

Quaker Institute for the Future

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

www.quakerinstitute.org

Number 4

Announcing: Moral Economy Project (MEP), Phase 2

Social Fairness and Ecological Integrity: Strategic Action for a Moral Economy

MEP1 created a substantial critique and re-visioning of the economy in its book *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*. See www.quakerbooks.org/right_relationship.php

MEP2 will focus on the twin pillars of a moral economy -social fairness and ecological integrity. It will identify the policies, witness and actions needed to create change toward a moral economy.

MEP2 will be launched at **Quaker Center, Ben Lomond, CA with a weekend workshop March 4-6, 2011.**

The same political and economic systems that institutionalize inequality also institutionalize ecological destruction by insisting on unlimited and inequitable economic growth on a finite Earth. This weekend workshop will ask and answer three questions: 1) What are the common roots of the environmental and socioeconomic crises of today? 2) What kind of strategic changes should we advocate? 3) How can we build a Quaker presence on the frontlines of action for these changes? Workshop themes will include: 1) the heritage of Quaker concern and action on social and economic inequity, 2) the societal effects of inequality, 3) the crisis in our political economy (ecological overshoot, financial breakdown, entrenched inequity), and 4) the spirit and practice of moral response and direct non-violent action.

The program will incorporate short focused critiques that move into a detailed and practical visioning of priorities for change, and then into action planning for effective Quaker engagement on the frontlines of societal transformation. **George Lakey**, veteran organizer of Quaker social action, will be the keynote presenter and workshop guide. His latest project is the new **Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)** that has now taken aim at coal company mountain top removal. See <http://eqat.wordpress.com/> George will be accompanied in presentation and facilitation by **Keith Helmuth** (QIF Board), **Sandra Lewis** (Ecoberries Affinity Group), **Phil Emmi** (QIF Board, MEP2 Clerk), and **Shelley Tanenbaum** (QIF Board Clerk)

This workshop is being co-sponsored by the Ecoberries Affinity Group of Strawberry Creek MM and is part of Quaker Center's spring program. It will be listed for registration on their website.

www.quakercenter.org/ QIF plans to conduct this MEP2 workshop in other locations as the way opens. Financial contributions are needed to support this outreach program and to develop its resources.

QIF Pamphlets

The **QIF Pamphlet Series** was launched in 2009 with the publication of *Fueling our Future: A Dialogue about Technology, Ethics, Public Policy, and Remedial Action*. See

www.quakerbooks.org/fueling_our_future.php We now have a series of pamphlet writing projects lined up like airliners coming into a major airport. This is good news for QIF's outreach mission, except for the fact that we are still building the "runway" for successful "landing" and launch – which is to say, each pamphlet requires a certain amount of funding for publication. We are seeking financial support for **QIF Pamphlet** publication and hope that many folks who read this Newsletter will be motivated by the prospective titles listed on page two to send a contribution for this purpose. See the bottom of page two for contribution information.

QIF Pamphlets in preparation include the following:

- *How On Earth Do We Live Now? Natural Capital, Deep Ecology, and the Commons*; authored by a Circle of Discernment composed of David Ciscel, Sandra Lewis, Barbara Day, Judy Lumb, and Keith Helmuth;
- *Biotechnology, Genetically Modified Foods, and Public Policy: A Quaker Perspective* (working title); edited by Anne Mitchell
- *Societal and Individual Transformation: The Connection* (working title); by Leonard Joy;
- *Food Ethics in the Light of Quaker Testimonies* (working title); created by a Circle of Discernment composed of Shaun Chavis, Al Connor, Pamela Haines, and Tracey McCowen;
- *How Norway Abolished Poverty*; by George Lakey;
- *Turning the World Right-Side Up: Rebalancing Gender Authority and Initiative* (working title); proceedings of the FWCC/Atlantic Friends Gathering held at the University of New Brunswick, May 2010. Program organized by QIF

Summer Research Seminar

QIF's fifth **Summer Research Seminar (SRS)** was held in July at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley CA. Participants spent the week long period sharing presentations from their work in a setting of collaborative discernment, and in working on their individual research projects. See **SRS** website page for further details. In 2011 the **SRS** will be held at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME. The **SRS** welcomes both scholarly and action oriented research contributions. For further information on joining this unique Quaker event, contact Shelley Tanenbaum at sheltan@pacbell.net

Circles of Discernment

QIF's **Circles of Discernment Program** continues to develop online. E-mail exchanges and conference calls are giving Friends who share the same research interests, but live at a distance, the ability to work effectively in a collaborative manner. Contact Keith Helmuth at ekhelmuth@mindspring.com for information on the **Circles of Discernment Program** and how it feeds into **QIF Pamphlet** publication.

Financial Support

Quaker Institute for the Future depends on the financial contributions of persons who are drawn to support its programs. It employs no staff at the present time and relies on the volunteer efforts of the Board of Trustees and Institute Associates to develop and guide its programs and projects. Please consider becoming a sponsoring supporter of **QIF Pamphlet** publication, or of the **Moral Economy Project**. We are working to assemble a dedicated core of supporting associates who are eager to involve themselves in the **Institute's** mission and become part of its growing network. Contributions are tax deductible in the US. A receipt will be provided. Please send contributions to **Elaine Emmi, Treasurer, Quaker Institute for the Future, 1968 E. Herbert Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84108**. For further information on becoming a supporting associate contact **Keith Helmuth** at ekhelmuth@mindspring.com Thanks for your consideration. For further information on QIF go to www.quakerinstitute.org

QIF Board of Trustees

Shelley Tanenbaum, Clerk (Pacific YM), Elaine Emmi, Treasurer (Intermountain YM), Keith Helmuth, Secretary (Canadian YM), Daniel Seeger, Recording Clerk (Philadelphia YM), Gray Cox (New England YM), Phil Emmi (Intermountain YM), Geoffrey Garver (New York YM), Laura Holliday (South Central YM), Leonard Joy (Pacific YM), Anne Mitchell (Canadian YM).

Previous QIF Board Members: Mark Myers (Philadelphia YM), Tom Head (North Pacific YM), Sarah Waring (New England YM), Peter Brown (Canadian YM)