

SAYMA MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Aiken Worship Group	South Carolina	(803) 640-9650
Asheville Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 423-0714
Athens Friends Meeting	Georgia	(706) 309-0310
Atlanta Friends Meeting	Georgia	(404) 377-2474
Berea Friends Meeting	Kentucky	(859) 344-0406
Big Stone Gap Worship Group		(276) 546-5884 suekobak@roadrunner.com
Birmingham Friends Meeting	Alabama	(205) 592-0570
Boone Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 263-0001
Brevard Friends Meeting	North Carolina	(828) 698-2862
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) 780-4197
Cookeville Monthly Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 268-2592, (931) 268-9889
Crossville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(931) 484-9033
Foxfire Friends Meeting of Holston Valley	Johnson City TN	(423) 202-8661
Greenbriar Valley Worship Group	Lewisburg, WV	(304)832-6020 wd.bouldin@gmail.com
Greenville Friends Meeting	South Carolina	(864) 246-6852
Huntsville Area Friends Meeting	Alabama	(931) 484-9033
Macon Worship Group.	Georgia	(478) 227-8892 maconquakers@gmail.com
Memphis Friends Meeting	Tennessee	mfm@memphisfriendsmeeting.com
Nashville Friends Meeting	Tennessee	(615) 329-2640
Oxford Quaker Meeting	Mississippi	(662) 473-0230
Sevier County Worship Group	Sevierville TN	(865) 453-0130
Sewanee Worship Group	Tennessee	(931) 598-5031
Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting	Black Mountain NC	(828) 669-0832
West Knoxville Friends Meeting	Knoxville TN	(865) 694-0036

SAYMA

106 Wax Myrtle Ct
Savannah, GA 31419

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FRIEND

Spring

The newsletter of

2016

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SAYMA

Southern Appalachian
Yearly Meeting & Association

YOU ARE INVITED

to SAYMA Yearly Meeting, June 9-12, at Warren Wilson College in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. This year's theme is "Unraveling Racism."

We come together with the theme of "Unraveling Racism" to communicate "heart to heart" in an effort to live up to our testimonies of equality, community, and integrity; to make SAYMA a more welcoming spiritual home for all; and to seek justice while healing our communities. (This description was prepared by SAYMA Friends who have been and are working on unraveling racism. It beautifully sets forth our hope for Yearly Meeting 2016.)

This year's theme has already generated a lot of interest throughout our SAYMA community. We received 40 workshop proposals! – the most ever! We only had rooms/slots for 24 total (12 on Friday and 12 on Saturday). Many thanks to those of you who submitted workshop proposals. Many, many thanks to those of you who agreed to move your workshop contents to another section of Yearly Meeting, such as a meal discussion, "Let's Get Moving" on Friday afternoon (after workshops), or Saturday afternoon's "Putting Spirit into Practice". Many, many, many special thanks to those of you who agreed to postpone your workshop to another year so that those who have not had the opportunity to present a workshop could do so this year. We also increased the number of workshops offered from 12 to 13 each day (Friday and Saturday) in order to accommodate the need for more workshops. Although most workshops are related to the Yearly Meeting theme, some workshops are not. This gives us a variety to choose from. You will see a description of each workshop in the Advance Program and select your choice.

We are grateful that Vanessa Julye has agreed to bring the plenary message on Thursday night. Vanessa is Coordinator of the Committee for Ministry on Racism with Friends General Conference and is a member of Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting. She is the co-author of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*. She has published numerous articles on Quakers and racism and travels throughout the United States and abroad speaking and leading workshops. We look forward to Vanessa's guidance as we journey through our theme this year.

The Advance Program is on the SAYMA.org web site. It will also have been sent to your monthly meeting by the time you receive this newsletter. You will notice that the format has changed to shorten the Advance Program and the cost of it. Hopefully, you will find it easy to navigate. Be one of the first to register for Yearly Meeting!

PLEASE, if you need financial aid ask your monthly meeting, and then SAYMA. There are funds available for scholarships. We do not want anyone to stay away because of finances.

If you have never been to SAYMA Yearly Meeting, we hope that you will come this year. It will be spiritually nurturing, an eye-opener, and enjoyable. We work and play all weekend with a view of the majestic mountains of North Carolina. Of course, if you have come to SAYMA Yearly Meeting before, come again this year!

