

ARE Annual Report 2023

The Adult Religious Education Committee works to enhance the spiritual life of the Meeting community and to nurture the spiritual and intellectual growth of Meeting members and attenders. Our primary task is to provide weekly forums on different topics connecting us to each other, our Quaker faith and practice, and to our role in the greater world. We ask committee clerks to suggest ideas for forum topics. We also consider suggestions from members and attenders, and ideas generated by ARE committee members.

Although forums have traditionally been suspended during summer months, we again offered a series of worship-sharings this year. Tom Munk, Calaway Rohloff, and John Bell organized a series on topics related to spiritual practices and ethical decision-making.

We attempt to provide a rich range of topics and periodically review the representation of different types of topics. Between late August of 2022 and mid-August of 2023, forums included personal sharing (2), political action (4), social issues (5), community nurturing (6), Spirit-led art (3), Quaker faith and practice (11), Quaker history (3), and updates from/information about community and Quaker organizations (6). As a community, we learned more about historical Quaker figures John Woolman, Mary Dyer, and Benjamin Lay. We heard updates from several Quaker and community organizations; IFC, Quaker House, Friends House Moscow, and Peaceful Schools NC. Social issues we discussed this year included immigration, reproductive justice and abortion, climate change, and incarceration. Among 38 forums, 6 were sponsored by committees and 13 featured outside speakers.

Since March of 2020, forums have been offered by Zoom. This has allowed us to engage a wider range of outside speakers, including those shown in the attached list. Participation in these zoom forums has been robust, typically between 20 and 30 attending. We thank the Zoom Working Group for their steadfast assistance, and encourage members and attenders to consider joining the tech host group.

ARE welcomes suggestions for forum topics as well as suggestions for improvement. We thank the committee clerks and Meeting members for their forum suggestions as well as their willingness to prepare and lead forums. The committee works with the Publications Committee and Ministry and Worship Committees to ensure that forums are announced in a timely fashion. Forums are listed in the newsletter, on the Meeting's website and announced at the rise of all Meetings for Worship.

In April we welcomed new member Calaway Rohloff and in August we welcomed additional new members Campo Larrick and Rebecca Estes. Continuing members are Deborah Gibbs, Tom Munk, Mark Toles, and John Bell. Kate Fitch continues as clerk for her second year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Fitch

Forum name & description	Presenter	Category
Summer reflections	Worship-sharing	Community nurturing
MFW with Attention to Animals	Worship-sharing	Community nurturing
Quaker Call to Action	Alice Carlton	Political action
Friendly Eights Small Group Planning	Dottie Henninger, Lynn Drake	Community nurturing
Western Sahara: The Other Occupation	Stephen Zunes	Social issues
All About Peaceful Schools NC	Christel Butchart	Community/Quaker orgs
Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Local Quaker Writers	Panel	Arts
Book Sharing	Worship-sharing	Community nurturing
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM)	Max Carter	Community/Quaker orgs
Gratitude & Alternative Gift Mart	Panel	Community nurturing
The Climate Crisis from A to Z	Steve Laning	Social issues
Friends Center of Moscow	Karen Porter	Community/Quaker orgs
Solstice Forum	Peter & Carolyn White	Community nurturing
Ronald Carnes Personal Sharing	Ronald Carnes	Personal sharing
Benjamin Lay, Quaker abolitionist	Tom McQuiston	Quaker history
Quaker House Update	Wayne Finegar	Community/Quaker orgs
Nurturing Spiritual Growth Among Incarcerated Persons	Josh Leroy	Social issues
Nicole Nettleton Personal Sharing	Nicole Nettleton	Personal sharing
Spirit-led visual art	Panel	Arts
Are Quakers Prepared for the New Congress?	Nancy Milio	Political action
Immigration Experiences	Mary Rider	Social issues
What Woman That Was: Poems for Mary Dyer	Anne Myles	Quaker history
Reproductive Health, Racial Equity, Abortion	Dick Grossman & Stan Becker	Political action, social issues
John Woolman	Lloyd Kramer & Mark Toles	Quaker history
F/friends in Unlikely Places	Bobby Trice FCNL	Faith and practice
IFC Update	Jackie Jenks	Community/Quaker orgs
NC WARN	Sally Robertson	Community/Quaker orgs, political action

Claire Bates	Clare Bates	Arts
Prayers for Healing Panel	Panel	Faith and practice
Quakers and Humor	Chuck Fager	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Needs of animals and humans	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Language	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Lazarus	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: the Bible	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Conveniences	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Other religions	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: What does it mean to be a Quaker	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice