

# *Southern Appalachian Friend*

the Quarterly Newsletter of

**SAYMA**  
*Southern Appalachian  
Yearly Meeting & Association*

Summer  
2007

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**Editor: Kathleen Mavournin**

The newsletter of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), is resuming publication after being suspended for the better part of a year for lack of an editor. The issue previous to this one was the Summer 2006 issue; archivists please note: there were none for Fall 2006, Winter 2006 or Spring 2007.

Quarterly issues of Southern Appalachian Friend will appear in early in First Month, Fifth Month, Seventh Month, and Tenth Month. This schedule is admittedly not symmetrical with regard to the calendar; it is intended to follow closely on SAYMA Representative Meetings and Yearly Meeting. Deadlines for submitting material for each issue will be printed in the preceding issue (see p. 2), and will also be circulated on the SAYMA Announce email listserv about a month in advance.

Copies of the newsletter are mailed to SAYMA Monthly and Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups for distribution to members and attenders. It will also be posted on the SAYMA website and can be downloaded in PDF form. Notice will be provided on the SAYMA Announce email list when an issue is available for download. Friends who have no web access and cannot readily pick up the newsletter at their meeting house may subscribe via regular mail (notify the SAYMA Office - see below); however, to save on postage and paper, we encourage Friends to obtain SAF electronically or at their meeting house.

SAYMA Office  
c/o Liz Perch  
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## **YM Clerks, Administrative Assistants, and Standing Committee Clerks**

### Clerk

Kristi Estes (Memphis)  
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### Assistant Clerk & Personnel Comm. Clerk

Sallie Prugh (Columbia)  
assistantclerk@sayma.org

### Recording Clerk

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### Treasurer

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### Administrative Assistant

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### Nominating Comm. Clerk

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### Finance Comm. Clerk

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### Young Adult Friends Clerk

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### Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerks

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ECN@sayma.org carolciscel@bellsouth.net

### YM Planning Comm. Clerk

Barbara Esther (Asheville)  
planning@sayma.org

### SAYF Steering Comm. Co-Clerks

Mark Wutka (Atlanta) & Cathi Watkins (Athens)  
mark@wutka.com fishlabs@bellsouth.net

### SAYF Administrative Assistant

Theresé Hildebrand (Berea)  
SAYFadminasst@sayma.org

### **Deadline for the Fall 2007 Issue is September 10**

Friendly musings, concerns, humor,  
minutes, reports, notices, poems, and  
drawings would be most welcome.

Send submissions to:  
Kathleen Mavournin  
SAFeditor@sayma.org

If email submission is not possible, send to:  
344 Seven Oaks Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37922-3411  
(865) 691-9506

The editor will have to type mailed submissions  
into the computer. Short notices will be done  
cheerfully, but longer articles may not.

**Please put your name and phone  
number or email address on all  
submissions.**

### **SAYMA Calendar 2007-2008**

Fall Representative Meeting  
September 14-15, 2007  
Chattanooga, TN

Winter Representative Meeting  
November 30-December 1, 2007  
W. Knoxville, TN

Spring Representative Meeting  
April 4-5, 2008  
Atlanta, GA

2008 Yearly Meeting  
June 11-15, 2008  
Warren Wilson College  
Swannanoa, NC

## Yearly Meeting 2007, June 7-10, at Warren Wilson College

This report contains information from the registrar and the final meeting of the planning committee, and observations of your newsletter editor.

Total attendance at Yearly Meeting 2007 was 245, of whom 21 were children, 47 were SAYFers, and 177 were adults. Fourteen YAFs and one toddler stayed in the YAF dorm and 18 Friends stayed in the Simple Living dorm. Friends attended from 20 Monthly Meetings, one Preparative Meeting, and three Worship Groups in SAYMA. Eleven adults and SAYFers came from Chapel Hill and one from Friendship Meeting, Greensboro. We had visitors from AFSC, Earlham School of Religion, FCNL, FGC, Quaker House, Right Sharing of World Resources, and Rural Southern Voice for Peace.

