

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



Our Meetinghouse over 100 years ago

Last month the front page image showed the Meetinghouse as constructed in 1739. This month's picture is from sometime between 1890 and 1924. This is inferred because the additions from the 1880s are complete and the red building next door has not yet been razed for the construction of the YWCA building which happened in 1925. The fence around the building is not the current (but old!) wrought iron, but appears to be a wooden slat fence.

IN THIS ISSUE:

**EVENTS AND
NEWS PP. 2-4**

CALENDAR PP. 5-6

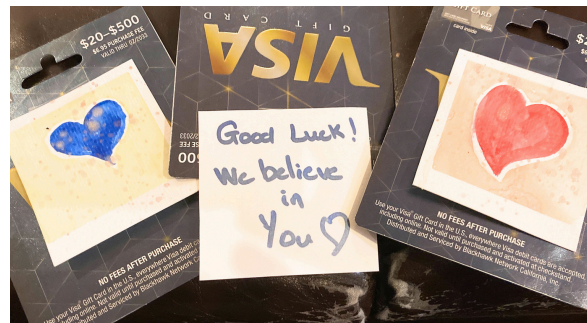
From the old to the new, read inside about our involvement in the Quaker lawsuit seeking to stop the removal of long standing restrictions on how and when immigration or homeland security officials can enter or surveil Houses of Worship.

CLOTHES FOR TRENTON STUDENTS

Over the past couple of months Trenton Meeting has had the opportunity to help with the needs of some students in the Trenton Public School System. In early December, we learned that the school secretary from Harrison Elementary School in Chambersburg was anxiously seeking winter coats, hats and gloves for some of their students who were coming to school in freezing weather without proper outerwear. Acting quickly, some meeting members contributed and others shopped and we were able to deliver 20 coats, a dozen or more hats and about 20 pairs of gloves to the school. Top right is a picture of the school's Principal, Secretary and Social Worker and Cathy of the Meeting holding a sampling of the coats.



Winter wear being delivered



The gift cards with notes from Debi

Then in mid-January we learned about three outstanding students in the STEM program at Trenton Central High who were about to begin internships at the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and needed business attire. These internship opportunities are vital to future success but much more rare for inner city young people than students from the more affluent suburbs.



Jessica Massenat and Debi Richter

To quote the teacher, Jessica Massenat: "Programs like this not only expose students to career pathways outside their norm but also help them navigate the difficult yet necessary conversation of how to "look the part" when interacting with professionals in unfamiliar environments. To ensure these students are prepared for success, I am requesting \$1,500 in funding to provide business-casual attire and shoes for three exceptional young men-Jonathan Rodriguez, Brandon Rodriguez, and Me'khi Dasman-who have been selected to participate in the EPIC Program at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)." A full copy of the letter with details about the program and the exceptional young men is in a blog post on our website - <https://www.trentonquakers.org/post/trenton-students-dressed-for-success>

While a number of Meeting folks kicked money in to fulfill this request, it was Debi Echevarria Richter who really made it happen. Debi is a long time member who now lives in Philadelphia, but is a constant source of love and assistance to our work in Trenton. With time running down to get the young men ready, Debi purchased three \$500 gift cards and delivered them to Ms. Massenat who will be taking the young men on a shopping trip. Pictures above.

BUSY COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN JANUARY

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The January Black Lives Matter Outreach included members of the Central Jersey chapter of Jack and Jill of America, an organization that promotes leadership, scholarship, civics and cultural for African American youth. Jack and Jill arrived with a large group of young people and a great number of coats that were offered to the community as part of BLM's regular monthly distribution of hot spaghetti meals, care packs and sundries.



Orientation for Jack and Jill folks by Quaderra, BLM member who lives in our neighborhood



The kitchen was very busy!



Getting meals and coats



Here's most of the crew



ARM IN ARM

It can't be forgotten that on Tuesdays, Arm In Arm distributes food bags to individuals and families in our neighborhood and beyond. The bags include meat, fresh produce and non perishables.



Winding down after 100 plus bags distributed



Volunteers and staff welcoming the community

QUAKERS SUE HOMELAND SECURITY

Trenton Meeting is one of over one hundred local (aka Monthly) Meetings within Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). With Quaker humility in Presiding mind, it is an honor to note that the Presiding Clerk (leader) of PYM for the next two years is Nikki Mosgrove from our meeting. And this is not the only time in the past 10 years that a Trenton Meeting member (Jada Jackson) has been PYM Presiding Clerk. We are definitely pulling our weight.

