

Quaker Institute for the Future

NEWSLETTER

What is the evolutionary potential of Quakerism? Kenneth Boulding 1964

Winter 2008/2009

www.quakerinstitute.org

Number 2

Moral Economy Project Book Published

Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy by Peter G. Brown and Geoffrey Garver with contributing authors Keith Helmuth, Robert Howell, and Steve Szeghi, was officially published on February 4, 2009 by Berrett-Koehler (San Francisco). ***Right Relationship*** (\$16.95US) is available through regular book trade outlets, as well as online sources. It can also be obtained from QuakerBooks of Friends General Conference at 800-966-4556 or online at www.quakerbooks.org (continued on page 3)

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Selects *Right Relationship*

Friends in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware will be introduced to ***Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*** through Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's "One Book, One Yearly Meeting" reading program. This is a great honor for Quaker Institute for the Future and the Moral Economy Project. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has close to 12,000 members.

Montreal Symposium on *Right Relationship*, May 15-16, 2009

A gathering of invited professionals and QIF associates will convene in old city Montreal to extend the ideas and proposals outlined in ***Right Relationship***. The event is open to all who are interested. The theme of the Symposium is "Bringing the Economy into Line with Ecology." Beginning with a "Reality Check," to ground the deliberations in the best current knowledge and analysis, the Symposium will focus on "Frontiers of Governance," "Frontiers of Policy," and "Frontiers of Social Action." Options for remote participation will be set up. The proceedings will be recorded, with publication to follow. The authors of ***Right Relationship*** see their book as an exploratory first step. The Symposium will enlarge the dialogue and advance the re-thinking that our incoherent and rapidly deteriorating situation requires. For more information go to:

www.moraleconomy.org E-mail contact – info@moraleconomy.org

Biotechnology Project Releases Two Papers

Two papers aimed at advancing a Quaker voice on bio and nano technology have been commissioned and published by the Biotechnology Project under the direction of QIF Board Member Anne Mitchell: "Biotechnology as Seen by Quakers: Moral Vision, Ethical Assessment, and Action" by Susan Holtz, and "Friends Testimonies and Biotechnology: Can We Speak for the Commonwealth of Life?" by Keith Helmuth. These papers are available at www.quakerinstitute.org Enter "biotechnology" under "Search" and these papers are the first listings. Anne Mitchell continues to develop the **Biotechnology Project** among Quakers in Canada, as well as in direct contact with the Canadian government, the Canadian Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches.

Quaker Institute for the Future Pamphlets Launched

Fueling Our Future: A Dialogue on Technology, Ethics, Public Policy, and Remedial Action will be published in late March 2009. This publication is a **Circle of Discernment** report coordinated by Ed Dreby and Keith Helmuth and edited by Judy Lumb. *Fueling Our Future* launches the QIF Pamphlet Series. It will be available for \$8.00 from QuakerBooks at [800-966-4556](tel:800-966-4556) or online at www.quakerbooks.org and from other online book outlets. (continued on page 3)

2009 Summer Seminar set for Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley CA

The 2009 **QIF Summer Seminar** will be held July 6th through the 11th at the Pacific School of Religion on the campus of The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA. The Summer Seminar provides the opportunity for Quaker scholars to combine their research interests with a process of collaborate discernment. For further information on participating in the Summer Seminar contact **Shelley Tanenbaum** at sheltan@pacbell.net

Circles of Discernment Program Underway

QIF's first **Circle of Discernment** project has now completed its work on energy options and ethical choices. The CoD report, *Fueling Our Future*, is being published and distributed as noted above. In *Fueling Our Future*, members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), expert in both the technical and ethical issues, provide key information, critical analysis, and thoughtful dialogue on choices for our energy future. Climate change and energy futures are splitting the environmental movement, including among Friends. Some environmentalists now defend nuclear power from an ethical point of view. Others are appalled. Opinions differ over whether solar, wind and other non-carbon energy technologies can keep the lights on. Others hold out hope for "clean coal" and deep earth storage of captured carbon. Others say this is economically unfeasible and dangerous. A rush to bio-fuels is touted as "green energy." Others see it as sacrificing food for fuel. Our energy future is stacked with technical options and policy dilemmas, but above all with ethical choices. *Fueling Our Future* will assist Friends, and other concerned citizens, in their evaluation of public policy and personal choices.