Carol Nickle, clerk, Yearly Meeting
Planning Committee

Come to SAYMA Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)!



Dear Friends,

Kelsey McNicholas and Mary Jahntz, JYM Co-Coordinator, invite you to bring your children, grandchildren, cousins, and other young Friends to SAYMA annual meeting at Warren Wilson College June 9 to June 12, 2016.

Here are the top three reasons why:

1. Junior Yearly Meeting is **big fun** for young Friends.
Games; crafts; farm tours; storytelling; music; nature; bubbles; swimming; laughter; community building; Quaker history and practice; cooking; sharing talents with the wider community; and reflecting on this year's theme, "Unraveling Racism," with the wider community.
2. It's a great way for your family to **connect** with the wider Quaker community.
For so many families, friendships are built and memories made at SAYMA that significantly enrich their children's lives. Friendships that last a lifetime are made here.
3. **Kids are free.**
SAYMA wants our youngest Friends and Quaker families to be a part of the yearly meeting community. Registration fees and meals are subsidized for young Friends until they are eligible to participate in SAYF (rising 7th graders) and they are allowed to stay with their adults for no additional charge.

Young Friends from age 4 to rising 6th graders are welcome to attend Junior Yearly Meeting. If your child is younger than 4, please email Mary at maryjahntz@gmail.com by May 16, 2016, to see if/how JYM can work for your family too!

Once you register, we will contact you with details about our planned activities and medical release forms. You can also email Mary directly if you have any questions.

With love and light,

Kelsey and Mary

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE AND NORTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC FACILITIES PRIVACY & SECURITY ACT (HB2)

The North Carolina General Assembly recently passed HB2, Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, which came immediately to our attention. Larry Ingle (Clerk of SAYMA) and Carol Nickle (Clerk of Yearly Meeting Planning Committee) prepared a letter to send to Steven Solnick, President of Warren Wilson College asking the College to issue a public statement in response to HB2. As our letter was being put in the envelope to mail, we saw that President Solnick had just posted a statement to the community on the Warren Wilson web site. We went ahead and sent the letter with a large hand-written "Thank you" after the signatures. Both our letter and the public statement by Warren Wilson are below.

Guilford College and Montreat Retreat Center (Presbyterian) have also posted statements in response to the discriminatory legislation.
Submitted by Carol Nickle

from SAYMA:

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) consists of Quaker un-programmed monthly meetings (churches) in the Southeast. We have held our annual meeting at Warren Wilson College for more than twenty-five years. We look forward to being on your beautiful campus for our meeting this year June 9-12th.

Our testimonies include an emphasis on equality and equal opportunity for all. We always feel welcome at Warren Wilson College. We appreciate the College's emphasis on simplicity, care for all life, community, and equality. We are a diverse group of Quakers: straight, gay, lesbian, transgender. Because of the North Carolina General Assembly's recent passage of the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, several Quakers in SAYMA have questioned whether we should move our annual Yearly Meeting gathering outside the State of North Carolina. It is important to us for Warren Wilson College to make a public response to this discriminatory legislation, which flies in the face of equality and dishonors some of those in our community of faith, so we hope that you would do so.

We look forward to hearing from you about our request.

Sincerely,
Larry Ingle, SAYMA Clerk
Carol Nickle, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Clerk

We too often bind ourselves by authorities rather than by the truth.

--Lucretia Mott

Read more at:
http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/l/lucretia_mott.html

from Warren Wilson College President Solnick:

The North Carolina legislature's passage last week of a new law barring local anti-discrimination measures (known as HB2: "Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act") has been greeted with concern and alarm on many college campuses across the state, including ours.

The Warren Wilson community remains deeply committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We support members of our LGBTQ community who may not feel safe and welcome in the state as they express their dismay over this legislation. We reject any and all appeals to homophobia and transphobia, as we also condemn appeals to racism and misogyny in this election season.

I want to make it clear that the restrictions in the new law apply to public agencies and schools. As a private institution, our policies and operations are unaffected by this legislation. We are and remain committed to the dignity of every person. Our non-discrimination policy (Employee Handbook 2.010.10) states explicitly: "Warren Wilson College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender or gender identity, age, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation, in the administration of its educational policies, recruitment or admission of students, scholarship, grant or loan programs, athletic or other College-administered programs, employment procedures, training programs, promotion policies or other related personnel practices."

