

Adelphi Friends Newsletter

Sixth Month, 2008

Adelphi Friends Meeting
2303 Metzert Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783
(301) 445-1114

<http://AdelphiFriends.org>, <http://Adelphi.Quaker.org/>

Anne Marie Moriarty, clerk — Michael Levi, assistant treasurer

<p>WEEKLY SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Early Meeting for Worship (small) 9:50 a.m. Singing 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship</p> <p>Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. Meeting for Worship</p>	<p>MONTHLY SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Second Sunday (Third Sunday in May, July and August): Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business</p> <p>Fourth Sunday: Junior Meeting at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Fourth Sunday: Potluck at rise of Meeting</p>
<p>Takoma Park Friends Meeting (Preparative) under the care of Adelphi Meeting. Every Sunday: Meeting for Worship 10:00 a.m. on the upper floor at Still Point, 7009B Carroll Avenue, which is at the corner of Carroll and Westmoreland Street. See http://TakomaPark.quaker.org. Meeting for Worship for the Preparation of Business, fourth Sunday following Meeting for Worship.</p>	

THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR OTHERS

A MEMORIAL DAY EDITORIAL FROM A QUAKER PERSPECTIVE

Following the end of the Civil War, many communities set aside a day to mark the end of the war or as a memorial to those who had died. According to Professor David Blight of the Yale University History Department, the first memorial day was observed in 1865 by liberated slaves at the historic race track in Charleston, South Carolina. The site was a former Confederate prison camp as well as a mass grave for Union soldiers who had died while captive. A parade with thousands of freed blacks and Union soldiers was followed by patriotic singing and a picnic. It is an interesting fact of history that many of the freed slaves who marched in Charleston were assisted by Quakers and others operating the extremely dangerous Underground Railroad whom I suspect were not celebrated in that parade of 1865.

For members of historic peace churches there is always a need to acknowledge and celebrate the lives of those who have suffered or died for others. These are not only the soldiers who are officially memorialized on this day. Given the history of the liberated slaves, shouldn't we also celebrate those who liberated the few survivors of Auschwitz? As told by Ellie Weisel, one of those survivors, "We would have cheered the soldiers and carried them on our shoulders because of their tears of empathy but we were too weak to do so."

Those who have served should also include Conscientious Objectors to war (COs) from many different spiritual traditions who volunteered to be human guinea pigs for untested drugs, or, in the case of a group of Seventh Day Adventist COs, were put (without their knowledge) within the testing range of our Atomic Bomb tests to study the effects of the blast on real human subjects. Many other COs served in mental institutions or in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Still others served in remote Third World

villages on economic and social community development activities. Their encounters with death or deadly diseases while serving in these civilian capacities are almost unknown among the general public. But they, no less than their their gun-carrying brothers and sisters, have served this country with courage and honor and without any of the support or incentive structures lavished on the military.

The reality is that long before the all-volunteer army, we had volunteer COs who have served and some have suffered and died during their alternative service. Friends' compassionate commitment stretches in unbroken service from the Underground Railroad up to the present.

Those serve who also practice compassionate peace without outward weapons but by being with those who suffer from injustice, poverty and war. They and their stories need to be celebrated and their stories told around the campfires to our children and grandchildren.

--© 2008 by Harold Confer

NEW TREE ON THE MEETING HOUSE FRONT LAWN

There is a new tree in front of the Meeting House. It was planted to provide shade and some spatial definition to the area around the stone bench in front of the Meeting House. The new tree is a "Green Vase" Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*, "Green Vase"). There used to be a very large Virginia Pine tree growing near the overhead electric line near Metzert Road that formed a green bower over the area behind the bench, and the spot where that tree stood can still be seen as a bare patch in the lawn. It was removed about three or four years ago after it succumbed to a borer infestation and endangered the power lines. The Zelkova tree was selected because it will eventually provide a high spreading canopy over roughly the same area as the pine tree. God willing, it will grow into a medium sized shade tree, about 40 or 50 feet high with an upright vase shaped canopy spreading to 30 or 40 feet in diameter. The tree is somewhat reminiscent of an American Elm (it is in the same family, *Ulmaceae*) but it is smaller and stiffer in form. It is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and most other insects and diseases. It is located closer to the bench than the pine tree was so that it will begin to provide some shade sooner and so it won't interfere with overhead electrical wires.

