

Annual Report, 2020
Adult Class Committee
Anne Hawkins, Clerk

The work of the Adult Class Committee is performed by members Irene McHenry, Cyane Gresham, Terry Marek, Craig DeLarge, Tricia Walmsley, Scott Ordway, Bob Clarke, and Anne Hawkins, Clerk.

We are a harmonious, committed group of Friends who try hard first to select classes that represent a wide range of interests and then to help presenters bring them into being.

Our classes meet from 9 to 10:15 am the first two Sundays of the month, January through June. This past year we were able to meet in person at the Meeting House January through March; after that our classes took place via Zoom. In June, this past year, we decided to offer a series of three classes that were directly related to the effects of COVID on all of us. Every member of the committee was involved in constructing and then leading these three classes.

We have been fortunate to have as a member of our committee a Friend, Craig DeLarge, who was indispensable in ensuring that our Zoom meetings were successful. Because of his work as Zoom host, every class, committee members decided to award Craig a very small honorarium out of our budget. In March of 2021, Craig offered to help the rest of us become comfortable with running Zoom classes and held several Zoom learning seminars for any committee member who wanted to learn.

Our system is to solicit from CHFM members and attenders ideas about and plans for classes and presenters. We do this through the CHFM Newsletter, the Bulletin, and announcements after Meeting for Worship. We also contact clerks and members of many of the relevant committees and working groups at CHFM and offer them a showcase for their work. This past year we have hosted classes by the then-called Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, the Refugee Support Group, the Landscape Committee, ELI (the newly formed group focusing on end-of-life issues), and the Worship and Ministry Committee.

We meet as a full committee in early December to plan the next semester's classes (February through June) and again in the early summer to plan Fall classes (September through January). Ad Hoc meetings are called when there is an important issue to be dealt with, as happened this past year with interruptions caused by COVID-19. Our objectives in choosing classes are: (1) to have as wide a representation as possible of CHFM committees and working groups, (2) inclusiveness: we want to address social issues as well as spiritual concerns in our classes, (3) variety: the arts need to be represented as does the natural world, and, in addition, we need some humor to leaven an otherwise very serious program! and (4) potential for success: we prefer topics that are well thought out and include named presenters or facilitators. Once we have selected classes for the next five months, individual members of the committee step up (or are called on) to be responsible for individual classes. This entails a great deal of work. My role is to oversee everything and make sure no important task gets left out. Often this means I send a lot of pesky reminders.

The appearance of COVID-19 at first threw a monkey wrench into our ability to offer classes at all. Once we had figured out how to use Zoom, we did quite well. Numbers of attenders rose dramatically. During these months we often had 25 or 30 people attending our classes.

The biggest challenge facing our Committee right now is to find someone willing to serve as Clerk, since I will be stepping down mid-May, after the last class. I have many documents on file that provide a list of past classes, ideas for classes in the future, and instructions for how to prepare to host a class. Also, I would be happy to help whoever feels led to do this to feel comfortable in this position. It is a very rewarding way to serve the Meeting, and I feel privileged to have been able to serve in this capacity.

Adult Class Committee Offerings
January 2020 through May 2021

Jan. 5, 2020. "An Hour of Beauty, Truth, Life, and Love. Presenter, Brent Bill.

Jan. 12, 2020. "Supporting Faithfulness," Presenter, Marcelle Martin

Feb. 2, 2020. "What can we do about Climate Change?" Presenters: Tim Beckham and Judy Morgan.

Feb. 9, 2020. "Think Globally, Act Locally: Learning about Spirit and Climate Change in India," Presenter: Eileen Flanagan

March 1, 2020. "How Three Religions View Suffering: Hinduism, Judaism. Quakerism." Presenter: Sarah Whitman.

March 8, 2020. "Spring Forward into the Light: How Three Religions View the Light: Quakerism, Judaism, Buddhism." Presenters: Irene McHenry and Michael Moulton.

*****APRIL, MAY CLASSES CANCELLED BECAUSE OF COVID*****
Remaining classes in 2020 and spring of 2021 are by Zoom.

June 7, 2020. "How Families with Children are Coping with COVID-19 Challenges and Recent Events." Facilitators: Terry Marek and Scott Ordway. Presenters are drawn from CHFM families with children of different ages,

June 14, 2020. "Your Spiritual Practice in these Turbulent Times." Facilitators: Irene McHenry and Cyane Gresham.

June 28, 2020. "COVID-19 and your Activist Intentions." Facilitators: Craig De Large and Bob Clarke.

Sept 6, 2020. "Listening to Friends of Color"- 1: Consideration of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Minute Regarding State Sanctioned Violence (2016) and of the Epistle of 2020 Annual Pre-Gathering Retreat of Friends General Conference.
Facilitator: Carla White, of the *CHFM Ad Hoc Committee on Racism*.

Sept 13, 2020. "Listening to Friends of Color" - 2: African heritage Quaker leaders, founders of three local community organizations, will inspire and challenge us: Victoria Greene (EMIR -- Every Murder is Real), Jondhi

Harrell (The Center for Returning Citizens), and Ayesha Imani (Ujima Friends Peace Center). Facilitators: Linda Clark and Ellen Deacon, of the *CHFM Ad Hoc Committee on Racism*.

Oct 4, 2020. "Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Response to Conflict: Syria, Palestine, and Beyond." Presenter, Michael Merryman-Lotze, Director of the American Friends Service Committee's Middle East Program. *Sponsored by the Refugee Support Group*

Oct 11, 2020. "Discovering our Vocal Ministry." Facilitator: Jorge Arauz . *Sponsored by the Committee on Worship and Ministry.*

Nov 1, 2020. "The Mystery of Dying Well." Presenter: Gary Soul. *Sponsored by the CHFM End of Life Committee*

Nov 8, 2020. "Two Quaker Gardens: Chestnut Hill Meeting and Historic Fair Hill." Facilitators: Cyane Gresham of the CHFM Landscape Committee and Jean Warrington, executive director of Historic Fair Hill.

Dec 6, 2020. "Effective Altruism: The Most Effective Ways to Benefit Others." Facilitator: Kathryn Mecrow-Flynn, Philanthropy Educator and Curriculum Developer of "The Life You Can Save."

Dec 13, 2020. "The Clearing and the Forest: Spiritual Themes in my Recent Works." Presenter: Scott Ordway, Composer, and Assistant Professor of Composition at Rutgers University.

Jan 3, 2021. "Is Quakerism a Class Act?"? Presenter: George Lakey, with help from CHFM's Eileen Flanagan.

Jan 10, 2021. America's Racial Wealth Gap & a Consideration of Reparations. Facilitated by Jude Brandt and Craig DeLarge

Feb 7, 2021. "What Makes Our Quaker Worship Meaningful to You?" Leaders: Katy Hawkins and Signe Wilkinson. Sponsored by the Committee on Worship and Ministry.

Feb 14, 2021. “Love! Marriage! Subversion! in Mozart’s opera, ‘The Marriage of Figaro’.” A Conversation with William di Canzio, aided by baritone, James Anderson.

March 7, 2021. “Quaker Values and End of Life Care.” Leaders: Yana Landowne and Martha Gurvich of New York Yearly Meetings’s ARCH (“Aging Resources Consultation and Help”) program.
Sponsored by CHFM’s End of Life Issues (ELI) working group

March 14, 2021. “Faith in Practice - Taking First Steps in End of Life Planning.” Facilitators: Members of the ELI working group. *Sponsored by CHFM’s ELI working group.*

April 4, 2021. “God’s Invitation to Creative Play.” Guest presenter, Jesse White.

April 11, 2021. “Quaker Light Artist, James Turrell.” Presenters: Diane Dunning and Elizabeth Lee.

May 2, 2021. “About POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild).” Guest Presenter: Lilah Saber, POWER organizer, with CHFM’s Linda Clark and Linda Rosenwein. *Sponsored by CHFM’s Committee against Racism*

May 9, 2021. “Socially Responsible Investing.” Guest Presenter Jeff Perkins, CHFM member and Friends Fiduciary Director.