

FEBRUARY 2024 ^ VOL. 2 ISSUE 2

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



IN THIS ISSUE:

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

Community, Peace and Climate Stewardship are three of the sacred commitments of our Meeting. January has given us opportunities to act on these. Once again we could provide the opportunity for Black Lives Matter NJ to prepare and distribute hot food, canned goods and clothing for our neighborhood. In the picture above, young people from the community are helping BLM and Meeting people set up to begin the distribution. Peace and Justice, specifically in the conflict in Gaza, and a three part series of Climate Crisis videos are described in this issue.

We look forward to a February with these same commitments at the forefront. The final Climate video, continued prayerful attention to the Middle East and more community outreach.

PEACE

Our Meeting has been guided for some time toward an understanding of the circumstances faced by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza where movement is limited, rights are limited and regular conflicts have been occurring between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces. In April of 2022 a compelling exhibit of pictures created by children in Gaza was displayed at the Meetinghouse. Earlier than that the Meeting approved a resolution to not buy products from Hewlett-Packard because that company provides software used by Israel in controlling the Palestinian population. With the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas, we began to consider how, as a Meeting, we could express our Peace testimony and act in support of peace and justice in the region. Our banner (described in an earlier newsletter) expressed our desire for a peaceful world, locally and globally.

Late in January, Friends became aware of a week of prayer and symbolic fasting sponsored by the Reformed Church of Highland Park. More than a half dozen of our members and attenders participated. Some travelled to the church to spend a four hour “shift” of fasting and silent prayer and some did the same at home. See page 5 for a poem by Sandra Johnson. She first shared this poem at the church fast.



Our sign on the day of the art exhibit

**Everyone deserves food & water.
Everyone deserves a safe space.**

PEACE in TRENTON and the WORLD

Join us in Prayer and Action - Sundays at 10 am



Learn More:
trentonquakers.org
trentonquakers@gmail.com
Trenton Meeting of Friends - Quakers - Rooted in Peace

trentonquakers.org



Our peace banner which hangs in front of the Meeting

CHILDREN AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL

Over the past few years the efforts and offerings by the Religious Education Committee of Trenton Meeting have changed significantly. This happened primarily because we no longer saw any families with children grade school age or younger.

We did not want to have a meeting devoid of children. So, it was suggested by one of our teachers that we offer activities to the children in the surrounding neighborhood.

Beginning on September 12, 2021, we started inviting families and children to various programs. We had a T-shirt Decorating event to start, then we had Egg Hunts, Gingerbread House making events, Spring Garden events, and a Pumpkin Painting event.

The interest in our events was significant and we developed friendships with families and children within the neighborhood. We noticed that the children loved to play on the piano and so the meeting set up piano lessons for those children who were interested in coming to lessons on a weekly basis. The next thing we noticed was that one of the mothers got interested in the Black Lives Matter monthly distributions which take place at our meeting. She asked if she could host a Halloween Party for the neighborhood at the meeting house. In conjunction with Black Lives Matter and members of our meeting, she created a very special event for the neighborhood.

Now we are having parents ask about our First Day Activities for children. Graham, one of our teachers, will be at the meeting house on the 2nd and 4th First Days (Sundays) to have a lesson ready in case families show up on Sunday mornings. If children and families start coming on a regular basis, then Áiñe would regularly join him.

(continued on next page)



Egg Hunt



First Day School Room

CHILDREN (CON'T)

In the meantime, The Religious Education Committee is planning an in-service event where we will be making sure that we all appreciate what has been taught at Trenton Meeting in the past and look at what we want to do in the future to be in-sync with each other. Anyone interested in teaching or providing educational childcare is welcome to join us on February 18 from 2 until 5 PM for this experience.

Our childcare people and teachers are background checked. Please contact Cathy Campbell (cathythemathdoctor@yahoo.com) if you wish to be background checked in order to help us out with the children.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOX

Working together, the Outreach, Religious Education and Property Committees have taken an idea to a reality. As part of our outreach and service to the community, we have designed and contracted for a Book Box that will be outside of the Meetinghouse secured to the fence. It will be stocked with books for children and adults that will be free to take and can be kept or returned. The Religious Education Committee will curate the books that go in there and monitor it as books come and go. Outreach will have space to place pamphlets, copies of the newsletter and other information about our Meeting and Quakerism in general. It will be painted to match the color of the Meetinghouse doors and secured to the fence.



Pastor Kelvin Baldwin, contractor and faithful servant to the youth of Trenton through Men For H.O.P.E., guides the young men working with him and learning many job skills as they check out the positioning of the box, prior to it being painted, roofed and installed. Look for a picture of the completed box in next month's newsletter.

SUBMITTED POEM

by Sandra Rae Johnson
December 31, 2023

GAZA/TRENTON

**Why so still, my darling sweet child?
So soundly sleeping, my child
Why so silent, my darling sweet child?
My own, my child.**

**Awake, awake, child of my body
Awake, awake, my own sweet child**

**I call your name, my own sweet child
I call your name, my own sweet child**

**How could you be taken from me, my own sweet child?
My own sweet child.**

**Why? For what reason?
Not yet a woman, my own sweet child
My own sweet child.**

**My tears cannot wash the blood away
My warmth cannot warm you
I die today with you
My own sweet child.
My own sweet child.**

BURLINGTON QUARTELY MEETING

Heads up that the next Burlington Quarterly Meeting will be hosted by Trenton Meeting on March 17. A very special program will be offered following the Meeting and lunch. Ben Pink Dandelion, a renowned Quaker scholar will speak to us from Woodbrooke in the, United Kingdom. The program starts at 1 pm.



Peace Rocks

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 "send" your donation
to trentonquakers@gmail.com**



Trenton Quakers

Fri Feb 2, 2024

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sun Feb 4, 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 3

Mon Feb 5, 2024

7:30pm - 9pm Truth and Justice: The BlackQuaker Project Challenges Quakerism in the 21st Century

Where: Zoom

Sat Feb 10, 2024

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 11, 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 Feb 17, 2024

12:30pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 18, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

2pm - 5pm Religious Education Committee Workshop

Where: in person

Mon Feb 19, 2024

11am - 12pm Piano work at the Meetinghouse

Sat Feb 24, 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 Feb 25, 2024

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 Feb 26, 2024

7pm - 8:15pm Communication & Outreach Committee

Where: Zoom

Fri Mar 1, 2024

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person