

**Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Support Committee Report to SAYMA**  
**Submitted by Laura Lane, clerk**  
**June 2024**

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We were excited to return to the Berea campus this year. Due to small numbers last year, we offered a combined JYM and Playcare program for ages 2-12. We also offered babysitting for children under 2 years of age.

We were pleased to have many more children in attendance this year. There were 16 children registered, ages 4-12. They represented 6 different monthly meetings or worship groups and included several first time attendees.

Our staff this year included program coordinator Laura MacNorlin (Atlanta) with assistants Asa Kramer-Dickie (Atlanta), Hugh Thomforde (Cookeville), and J Thomas (Atlanta). We are also supported by the JYM committee and volunteers and families from the broader SAYMA community.

Childcare at SAYMA does many things:

- Allows parents and guardians to attend SAYMA adult programming
- Builds a community among our youngest friends through nurture and play
- Allows parents and guardians to share in a Quaker parenting community
- Engages other adults in SAYMA with our young friends through volunteer opportunities

The JYM support committee continued meeting through zoom this year, meeting monthly through the winter and spring.

We are so pleased that we were able to hold two JYM family retreats this year. This fall retreat in Asheville was attended by 18 Children from 5 meetings. The spring retreat was held in Nashville and included 5 children from 3 meetings. We believe that these retreats will continue to strengthen the JYM community and hope they will encourage higher attendance at SAYMA in future years. Almost all of the children in attendance at SAYMA this summer attended one of the retreats this year. The children were delighted to see each other upon arrival to Berea, and inquired about children who were not present. They are building a strong community that extends beyond the confines of the summer sessions.

We continue to believe that childcare at SAYMA creates opportunities that nurture the spiritual life of children and adults that will encourage families and other Friends to continue to attend as their children grow.

Laura Lane (Asheville), clerk  
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Rose Black (Cookeville)