With regard specifically to bathrooms, the College continues to encourage community members and visitors to use bathrooms aligning with their gender identity, and we are committed to ensuring that all single-occupancy restrooms on campus have consistent gender-neutral signage.

We will continue to work with our students, faculty and staff as well as community leaders in Asheville and Buncombe County to address the consequences of this legislation and uphold the values of human dignity and social justice at the core of our College's mission.

Sincerely,
Steven L. Solnick, President

NEWS OF MEETINGS *Adapted from meeting minutes*

Athens The meeting continues its search for a permanent place to meet.

Atlanta AVP training for facilitators in October.

Berea All Kentucky gathering took place weekend of Sept. 11. New minute on marriage under care of meeting following recent supreme court ruling. Reported that rent covered 50% of the cost of the meetinghouse. Meeting for Healing. Building renovations considered. Member reviews scheduled for 2016.

Charleston Served Sojourners breakfast, and provided gifts for 28 children. Men's shelter dinner in February.

Columbia Building use committee formed. Hiroshima vigil attended by 52. Meeting moves forward to install solar electric system. Meeting provided support to Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Cookeville Projects: Susie Black memorial fund, Dime a Gallon fund for environmental projects, ecumenical picnic, High School Witness table, roadway cleanup, interfaith peace project.

Greenville 2016 Piedmont Friends Gathering's theme will be a focus on race relations and the need to foster greater racial comity. Meeting donations included Center for Development in Central America, Foothills Family Resources, Quaker House, Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, Safe Harbor, Concerned Citizens

for Animals.

Nashville Meeting hosted Southern Appalachian Young Friends retreat over MLK weekend.

Memphis Meeting provided space for AVP program. Meeting published two pamphlets: an overview of Quaker history and a description of how members discovered Quakers. Three others describe the meeting to newcomers. Budget cuts due to reduced income.

West Knoxville Replaced AT&T phone service with TracFone. Approved additional \$500 to SAYMA to assist budget. Friends approve charge to Earth Care Committee. New Jim Crow book club. In lieu of taxes payment to Community Action Committee's Gifts of Sight, Hearing and Dentures.

This meeting news column is compiled from meeting minutes and newsletters based on what may be of general interest to SAYMA readers. If your meeting is not included, it can be by sending minutes to errol@kitenet.net. Even better would be a short article from your meeting about topics of general interest.

Unfortunately, my computer is unable to read zip or docx files. Please send in email bodies, pdf odt or doc formats. Minutes from Athens, Celo and Greenville were received in unreadable formats.

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT

The *SAFriend* is YOUR newsletter! All contributions are welcomed, needed, and will be put to use!

Following are projected deadlines for the next year:

- **Fall 2016:** Labor Day weekend, Friday, September 2
- **Winter 2017:** the Friday before MLK Day, Friday, January 13
- **Spring 2017:** last Friday in March, March 31

Please send digital submissions for the *SAFriend* to Beth Ensign: h.e.ensign@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all of those Friends who regularly contribute thoughts, writings, and suggestions. I could not do this without you: a newsletter cannot be produced without copy.

FROM KABARAK TO PISAC, FWCC Calls us to Preserve Creation

At the world gathering of Friends in Kenya in 2012, FWCC delegates came to unity on [the Kabarak Call to Peace and Ecojustice](#), a prophetic document calling our generation to the kind of response that early Friends called and held each other to during the English Civil War of the seventeenth century. In Pisac, Peru this February, delegates came to unity on another minute, this one calling each Yearly Meeting to specific actions to slow down the pace of global warming, habitat loss, and other egregious ecological problems. Kabarak asked us to search our souls and act. Pisac, observing the lack of action among us, urged meetings to come up with two actions within a year to address humanity's greatest challenge.

SAYMA Earthcare Action Network, blowing on the remaining embers of our Ecological Concerns Network, reconstituted SAYMA's environmental witness committee last spring, with the goal of engaging SAYMA more widely and deeply in addressing this historical challenge. We were deeply moved by the Kabarak Call, a unifying and prophetic document asking Friends to again take leadership in addressing a global problem, one that must be met within our generation – or sooner. Now, FWCC again pushes us to awaken from our complacency with industrial era habits, and our little committee, which often feels like a remnant, has been stirred to action. The purpose of this article is to inform SAYMA Friends about the [Pisac Sustainability Minute](#), and of our intention to raise it up at Yearly Meeting as a beacon to action. To this end, we will host a workshop on Friday, “Creating an Earthcare Action Plan,” with the goal of bringing action items to business meeting sessions if we reach unity.