The smiles, laughter, rope-skipping and finger snapping of our young people in JYM and SAYF were much in evidence throughout the weekend. As they reported to us on Sunday morning, their programs were well-attended, well-prepared and well-appreciated.

In business sessions, we happily welcomed the new Cookeville Monthly Meeting into affiliation with SAYMA. We approved suggestions from the ad hoc Committee on Electronic Communications for ways to cope with inappropriate behavior on our email listserves and then approved that committee's request to be laid down because its work was complete. Revisions to several sections of the Guide to Our Faith and Practice were approved and others were returned to the revision committee for further seasoning. Details of those and other business items will be found in the Yearly Meeting Minutes, soon to appear on the SAYMA web site.

We were alerted to rumors of possible changes in Warren Wilson's summer programming that may make it problematic for us to hold Yearly Meeting there beginning in 2009 or later. We did reserve the Warren Wilson campus for the 2009 Yearly Meeting, but the matter of finding another meeting site may become pressing again soon.

The faith and the diligent work of the Nominating Committee were rewarded with the filling of almost all open positions in SAYMA's Positions of Responsibility. Those newly approved for their positions are listed on page 4, along with the short list of openings remaining.

On Thursday evening, Peterson Toscano of New England Yearly Meeting regaled us with vignettes of his experiences in attempting to reform his homosexuality and succeeded not only in making us laugh but in teaching us and touching our hearts. A note from Peterson appears on page 5. Reception of the Saturday evening plenary was mixed; Jan Hoffman of New England Yearly Meeting spoke from the silence, from her experience of us and of the Spirit; some felt that her message spoke to them and others did not. The intergenerational Saturday plenary was the Hibbard Thatcher Celebration Dance, ably called by Dave MacInnes of North Carolina. The dance was a big hit but the Talent Show was missed by many and will likely reappear in some form next year.

Opportunities for worship abounded; on some evenings it was necessary to choose between them. A handsome variety of workshops was offered and the schedule was arranged to allow them more time; this seems to work well. Chat 'n Chew was very popular and crowded, and the bookstore had a very good year in a new, quieter location.

Some problems do remain for the committee to work on next year. More signage and advance directions for finding the access ramps to the lower level of Gladfelter are needed, since that is where the registration table, bookstore, and "Conference Central" were located. Improved organization and execution of the Friendly Transport System are also needed. It was suggested that volunteers be available as people are arriving Thursday and Friday to help solve problems with furniture in dorm rooms and adjust beds. Warren Wilson struggled this year with personnel shortages in the dining area, which caused long lines for meals, also a source of dissatisfaction.

For the most part, we were richly blessed at this Yearly Meeting – in the weather, in the abundance of fresh, locally grown foods, in each other's company, and, especially, in the palpable presence of Spirit moving among us.

## **SAYMA Positions of Responsibility Approved during YM 2007**

(terms are for 2 years unless otherwise noted)

Clerk: Kristi Estes (Memphis) term extended until 2008  
Recording Clerk: Bill Holland (Atlanta)  
Assistant Treasurer: Deanna Nipp-Kientz (Cookeville) (1 year; Treasurer in 08)

Finance Committee Clerk: Susan Phelan (Huntsville)  
Finance Committee: Kendall Ivey (W. Knoxville)  
Carol Lamm (Berea)  
Lee Ann Swarm (W. Knoxville)

Ministry & Nurture Committee: Margaret Farmer (Asheville)  
Jane Goldthwaite (Celo)  
Edie Patrick (Foxfire)

Ecological Concerns Network Co-clerk: Carol Ciscel, Memphis

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Joan Barnette (W. Knoxville)

SAYF Steering Committee Co-Clerk: Cathi Watkins (Athens)  
SAYF Steering Committee: Dick Houghton (Nashville)

