

Quaker Institute for the Future Newsletter

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QIF Pamphlets Launched at Washington Meeting

Washington DC, November 15-18, 2012: With the distribution of two new Pamphlets at the Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), QIF has taken a major step in fulfilling one of its founding goals – preparing background research for frontline Quaker organizations. *It's the Economy Friends: Understanding the Growth Dilemma* and *Beyond the Growth Dilemma: Toward an Ecologically Integrated Economy* are companion pamphlets prepared to assist FCNL in dealing with the long term policy implications of the economics /ecology conflict. Five QIF Board members (Laura Holliday, Phil Emmi, Elaine Emmi, Judy Lumb, Keith Helmuth) and four Institute associates (Al Conner, Ed Snyder, Ed Dreby, Margaret Mansfield) were in attendance at the FCNL Annual Meeting.

The Pamphlets were launched at a QIF hosted breakfast meeting on Saturday the 17th attended by close to forty people. General distribution took place at a plenary session later in the day and again on Sunday. Two hundred and fifty copies of each Pamphlet were allocated for FCNL General Committee members and staff. Nearly all were picked up. We received frequent expressions of appreciation for doing this work.

The preparation of *It's the Economy, Friends* and *Beyond the Growth Dilemma* was a joint project of the Growth Dilemma Project of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (led by Ed Dreby) and QIF. The ability of the Institute to provide complimentary copies to FCNL rests on assembling specific financial contributions for this purpose. We have had generous responses from several sources, but additional funds are still needed to reach the level required to complete the funding of this project. If you are moved to support this work, send designated contributions to **Elaine Emmi, Treasurer, Quaker Institute for the Future, 1968 E. Herbert Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84108.**

Climate Disruption, Food Insecurity, and Deadly Conflict Project

A new Circle of Discernment (CoD) and Pamphlet publication project on the connections between climate disruption, food insecurity, and deadly violence is now underway led by Judy Lumb. The proposal for this project was introduced by QIF at the 2011 FCNL Annual Meeting. It picked up on work FCNL has already done in peaceful prevention of deadly conflict and smart security. This CoD will survey the rapidly growing literature and prepare a QIF Pamphlet that provides a succinct, yet comprehensive, understanding of the connections between climate, food, and conflict, and on what must be done in response. The CoD process is linked with FCNL through its Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy and Environment, Jose Aguto.

2013 Summer Research Seminar

The QIF 2013 Summer Research Seminar (SRS) will be held in Durango Colorado, July 8 -12 immediately following the Friends General Conference Gathering in Greeley Colorado. The location of QIF's Summer Seminar varies each year, but the purpose is always to encourage spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. Daily activities include silent worship, group discussion, solo research time and a convivial atmosphere of shared effort. Most research topics have a focus on the intersection of economics, ecology, and ethics, and the related issues of fairness and societal change.

We start each day with worship, followed by presentations by participants on the focus of their research. These sessions are clerked, to allow for reflective time and to facilitate comments from the group. Afternoons are free for participants to pursue their research; workspace and internet access are provided. We rejoin as a group in the evenings for informal discussions, with dinners prepared by participants.

The Summer Research Seminar will begin Monday, July 8th, allowing adequate time to travel from the FGC Gathering to [Heartwood Co-housing](#) near Durango, Colorado (travel should be completed no later than Sunday the 7th, so we can start Monday morning). We will work with participants to arrange shared-transportation from the Gathering to Heartwood or to arrange pick-ups from the Durango airport. Housing will be provided at Heartwood and food costs will be shared. Please contact Shelley Tanenbaum at sheltan@pacbell.net if you are interested in participating in the 2013 seminar. There will be an administrative fee of about \$100.

