

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT 2017

Jan. 20-21, William Penn House served as respite site for activists and peacemakers including those attending Women's March on Washington offering water, warm beverages, restrooms on the first floor conference room. There was coloring station, snacks and supplies for the kids. There was also a comfort station available for the People's March on Climate Change. William Penn House served as a respite site for those attending the Women's March on Climate Change.

It has been a disappointment because I have not been able to book any kind of lodging at William Penn House this year. Everytime, I tried - they were already booked.

I have been supporting Deni Elliot in her Quaker Earth Care Endeavors who has been working with the Delaware River Keeper the umbrella for over two hundred environmental groups. We had several meetings set up with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We travelled by train with two other women. to Washington D.C. We booked four beds for the William Penn House. I received a phone call two days before that they overbooked so we were bumped out.

They were gracious enough to book us at the International Guest House which is ran by the Mennonites and even offered cover to any additional charges that the rebooking would cost. We did stay there Sunday Night. I would highly recommend this place but we needed to be closer to the Capitol on Monday and Tuesday for our meetings in the Senate Buildings. We stayed on the floor of the Trinity Luther Church instead.

The William Penn House is a short walk to the Capitol and Senate Buildings and would have been ideal for our plans. I would have preferred that Deni and the two women have the William Penn House "Experience" that I have loved and enjoyed but life of life's terms doesn't always give us our way.

On the other hand, I did attend the Women's March in January and stopped at the William Penn House with my marching partner. The respite was much needed and appreciated. I also received a text message from a family member who along with her husband took advantage of the respite by the William Penn House for April's People's March on Climate Change. Deni and I also attended the People's March on Climate Change.

This family member has a jaded perspective about organized religions because of past experiences. I am happy that she was able to see the Quakers in a more positive light. She talked about how she love the hospitality and energy of the William Penn House.

The William Penn House continues to hold Youth Work Camps including one that will be held in West Virginia.

"We're getting geared-up for our service trip to West Virginia in a few weeks! In the fourth week of June we bring a group of students from Sidwell Friends School to work with [Big Creek People in Action](#), a nonprofit started by the residents of McDowell County that serves the community in the realms of housing assistance, literacy programs, and arts and culture, to name a few. Here, Sidwell students brush-up on their construction skills and engage in team-building exercises to prepare for the trip." From the WPH Facebook Page. Sidwell Friends School is where the Obama girls attended. They are staying in Washington DC so that the younger daughter can remain there.

The William Penn House is also working with the Southeast White House Mentoring program which connects volunteers with children from Southeast DC in one-one-one mentoring to help them become healthy and productive members of society.

The legal battle with the tax dilemma is still ongoing but a generous doner helped out this year. The City of Washington DC is of the opinion that the William Penn House is a hospitality business therefore not entitle to the religious tax exemption.

Respectfully Submitted

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