

JANUARY 2024 ^ VOL. 2 ISSUE 1

TRENTON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

www.trentonquakers.org
142 E Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08608
trentonquakers@gmail.com 609-278-4551
News and Updates for Friends and friends in our community



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The year 2023 is past. It was a very busy December at the Meetinghouse. Again this year, the Gingerbread House event, put on by the Education Committee, saw an afternoon of creativity and fun. It was a wonderful mix of old friends and new. Adults and children alike put together creations big and small. A touch of the action is shown above.

During Patriots Week in Trenton (12/26-12/31) the Meeting held our traditional events, a walking tour highlighting Colonial Era sites and a Peace Vigil. We had record turnout for both. Details are inside.

PIANOS AND OTHER STUFF

The Meeting has a fund set aside for music related projects and activities. The origin of this fund in 2020 has a backstory that is moving and meaningful. Marion Zarieczna was a concert pianist and piano teacher of great talent and renown. Born and raised in Trenton, she performed here and around the world and was a piano teacher for all levels of students. Upon her death in 2020, the Meeting received an unexpected bequest. Our longtime member Jay Brumbaugh has given this recount that explains.

“My mother, Carol Brumbaugh, was Marian’s close friend of more than 30 years and a student of Marian’s throughout 20+ years. My mother thought that Marian might not have enough money for retirement and so mom created an account for Marian with Raymond James investment group. When my mom passed the account became Marian’s. Marian never really wanted the money but you know my mom, and it was done! The gift to the Meeting was Marian’s way of giving it back to where Marian thought it would be used wisely by the Friends Meeting that Marian knew my mom loved all her life!”

Although it was not a restricted gift, the Meeting has dedicated its use to musical endeavors. Our two pianos are now being maintained and repaired. Three neighborhood youth are receiving free weekly piano lessons at the Meetinghouse, and just this past month, an electronic piano with dual headphones has been purchased for the Children’s Room at the Trenton Free Library (a block away) so that our students have a way to practice. The piano at the library is not restricted at all, and other young folks can engage their musical curiosity too.



PATRIOTS WEEK - COLONIAL ERA TOUR



Every year, the walking tour of the Old Trenton Neighborhood gets more and more popular. This year the Colonial Era Trenton tour attracted upwards of 70 people. All were grateful to Dr. Sharon Ann Holt, long affiliated with our Meeting and many years the leader of these Patriots Week tours, for an interesting and fact-filled 90 minute walk highlighting building and locations existing in pre-Revolutionary Trenton. The tour started and ended at the Meetinghouse. Picture above shows folks gathering to begin the tour. Dr. Holt standing in the white coat.

PATRIOTS WEEK - NEW YEAR'S EVE

December 31st, the last day of Patriots Week, has been the day for Trenton Meeting's Peace Vigil for many years. Traditionally, it is an hour of gathering in the manner of Quakers: silent meditation with messages from the gathered as folks are led to share. This year there were a couple of things that happened a little differently. The first was a preceding event, a Peace Sing Along led by the Solidarity Singers of NJ Industrial Union Council. The other was a change to the Vigil, facilitated by our cosponsor Coalition for Peace Action from Princeton. Five leaders from different faiths (Hindu, Baha'i, Christian, Muslim and Jewish) spoke of the significance of Light in their traditions, with the remainder of the time in the traditional format.



Imam Qareeb Bashir



Peace Sing Along

UPCOMING CLIMATE SERIES

For three weeks starting January 21st, Religious Education and Peace and Social Concerns Committees have organized an Adult Forum series on the climate. We have acquired a three-part video series created by the online platform “TheWeek”. Each Sunday (Jan 21, Jan 28 and Feb 4) at the rise of Worship we will view one video and then engage in conversation about what we have watched. There will be refreshments. It is highly recommended by the creators of the videos that each person watch all three and do so in company with others.

Is The Week for me?

Recently, it's been hard not to notice how fast the climate is changing. Experts say it will get worse really rapidly. The Week is for those of us who want to know

- how this will affect us, in the next 10, 20 or 30 years
- and what we can do about it.

Too often, this issue feels abstract and overwhelming. The Week is a way to engage this issue, for real, with our friends, family or colleagues. It doesn't tell us what to do, but empowers us to make up our own minds. So that we can say down the line: *I knew what I needed to know, I did what I need to do and I have no regrets.*



MORE FROM DECEMBER



Top left, right - Black Lives Matter NJ December Outreach
Bottom left - Gingerbread Making

SOUTH JERSEY QUAKERS

Learn about events and stories from the Meetings in our Quarter (Burlington), and Salem and Haddonfield Quarters from southjerseyquakers.org. A joint project of the three Quarters, you can subscribe to the email newsletter on the page at southjerseyquakers.org/previous-newsletters (or scan the QR code)



SUBMITTED POEM

The Size of God
by Maia Simon

you, oh God, reside within me,
and in the tree and in the mountain.

yet the great vault of the sky
cannot contain you.

the galaxies and stars are the dust beneath thy feet.

SUPPORTING OUR WORK

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

To make an on online or credit card donation, scan the QR Code to take you to the Meeting website and choose "Donate" from the header menu. Or from [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) "send" your donation to trentonquakers@gmail.com



Trenton Quakers

Sat Jan 6, 2024

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 7, 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

Fri Jan 12, 2024

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Jan 13, 2024

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 14, 2024

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

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 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

Sat Jan 20, 2024

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 21, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

11:30am - 1pm Climate Change Video & Discussion-Week

12pm - 3pm Religious Education Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Jan 27, 2024

9am - 4pm BLM Spaghetti prep and distro

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

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 28, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

11:30am - 1pm Climate Change Video & Discussion-Week 2

Mon Jan 29, 2024

7pm - 8:15pm Communication & Outreach Committee

Where: Zoom