Over the past five years we have had to remove a number of trees, both large and small, around the meeting property. In addition to the pine tree, we've taken out at least three large black locusts, a red maple and several smaller evergreens and weed trees. Most of these trees were either dead or in bad shape and represented a hazard to persons and property. The House and Grounds Committee hopes to replace some of these casualties with new trees that will be of higher quality and planted in better locations than the ones we've lost. The Zelkova represents our first step on that path.

I don't know if you've noticed, but the same weekend that we planted the Zelkova, we planted another tree not far away. It is a Crape Myrtle named "Raspberry Sundae" (*Lagerstroemia indica*, "Raspberry Sundae") and is at the north west corner of the white house, where the ramp from the White House door meets the ramp to the Meeting House. It will grow to about 15 or 20 feet tall, has a narrow upright form, and produces red flowers edged with white from July through September. It should look good against the White House. Its new leaves are reddish, fading to dark green in the summer, and turning orange in the fall.

I appreciate Friends' interest in the news trees and hope people will like them more as they grow. The H&G Committee (and I) would be happy to hear any suggestions others might have about what other trees or shrubs would be desirable to have on the grounds.

--John Bassert

NEW WORSHIP SPACE FOR TAKOMA PARK FRIENDS MEETING (PREPARATIVE)

On June 1, 8, 15 and 22, Takoma Park Friends Meeting will be trying out a new worship space, back within Takoma Park itself. Friends will meet at 10:00 a.m. (half an hour earlier than before) on the upper floor at Still Point, 7009B Carroll Avenue, which is at the corner of Carroll and Westmoreland Street. Unfortunately, there is no elevator. Friends will consider whether to continue there during Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business on June 22.

--Kit Mason, Clerk, Takoma Park Friends Meeting

NEW BENCH CUSHIONS HAVE ARRIVED

When Adelphi Friends Meeting was just begun, Friends used to worship on folding chairs in the White House. Once the Meeting House was built, we still worshipped on folding chairs. Corporate memory cannot remember whether our present benches were donated by a Meeting in Delaware or by Moorestown Friends in New Jerse, but we do know that Paul James, Debbie's husband, refinished them and somebody installed braces. And we worshipped on hard wood benches for years.

Getting cushions for the benches was a big issue because some Meeting members saw cushions as being a luxury. It was a long time coming, but in the early 1970's we got the horse hair cushions we have been worshipping on until mid-May.

It was Jane Furniss who paid to reupholster the old horse hair cushions in the early 1980's. Harold Ansin, Betty Smallwood's dad who had a fabric mill in Lowell, MA, donated the fabric. At this time it was suggested that we put a layer of foam on top of the horse hair, but it was not approved.

And now, after thirty years' use, the old cushions have been retired and we have new cushions! Very comfortable.

--Corporate memories of Reuben Snipper, "Pud" Baker, and Ann Marie Moriarty, with some assistance by your editor

The newsletter would be happy to run any additional information or memories about the Meeting House cushions, old or new!

COME BUY COFFEE AT THE JUNE POTLUCK

Joanna, Ann and Peter will be selling coffee from Haiti and giving out information about a project in Haiti to support the local economy in coffee growing, roasting and marketing. We will be collecting money in support of JustHaiti. More information available on-line at www.JustHaiti.org.

SUMMER ART WORKSHOP/RETREAT

Abstraction, Human Form & Content. 7/28-8/1, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Joanna Axtmann Studio in Takoma. More info: (202)723-4428, jaxart@infionline.net. Orange fliers are in the Meeting House lobby.

WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER PHOTO OF THE WEEK: ATHENS, OHIO

FCNL Executive Committee member Meg Hummon rode her bicycle from her home in Athens, OH, to Washington, DC, to attend an FCNL committee meeting in early May. The trip took seven days and covered more than 400 miles. If Meg Hummon had driven the route in her car, she would have used more than 11 gallons of gasoline.



BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING DAY, JUNE 21

You are welcome to join Friends hosted by Annapolis Monthly Meeting, 351 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD, on June 21 to conduct the business of Baltimore Yearly Meeting through committees and Interim Meeting. Annapolis Friends will provide hospitality Friday and/or Saturday night and lunch and dinner on Saturday. Friends are offering limited overnight accommodations for those traveling a distance.

All members of BYM Meetings are members of Interim Meeting and are welcome to attend. Please return forms, available from Margaret Candler, (410) 757-5626, [Mcan-
dler3@comcast.net](mailto:Mcandler3@comcast.net), by June 9. Returning the form is essential if you need overnight hospitality or meals.