Faith & Practice Revision Committee : Alan Robinson (Asheville)  
Edie Patrick (Foxfire)  
Ted Edgerton (Boone)  
Jonathan Schinhofen (Berea)

YM Planning Committee Clerk: Barbara Esther (Asheville)  
Adult Program Coordinator: Carol Nickle (W. Knoxville)  
Workshop Coordinator: John Potter (Nashville)  
Worship Coordinator: Chris Berg (Greeneville)  
Local Arrangements Coordinator: Steve Livingston (Asheville)  
YAF Representatives: Hannah MacDermott (Atlanta)  
Stephanie Gossett (Asheville)  
Erika Phelps (W. Knoxville)

Southern Appalachian Friend Editor: Kathleen Mavournin (W. Knoxville)

Quaker Earthcare Representative: Roy Taylor (Atlanta; Canton WG)

Quaker House Representative: Gerry Rudolph (Columbia)

AFSC Corporation Representative: Charles Schade (Charleston)

FGC Representatives (3 yr): Kristi Estes (Memphis)  
Joan Barnette (W. Knoxville)

FCNL Representative (3 yr): Charlie Wilton (Berea)

FLGBTQC Representative: Alan Robinson (Asheville)

### **SAYMA Positions of Responsibility Still Open**

4 Peace and Social Concerns Committee members  
I AFSC SERO Representative  
I FLGBTQC Representative  
I AFSC Corporation Representative

If you are interested in serving Yearly Meeting in any of these capacities, contact Errol Hess, Clerk of the Nominating Committee – [nominating@sayma.org](mailto:nominating@sayma.org)

## Southern Appalachian Young Friends Calendar 2007-2008

August 24-26, 2007:  
Nurturing/Steering Committee Meetings  
Black Mountain, NC

September 14-16, 2007: Retreat  
West Knoxville Meeting House

October 12-14, 2007: Retreat  
Old Greer House, Banner Elk, NC  
planned by nurturing committee

November 16-18, 2007: Retreat  
Chapel Hill NC Meeting House

January 18-20, 2008: Retreat  
Atlanta GA Meeting House

February 15-17, 2008:  
Nurturing/Steering Committee Meetings  
Asheville Meeting House

March 14-16, 2008: Retreat  
Nashville Meeting House

April 18-20, 2008: Retreat  
Hard Labor Creek State Park, Rutledge, GA

The SAYF community would like to extend a special welcome to Young Friends ages 12-18 who have not been able to attend SAYF in the past. Many smaller meetings don't have the resources to arrange transportation, or have trouble making some of the longer trips. We encourage Young Friends to contact the clerks of the SAYF Steering Committee (Mark Wutka - [mark@wutka.com](mailto:mark@wutka.com), and Cathi Watkins - [fishlabs@bellsouth.net](mailto:fishlabs@bellsouth.net)) to see about arranging transportation.

### A Note from Peterson Toscano

[Editor's note: I asked Peterson to send SAF the list he gave us toward the end of his plenary of ways that our meetings could reach out to LGBT people in our communities. This is what he sent.]

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be among you and share during SAYMA. Although I arrived weary from travels and activism, I left refreshed and centered. During my talk I mentioned that, as a gay man with an Evangelical Christian background, I came to Friends as a refugee. I have found safe haven among the Religious Society of Friends in Hartford Meeting and wherever I have met with Friends in North America and Europe. There are many other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people who are also refugees. They have spiritual lives but no longer have a faith community to call home. Our meetings can be places of refuge for the spiritually homeless.

In order to send out the message to LGBT people that our meetings are truly safe places that support people regardless of their sexual orientation and identity, meetings and individuals can do all sorts of things. I imagine some of you have done some of these already.