QIF Pamphlets in South Africa and Kenya

QIF Board member, Judy Lumb, spent five months in Africa leading up to the World Conference of Friends in Kenya in July. She first attended the Climate Change Conference in Durban, SA. She then attended Central and South African Yearly Meeting and visited Friends in Capetown and Durban. A supply of QIF Pamphlets were sent to her which she made available to SA Friends. An additional supply was shipped to her in Kenya where she provided them to Kenyan Friends. Judy also wrote and published a 133 page book while in Kenya. *Ending Cycles of Violence: Kenyan Quaker Peacemaking Response After the 2007 Election*. Based largely on interviews conducted from January to April, this book makes a notable contribution to the Quaker story of peacemaking on the frontlines of deadly conflict. The book is available from <http://www.quakerbooks.org/>

QIF Board Members Catalysts for International DeGrowth Conference

In 2010 QIF Board member, Sara Wolcott, attended the second international DeGrowth Conference in Barcelona, Spain. There she met Bob Thompson a veteran environmental and social change activist from Ottawa, Canada. Bob talked about wanting to bring the next biennial conference to Canada. Sara recommended that he check out QIF's flagship book, *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*, and get in touch with two of its authors in Montreal – Peter Brown (a founding QIF Board member) and Geoff Garver (a current QIF Board member). Bob read the book, got in touch with Peter at McGill University. Peter got the wheels rolling toward organizing the third International DeGrowth Conference which was held in Montreal, May 14 -20. Geoff Garver became the principle coordinator of the event, which was attended by over 300 people. He ended the conference on a highly positive note by citing his Quaker faith and quoting George Fox on “walking cheerfully over the world.”

Right Relationship to be Published in China

Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy, published by Berrett-Koehler in 2009 for QIF's Moral Economy Project, is being translated into Chinese and is due to be released in Beijing by General Publishing. The last report from Berrett-Koehler was that the contract had been signed and a translator secured. Further on the international front, an acquaintance of Geoff Garver told him out of the blue that he was translating RR into Russian. It remains to be seen if this comes to fruition. We have also been told by a person from Poland that he is using RR in an adult education English language learning class. We have numerous reports of RR being used in college and university courses. RR was featured prominently at the Montreal DeGrowth Conference.

Other Activities of Board Members and Institute Associates

Keith Helmuth (Board member) was invited, along with his wife, Ellen, to attend the Vassalboro (ME) Quarterly Meeting (NEYM) in September. The weekend was a follow up time of reporting and reflection on the World Conference theme of “global change.” QIF publications were on display and good sales were made.

Ed Dreby (Institute associate) will be attending the Hartford (CT) Quarterly Meeting (NEMY), where he will be presenting the Growth Dilemma Project and the QIF companion pamphlets, *It's the Economy, Friends* and *Beyond the Growth Dilemma*.

Shelley Tanenbaum (Board member) is hosting a book launch and fund raising event for QIF in Berkeley CA area. The two new QIF Pamphlets will be featured along with the full backlist and *Right Relationship*. Shelley earlier hosted a book launch for Leonard Joy's Pamphlet, *How Does Societal Transformation Happen?**

Barbara Day (Publications Team editorial associate) has taken QIF Pamphlets and RR to two events in her home area of McHenry County, Illinois in 2012. The first was an Earth Day event and the second, just completed, was a Green Living Expo. She sold books at both events. Keith Helmuth displayed QIF publications at the Sustainable Living Expo in Woodstock, NB. The local solid waste commission, which does a lot of environmental advocacy work purchased a complete set of Pamphlets, plus *Right Relationship*.

Judy Lumb (Board member) is hosting a book launch events for the two new QIF Pamphlets at her home meeting in Atlanta GA and in Portland OR. The Atlanta Friends Meeting has already used other QIF Pamphlets for study groups. During the course of the year several other Monthly Meeting study groups have ordered QIF Pamphlets as well.

Phil Emmi (Board member) purchased 12 copies of QIF Pamphlet, *How Does Societal Transformation Happen?** by Leonard Joy (Board member) for distribution.