Committees scheduled to meet are: Criminal & Restorative Justice, Friends in Education, Indian Affairs, Ministry & Pastoral Care, Nominating Committee, Peace & Social Concerns, Search Committee, Stewardship & Finance, Trustees, Unity with Nature, Youth Programs Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Gender & Sexual Diversity.

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Rolls
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Committees meet
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Lunch
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Interim Meeting
5:45 p.m. Dinner

CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE

FIRST DAY SCHEDULE

Worship: 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. (First Day School).

REBIRTH THROUGH SERVICE

It was awesome and beautiful.

Last night ABC news showed a clip about a group of Americans who had traveled to China and were building a septic tank in an overcrowded refugee camp following the earthquake.

In addition to the work they had brought a guitar and harmonica. They held an impromptu concert that had the audience of hundreds singing songs of hope, swaying, clapping in rhythm and the sound was glorious. Then they devised games for the children: tag, leap frog, and many others that had hundreds of children playing, laughing, their eyes and faces filled with joy.

It was not a workcamp but shared the same liturgy. As Charles Karault said, they turned a refugee camp into a summer camp where people could rediscover happiness, joy, and hope. As the camera caught this in the faces of the children and approving smiles of the adults I was reminded that resurrection comes in many forms but is a gift we can all share.

--Harold Confer

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE QUAKER POTLUCK AND DIALOGUE

You are invited to attend a potluck and Quaker dialogue at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday June 1, followed by a program by Frances Pruitt or Bethesda Friends Meeting.

Frances will discuss her book, *Faith and Courage in a Time of Trouble*. The book tells the story of her nominally Jewish Belgian family who spent more than four years during the Second World War as refugees in the south of France. Frances was five years old when her family left Brussels and ten when they returned. At first, the family lived openly in a rented farm, supporting themselves as farmers, but they eventually had to go into hiding and were sheltered by families in the region who risked their lives by doing so. In 2006, several members of the family returned to the region to dedicate a granite bench in honor of the courageous efforts of its people.

Our monthly potluck is on the first Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for fellowship among Quakers, attenders and fellow seekers. Bring a dish to share; family members, neighbors and friends are always welcome. Note: William Penn House is an alcohol and tobacco free facility.

William Penn House hosts groups and individuals who visit Washington to help make this a better world. We host programs and seminars on peace and social justice issues and on Quakers, past and present.

William Penn House, A Quaker Center on Capitol Hill, 515 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, (202) 543-5560, fax: (202) 543-3814, e-mail: info@WilliamPennHouse.org, www.WilliamPennHouse.org.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SOUGHT BY BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

Baltimore Yearly Meeting is seeking a new Development Director, who would report to the General Secretary, and work with committees and staff to carry out a comprehensive development plan that communicates the financial needs of BYM to Monthly Meetings, organizations, and individuals within and beyond the Yearly Meeting. By fostering deeper communication the Development Director helps to build stronger relationships and to engender support. This is a full-time position.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting consists of more than 4,600 Friends organized into 40 Monthly Meetings and 12 Preparative Meetings, Indulged Meetings, or worship groups stretching from southwestern Virginia to central Pennsylvania. BYM focuses strongly on youth activities, including spirituality in nature through camping programs. BYM also offers adults opportunities to deepen their religious understanding through retreats, workshops, and other events.

BYM does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national or ethnic origin, disability, or sexual orientation. The job description is posted at: <http://bym-rsf.org>. All applications require submission of resume, cover letter and three references and permission to do background check. Please send to: gensec@bym-rsf.org. Resume review begins May 16, 2008. Open until position is filled.

Submitting material to the newsletter: Ann Marlowe, 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 and photographs to the newsletter box in the meetinghouse. No handwritten material please. Deadline for submissions is noon of the last Sunday of each month.

Financial Contributions:

Please place in box in the foyer, or send to Michael Levi, 702 Malibu Drive, Silver Spring MD 20901.

Adelphi Friends Meeting
2303 Metzert Road
Adelphi, MD 20783

Adelphi Friends Meeting
NEWSLETTER

FIRST CLASS MAIL

with e-mail you get

C O L O R

(The E-mail version of the AFM newsletter includes color photos and art work and it cost the meeting nothing to send and print.)

To arrange E-mail delivery of the AFM newsletter contact mailinglist@adelphifriends.org.

Don't forget to visit
Adelphi Friends Meeting's
Web site:
www.adelphifriends.org