



Report to Bethesda Friends Meeting on the Work & Mission of

William Penn House

The William Penn House is a hospitality center on Capitol Hill rooted and grounded in Quaker faith and practice. By offering economical lodging, seminars and workcamp experiences, William Penn House engages people from all walks of life with issues of peace, reconciliation, social and economic justice, and environmental awareness. Penn House supports and celebrates those who "speak truth to power" and seeks to make visible the Quaker values of peace, community, simplicity, equality and truth.

Many Friends are aware of the monthly Potluck and Discussion series that William Penn House offers at its location at 515 East Capitol Street, SE Washington, D.C. 20003. This very evening, for example, Bridget Moix, Friends Committee for National Legislation's Legislative Secretary for Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict, will be sharing thoughts and reflections on what we have learned from the past decade that we can take into the future. (September 11, 2011 - 6:30pm - 9:00pm). The announcements of topics and dates for the Potlucks are regularly printed in the BMM newsletter and bulletin, but Friends may also sign up for an electronic reminder on the William Penn House website <http://williampennhouse.org/home>

Another important program that is related to Bethesda Friends Meeting is Washington Quaker Workcamps. Since 1986, WQW have provided opportunities for people of all ages to participate in community service marked by learning, experience and reflection. A unique partnership with Sidwell Friends School results in both WQW experiences locally and at a distance, including most recently the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. On October 9, 2011, Sidwell will be hosting a tea to celebrate the association. More details will be announced soon and members and attenders of BFM are most welcome.

Gail Thomas has provided a steady liaison role between BFM and William Penn House for the past two years. In November 2010 Jackie DeCarlo joined Gail as a BFM representative and began serving on the WPH Board of Directors. WPH has an annual budget of approximately \$365,000 and a staff of about 6, including interns who live at WPH and help provide "radical" hospitality. This fiscal year BFM allocated \$900 for WPH general support and another \$900 for the WQW program.

~ submitted by Jackie DeCarlo, September 11, 2011