**Annual Report**

**Adult Religious Education Committee**

**June 7, 2020**

**Committee Members**

Richmond Shreve, Marguerite Chandler, Kevin Connor, Peter Martin (Clerk); Norval Reece, Wayne Heacock, Elizabeth Hurst, Jennifer Wolf

**Programs, 2019-2020**

The Adult Religious Education Committee develops and promotes the Adult First Day School programs through the program year. Programs are intended to inform, inspire and educate all who attend. Presenters may be members or attenders of the Meeting, visiting Quaker leaders, educators, or other prominent speakers.

All first day programs were accomplished by the work of our Committee and the active assistance of the Meeting. We would like to thank Norval Reece who ensured that all 22 of the adult programs this past year were promoted with news stories and photos prior to the events in the Bucks County Herald, the Newtown Advance, and Newtown Patch (online).

Throughout the class year, faiths other than Quakerism, the testimonies and COVID19 were highlighted. We presented 22 programs (16 in person and 6 on Zoom) this year. We were able to provide a wide range of ideas and perspectives because we reached out to Quakers and non-Quakers who represented many different areas of interest to us. Presentations included Quaker related organizations, such as Friend’s Fiduciary, Mercer Street Friends and The Quaker School at Horsham. Non-Quakers were represented by the Zubaida Foundation and Mosque and the Oxford Circle. International perspectives were gained from Shumin Li on China and George Lakey on the Nordic way of dealing with COVID-19.

The Class calendar started with presentations by Noor Philips on Islam and Anita Lyndaker-Studer on the Oxford Circle Mennonite Church’s vision to serve the wider community beyond its walls.

As the schedule proceeded, both Worship & Ministry and Peace & Service hosted programs that made us mindful that there is a time to speak out and a time to minister without speaking.

We continued our study of the testimonies, with a talk on Service and Community in the State House of Representatives, Puerto Rico and on shareholder activism. Stewardship of the environment was spoken about in talks of solar power and Project Drawdown. Peace and Community were explored by Jenny Hollingshead and Barbara Simmons.

Other programs focused on Ethics, Relational Life Therapy, a spiritual journey and a report on the Newtown survey of members and attenders.

COVID-19 not only changed the Adult Class schedule but also how it was presented. We would like to give warm thanks to the speakers who were originally scheduled to speak and gave up their slots to enable the scheduling of speakers on the pandemic. Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing the Meeting decided to move from in person presentation to the ZOOM platform. All of the COVID related Classes and Meeting for Worship were given on ZOOM thanks to the ad hoc tech team of Susi and Scott Hoskins and Richmond Shreve.

Last but not least was the Mother’s Day presentation. It was enjoyable because it included readers and listeners from the whole meeting. It was memorable because it was a beautiful example of our community.

Engaging speakers for the 2020-21 schedule has begun. We will begin the calendar with Lucretia Mott portrayed by reenactor Kim Hanley. As always, all members and attenders are encouraged to make suggestions for programs and/or topics for consideration by the committee for our next year.

A complete list of the 2019-2020 Adult Religious Education program of speakers and subjects is listed below.

Schedule of Speakers

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | SPEAKER(S) | SUBJECT | |
| 09/15/2019 | Noor Philips | The Islamic Experience in Bucks County | |
| 09/22/2019 | Annemarie Hindman | Spiritual Journey – Mysticism, Skepticism, Quakerism | |
| 09/29/2019 | Anita Lyndaker-Studer | “Faith into Action: The Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association” | |
| 10/13/2019 | Joe Hohenstein | “Why a Quaker Immigration Attorney is in the State House of Representatives” | |
| 10/20/2019 | Worship & Ministry | “Ministering to the Meeting for Worship – Without Speaking” | |
| 10/27/2019 | Peace & Service | Panel Discussion on Continuing Conversation on Race | |
| 11/10/2019 | Scott Hoskins | “Hurricanes, Service Work, and How I began Working on a Documentary about Puerto Rico Rising Again.” | |
| 11/24/2019 | Peter Vari | “Solar Power Explained and Its Feasibility in Newtown” | |
| 12/15/2019 | Todd Waymon | Ethics as Religion | |
| 02/12/2020 | Nikki Loscalzo | Relational Life Therapy and How It Relates to Quakerism | |
| 01/19/2020 | Peace & Service | Ruth Darlington, Project Drawdown in Practice | |
| 01/26/2020 | Jennie Holingshead | Peace | |
| 02/09/2020 | Kate Monahan | Service - Shareholder Activism | |
| 02/23/2020 | Barbara Simmons | Community | |
| 03/08/2020 | Annemarie Hindman | Report on the Survey of Newtown Meeting | |
| 03/15/2020 | Shuman Li | Update from China: “The Economy, Coronavirus, Trade Wars and More.” Zoom | |
| 03/22/2020 | Richmond Shreve | | “COVID-19: Understanding How We Fight It.” Zoom |
| 03/29/2020 | George Lakey | | “The Nordic Secret to Battling Coronavirus: Trust,” Zoom |
| 04/19/2020 | Peace & Service | | Matthew Chandler, "Worship Sharing on Faith, Peace, and Justice: "What does my Quaker faith call me to do in service of peace and justice for my meeting, my community, and my world?" Zoom |
| 04/26/2020 | Alex Brosowski | | “We Never Signed Up for This: How the Quaker School at Horsham Is Delivering on Its Mission, Supporting Its Community and Looking to the Future During the COVID-19 Stay at Home Order” Zoom |
| 05/10/2020 | Marguerite Chandler & Richmond Shreve | | Remembering Mothers with Poetry and Prose Zoom |
| 05/31/2020 | Bernard Flynn | | “Mercer Street Friends – A Foundation of Service –  A Future of Service.” Zoom |