

**Annual Report
Adult Religious Education Committee
June 4, 2017**

Committee Members

Judy Fellows, Elizabeth Hurst, Norval Reece, Liz Serkin, Dan Umstead, Jennifer Wolf

Programs, 2016-2017

This year, 20 Adult First Day School programs were presented. Norval Reece submitted press releases to the *Newtown Advance* and *Newtown Patch* for most programs. The announcements were regularly published.

We opened in September with Pennswood residents and Abington Friends Meeting members Ruth and Charley Peterson sharing lessons from the remarkable journey of their 72-year marriage. Also, in the fall, Chiyo Moriuchi spoke of her parents' experience being imprisoned in Japanese Internment Camps during WWII.

As always, we invited other committees to bring topics of their choosing to first day programs. In the fall, the Peace & Service Committee invited activist Patricia Walsh-Collins to speak about her experience traveling to North Dakota to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline with the Native Americans of Standing Rock Nation. In the spring, the Worship & Ministry Committee led a small group sharing exercise on the topic of the immigrant experience. This was a follow-up to Peter Vari's and Eva Jakobovics' story of escaping Soviet-occupied Hungary, and coming to settle in the United States.

Our calendar also featured Quaker educators and students. We heard from Joyce Ajlouny, then Director of Ramallah Friends School, who has since been named general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, and from Drew Smith of Friends Council on Education. Sam Houser gave us a new head's perspective on the present and future of George School, and meeting members Scott and Susan Hoskins, Claire Kinnel, and Greta Karr spoke enthusiastically about George School's first service trip to Nepal. Student poet Violet Myles discussed her craft, and shared some of her award-winning writing with us, as well.

No First Day season would be complete without Spiritual Journeys, and we were delighted to hear several throughout this school year. Many thanks to those who invested so much time and effort to make this year another one filled with thoughtful presentations and timely topics. A complete list of the 2016-2017 Adult RE program titles and speakers is attached to this report.

Work is under way on the 2017-2018 schedule. All are encouraged to offer the committee suggestions for programs or topics you would like us to consider for the coming year.

DATE	SPEAKER(S)	SUBJECT
18-Sep-16	Ruth and Charley Peterson	Spiritual Journey
25-Sep-16	Martha Holland	Education Series, part I: "What Does Success Look Like?"
9-Oct-16	Chiyo Moriuchi	On WWII Japanese Internment Camps
16-Oct-16	Michael Daley	Spiritual Journey
23-Oct-16	Jamal Elliott	Co-CEO of Wissahickon Charter School
30-Oct-16	Violet Myles	George School Student Poet
13-Nov-16	Patricia Walsh-Collins	On Joining Native Americans in N. Dakota to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline
11-Dec-16	John Davison	On Penn Treaty Elms
15-Jan-17	John Ratliff	On Trip to Kenyan Villages with Global Connections Club
22-Jan-17	Drew Smith	Friends Council on Education Executive Director: "Your Kid Retires in 2081"
29-Jan-17	Joyce Ajlouny	Director, Ramallah Friends School: "Educating Toward Peace"
12-Feb-17	Martha Holland	Education Series, part II - "The High School Years: What to Expect"
26-Feb-17	Steve Bacher	Spiritual Journey
12-Mar-17	Will Reid	Spiritual Journey
19-Mar-17	Peter Vari and Eva Jakabovics	On their journey to America from Soviet Occupied Hungary
26-Mar-17	Worship & Ministry Small Group Sharing	On the immigrant experience
9-Apr-17	Patricia McBee	"How Does Quaker Silent Worship Work?"
23-Apr-17	Sam Houser	"George School: A New Head's Perspective on the Present and Future"
30-Apr-17	Sarah Buxton, with MS/HS Student Panel	On technology and social media in the lives of young Friends
14-May-17	Scott & Susan Hoskins, Claire Kinnel, Greta Karr	On first George School service trip to Nepal