

MAY 2023 ^ VOL. 1 ISSUE 3

TRENTON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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News and Updates for Friends and friends in our community



IN THIS ISSUE:

EVENTS AND
NEWS PP. 2-4
QUAKERISM P. 5
CALENDAR P. 6

Introduction

As May brings us the end of the transition from winter to summer, the sometimes too wet, sometimes too hot, sometimes too cold weather keeps us on our toes. Time for fix-ups and clean-ups. Time to take a look at where we are and where we want to be.

Be sure to keep even more up to date by visiting our website trentonquakers.org.

The Communications Committee

THE "GOLDEN RULE" SAILS NEAR US

The Golden Rule boat, crewed mainly by Quakers, sailed in the late 1950's to the Marshall Islands to protest nuclear bomb testing in that area. One of the crew members was George Willoughby of Central Philadelphia Meeting. Recovered from disrepair in 2010, a major repair and restore project has brought it back to seaworthiness and today the Golden Rule sails again, with the same message, the danger of nuclear weapons. She is currently sailing a Great Loop from Chicago to Miami and back, the crew meeting with thousands of people along the route. It's very exciting that she will be docked in Philadelphia May 9-14.

The Golden Rule is now a project of Veterans for Peace and I was fortunate to meet the newly elected president of Veterans for Peace in Honolulu and learn of the return of Golden Rule. Former Trenton Meeting attendee Allan Willinger and his wife Jo Schlessinger were the houseparents of the Honolulu Quaker Meetinghouse (which also includes guest rooms) in 2018 when I visited.

Our Peace and Social Concern Committee (PSCC) has been donating a modest amount occasionally to support this worthwhile and amazing endeavor. Our donations have allotted us more than one "plank" which are each commemorated with a certificate as shown below.

Submitted by Sandra Johnson, clerk of PSCC



MONTHLY LUNCH IN TRENTON STARTS AGAIN

This year, like the last, Trenton Meeting is one of the local groups and organizations participating in the city's "Shop Trenton Saturday" program. Our plan is to meet up for lunch each month at a city eatery. We are aiming for the third Saturday of each month (subject to change as needed) but in April we chose to do it on the fifth Saturday because it coincided nicely with our Clean Up Morning. Being a bit grubby after the morning's work, we chose to get food from Sunrise Luncheonette "to go" and eat it at the Meetinghouse.



UPCOMING

The Trenton Meeting Community Barbeque and Free Sale for 2023 is coming up on Sunday June 11th. We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and sides for our community and ourselves. Our free sale has a price of \$0.00 for everything. We are working on some fun activities for families. Please sign up to help with Cathy Campbell by email (cathythemathdoctor@gmail.com) or show your interest by signing up on a Sunday morning.

Trenton Meeting people who are bringing items for the free sale should bring them any Sunday before the 11th or on Saturday the 10th. Sorting tables will be set up in the Yoga Room. If you have the time, please sort your items.



SPRING WORK DAY AT THE MEETINGHOUSE

Trenton Friends came together on Saturday, April 29, 2023 for our annual Spring Work Day – the first after several years during the pandemic.

We opened with a brief time of worship, in which one Friend spoke out of the silence, saying that this workday itself felt like a meeting for worship.

In the Meeting Room and in our social room, some folks spent hours washing windows, cleaning historic lighting fixtures, and installing new energy-saving light bulbs.

Among the dirtiest jobs of the day was that tackled by the folks cleaning the cellar – sweeping up dirt and sorting through countless items for what is still being used, what ought to be kept for future generations, and that which could be contributed to Trenton Meeting's up-coming Free Sale. Among the more interesting discoveries were a pair of wooden skis with leather straps (did an early Friend ski to Meeting for Worship one day?), the tell-tale signs of a old flue-fire from the period when the Meetinghouse was heated with a coal furnace, and we found the source of a rain water leak periodically flooding the basement floor.

Friends working outside enjoyed getting wet in the light rain. One of the teams collected bags and bags of trash and recycling from the area adjoining our grounds and the seemingly abandoned property next door. Other Friends installed our new rain barrel which was in place just in time for filling up in the next day's storm. Trenton Meeting purchased the rain barrel towards environmental sustainability and, on a practical level, to help water the Hanover side flower garden. And, our Peace Pole started getting new signs – replacing a couple that were deteriorating after almost 20 years and (when the job is done) adding Polish, Creole, Russian and Swahili to the English, Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic already there.



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY, SUPPORTING OUR WORK

The World We Seek

There is something of God in every man, let us affirm it more certainly than ever, but surrounded as we are by millions of new-made graves and with the voices of the hungry and the dispossessed in our ears, let us not easily accept the impious hope that the natural goodness of ourselves is sufficient stuff out of which to fashion a better world. ~

Gilbert H. Kilpack, 1914-1999

The understanding of Quakers is that the Light within, often called God or Spirit, is in all of us - all of humanity. It is not at a distance awaiting our pleas. It gives us a responsibility to act to bring forth the work of God or Spirit in pursuit of a world of justice, peace and equality. The quote above is from the William Penn Lecture delivered by Gilbert H. Kilpack at Arch Street Meeting House in 1946. While the lecture was a reflection on the Atomic Bomb being unleashed, for the first time ever, on the people of Hiroshima, this quote reminds us that a good heart and good intentions must be accompanied by voices raised and actions taken to create positive change. In current circumstances of world and local need we have many reasons and many ways to call ourselves to action.

Quaker history includes proud moments of actions that pushed forward equality, justice, environmental stewardship and peace. If you are already part of our community you know our legacy and are aware of the actions available under Quaker leadership. If you would like to be a part of this historic Society of Friends where work from local to international towards the values listed above is happening, be in touch.

Come to Meeting for Worship on a Sunday and talk with us in the social time after, connect with TrentonQuakers on Facebook, send an email to trentonquakers@gmail.com or leave a message at 609-278-4551. In order for us to continue our work in the city of Trenton and beyond, please consider supporting us by making a donation.

A reminder of how to support financially

Check or Money Order can be sent to
Trenton Meeting of Friends
PO Box 8
Trenton, NJ 08601



Scanning the QR Code will link you to PayPal for the Meeting to make an on online donation, or from [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) "send" your donation to trentonquakers@gmail.com

Trenton Quakers

Sat May 6, 2023

10am - 11am Mindfulness with Djenaba

Where: Trenton Quaker Meetinghouse

Sun May 7, 2023

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Sat May 13, 2023

10am - 11am Mindfulness with Djenaba

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, United States

Sun May 14, 2023

9am - 10am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Description: We continue when necessary to consider our meeting business at the rise of Worship.

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Wed May 17, 2023

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Trenton Meeting of Friends, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Sat May 20, 2023

10am - 11am Mindfulness with Djenaba

Where: Trenton Quaker Meetinghouse

12pm - 1:30pm Lunch in Downtown Trenton

Where: TBD

Description: Trenton Meeting folks meet 3rd Saturday of each month for lunch in a Trenton eatery.

Sun May 21, 2023

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Sun May 28, 2023

9am - 10am Religious Education Committee

Where: Trenton Meeting of Friends, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Fri Jun 2, 2023

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom