

Adelphi Friends Meeting
 2303 Metzert Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783
301-445-1114
 Pam Tyng, clerk – Karen Cunyngnam, treasurer

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday:

Early Meeting for Worship 9:00 AM (except 3rd Sunday)
 Singing 9:45 AM
 Meeting for Worship 10:00 AM

Wednesday:

Meeting for Worship 7:30 PM

Monthly Schedule:

Second Sunday (Third Sunday in May, July and August):

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Third Sunday: Singing begins at 9 AM

Fourth Sunday: Junior Meeting 10 AM

Fourth Sunday: Potluck at rise of meeting

Last Sunday: Newsletter submission deadline

Takoma Park Friends Meeting (Preparative) under the care of Adelphi Meeting

Every Sunday: Meeting for Worship 10:30 AM, at *Sangha*, 7014 Westmoreland Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Hymn Sing for Peace

I would like to invite you on behalf of the Mennonite Church to our annual Hymn Sing for Peace. Catherine Detweiler, Peace Action Program Assistant. The Hymn Sing for Peace is scheduled for Saturday April 9 at 2:00 pm at Lafayette Park, across from the White House. Held annually, the Hymn Sing attracts singers from throughout the local area, Maryland, and Virginia as well as other states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio. We gather to sing songs of peace with one another and as a witness to those who pass by. Through this annual event, others are made aware of Christ's message of peace for the world.

AFSC launches SOS! Campaign on the federal budget

Human services programs are under frontal assault in the budget presented by President Bush. The next few weeks are crucial, as Congress attempts to pass a fiscal year 2006 budget resolution by March 21. Public involvement is vital.

AFSC has launched an SOS! Campaign to help mobilize public opinion on the budget. AFSC invites Quakers to participate in the campaign by writing letters to the editor, contacting Congress, and signing and distributing SOS! postcards. Sample letters, budget information, and postcards are available at www.saveourservices.org

At stake are competing visions of a good society.

"Our country faces a fundamental choice," says Mary Ellen McNish, AFSC general secretary. "Should the United States revert to a pre-New Deal era where people are left to fend for themselves in the face of poverty, low wages, sickness, old age, and increasingly insecure jobs in the global economy?"

"Shouldn't our nation commit ourselves anew to our Constitution's promise to form a more perfect union, establish justice, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity?"

"The Administration's budget will hurt those who are hungry, homeless and vulnerable," according to Roberta Spivek, who coordinates AFSC's national U.S. Economic Justice Program. The budget cuts \$138 billion in basic survival programs like Medicaid and food stamps over ten years. It cuts education, environmental, income security, veterans and other domestic programs by as much as 23% over five years. It will increase inequality of wealth and opportunity by making permanent the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts that have fueled the deficit and primarily the wealthiest taxpayers. It harms the common good by depriving states and localities of crucial federal funds while benefiting a few.

For more information, visit the SOS! website, www.saveourservices.org or call Roberta Spivek, AFSC's National Representative for Economic Justice, at (215) 241-7037.

Quaker Potluck & Dialogue

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 PM on Sunday May 1, 2005. Our Program this First Day is presented by Ann Riggs of Annapolis Friends Meeting. Will discuss Reflections on African Friends Peace Witness. Ann is Associate General Secretary for Faith and Order for the National Council of Churches in Christ and serves as the Friend (Quaker) on the Core Group on Peace Theology of the World Council of Churches faith and Order Commission which is part of the Decade to Overcome Violence

Our monthly potluck is the first Sunday of each month at 6:30 PM. This is an opportunity for fellowship among

Quakers, attenders and fellow seekers. Bring a dish to share; family members, friends and neighbors are always welcome. Note: William Penn House is an alcohol and tobacco free facility. William Penn House is a Quaker center on Capitol Hill. We host groups and individuals who visit Washington to help make this a better world. We also host programs and seminars on peace and social justice issues and on Quakers, past and present. William Penn House, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, Tel: (202) 543-5560 Fax: (202) 543-3814 e-mail: Office@WmPennHouse.org, www.WmPennHouse.org

Strawberry Festival – history, this year and the next few years.