- Sponsor a film at a local or regional lesbian and gay film festival.
- Show a film about LGBT issues at your meeting house.
- Join the board of a local LGBT organization.
- Make a donation in the name of the meeting to a local LGBT organization.
- As a meeting, write a letter to the editor about a LGBT issue or news event.
- Take out an ad in a local LGBT paper or for a special event.
- Offer LGBT organizations space at your meeting house for meetings and events.
- Attend LGBT sponsored events.
- Start or offer space for a LGBT parent support group or play group for children of LGBT parents.
- Speak with your heterosexual friends, family, co-workers and classmates about LGBT issues.
- Create opportunities for LGBT people to tell you their stories.

Peterson Toscano    Theatrical Performance Activist    [www.petersontoscano.com](http://www.petersontoscano.com)    [www.beyondgay.com](http://www.beyondgay.com)

## **Report from the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT) Conference**

Judy Guerry, Huntsville Area Friends Meeting

The Second Quaker Conference on Torture was held from June 1-3, 2007 at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. Ninety-three people were registered from 19 Yearly Meetings (including Yearly Meetings in Canada and France). The QUIT convener, John Calvi, reminded those of us who came to learn and to engage in the large task of ending torture that this task will go on after us. In concert with other members of the planning team and with the support of four on-site elders, John emphasized that this work is a spiritual one, consistent with Friends testimonies over the years and needing to be carried out in rhythms of listening and responding, bearing witness and reflecting.

Throughout the conference, we listened to speakers, including Dr. Albert McCoy, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin and author of *A Question of Torture*, and Jeanne Herrick-Stare and Colonel Daniel Smith, USA (Ret.), from FCNL. We participated in workshops, including one moderated by Chuck Fager, about how churches and faith-based groups can join together to educate and agitate to bring about a strong witness against torture. We participated in interactive learning sessions with Quaker educator Peggy Brick and with Hector Aristizabal, a torture survivor who is clinical director and co-founder of CITYSCAPE, an art therapy program.

As the program booklet said, "Torture continues. So does the work to END it." I challenge young Friends in SAYMA to learn about the work of QUIT and ask yourselves if this is a work to which you may be led. Visit [www.quit-torture-now.org](http://www.quit-torture-now.org). There are resources for education and action—witness and reflection for you and for your meetings.

### **News of Meetings and Worship Groups**

compiled by Errol Hess, from minutes, newsletters & correspondence

#### **A Tale of Two Worship Groups**

##### Royal

Royal Worship Group is lucky to even have a meeting for worship at this time. There are 5 of us who sporadically attend worship and if we even considered trying to hold a business meeting, it would scare folks into the next county... Our news is that we are barely hanging on and would love for some other Quakers to move into the area to build a critical mass. (from Sara Rose)

##### Sevier County

We have a hugely successful worship group here in Sevier County. Last Sunday we had 13 attenders, and the range is between six and eighteen! We rotate our Meetings for Worship amongst our group at homes. We started November, 1998, out of a group of six members at West Knoxville Monthly Meeting. We meet the second Sunday of each month... we will touch our tenth year this coming November!

The intimacy is the key. There is no business meeting, so there is not conflict. (We did have some conflict when someone wanted to give us some money; we diverted the donor to AFSC.) Meeting in homes on a rotating basis is often crowded, and always lots of fun. Fellowship follows our worship which barely is interrupted by spoken messages. The real message is how much we love each other, and how grateful we are about such Spirit-driven worship and celebration. (from Doug Price)

#### **Briefly—**

Brevard is attempting to find someone to attend SAYMA Rep meetings... Athens suspends business meeting in summer... Charleston prepares for a Fall SAYMA Ministry & Nurture Committee visit and September All West Virginia Friends Gathering... Foxfire approved scholarship to SAYMA for a family and a young attender... Columbia responded to Quaker House's request to fund urgent repairs... Memphis seeks venue to host FCNL speaker in September.

## **Introducing Liz Perch (aka Wonder Woman) SAYMA's New Administrative Assistant**

[Ed. note: Liz wrote her own introduction. I, having known her for a while, wrote the heading]

Liz Perch is a convinced Friend and a convinced Yankee, having spent 27 years in Philadelphia where she found grad school, the Phillies, her husband Frank, and Quakerism. She now lives in Savannah, Georgia, where she is attempting to reclaim some of her southern roots without the "War Between the States" mentality of her Arkansas upbringing. Liz attends the Savannah Friends Worship Group, loosely affiliated with Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and is a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting.

