

SAYMA YAF Report - April 6, 2024

The SAYMA Young Adult Friends have had 2 business meetings since the SAYMA Yearly Gathering. We have a Discord server we continue to utilize where YAFs are welcomed to reach out and be in community with one another. Various meetings have hosted YAF potluck dinners and we are hoping to hold a retreat later on this year for all SAYMA YAFs. We've continued to check in on each other through the year, bonding with one another and holding each other in the light through joys and sorrows.

The SAYMA YAFs are incredibly grateful for the following individuals who have answered a calling to clerk for us: Guthrie (Atlanta Friends Meeting), Zoe (Asheville Friends Meeting), Levi (Berea Friends Meeting) and Jackson (Berea Friends Meeting). The SAYMA YAFs have adjusted the clerking rotation to better adapt to our commitment capacity. Once every three months we choose a new Assistant Clerk, and the prior assistant clerk becomes Clerk of the SAYMA YAFs. Two clerks allows us to ensure that no individual person feels the full weight of clerking alone, and the shortened timeline allows flexibility for changing commitments and availability. Currently our Clerk is Levi and the Assistant Clerk is Jackson. The best way to reach SAYMA YAFs is through yaf@sayma.org.

We are thankful for Laura (Atlanta Friends Meetings) and Lincoln (Berea Friends Meeting) who have stepped into the YAF finance committee to help us understand and steward the financial gifts that SAYMA has given us. Currently this money is used for retreat scholarships to assist YAFs as they travel for Quaker events or workshops. (should we include actual numbers here? Personally, I think we should be transparent here - it's a normal budget)

We are thankful for YAFs who have stepped into other SAYMA committees as well. Sven (Atlanta Friends Meeting) has stepped into the SAYMA Planning Committee since October 2023, Joel (Asheville Friends Meeting) has stepped into the Faith and Practice Review Committee since February 2024, and Maggie (Birmingham Friends Meeting) will be stepping down from the SAYMA Ministry & Nurture Committee after 2 years with them in June 2024.

We nominated and approved Jackson (Berea Friends Meeting) to represent SAYMA YAFs as he travels to South Africa and attends the FWCC International Friends Conference and the YAF conference that will happen prior as well. We also approved the use of funds from the SAYMA YAF trust that is being stewarded by our treasurers.

SAYMA YAFs have also approved the following minute about the Palestinian genocide:

As Friends, we call for an immediate ceasefire in all of Palestine and ceasing of any and all US support (military, financial, and otherwise) to the Israeli government. As pacifists, we keenly perceive the difference between peace-keeping (which often obstructs true peace in favor of the maintenance of more implicit systems of violence) and peace-making (which centers justice and conflict reconciliation). We perceive that the language used by Friends must be clearer than "conflict" or even "war," when our practical and spiritual witness is that of Occupation and Genocide. We feel that the work to come in the aftermath of the attempted genocide of the Palestinian people must prioritize liberation, and center and lift up the voices of the oppressed.

We look at our Quaker histories of support for Palestinians. We hear our Jewish siblings and Black siblings who have articulated for many decades that collective liberation is a moral, political, spiritual, philosophical, and practical imperative. We uphold this call in America, in Palestine, and in every place that the light of humankind is burning