

**Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Support Committee Report to SAYMA**  
**Submitted by Laura Lane, clerk**  
**June 2025**

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Due to anticipated lower numbers, we again offered a combined JYM and Playcare program for ages 2-12. We also offered babysitting for children under 2 years of age.

Children's attendance was down a bit this year. There are 10 children registered, ages 2-11. They represented 6 different monthly meetings or worship groups and included a couple first time attendees. Most of the children attending have been with SAYMA since the time they were toddlers, and it has been a joy to see their friendships grow and deepen over the years.

Our staff this year includes program coordinator Laura MacNorlin (Atlanta) with assistants Connor McMahon (Atlanta), Hugh Thomforde (Cookeville), and J Thomas (Atlanta). We are grateful that three of our four staff are returning from previous years and already have relationships with most of the children. We are also supported by the JYM committee and volunteers and families from the broader SAYMA community.

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

We had hoped to continue our momentum with the JYM family retreats. Our fall retreat was to be held in Asheville and had to be cancelled due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene. In the spring, the Atlanta meeting was already hosting the QREC (Quaker Religious Education Collaborative) annual conference. We invited our SAYMA families to attend that conference, but did not have a separate family retreat. We hope to rekindle these retreats next year, as we believe these retreats will continue strengthening connections between children and parents and grow our JYM community in SAYMA. We are hearing from many meetings that they are finally beginning to have families and young children return, post COVID. We hope to continue our outreach to these new attenders to pull them into our larger SAYMA family community.

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

Alexis Hamnett (from Nashville, continues to be involved with our committee on her own)

Rose Black (Cookeville)

Laura MacNorlin (attending as JYM coordinator)