

NOVEMBER 2023 ^ VOL. 1 ISSUE 9

TRENTON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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News and Updates for Friends and friends in our community



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Introduction

While we enjoyed some beautiful weather (mixed with showers) throughout the month of October, we cannot enjoy the escalation of war and violence overseas that has marked this month. Individually and collectively, we recognize the Quaker testimony of peace and the rejection of violence as a means to settle disputes. While acting through prayer, protest or pressure on our political leaders, Trenton Friends mourn the dead and wounded, and grieve for those driven from their homes by conflict and fear – in Gaza and Israel, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and in other troubled areas.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COMMITMENT

Continuing the highlighting of some of the ways the Meeting provided financial support to our community from the Community Investment fund, here are a couple more examples:

- - The Big Easy - As 2020 progressed and the COVID 19 pandemic surged, the nearby restaurant Big Easy of Trenton started providing to go meals to members of the community often without charge. In order to do this pivot from sit-down dining, the owner Olugbala Sababu needed additional warming equipment. A grant was made for such a purchase with gratitude for his service to the community.
- - Capital City Farm received one of our first grants. Two acres in the city near Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), Capital City Farm is a working mini-farm with vegetables and chickens and a mission to provide fresh produce free to Trentonians and TASK as well as an educational mission. At the time of our grant it was struggling to get solid funding in place to keep it in existence. Since then it has become better supported through Mercer County Parks System.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

“...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”Isaiah 2:4

This quote from the book of Isaiah is inscribed on a wall across the street from the United Nations building in New York City. The United Nations was founded in 1945 with one of its goals being to maintain international peace. We now have a war between Israel and Hamas. When will wars ever end? Why can't we find a solution to conflict without killing each other?

We hope and pray for a ceasefire in this most recent war.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Meeting was approached by mothers in the neighborhood asking if they could hold a Halloween Party for the neighborhood children on the Meetinghouse grounds on Halloween night. (Cover photo) We were very happy to oblige and a number of us came to lend a hand. Dozens of children had a wonderful time.



OUR FRONT POLLINATOR GARDEN

This year, the front pollinator garden at the Meeting House was better than ever. Property and Funds had installed a rain barrel which accumulated water from the roof to be used for watering the plants. Many helpers kept the garden watered and weeded. Some (below) just came to rest! It looked very nice, and around Halloween, it was prepared for the winter. We look forward to new growth in the Spring.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The slate walkway from the parking lot to the Meetinghouse had sunk a bit and a couple of the slates were cracked. This created two problems - an uneven surface that was a possible trip hazard and pooling of rain water where the walkway was at or below the level of the grass on either side. The project to remedy this was undertaken by Edwin Menendez, our long time outside maintenance person. He did a great job! The semicircle at the parking lot end was to reduce the rain water accumulation in the parking lot at the entrance to the walkway.



SUMMER MINI-RETREAT

As Friends may know, our summer retreat yielded a theme, which was to help Meeting to become more young adult led. Recognizing that older and retired Friends may have more time for these activities, we envision these Friends to be in more supportive leadership roles. While at first glance, it looks challenging to involve younger Quakers in key roles, we realized that we did not welcome and encourage younger Quakers as much as we might. While we are still considering how to move this forward, we are at the same time becoming aware of it in committee assignments and in thinking about various decisions we make as a meeting, such as with donations, etc. We wish to make Trenton Friends Meeting a welcome, interesting, and supportive place for younger Quakers to be. So many of us need the quiet and spiritual space of Meeting, and that includes everyone. More youthful Quakers are our future.

SUPPORTING

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 "send" your donation to trentonquakers@gmail.com



Trenton Quakers

Fri Nov 3, 2023

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Nov 4, 2023

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 5, 2023

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

Mon Nov 6, 2023

11:30am - 1:30pm Athenaeum Group use Meetinghouse

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

Sat Nov 11, 2023

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 12, 2023

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 Nov 18, 2023

12pm - 3pm Isles Community Harvest Fest

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

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 19, 2023

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

2pm - 3pm Religious Education Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Nov 25, 2023

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 26, 2023

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

Mon Nov 27, 2023

7pm - 8:15pm Communication & Outreach Committee

Where: Zoom

Photo credits: p.1 L. Bifano, p.2 (top l-r) N. Mosgrove, S. Torres (bottom) Jim Henderson - Own work, CC0, p.3 B. Vadnais, p.4 C. Hardy