loom chains
- making a ton of bracelets for friends
- hiding with people during bear (I don't know how we didn't get caught more with how much we were giggling and talking - XD)
- being able to talk to people who enjoy the same stuff I have been obsessed with for too long

thanks SAYF, I'm glad I did not give up coming to the retreats.

highlights:

- playing piano with mikey
- Na Cl burn
- staying up LATE
- our WALKS
- taking funny photos at the park
- blue's chalk makeup
- pitch perfect
- getting to know people's entire life story and family drama :)
- poking anders (yikes)

imani

I had a good time this retreat, although I was quite tired. I played chess about ten times (mostly with noah) and about half finished an origami violinist - both of which were very fun but left me feeling like I had little time to spend with anyone else. Also this is my first epistle after almost two years of going.

- Rigel

Dear SAYF,
Memories of the Jan 2024 retreat in Atlanta:

1. Success of the vegan cake
2. Aunt Jenny's refusal to share tea with me
3. A retreat of 30 teens - a wonderful sign of SAYF's flourishing
4. Early Sunday morning trip to Revolution Donuts
5. The grief felt as our speaker shared about the potential destruction of the Gazaians.
6. Sustained injuries of Bear with many requests for Ibuprofen.
7. Hugs from Sage wearing her fluffy covering.

Beth Myers
FAN

