

Penn Notes

William Penn House

February 2008

Instruments of Peace — by Byron Sandford

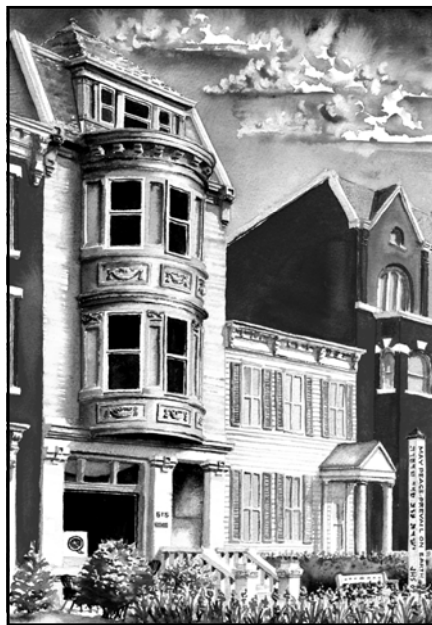
Now that we have upgraded the William Penn House with warm colors, comfortable furnishing, central air and an energy efficient heating system, we have reaped these benefits with near capacity occupancy. We have nearly five years experience with Washington Quaker Workcamps which through experience, reflection and service each participant develops a deeper appreciation of others while they provide a genuine service to those whose lives are challenged through age, poverty and misfortune.

We have sought to nurture and to develop meaningful programs on peace, racism and activism for all age groups. We are now working to address and to help bridge the issues of faith surrounding AIDS/HIV.

Each month we continue our series of potlucks and dialogues where local Quakers share their leadings, ministries and commitments and encourage us to continue the Quaker legacy of spirit led service.

If we are to truly to be instruments of peace then we as individuals and collectively as a society must recognize that peace is a life changing process that includes consuming less. That includes being engaged in the lives and welfare of all. To live our lives with purpose we must recognize that how we live our lives is as important as what we believe.

At the William Penn House we host as guests, as program participants and as speakers, members of most of the world's faiths. These fellow travelers can be described as true believers and they share with us that faith is grounded in love and acceptance and they, too, are dismayed when hatred and violence are justified by any religion.



Watercolor by Joseph Harrison Snyder

As Quakers, we must live our lives as if each day were our last and with the understanding that change like evolution is slow and incremental. We must be grounded in the spirit and be open to continuing revelations of the divine. When we realize that we walk this way but once, that there is God's time and people's time, we can better appreciate our gifts and our obligations to living our lives fully and simply.

We continue to recognize that there is that of God in each of us. Since each life is precious, we will help to make this a better world. Here at William Penn House our goal is to be instruments of these changes and to be part of the process that enables each of us to be truthful to our faiths' core beliefs. ■

*Donate On-Line or
Make Your Reservation On-Line
www.WilliamPennHouse.org*

Byron Sandford is the Executive Director
of the William Penn House

Washington Quaker Workcamps

In 2007, Washington Quaker Workcamps (WQW) conducted over 60 workcamps involving over 500 students, teachers, and families. In February, we hosted a group of 18 Chinese students from the Jiangsu Province of China, who spent 3 wonderful days with us to discuss issues of common and uncommon grounds.

My interest and goal with Washington Quaker Workcamps has been deciphering the connection between privilege, poverty, politics and responsibility. In April 07, this year we ran our first Seminar–Workcamp project with New Garden Friends School of North Carolina. For one week the group served, mingled with the homeless, reviewed, and discussed national policies on homelessness, trained how to lobby and finally went to Capitol Hill to lobby their congressional representatives. The group’s response to this workcamp was inspirational as some of them stated that for the first time, they felt powerful and important.



Since January 07, Washington Quaker Workcamps and Georgetown Day School have been working at the home of a 75-year-old woman with cancer, and in spite of her circumstances, takes care of her partially disabled 54-year-old son.

Since we began working at her home, 150 students have participated in the construction work. We replaced the living room and dining room ceilings, which collapsed 3 years ago.

The year 2008 brings new challenges, new promises, and hope as we continue to expand

our programs to reach a wider spectrum of people and institutions.

One of these challenges is a change in leadership. I have chosen to move into a position with an organization called Search for Common Ground. My resignation brings with it the potential of change in the WQW program and the hope of continued quality service to our neighbors here in D.C. and inspired learning for WQW participants. During this transition, Benjamin Tipton will be WQW interim coordinator until a new coordinator will be hired later on this spring.

I am grateful for the time I have spent with WQW and all the support that WPH has given during my time with Washington Quaker Workcamps. ■

Felix Unogwu

New WPH Programs Coordinator

Since arriving at the William Penn House in September, “networking” has been the prime operative word for my work, while also learning about the history and potential of programs and this organization. To date, the range of organizations we have reached out to varies from universities to lobbyist and advocacy groups to elected officials, all with an eye to developing programs that serve our mission and address social justice causes.

Grants have been submitted to support the ongoing programs as well as the development of new programs. In the next few months, two of the new programs include: “HIV in the Capital City” – developing strong youth leaders in the fight to end HIV/AIDS everywhere and “Touching the Ground” – connecting aides and interns to local services.

Supporting WQW, developing programs for individual groups, planning for Teachers of Peace, converting the backyard to an eco-friendly rain garden, and hosting an incredible bike ride on April 26 are also on-going and exciting projects that promise to make for a busy and meaningful year. ■

Brad Ogilvie
Program Coordinator

New Staff at William Penn House



Faith L. Kelley is from Marysville, Ohio. She joined the WPH staff after graduating from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and spending the summer teaching young campers archery.

Diving into life in DC, she has quickly become the authority on what's happening in the city. As an intern, she helps with hospitality and planning programs, including a young adult Friends gathering in May. Faith brings to the house an excitement to do work that brings Quakers from different traditions together. ■

Benjamin Tipton has recently returned from three years working in the country of Cambodia. He worked with Cambodian organizations to develop handicrafts (some of which you can purchase at Ten Thousand Villages stores) and improve the quality of life in rural areas. He began his work at WPH as an intern and is now serving in a new capacity as interim coordinator of WQW. Benjamin is also designing a rain garden for the back garden of the house as designs for the remodel of the carriage house behind William Penn House into additional office and conference meeting space.

During his days off he enjoys riding his bike, visiting museums, following legislation, designing his future home and reading. ■



Morgan Tipton

hails from NE Ohio where she grew up, attended Kent State University and last but not least, met Ben Tipton. She spent three years serving college students as a campus minister with the Coalition for Christian Outreach. As an intern at WPH Morgan brings

with her a passionate pursuit of cleanliness, the art of bread making, singing in the kitchen, and an adept interest in the Quaker testimonies. On her time off she loves reading, running, backpacking and learning the mysteries of crossword puzzles from Brad, Faith and Judy. Her favorite part of the week is pizza night – every Friday night at seven o'clock when friends join us for a slice of pie and games or a movie! ■

Brad Ogilvie:

After spending the last 15 years in Illinois, I am excited to be back on the east coast and joining the William Penn House. For much of the past 8 years, I have lived and worked in Wheaton, IL, known as a Conservative Christian town (Wheaton College, often referred to as the "Harvard of Christian Colleges"). My work has involved HIV/AIDS prevention, and has taken me places I never thought – Kenya, inner-city Chicago, and deep in the heart of the Evangelical community. Each place has been wonderful, enriching and enlightening. More about my experiences can be seen at:

www.mosaicinitiative.org

In joining the William Penn House, my hope is to nurture the Quaker principle that "there is that of God in all things" by developing programs to open dialog for understanding with love in our hearts. I've seen first-hand (albeit with patience) that individual and community transformation is possible when we can transcend our fundamentalist tendencies. In addition to continuing the development of Teachers of Peace and youth programs, HIV/AIDS, gay-lesbian concerns, and the environment are just a few of the many opportunities we have to bring people together to experience the power of coming together despite differences to make a better world.

I welcome all ideas and input for programs, and invite your participation. I also invite you to join the on-line community dialog at

www.quakerqueeriesblogspot.com. ■



Clean and Green!



This last quarter, William Penn House made a commitment to keep our establishment clean and sanitary in a new way.

With Patricia's passion around environmental stewardship, Morgan's research and attention to details on cleanliness, and Khadim's willing spirit, WPH has transformed it's housekeeping regiment by using low-impact, household recipes to clean and give our guests impeccable accommodations with less cost to the environment.

It's amazing the results you can enjoy from natural cleaning formulas and a little elbow grease! Using inexpensive ingredients that can be found at your local supermarket, we've put together cleaners that are safe, effective and cost-efficient to keep the house looking and smelling wonderful! We found all our recipes for disinfectants, mopping solutions and scrubbing agents:

cities.com/Heartland/Prairie/8088/clngrn.html

Go Green!

Coming Events

- **February 29—March 2**, Baltimore Yearly Meeting hosts a weekend where **white Friends confront racism**.
- **Sunday, March 2** (and every other subsequent first Sunday of the month) ~ We welcome you to **WPH Potluck!** David Zarembka will be our guest speaker addressing Relief, Reconciliation, and Healing from Violence in Kenya.
- **Saturday, April 26** Join us for a day or weekend of bicycling, food, fun, and community building while supporting a good cause. Our **Pedaling for Peace** event details can be found on our website.
- **Monday May 5—Wednesday May 7 Appreciative Inquiry** a workshop for people in position of leadership, and for groups with projects or tasks that are calling for creative and innovative approaches.
- **Sunday June 29—Sunday July 6**, an affordable, **family friendly workcamp** during the Independence day holiday with an environmental aspect!
- **Summer 2008**, Our Seminar Program will be offering an in-depth look at **HIV in the Capitol City**. Dates and registration coming soon.

A Quaker Center
located on Capitol Hill

515 East Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

WILLIAM
PENN
HOUSE

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
Paid
Permit No. 745
Washington, DC