Board Members Engaged in Book and Presentation Projects

Tom Head, Leonard Joy, and Phil Emmi are engaged in book and presentation projects that compliment the mission of QIF. Tom and Leonard's book projects have reached the stage of working with publishers. Tom's book, *Envisioning A Moral Economy*, will deal with the idea of a moral economy throughout religious history worldwide. Leonard's book is titled *Individual and Societal Transformation: The Connection*. Phil's "power point" lecture presentation, titled "**Overdraft: Challenges and Opportunities in a Deficit Driven World**," is a comprehensive compilation and graphic representation of three overarching realities: "financial overdraft, ecological overdraft, and mineralogical overdraft, including a focus on energy futures and climate change. For further information on "Overdraft" contact Philip Emmi at emmi@arch.utah.edu

Project Planning

A new project is in the planning stage at the Board level. It emerges from Phil Emmi's presentation of "**Overdraft**," (as noted above) and from Ed Dreby's article in the July/August 2008 issue of "**Quaker Eco-Bulletin**," "**We Need a Ladder: Avoiding Depression While Downsizing**." The shorthand for this focus is "the growth dilemma." **Friends Testimonies and Economics (FTE)** (a project of the Philadelphia Yearly

Meeting EarthCare Working Group and Quaker EarthCare Witness) is picking up this concern at the level of awareness and education. QIF is poised to pick up the “growth dilemma” in terms of overdraft analysis and envisioning policy measures to address ecological overshoot and human adaptation.

From page one; Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy:

This book asks five questions on the economy: What is the economy for? How does it work? How big should it be (or how big is too big)? What’s fair? How should the economy be governed? The philosophy and practice on which our current economy has been built does not provide coherent answers to these critical questions. Thus we drift to ecological and social disaster. *Right Relationship* explores these questions and offers a map for rebuilding the economy in line with ecology, ethics and governance for the well-being of Earth’s commonwealth of life – **a whole earth economy**. Following the lead of Aldo Leopold’s “land ethic,” *Right Relationship* argues that we know if something is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, resilience, and beauty of the commonwealth of life. It is wrong when it tends otherwise. The book ends with an action plan for a social movement that helps build a moral economy – **a whole earth economy**.

Praise for Right Relationship:

- *Out of the rich Quaker tradition . . . comes this powerful call to transform our relationship to the earth and its commonwealth of life.* Curt Meine, conservationist and biographer of Aldo Leopold.
Right Relationship is the right book at the right time. Peter Barnes, author of *Capitalism 3.0*.
- *Right Relationship is absolutely right: we need to redesign our economic system.* David Orr, Professor of Environmental Studies, Oberlin College.
- *This book is a blessing.* Paul Heltne, Director, Center for Humans and Nature.
- *This is a book for our times. . . . the author’s proposals for a new global governance framework are spot on.* Janine Ferretti, Chief of the Environmental Division, Inter-American Development Bank.
- *This book deserves to sell a million copies.* Herman Daly, author of *Steady-State Economics*.

From page two; Fueling Our Future:

Fueling Our Future is about advancing dialogue, not closing the argument. As will be clear in what follows, participants in the [CoD] process were not neutral. We were in close agreement on some aspects of our discernment and divided on others – most notably, nuclear power. We agreed on a set of framing principles that we advance as a context for further dialogue. We hope that others will find them a useful contribution to ethical decision making in this complex and conflicted area.

We are struggling with the ethical implications of energy production and use. . . . A purely technocratic approach is inadequate within the context of discernment practiced by Friends. It is likewise problematic to couch this whole discussion in an intellectual and analytic framework. A fully rounded discernment process must hold in tension knowledge developed by the sciences, and moral intuition developed by religious and cultural guidance. . . . Through the Quaker process of discernment, and guided by Friends testimonies, we have . . . identified certain framing principles that should be considered in all decisions on energy technologies and energy policies. (1) Carbon emissions must be in equilibrium with the capacity of the earth to absorb them. (2) Carbon emissions should be decreased as soon as possible to prevent catastrophic climate change. (3) Full cost accounting must include net energy benefit and life cycle cost of each energy option. (4) Decisions made today must not put burdens on future generations. (5) Decisions that we make must not transfer burdens to the poor and disadvantaged or to other parts of the world. (6) Decision making on energy options must be inclusive, fair, equitable, grass-roots driven, and consensus based. (7) We must seek solutions that scale to the needs of all people on earth. (8) We must seek solutions that preserve the rest of the biosphere beyond humans.

