

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
CALENDAR PP. 5-6**

November begins a dash into the season of holidays, celebrations, anxiety and exhaustion. Anxieties arise from political issues, family dynamics and social pressures. The Quakers at Trenton Meeting and around the world are not immune to this, but we work to live calmly with the pressures in our lives. We strive to live lives of simplicity and integrity. We gather each week to Worship in communal silence practicing “expectant waiting” to hear and understand a divine message we may (or may not) encounter. When a message is clearly meant for others to hear, we rise and speak.

We find relief from anxiety (but perhaps not exhaustion!) through our work to maintain and uplift our community and neighborhood. The monthly Free Sale pictured above has become very popular. This year our annual Community Barbecue Meal is later than usual, but early in the busy month of November on Sunday November 3rd.

After a summer of beauty our front garden flowers are in decline, but before fading for the year, the Rose Milkweed (picture on left) gave sustenance to bees and other pollinators.



TRENTON MAKES LEADERS



The article below from the PYM website introduced “our” Nikki Mosgrove as the new Clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

On August 1, 2024, Nikki Mosgrove stepped into the role of Presiding Clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (a collection of 105 Quaker congregations in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania). She is tasked with facilitating business among us. Among unprogrammed Friends, who eschews religious hierarchy, a clerk is the first among equals. Her discernment process in accepting this role involved 30 days of prayer and reflection with people of many different spiritual practices: Presbyterians, Baptists, Nontheists, Pentecostals, and Quakers.

Nikki, a member of Trenton Friends Meeting (New Jersey), has been a Friend for more than a decade, dedicating her time to Trenton’s Community Investment Committee. She is also a trustee of the Friends Foundation for the Aging and The School of the Spirit Quaker Ministry. Additionally, she carries a public Quaker ministry called Nia Ministries.

While Nikki is open to Spirit as she facilitates business on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, she has two goals over her two-year tenure: encourage leadership among Friends under age 40 and increase the number of Monthly Meetings that participate in corporate discernment.

Nikki’s dedication to inclusivity and engaging young people reflects her deep understanding of what it means to serve PYM’s community. Her focus on creating a welcoming environment, where everyone experiences a sense of belonging, is at the heart of her leadership as presiding clerk. This vision is central to how she navigates the complexities of the community, always striving to ensure all perspectives are valued and included.

She believes that Friends are positioned to address the challenges facing the community today because “as a corporate body, we are not afraid to ask hard questions and have difficult conversations. Sometimes you have to cry, sometimes you have to yell, and oftentimes that’s the only way you can get through it.”

Nikki also highlighted the importance of creating space for everyone: “I like to use the term ‘give grace.’ We have a lot of difficult conversations ahead. I listen for the voices that aren’t speaking and ask them to share. It’s just a different way of being, and sometimes people look at me like I’m nuts. But everyone should have a voice.” Nikki’s commitment to fostering open dialogue and mutual respect reflects the strengths she brings to her role as presiding clerk.

COMMUNITY BARBECUE MEAL

Our Community Barbecue Meal will be on Sunday November 3rd. Serving will start at 1:00 pm and end by 3:00 pm. We encourage Friends from nearby Meetings and friends from the neighborhood to join us. Volunteers to help setup and prepare can come at noon.

There will be activities for children.

Keep an eye on [our website events page](#) for details on this and all the events at the Meetinghouse.



Our Annual Barbecue Meal will be on the
3rd of November
Serving from 1 to 3 pm
142 E Hanover Street

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OUTREACH

To help advance our Community Investment grant opportunities, Members of the Community Investment Committee participated in a resource fair (and children's fun fest!) at the Edgewood Avenue Playground. The fair was sponsored by Habitat for Humanity in conjunction with the groundbreaking for a new home being constructed by Habitat volunteers in the West Ward.

We had a table with handouts telling how to apply and what our guidelines for grants are. A number of folks were interested and excited about this.



Cathy and Charles at the table



The ice cream truck,, bouncy houses and some "ballers"

OUT REACH AND HARM REDUCTION



Pictured above is the Black Lives Matter NJ October Outreach. Hot spaghetti dinners, non-perishable foods, care packs and coats were available. There won't be an outreach in November but it will resume monthly on December 21st and then continue next year on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Black Lives Matter and Imperfect Village a state recognized harm reduction organization will be coming to our neighborhood once or more a month to help homeless, addicted and downtrodden folks be safer and more comfortable with supplies (Narcan, condoms, Plan B, hygiene products) and counseling and referrals.

Trenton Meeting has been approached by another group here in Trenton that has similar harm reduction goals plus additional resources like health practitioners. We will be meeting with them to assess how we can assist. We know distressed folks by sight and friendly greeting who find our property a relatively safe location for rest. Helping them get services delivered with compassion and dignity would be wonderful. Look for news of progress in this collaboration in future newsletters.

PEACE REQUIRES JUSTICE

Across religions one finds thought provoking words. Recently Rabbi Cat Zarvis of the progressive "Synagogue without walls" Beyt Tikkum wrote this which mirrors in many ways the Quaker pursuits of Peace and Justice.

"I submit that for there to be justice, we need to uncover and state the truth. And for there to be peace, we need justice. In other words, they are interdependent and also flow in a particular order."

"Speaking truth, pursuing justice, and creating peace requires concrete actions. They are not private religious matters, they are deeply public and political. To manifest them in our world, as is required of us as Jews, we must uncover the places where they are hidden and work to make them visible and actualized."

Trenton Quakers

Sat Nov 2, 2024

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 3, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

12pm - 1pm BBQ setup

1pm - 3pm Community Barbecue Meal

3pm - 4pm BBQ cleanup

Tue Nov 5, 2024

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

Sat Nov 9, 2024

10:15am - 11am Prayers For Peace

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 10, 2024

10am - 11am First Day School

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

Tue Nov 12, 2024

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

Fri Nov 15, 2024

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Nov 16, 2024

11am - 1pm Sidewalk Free Sale

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

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Nov 17, 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

11:30am - 12:30pm Social Sunday

Mon Nov 18, 2024

6:30pm - 7:30pm Counsel, Ministry and Worship Committee

Sun Nov 24, 2024

10am - 11am First Day

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

Trenton Quakers

11:30am - 12:30pm Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Mon Nov 25, 2024

7pm - 8pm Communication & Outreach Committee
Where: Zoom

Tue Nov 26, 2024

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

Sun Dec 1, 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 Dec 3, 2024

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

Fri Dec 6, 2024

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee
Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Dec 7, 2024

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Dec 8, 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 Dec 10, 2024

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

Sat Dec 14, 2024

10:15am - 11am Prayers For Peace

12pm - 1:30pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Dec 15, 2024

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship
Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm Social Sunday

Tue Dec 17, 2024

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

Sat Dec 21, 2024

9am - 4pm BLM Spaghetti prep and distro
Where: Trenton Meeting of Friends, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11am - 1pm Sidewalk Free Sale
Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, United States

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

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



SUPPORTING OUR WORK

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PO Box 8
Trenton, NJ 08601

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Newsletter editor: Charles Hardy