

**SAYF Worship Journal**  
**Nurturing & Steering Committee Retreat**  
**August 18-19, 2012**

*On the weekend of August 18-19, 2012, Southern Appalachian Young Friends' Steering and Nurturing Committees met at the Swannanoa Friends Meeting. This is our witness. This is our story.*

SAYF,

This was a great first nurturing retreat. It's very interesting having so few people, but I kind of like it. This retreat seemed to go by pretty fast. I think that's because we didn't do anything yesterday except have meetings, but I enjoyed it. I'm excited to see all of you, and everyone else, at the September retreat, and I'm glad that it's only 3 weeks away. Until then, I love you all,

Asa

Hello Friends!

This past weekend was my first nurturing retreat. I didn't quite know what to expect, but I was pleased with what happened. We all got to participate in making this lovely community a better place for everybody in SAYF by making the guidelines our own and creating a better sleeping arrangement. Plus we SAW A BEAR!!! That's freaking Awesome! But besides the wonderful guidelines & wildlife, I got a chance to get closer to those I haven't spent a lot of time with. That means a lot to me. I love you all so much, more than anyone or anything at my home in Nashville. This is my last year with you all, and I intend to make the most of it by going to all the retreats, and helping to give back to a community that has given so much to me.

With a never ending love,  
Lillian from Nashville

**A Query for Swannanoa Friends Meeting:**

**If the monkey falls from  
the rafters,  
can you still hold meeting for business?**

**Somehow, despite all the business needing our attention, the Friends of our SAYF steering committee found time for a lengthy meeting with attention to the state of our lives. I felt it was incredibly cathartic and uplifting for all of us; a beautiful time of needed mutual support for the Friends who give so much to support SAYF.**

**Thank you Friends, both Young and Young at heart.**

On my first retreat since 1997, I was amazed to see how much the same everything was, though everyone was different.

Though I did not get the promised game of wink, we saw a black bear and got ice cream cones.

Living in intergenerational community felt right and I am glad to have reconnected with SAYF.

-Jonah

Dear Friends,

Once again you SAYFers awed me. In our Steering Committee meeting, we discussed the recently reported Guideline violations and the need to have you revisit the Guidelines so you could own them. None of us has the slightest desire to become the Authority at SAYF retreats so feel it is important for you to step into your responsibility as Nurturers. Wren is gifted at communicating important things clearly and directly. She explained the problem and left you to find Unity. A short time later you had not only identified all the important considerations, but had also articulated the reasons for them beautifully. Y'all totally rock!

With love,  
Mary Linda

I wrote so much this retreat that I'm not sure if there is any quality writing still left in me. We got so much done, and I'm really proud of how everyone in this group is so dedicated to keeping the community alive & thriving. I love you all so much & I don't know what I'd do without you. Hugs are my savior, and you all are some of the best hug givers in the world.

everyone is adorable

sorry

I'm bearly awake

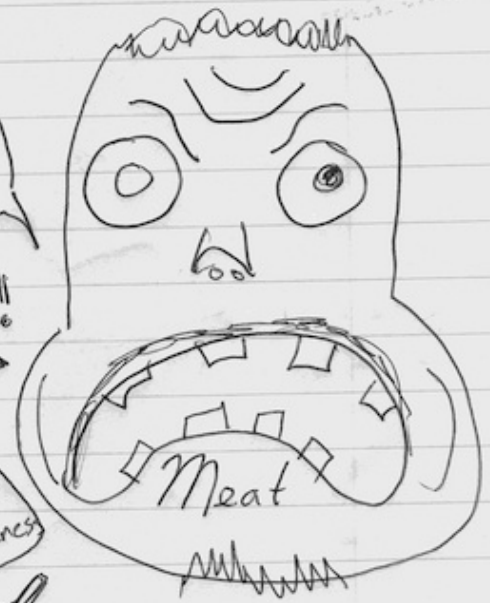
♥Emma

# BEARS!



I LIKE MEAT.

EAT MEN!



DOCTOR HORRIBLE!

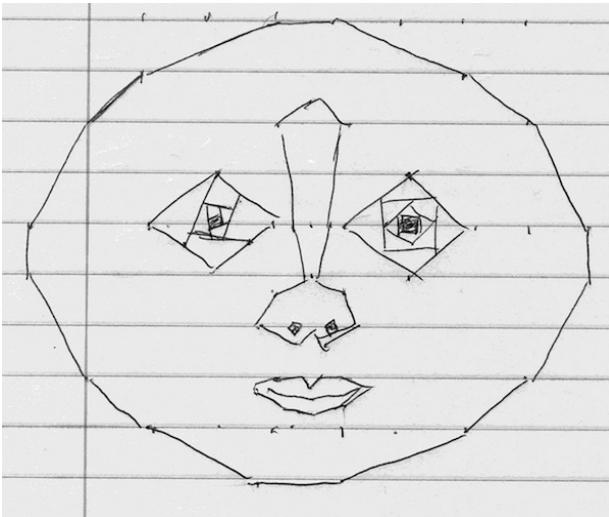
DOGS ON MOTORCYCLES!



Dearest SAYF Nurturing,

You are all quite nurturing ☺ and all exceptionally wonderful. It makes me so happy! I can't wait to see you all again along with the rest of the SAYF community. I'm glad I was able to come to this retreat since I wasn't at SAYMA and I won't be at another retreat until November. I love you all and I wish you all the best until I see you next! MWA! (that was a BIG kiss for you all.)

ta-ta for now with lots and  
lots of love,  
elise



We made some good decisions this weekend as we worked with a new nurturing committee with great potential. Sister Therese, AKA Therese Jr, AKA Jonah joined the steering committee. He is a great addition to our group. Steering committee met all morning on Saturday, and much time was spent catching up with what was going on in our lives. That was rewarding.

The nurturing committee was sixteen strong and Emma & Elise were chosen to be clerks with Madaline as recording clerk. Good job all.

Chuck