Gray Cox (Board member) and Ed Snyder (Institute associate) are teaming up in Bar Harbor ME to conduct an 8 session course on moral/social evolution. They describe the course as follows:

We will test Martin Luther King's assertion that "the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice." Is there evolution/growth/change from "law of the jungle" toward a just, humane, nonviolent society respectful toward all people and the natural world? Are homo sapiens' activities on the planet so destructive that civilization as we know it may end? We will discuss historical and current aspects, both negative and positive, in the United States and around the world. Participants will be encouraged to share their experience, perspectives, current reading and research. Subjects will include the influence of gender, religion, war/nonviolence, and economic and social systems.

* *How Does Societal Transformation Happen?* has sparked special attention among Friends because the last chapter is a comprehensive, point by point translation of Quaker discernment and decision making process into settings of civic governance, business, and community development. The author has a long history of practicing this translation in social and economic development work around the world.

QIF Publications

Pamphlets

Fueling Our Future: A Dialogue About Technology, Ethics, Public Policy, and Remedial Action. Coordinated by Ed Dreby & Keith Helmuth, edited by Judy Lumb: 67 pages, \$9.

How on Earth Do We Live Now? Natural Capital, Deep Ecology & the Commons. David Ciscel, Barbara Day, Keith Helmuth, Sandra Lewis, Judy Lumb: 91 pages, \$9.

Genetically Modified Crops: Promises, Perils, and the Need for Public Policy. Anne Mitchell, with Pinayur Rajagopal,

Keith Helmuth, Susan Holtz: 68 pages, \$9.

How Does Societal Transformation Happen? Values Development, Collective Wisdom, and Decision Making for the Common Good. Leonard Joy: 85 pages, \$9.

It's the Economy, Friends: Understanding the Growth Dilemma. Edited by Ed Dreby, Keith Helmuth and Maraget Mansfield: 105 pages, \$10.

Beyond the Growth Dilemma: Toward an Ecologically Integrated Economy. Edited by Ed Dreby and Judy Lumb: 109 pages, \$10

Book

Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy. Peter Brown, Geoffrey Garver, Keith Helmuth, Robert Howell, Steve Szeghi: 218 pages, \$16.95

QIF publications can be purchased directly from QIF by contacting Keith Helmuth at ekhelmuth@mindspring.com , from FGC QuakerBooks at <http://www.quakerbooks.org/> , online from Amazon (US and UK), or through your local bookstore. For more information on QIF publications go to www.quakerinstitute.org. All QIF Pamphlets are available on the website. Please consider a donation when downloading.

Institute Programs

Summer Research Seminar

QIF's **Summer Research Seminar (SRS)** is a weeklong event in which participants share presentations from their on going work in a setting of collaborative discernment. The schedule includes time for study and writing. The **SRS** welcomes both scholarly and action oriented research contributions. In 2013 the **SRS** will be held Colorado. See **SRS** on the QIF website for further details. For further information on joining this unique Quaker gathering, 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 relates to **QIF Pamphlet** publication.

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

The first phase of this project created a substantial critique and re-visioning of the economy in the book, *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*. The second phase involves workshops and the publication of QIF Pamphlets 5 & 6 noted above focusing on the twin pillars of a moral economy - social fairness and ecological integrity.

Financial Support - Quaker Institute for the Future depends on the financial contributions of persons who are drawn to support its work. Contributions are tax deductible. 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.**

QIF Board of Trustees Shelley Tanenbaum, Clerk (Pacific YM), Elaine Emmi, Treasurer (Intermountain YM), Keith Helmuth, Secretary (Canadian YM), Gray Cox (New England YM), Phil Emmi (Intermountain YM), Geoffrey Garver (New York YM), Laura Holliday (South Central YM), Leonard Joy (Pacific YM), Judy Lumb (Southern Appalachia YM), Sara Wolcott (Pacific YM)

Quaker Institute for the Future aims to provide critical information and understanding born of careful discernment on social, economic, and ecological realities, inspired by the testimonies and values of the Religious Society of Friends.

Prepared by Keith Helmuth, QIF Secretary
November 2012

A good economy should provide equitable access to the means of life for all people, and preserve and enhance the resources on which human settlement and cultural life depend. A prosperity of "enough" may be possible through a rebirth of social collaboration and ecologically sustainable production.

from *Beyond the Growth Dilemma*