The Pisac Sustainability Minute is posted on the SAYMA website at the Earthcare Action Network page. I excerpt here the essential statement: “The Light of Christ...calls us to preserve this Earth for our children, our grandchildren and all future generations to come, working as though life were to continue for 10,000 years to come...Our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of our planet Earth. We see that our misuse of the Earth's resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and well-being, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for stewardship of our natural world. We love this world as God's gift to us all. Our

hearts are crying for our beloved mother Earth, who is sick and in need of our care.”

Specifically, the Pisac minute asks each yearly meeting to “initiate at least two concrete actions on sustainability within the next 12 months. These may build on existing projects of individuals or monthly meetings or they may be new initiatives. We ask that they encourage Young Friends to play key roles. We ask that meetings minute the progress and results, so as to share them with FWCC and Quaker meetings.”

SEAN clerk Lisa Taylor Rose just posted a letter to SEAN representatives, bringing the Pisac minute into integration with the Yearly Meeting theme. “Identify a significant eco-justice issue that is local to you and is especially affecting the poor and/or people of color.” She also tells monthly meeting reps to SEAN to expect to hear from a member of our committee before May 1 to get updates on what your Monthly Meeting as a whole or individuals in the Meeting are currently doing to address Earthcare and/or environmental justice issues. Be on the alert for this call.

In Celo Meeting, we are excited to be in the incubation phase of Matt Riley's proposal for a WOOFer -like farm internship program for young people to be hosted by SAYMA Meetings, working in both rural and urban farm settings. You will be hearing more about this at Yearly Meeting.

Meanwhile, Lisa is visiting two SAYF retreats this spring to bring earthcare before the next generation of Friends. The first was at Celo in March, with an upcoming retreat in Atlanta in April. Remember, Friends, that SAYF's world is ours in trust. Please hold them in the Light as you live your lives in a manner that might bring them the opportunity to do the same when they ripen into adulthood.

SAYMA Friends, come join us as we both discern and celebrate this work at Yearly Meeting. May our remnant grow into a full quilt and a rousing chorus.

Bob McGahey, *Celo*,
for the SAYMA Earthcare Action Network

Ten Life Lessons in A Quaker Book of Wisdom

On March 10 this year my granddaughter Zoe celebrated her 14th birthday. The older she gets, the more challenging it is to find a gift for her, something more than the requested clothes. How can I share the insights and gifts I've found among Friends? I was considering this question as I read *A Quaker Legacy: Ten Life Lessons*, the last chapter in **A Quaker Book of Wisdom** by Robert Lawrence Smith, written

especially for his grandchildren. It is a wonderful summary of important lessons, and while not unique to Quakers, they are the ones I want to teach and pass on to her and others. I created my short version of his summary and sent her this:

Mary Ann Downey, *Atlanta Monthly Meeting*

- 1. Seize the present.** Make the most of your time every day of your life. Everything we do matters.
- 2. Love yourself, whatever faults you have, and love the world, however bad it is.** When you learn to love the world, you see it anew, as the imperfect home of everybody and everything in nature, the place where we all live together trying to do the best we can.
- 3. Stop talking and listen to what you really know.** You know far more than your parents or anyone thinks you do. You know a lot of big and important things in your heart and through your common sense.
- 4. Play soccer! (or whatever team sport you love).** Some of the things team sports can teach you:
 - Be ready for anything, knowing that there's only so much you can control.
 - Function at your highest level, knowing that you are only one person in a company of equals.
 - Remain composed under pressure.
 - Get to know and enjoy the variety, uniqueness, and humanity of people who may be very different from you.
 - Experience the happiness that comes from doing your best and from performing well.
 - Learn to keep going despite overwhelming odds. Learn to win and lose gracefully.
- 5. Accept the fact that our lives are only partly in our own hands.** Luck, the actions of other people, and a host of circumstances beyond our control will invariably affect the outward shape of our lives.
- 6. Believe in the perfectibility of yourself and society.** Plato said "The strangest of all the mysterious things within us is our unceasing preference for the best."
- 7. Make your love visible in the world through your work.**
- 8. Seek justice in the world, but not in your own life.** Don't get hung up by the unfairness you may perceive in your own life. Work with what you have and never look back.
- 9. Look for the light of God in every person.** The challenge that defines our humanity is seeing the divine in other people.
- 10. Let your life speak.** Have the courage to let the best that is in you direct your actions.