At February Meeting for Worship for Business I raised some of my own personal questions about the purpose and role of the Strawberry Festival in our community. I was asked to write a history of the Strawberry Festival, how it functions now and some of my concerns. I grew up in this Meeting, so I grew up with the Strawberry Festival – as a young observer of adults behaving differently than they usually did in Meeting for Worship, working along-side my mother, baking cookies for the Bake Sale, making crafts to sell at the Craft Table, working at my own assignment, and finally as co-coordinator with Tom Skallarup and Harold Confer. All that to say that I've been around it for a while now.

In the late 50's - early 60's Adelphi Meeting wrestled with finding a way to do Outreach as a community, as an expression of supporting Quaker values in a larger area. Meeting was small then. There were only about 20 – 25 families as members and attenders. This small group made a decision to build a new Meeting House to accommodate growing attendance. To do this meant borrowing a large sum of money -large for 25 families to repay. It also meant keeping the cost of the upkeep of two building and property at a minimum. So.. the Meeting agreed to take on the cleaning and maintenance of the buildings and regular care of the property, themselves. The budget reflected utilities, supplies for First Day School, basic consumables, the Yearly Meeting apportionment, and limited support for Quaker organizations.

Adelphi Friends sat for a long time with the question of how to be more of an active presence in the community. Money was limited and so was time. And the presence needed to involve the whole community. Meeting looked at the skills they could bring to fundraising, added the requirements that it be fun to do and that everything would have to be restored to Meeting for Worship order, and decided to hold a giant yard sale. A small committee was charged with visiting our neighbors to explain our idea and receive their "blessing". There were no objections.

Every family rounded up white elephants, clothes that had been outgrown (or a mistake in judgment), sighed as they parted with favorite books, and baked up a storm. Children were asked to contribute some of their things, too. This was a community event. And on the first Saturday in June, Adelphi Friends Meeting held their first and very successful fundraiser. Everyone was surprised, raised more money than anyone thought, still remained f/Friends on Sunday and basked in the joy of organizing a true community event.

Friends also sat quietly with their success. Was this a good way for Quakers to raise funds? Was using this money to support Quaker organizations the only purpose for a Yard Sale? Did it meet the criteria of being a community event and fun? Did using the Meeting House for a "common" event impede preparation for Meeting for Worship on the next day? These questions were raised at more than one Meeting for Business and the community waited for guidance and consensus. With the understanding that these questions would be raised again, Meeting for Business approved the planning for another Yard Sale. Again, planning was deliberative and took place in Meeting for Business. All of the planning. Every aspect. Nothing was taken for granted. All decisions were arrived at by consensus.

For the next few years, the Strawberry Festival continued as a successful, giant Yard Sale. Friends sat with quietly after and before each Yard Sale. Did the ability to raise funds have the potential for making the Meeting wealthy? Should the Yard Sale stay limited or be allowed to expand naturally? How does planning and having the Yard Sale impact the community's ability/energy to care for the buildings and grounds in May and June? The Meeting decided to allow the Yard Sale to grow and take more form than a "casual" Yard Sale. The Meeting also decided to have a coordinator for the event as it was getting larger and more successful each year. Having a single coordinator rather than a Yard Sale committee also kept the event and funds separate from other Meeting activities and contributions. It also meant that planning continued to be a part of Meeting for Business and involve the entire community and that the practice of sitting quietly and using queries to discover the role and purpose of the Yard Sale would continue.

The Yard Sale became the Strawberry Festival after looking for a Quakerly attraction to continue increase visibility and expand the Meeting's outreach to a wider circle of community organizations. As it grew, Strawberry Festival "traditions" appeared, as well as becoming more flexible to reflect the interests/talents/gifts of the community. Good business "horse sense" was applied gently and soon the Strawberry Festival was considered "expected" by the Meeting and the community. Queries around wealth, giving, and community responsibility became more important as the Festival grew.

Additional "booths" appeared – Crafts Table, Poster and Photograph Table, Plants, the Café expanded from serving strawberries to including lunch, a Car Wash was incorporated by Young Friends, strawberry prices at Safeway and Giant were reviewed to set the price of our berries, fun activities for children – and Books, Clothes, and White Elephants became more "sophisticated". Success also brought Strawberry problems to Meeting for Business – what to do about antique dealers who were unruly and scooped up all the really "good" items (an old fashioned Auction was added), how to keep up the interest of Young Friends and children (5th and 6th First Day Schoolers were invited to be servers in the Café), how to contain/entertain the gaggle of children who came with their parents (Children's Games started with children diving into a huge pile of sawdust to search for coins), what to do with ALL of the White Elephants that remained at the end of the day (split them up into separate cars and dispersed to Goodwill collection boxes).

