

ADULT CLASS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

March 18, 2017

The Adult Class Committee provides the meeting with learning events from September through June each year.

This Year by the Numbers ...

Number of events presented	24
Overall number of participants in events	Approaching 400
Most popular single learning event	48 participants
Average size of participant group:	15-20
Names on our e-mail invite list:	100 and counting
CHFM community members who presented	14
Outside guests who presented	13

Inside the Committee

- The distinction between classes and forums has softened this year. We've come to think more in terms of "learning events" instead—whether the learning be inwardly or outwardly focused. Most events continue to be offered at 9 A.M. on Sunday mornings—but other times and days can also serve.
- We have worked diligently this year to share the work of the committee among our members more fully so that all of us have an opportunity to make significant contributions. With all our members bringing an experience of full participation in the work, it is hoped that the task of calling a new committee clerk this spring may be simplified. We ask the meeting to hold us in the light as we discern our way forward.
- Where do our ideas come from? Many places: from Friends suggesting issues the meeting is grappling with, from current events, from people who volunteer to present, etc.
- How do we work to create programming? Sometimes we choose a theme for a month, sometimes committee members pair up to develop presentations, etc.
- The committee met 4 times this year: 3 planning meetings (1 for each of our program trimesters), plus 1 yearly retreat.
- The committee affirms and subscribes to the overall safety policy of the meeting. Our event hosts additionally have a special care for the safety of our guest presenters and any guest participants who may occasionally join us.

Thank-You

- Big shout out to Marlena Santoyo and Signe Wilkinson, great friends of the committee, for co-producing some of our events this year.
- Acknowledgments to committee member Patrick Jamieson and his son Finn for providing crucial AV technical support to our presenters.

Sample Feedback

- *"The CHFM adult class offerings that you've been organizing are nothing less than fabulous. I've been watching and marveling. SUCH a valuable addition to the life of our meeting! Many thanks for this wonderful work."*
- *"The whole meeting is thriving in many ways because of the work of all of you on the committee."*
- *"This is so thoughtful and impressive; thank you for all the wonderful work you do for the meeting."*
- *"Such a good program you have organized!"*
- *"I enjoy receiving your program announcements. Your curriculum and programs are quite remarkable."*

Complete List of Learning Events This Year

Date(s)	Title	Presenter(s)
March 26	God Loves the Stranger: Stories, Poems & Prayers	Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg
April 2/9/30	Encountering Islam: Exploring the Holy Qur'an	Imams Muhammad Abdul-Aleem and Salaam Muhsin
May 7	Taizé Chanting	Loretta Lucy Miller
May 15	Peace-Building in the Americas: A Conversation	Visiting Friend Mónica Maher
June 4	Faith and Practice	Visiting Friend Howard Cell
June 11	Lessons in Forgiveness from "Angels in America"	Bill diCanzio
June 11	Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network	PIHN Committee
June 25	Friends Committee on National Legislation: A Conversation	Visiting Friend Emily Temple
September 10	Religious Influence on Art of the Middle East	Rachel Eschenbach and Diane Dunning
September 24	The UN "Lifeline" Program: Helping Struggling Refugees Survive	Visiting Friend Carol Shearon
October 1	Ujima Friends Peace Center	Visiting Friend Dr. Ayesha Imani
October 25	"Remember the Ladies: Celebrating Those Who Fought for Freedom at the Ballot Box"	Angela P. Dodson
October 29	"Dreams and Nightmares: Sueños y Pesadillas"	Liliana Velásquez
November 5	Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys: Talking About Things That Matter	Ellen Deacon and Jeff Perkins
November 12	"Our Life Is Love"	Visiting Friend Marcelle Martin
December 3	Paying Attention Spiritually ... Lessons from Travel to India and Nepal	Sarah Sharp
December 17	Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610	Dylan Steinberg
January 7	Centering Down: A Grab Bag of User-Friendly Tools	Katy Hawkins, Ph.D.
January 14	Friends Do What?!	Susan Lee Barton
February 4	Systemic Racism	Jean Warrington, Peter Warrington, and Visiting Friend Dr. Ayesha Imani
March 4	Enjoyable Conversation About End-of-Life Issues	Betsy Wallace and Sarah Whitman
March 11	The Quaker Sanctuary Tradition	Visiting Friend Linda Rabbin

—Submitted by Joe Byers, Committee Clerk, March 18, 2018