The Seeds of Revolution

The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred in their bones. Mark Antony: Julius Caesar

The seeds of the American Revolution were nurtured during the Boston small pox epidemic of 1721. One of the major players in the crisis was preacher Cotton Mather who is famous for his involvement in and failure to vindicate the condemned “Salem witches” in 1692. Nevertheless, he must be credited with introducing the practice of veriolation (immunization) with small pox virus to America. He convinced physician Zabdiel Boylston to use the method just published in the Royal Society’s *Philosophical Transactions* in 1716. The journal happened to also contain Mather’s scientific observations. He became a member of the Royal Society.

The local physicians were adamantly opposed to the practice and expressed that opposition in the new paper *The New England Courant* published by James Franklin, Benjamin’s brother. The paper was written by a bunch of young rowdies expressing their antiestablishment hoots under pseudonyms. The paper was modeled after the *Spectator* which influenced James when he was training in England.

Boston and Massachusetts had been at odds with the English governors for decades and even ejected one under armed revolt. The small pox injection was just one of many controversies the writers used for fodder. The government, Congregational (Puritan) ministers and Harvard were others. Soon a series of satirical letters appeared, written by a person unknown to the writers, under the pseudonym Silence Dogood.

The epidemic raged while the government and other news sources ignored the crisis. Boylston continued to inject the virus in spite of violent opposition. The disease following the injection of the virus was only slightly milder than the one naturally acquired. He reported only one death in an elderly woman. Later his practice of veriolation was recognized in England where he presented his narrative of case studies. It is recognized as the first use of what would be called statistics.

The government indicted James and sent him to jail without due process. The *Courant*’s stories of this occurrence would be used in the famous Peter Zenger case establishing freedom of the press in 1734. While James was in prison, Ben Franklin became the publisher of the *Courant*. Eventually, the writers discovered that Silence Dogwood was Ben and the letters stopped. When James was indicted again, he turned over the paper to 17-year-old Ben whom he had to release from his indentured agreement.

The estranged brothers split when Ben escaped to Philadelphia and James moved to Newport, RI. James died of tuberculosis but not before reconciling with Ben. Ben’s experience in the newspaper allowed his self-education and contact with enlightenment ideals. His autodidactic experience would prove him a wise man and a mediator through the rest of his life.

General Washington might have lost the Revolution had he not sent half of his army home in 1778 to be veriolated when an epidemic swept through Philadelphia. Earlier, the invasion of Canada was stopped cold by small pox in the invading army.

Cotton Mather’s influence and health continued to deteriorate. He died seven years after his recommendation of veriolation, at age 65. His ruminations about the spread of small pox led to his expression of a “germ theory” of contagion. History has remembered his “evil” rather than his “good.”

The evolution of freedom of the press traveled from the Peter Zenger case to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to the Ellsberg’s pentagon papers case at the Supreme Court (1971) to Edward Snowden and Julian Assange today. The government continues to obfuscate.

This narrative is abstracted from Stephen Cass’s 2016 history: **The Fever of 1721 - The Epidemic that Revolutionized Medicine and American Politics**. Boylston’s description of his experience using veriolation, published in his book, reveals the horror: *Purple spots, the bloody and parchent Pox, Hemorrhages of Blood at the Mouth, Nose, Fundament, and Privities; Ravings and Deliriums; Convulsions, and other Fits; viollent inflammations and Swellings in the Eyes and Throat; so that they cannot see, or scarcely breathe, or swallow any thing, to keep them from starving. Some looking as black as the Stock, others as white as a Sheet; in some, the Pock runs into Blisters, and the Skin stripping off, leaves the Flesh raw ... Some have a burning others a smarting Pain, as if in the Fire, or scalded with boiling Water ... Some have been fill’d with loathsome Ulcers; others have had deep, and fistulous Ulcers in their Bodies, or in their Limbs, or Joints, with Roteness of the Ligaments and Bones; Some who live are Cripples, others idiots, and many blind all their Days.*

One of the major medical successes of the last century was the eradication of small pox in the world.

Perry Treadwell, Atlanta Monthly Mee