Traditions included specific activities run to be Young Friends and children, the first Saturday in June was set aside, quieter Friends took on hulling strawberries for the Café in the white house basement (safely out of the way), Books, Clothes, Baked Goods, Café and White Elephants became staples, allowing individual Friends to sponsor tables that held a particular interest for them (Plants, Face Painting, a Lemonade Stand), receiving and preparing White Elephants for an entire week before the Festival, a sign-up poster is used to identify who will take on what activity.

Some tables came and went – Crafts, Photos and Posters, the Car Wash – as interest waxed and waned. The Festival continued

to be subject to queries – the old fashioned Auction became the Silent Auction after considering whether the excitement of competitive bidding caused some people to spend money they didn't really have, the question of what form should Quaker publicity take guided radio spots, newspaper adds and public signs. Experience itself brought more organization to planning – a list of Strawberry Festival Things To Do was drawn up for each month starting in March. A single farmer sold the Meeting strawberries – every few years new farmers were contacted as the strawberry season shifted from time to time. One coordinator was expanded to two, with one coordinator being in training for lead coordinator the next year.

I'm sure that I've left out a lot of things. I'm also sure that anyone who has worked at/with or attended the Strawberry Festival has their own stories about what is the most important/fun/exhausting/interesting/favorite/slippery part of the Festival.

Having said all of this, and truly loving the Strawberry Festival and our Meeting, I have had some concerns about the Festival for a while – particularly in the last two years that I have been a coordinator. The concerns I brought to Meeting for Business this month have left me wondering whether the Strawberry Festival is still the best form for an Adelphi community event to raise funds for outreach. Last year I expressed this concern in the form of a suggestion that it may be time to lay down the Strawberry Festival. The Festival was the idea of and clearly the best venue for the Meeting 50 years ago. It suited the interest, skills, and personalities of those members and attenders 50 years ago. It has changed from the original Yard Sale as Meeting members have developed different interests, keeping it fresh and still attractive to the local community. That's as it should be. But does it reflect the interests of members and attenders today? Is it still a community event? Should it continue to be? Does it still reflect Quaker values and principles?

In the last two years especially, it has been extremely difficult for the Nominating Committee to find one coordinator – much less two. This has been true for a number of years. And it gets harder every year. Signing up to work at the Festival gets slower and slower each year. Some tables have no signatures until the week before. Or a table will have signatures but no one wanting to take the lead. Just as it gets harder to find coordinators, it gets harder and harder to involve the whole Adelphi community. Things usually taken care of as a part of Festival traditions are no longer covered. The Strawberry Festival, then, brings with it tension for and within the Meeting. There will always be some tension, that's natural in coordinating such a large group of people. In the last few years, members of our Meeting have been hurt as a result of holding the Strawberry Festival. Not just a passing irritation-of-the-day. Members have had their feelings seriously hurt – their heart was hurt with a sharp pain.

I can understand some of these Strawberry Festival problems could come from. To begin with, our "corporate memory" seems to have dimmed. We have a community that fluxuates; people come and go with regularity. When the longer-attending members become fewer and fewer, traditions simply can't continue without deliberate "maintain". We have not actively mentored a second generation of Strawberry Festival leaders. A record of past Festivals (long past), show that the same members were leaders of the same activities that they are today. This can only be exhausting. And exclusive. I've used the word "exhausting" a couple of times even though I have been very watchful about including this adjective. There is a misconception that coordinating the Strawberry Festival involves an extraordinary amount of work and that "other members" know best how to get things done. A misconception because it really isn't so. There is a list of Things To Do that covers every aspect of the Festival. The list is broken down by month. There are things to monitor and people to remind. Each year in the last week or so I was sure I had forgotten something extremely important. I checked the list... and was relieved. There is also a record of recent Festivals that list the number of tables and chairs used by each table, any equipment the table may need, and things that may help to keep the table as successful as it has been.

For me, and these are my personal concerns, the Strawberry Festival is not a community effort and it is often not too Friendly.