Liz has worked for Quakers since 1990, first in a variety of positions for the American Friends Service Committee and then for ten years as Conference Coordinator for Friends General Conference. Since her work for SAYMA is part time, she is free to pursue passions old and new, including gardening, where she is discovering just what will grow with sandy soil, no rain, and harsh heat.

Liz has just been appointed to the Friends Journal Board and in September will be inducted as secretary of the Smocking Arts Guild of America. She serves as newsletter editor for her local needlework organization, and each year makes over two dozen "wee care" gowns for the neonatal unit of the local hospital. Now that her daughter Katie, 23 and recently graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz (and looking for a job in Philadelphia, in case anyone knows of anything), is too old to wear delicately smocked dresses, Liz contents herself with making gifts for family and friends. A serial hobbyist, she also sews, beads, tats, and dabbles in various forms of embroidery. She may eventually take up basket weaving, inspired by her father's quip when she received her BA in English and Drama from Vanderbilt: "Well, sweetheart, if you'd taken basket weaving, you'd have a skill."

Liz is a voracious reader, a fierce (and unrepentant) Scrabble player, and an avid cyclist. She works with local peace activists and supports prison work and other causes for economic and social justice. She has visited 44 of the fifty states and has plans to see four more this summer following the Gathering of Friends (leaving only Utah and Hawaii unvisited.) She recently captured an eight-inch green anole lizard which was unsuccessfully trying to live in her den and reintroduced him to the yard off the back deck.

### **Letter to SAYMA**

Dear SAYMA Friends,

At Yearly Meeting this year I heard some discussion about the Released Friend Fund and what should be done with it. It was only an initial discussion but it got me thinking about the possibilities of such a fund. Our fund now only has a few thousand dollars in it. That amount is not enough to release anyone for very long. But imagine that in a few years we have a large fund that would be big enough to release one or more Friends from the need to do their usual work for a time. Imagine then what great projects some SAYMA Friends might develop. This year I was impressed anew with the diversity, thoughtfulness and goodness of SAYMA Friends. I have no doubt that as the Released Friend Fund develops, a richness of ideas will also develop. I also am confident that with a shared vision of such possibilities, the Fund can increase both through the normal budget process and through individual earmarked contributions. I believe that the world needs what SAYMA Friends have to offer and that an enlarged Released Friend Fund can be a special way to increase that offering.

Lee Ann Swarm

## SAYMA MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Anneewakee Creek Worship Group	Douglasville GA	(770) 949-8079
Asheville Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 258-0974
Athens Friends Meeting	Georgia	(706) 353-2856
Atlanta Friends Meeting	Georgia	(404) 377-2474
Berea Friends Meeting	Kentucky	(859) 985-8950
Birmingham Friends Meeting	Alabama	(205) 592-0570
Boone Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 263-0001
Brevard Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 891-7793
Canton Worship Group	Georgia	(770) 720-4669
Celo Monthly Meeting	Burnsville NC	(828) 675-4456
Charleston Friends Meeting	West Virginia	(304) 756-3033
Chattanooga Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(423) 629-2580
Columbia Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(803) 252-2221
Cookeville Monthly Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 268-2592
Crossville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 277-5354
Foxfire Friends Meeting, Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 283-4392
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
Gwinnett Preparative Meeting	Norcross GA	(770) 315-9478
Huntsville Area Friends Meeting	Alabama	(256) 837-6327
Memphis Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(901) 274-1500
Murfreesboro Worship Group	Tennessee	(615) 895-0953
Nashville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(615) 329-2640
Oxford Quaker Meeting	Mississippi	(662) 281-8381
Royal Worship Group	Blountsville AL	(205) 429-3088
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 429-1807
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 664-0092
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

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