On January 27th, three Yearly Meetings, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New England, and two local meetings filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) over potential immigration raids at houses of worship. On January 20th, the longstanding directive that protected “sensitive locations” including schools, hospitals and houses of worship from immigration raids was rescinded by the the federal administration. The free exercise of religion is the concern. For Quakers and many other religions their religious practice includes worship or rituals that are communal in nature and without the rescinded directive, fear will deter some from entering and participating.

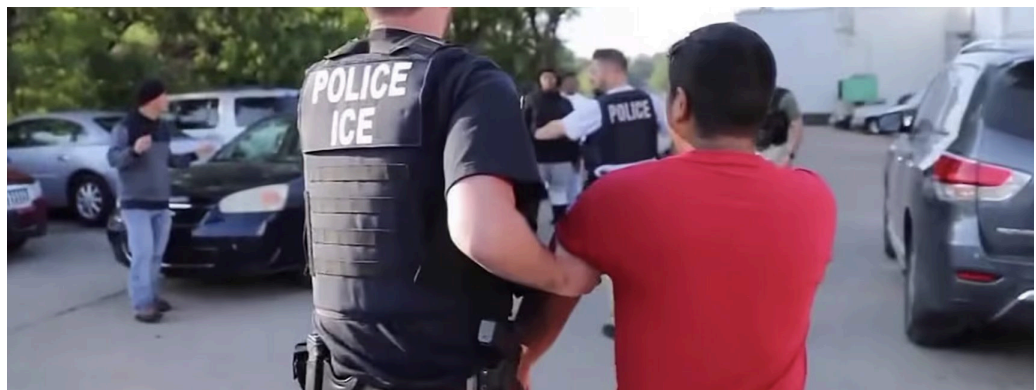
Democracy Forward, a non-profit legal organization, is representing Quakers in filing this lawsuit. A quote from their press release explains:

“For decades, the United States has protected sensitive locations, including houses of worship, from immigration enforcement activities, out of a concern that such activities restrain people from receiving essential services and engaging in essential activities, such as worship. Despite these longstanding protections, the Trump administration’s DHS has reversed course and now immigration enforcement operations can be conducted in protected areas like churches and religious ceremonies such as weddings and funerals limited only by DHS’s instruction that they use “common sense.” The suit alleges that presence of armed government agents at or near meeting houses is disruptive to Plaintiffs’ ability to freely associate and worship. The suit also alleges that the abrupt shift in policy violates federal law’s prohibition against agencies of the federal government acting arbitrarily and capriciously.”

The commitment and hard work of the leadership of all the parties managed to pull together the coalition of Meetings for the legal filing in what can only be called “record speed” for Quakers! The full press release can be found at democracyforward.org/updates/sensitive-locations/ and a PYM statement about this at www.pym.org/pym-involvement-in-dhs-lawsuit/

Elsewhere, on baptistnews.com an article starts “One day after federal immigration agents arrested a man at a church in Georgia, a coalition of Quaker meetings filed suit in federal court to block the Department of Homeland Security raids at houses of worship.” Read the full article here: baptistnews.com

A picture from baptistnews.com of ICE detaining a church-goer in Dekalb County, Georgia on January 26, 2025



Trenton Quakers

Sat Feb 1, 2025

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 2, 2025

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

5pm - 6:30pm Sharing and Listening to the Guidance on Advocacy and Lobbying in Preparation for Continuing Sessions - February 2

Tue Feb 4, 2025

8:45am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm

6:30pm - 7:30pm Religious Ed meeting

Fri Feb 7, 2025

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

| Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Feb 8, 2025

10:15am - 11am Prayers For Peace

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 9, 2025

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

Mon Feb 10, 2025

6:30pm - 8pm Community Investment Committee

Tue Feb 11, 2025

8:45am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm

Sat Feb 15, 2025

11am - 1pm Free Sale

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 16, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

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

11:30am - 12:30pm Social Sunday

Tue Feb 18, 2025

8:45am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm

Sat Feb 22, 2025

9am - 4pm BLM Spaghetti prep and distro

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

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Trenton Quakers

Sun Feb 23, 2025

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 24, 2025

7pm - 8pm Communication & Outreach Committee

Where: Zoom

Tue Feb 25, 2025

8:45am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm

Sat Mar 1, 2025

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Mar 2, 2025

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 Mar 4, 2025

8:45am - 12:30pm Arm in Arm

6:30pm - 7:30pm Religious Ed meeting

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4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

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11am - 1pm Free Sale

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

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

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 go to www.trentonquakers.org or scan the QR Code below and choose "Donate" from the header menu. Or from [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) "send" your donation to trentonquakers@gmail.com



Newsletter editor: Charles Hardy