

TRENTON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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News and Updates for Friends and friends in our community

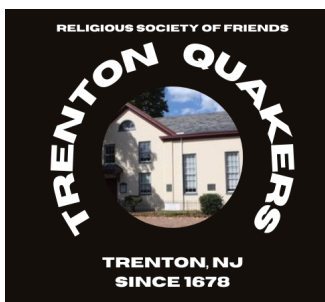


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EVENTS AND
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Trenton Meeting is confronting and considering the challenges in Trenton and the world. We have created a Quaker Minute (an approved statement) about the tragic conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas (page 2). Our Community Investment Committee has met with Greater Mt. Zion AME leaders from their Salvation and Social Justice organization about the transitional housing initiative they are putting in place and we have approved assistance with furnishing for the house (page 3). We look forward to the next in our monthly conversations about environmental issues (page 4).

A little less weighty is movement towards a mending repair café. We will have an evening of sewing practice and lessons for folks from the Meeting on May 13 so we can be ready to hold clothing repair cafés for the neighborhood. And we will again meet up for brunch at a Trenton eatery on Saturday May 18. (page 4).



GAZA CEASEFIRE MINUTE

Trenton Meeting of Friends of the Religious Society of Friends

Minute on the Israel/Hamas War Approved Fourth Month 14, 2024

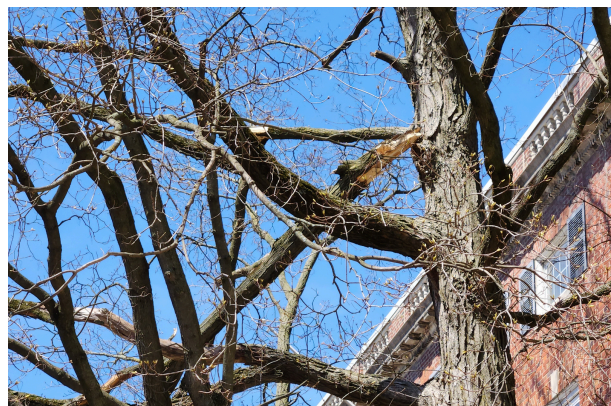
We stand that persecution of any group of people for being who they are is wrong. Certainly, the killing of a population is wrong, but also taking away from people their safe space to set up homes, to build businesses providing food and other essential needs, to access their own independent government, to access medical care and hospitals, and to access a way to educate their young people is immoral. In addition, it is wrong to attack civilians only because they are a part of a designated group.

This is true of the abuses which have been perpetrated on Jews in the time of their diaspora, during the many centuries that they lived in Europe, and today. It is equally true of the mistreatment afforded to Palestinians when their land was overtaken seventy-seven years ago, in the restrictions and abuse inflicted on Palestinians in the intervening years, and it is especially true in the mass bombing, blockading of resources and movement, and forced migration of today. What we see is a Jewish and Palestinian cycle of conflict that has been feeding on itself for over seventy years, consuming all in its path and leaving nothing behind but bitterness and sorrow, while pushing any hope for peaceful resolutions further away.

We call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel/Hamas war, adequate humanitarian aid into Gaza, and an end to the war. We call for a two-state solution, with both sides having self-determination.

OUR OLD TREES

As April ended, a heavy branch in the tree next to the Hanover Street sidewalk broke off and dropped onto branches below. Luckily it was held back by those branches and did not fall to the ground with the possibility of injuring a passerby. Edwin Menendez, our landscaper and a man of many talents, came soon and safely removed the branch!



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COMMITMENT

In previous newsletters we have mentioned some of the ways that Trenton Meeting has supported and connected with groups and projects giving grants and loans from a special fund, the Community Investment Fund. The Meeting has an adequate endowment and we spent some prayerful time considering the present and the future. We depend on income from investments for our building and grounds and for our programs, but we are led by Spirit to reach into this money and support important work in our neighborhood and the city.

We can see people, groups and businesses nearby who are trying to launch or sustain meaningful work. We extracted \$100,000 from our endowment and over the course of four years, we have expended that amount in ways that aided Old Trenton Neighborhood, Academy/Hanover Historic District and sometimes other parts of the city. We have now begun a second round with a second \$100,000 commitment from our endowment. Our first expenditure from the new fund was a combination grant and loan to Generation Learning Center/HelpSelf for expansion of their successful after school program. Here we see students who have come down the street from the Learning Center at 215 N Montgomery to say “Thank You” to the Meeting.



Now we are making a grant to Salvation and Social Justice (SandSJ) out of Greater Mt. Zion AME for furnishings for their transitional housing project home. The home is temporary housing for older (40+) male returning citizens from Trenton. Supportive services and security are provided by programs that are offered by SandSJ and the Greater Mt. Zion community. The Meeting is positioned in the center of Trenton and we see the devastation of homelessness in this population. Having no address makes life improvements, especially employment, almost impossible. This project can change lives and take a bite out of a persistent and troubling issue. We are honored and blessed to be able to assist this life-changing service.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONVERSATIONS

As a Monthly Meeting in the arms of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, we are under the weight of a Climate Witness to understand and combat human caused climate change. We have found that sharing our thoughts, leadings and ideas in conversation over a potluck lunch on a regular basis is helping us confront the issue with new ideas and understanding. In May we will be doing this on the 19th after worship.

SEWING AND MENDING

One thing to come out of the conversations described above is a plan to provide sewing and mending to our neighbors and ourselves. On the evening of May 13, Friends will gather at the Meetinghouse with or without a portable sewing machine to teach, learn or practice sewing. All skill levels are expected. A date or dates for clothing repair sessions for the community have not been set yet.

BRUNCH IN DOWNTOWN TRENTON

Our participation this year in the city's Shop Trenton program "Br/Lunch In Downtown Trenton" began in April at Orchid House Café. We had a wonderful time, great food AND the chance to play with Elijah and Nicole's little one, Xirsi. (back to the camers on the left).



Our next Brunch will be on May 18. The location is not yet decided so check Upcoming Events on our website where the location will be posted. Anyone who is curious about Quakers and/or our Meeting is welcome to join. RSVP on the website or email us at trentonquakers@gmail.com.

Trenton Quakers

Thu May 2, 2024

8:30am - 12pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Fri May 3, 2024

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat May 4, 2024

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun May 5, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

11:30am - 12:30pm CMW Committee

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

Tue May 7, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Thu May 9, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Sat May 11, 2024

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun May 12, 2024

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

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

10am - 11am First Day School

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

Tue May 14, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Thu May 16, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Fri May 17, 2024

6pm - 7pm Sewing Lessons and Practice

Sat May 18, 2024

11am - 12pm Lunch in Downtown Trenton

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

12:15pm - 1:30pm Communication & Outreach Committee

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

Sun May 19, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

11am - 12pm Ken Blackwell - Mercer Street Friends update

Sun May 19, 2024 (continued)

12pm - 1pm Social Sunday Potluck and Environment Action

Support 2pm - 3pm Religious Education Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Tue May 21, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Thu May 23, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Sat May 25, 2024

9am - 4pm BLM Spaghetti prep and distro

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

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun May 26, 2024

10am - 11am First Day

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

Tue May 28, 2024

9am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm food distribution

Sat Jun 1, 2024

12pm - 4pm Neighborhood Cleanup Game

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jun 2, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship



Copies of all our monthly newsletters can be found on our website. Go to www.trentonquakers.org/newsletter or scan the QR code on the left.

NEWSLETTER
ARCHIVE

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OUR WORK

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