Organizational Transitions:

Shelley Tanebaum (Strawberry Creek MM, Pacific YM) has succeeded Leonard Joy as Clerk/President of the QIF Board. Leonard served as Board Clerk since the inception of QIF in 2004. The Institute has greatly benefited from

Leonard's depth of organizational social development experience. He has recently been appointed to a position with the Institute of Development Studies (an organization he helped found some years ago) at the University of Sussex and will be moving to England. Shelley is an experienced Clerk in California Quaker circles, and with her husband, Charles Blanchard, operates an environmental research and consultation business, specializing in air quality issues. **Elaine Emmi**, a new Board Member, has succeeded Tom Head as Treasurer. Tom has done both yeoman and princely service in his handling of QIF's finances from the Institute's beginning. As he points out, being a professional economist does not make being a Treasurer an easy job. Elaine was a key person in the founding of QIF and comes to this role with much organizational savvy and activist passion. She is currently the grants officer of a private foundation in Salt Lake City. **Dan Seeger**, recently retired as Director of Pendle Hill, is now serving as Recording Clerk for Board Meetings. Dan's years of experience in Quaker process is clearly evident in the facility with which he records and circulates Board Meeting minutes.

Development and Funding

With these transitions to a "second generation" of leadership, Quaker Institute for the Future is well positioned to carry its projects forward and to take a "next step" of critical importance – the funding of an office and an administrative officer. QIF's administrative work has been supported by a start up grant from the Shoemaker Fund, by a portion of the private grant designated for the Moral Economy Project, and by a few individual donations. In order to establish an office and hire an administrative officer, QIF must now secure additional funding for this purpose.

Your contribution will help put an effective administrative hub at the middle of QIF's growing web of projects. It will help the Institute gain the footing it needs to more effectively advance its Quaker witness on the human prospect, and help answer Kenneth Boulding's question: *What is the evolutionary potential of Quakerism?* Tax deductible donations can be made on the QIF website www.quakerinstitute.org

The greatest predicament of the human race is that all experiences are of the past but all our decisions are about the future. . . . This is why the study of the future is more than an intellectual curiosity; it is essential to survival of humankind itself. . . . I have been suggesting that one of the things we could do with is an institute for the study of clouded crystal balls. . . . Knowledge of the future is perhaps the most important fruit of knowledge about the past.

Kenneth Boulding 1966

Quaker Institute for the Future Board of Directors

Shelley Tanenbaum (Clerk) Strawberry Creek MM, Pacific YM, **Elaine Emmi**, (Treasurer), Salt Lake City MM, Intermountain YM, **Keith Helmuth**, (Secretary), New Brunswick MM, Canadian YM, **Dan Seeger** (Recording Clerk), Moorestown MM, Philadelphia YM, **Leonard Joy**, Strawberry Creek MM, Pacific YM, **Gray Cox**, Acadia MM, New England YM, **Anne Mitchell**, Toronto MM, Canadian YM, **Tom Head**, Bridge City MM, North Pacific YM, **Mark Myers**, London Grove MM, Philadelphia YM, **Laura Holliday**, Live Oak MM, South Central YM, **Phil Emmi**, Salt Lake City MM, Intermountain YM, **Geoffrey Garver**, Buffalo MM, New York YM

Council of Advisors

David Ciscel, Memphis MM, Southern Appalachia YMA, **Ed Dreby**, Mt. Holly MM, Philadelphia YM, **John Hough**, Chappaqua MM, New York YM, **David Ross**, Nottingham MM, Baltimore YM, **Ed Snyder**, Acadia MM, New England YM, **Sarah Waring**, Barton-Glover MM, New England YM, **Hal Weaver**, Wellesley MM, New England YM, **Marcy Wenzler**, Bloomington MM, Ohio Valley YM

ekhelmuth@mindspring.com