So... what to do. It may be time to re-visit the Strawberry Festival to look at the purpose and what role it has in the life of Adelphi Friends Meeting. Is the Festival as it is today consistent with queries on building community life and relationships between Friends? Does it foster good community and care for each other?

I would like to recommend that for this 2005 Strawberry Festival, the Meeting increase the coordinators to 4-6, and include a representative from each committee, Young Friends and youth.

I would also like to recommend that the Meeting use this year to hold the Strawberry Festival in the Light.....well... more than just hold – bring the Light to bear on the Strawberry Festival so that we can see it more clearly today.

In the Light, Pud Baker

A wonderful opportunity to visit BYM Camp Properties

Dear Friends, I wanted to be sure that everyone was aware of the opportunities that are open to Friends this spring at our camp properties. Please announce and remind Friends through your news letters of the following dates for BYM camp properties work weekends. Information about registering for work weekends can also be found below.

Catoctin Quaker Camp

Camp can always use a little sprucing up and this spring we have a number of projects to do just that. We will be working on the landscapes around camp, clearing trails, doing some painting as well as the usual general cleanup and maintenance projects. We will also get busy taking down one of the old cabins to make room for a new one in the fall. Come and see how the Lagoon water quality improvement work is coming! Dates for Catoctin are: April 15 – 17, 2005. Come one, come all. There is a lot to do!

Opequon Quaker Camp

Some of our cabins are in need if a little support. We will be raising and improving the foundation of two of our existing cabins this spring. In addition, we have a little painting still to do on our two new cabins and the usual host of cleaning and maintenance tasks. Shhh! Can you hear? The hills and valleys of the Shenandoah are calling to you! The Opequon Weekend will be April 29 - May 1, 2005. Opequon needs you!

Shiloh Quaker Camp

We are looking forward to replacing the upper Walnuts platform with a screened cabin like the one we build last year.

Not a carpenter? Don't worry, there are plenty of other maintenance jobs, cleaning tasks and trail clearing to do. Come on out! There's nothing like Shiloh in the Spring time. The Shiloh Weekend will be: April 8 – 10, 2005.

Out with the old platform, May 6 – 8, 2005. A deck and some walls. May 13-15, 2005 Walls, rafters and a roof
More information is available at [www.bym-rsf.org/camping/Work Workweek](http://www.bym-rsf.org/camping/Work%20Workweek)

You, your family, friends, and anyone else are invited to participate in the work weekends listed above. You DO NOT need to have any building or carpentry skills in order to pitch in! We need all kinds of people to make contributions. You do need to have some energy and a willingness to get dirty, try new things, be flexible and enjoy the company of others who want to pitch in too. We need sweepers, painters, cooks, ditchers, concrete mixers, trail clearer as well as carpenters. All of us have contributions to make, so come on out and enjoy some physical activity and the company of Friends! Simply send an e-mail to davidhunter@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend.

The work weekends are held on both Saturday and Sunday; you may come just for the day or you may spend the night on Saturday night. You may arrive Friday night if you'd like to make a weekend of it, but there will be no dinner on Friday. Feel free to bring food to share. We try to provide simple breakfasts and lunches on Saturday and Sunday As well as the evening meal on Saturday night. Bring bedding (we do not always have enough suitable mattresses), flashlights, and anything else you may want. Cabins are available unless you hear otherwise or you may bring a tent. Please visit the Website before you come to make sure everything is on schedule. There may be times when we are sharing camp with other renters and cabin space will be limited. Please remember to send an e-mail to davidhunter@bym-rsf.org if you plan to attend.

Thanks you for your interest. I'll see you at camp! Peace to you all, David Hunter, Camp Property Manager, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, www.bym-rsf.org, 301-774-7663 - office, 240-285-5186 - cell

Submitting to the newsletter: Phillip Payette, the Newsletter Editor, welcomes any material of interest to the Adelphi Friends Meeting community. The best way to submit material is by e-mail to afm-newsletter@earthlink.net. Either attach a Word file to the e-mail.or type the information directly into the e-mail. You may also submit clean, typed copy to the newsletter box in the meetinghouse. No handwritten material please. Deadline for submissions is noon of the last Sunday of each month.

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2303 Metzert Road
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