

## Climate change article inspires Meeting's outreach

Pat Kenschaft  
Montclair (N.J.) Friends Mtg.

**I**NSPIRED BY the "Epistle on Global Warming" published in the September–October 2006 *BeFriending Creation* and a visit to our Meeting by Hollister Knowlton from QEW, the Peace & Service Committee of the Montclair (N.J.) Monthly Meeting decided to host a discussion open to our neighbors. Member Margaret White suggested the title, "Confronting the Issues of Climate Change: Spiritual and Worldly," and the committee immediately agreed. We used e-mail and publicity in our local newspaper to invite others.

Member Susan Stillman bought pizza (putting out a collection box) so that Friends could enjoy a sociable lunch between Meeting for Worship and the discussion, scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

We were pleased that a dozen Friends stayed for the discussion, almost half the number that had been at Meeting for Worship, and we were startled that about 30 people came altogether, including a reporter from the *Montclair Times*—on a Sunday afternoon! We began with some powerful silence. During introductions we learned there were Jews, Catholics, Protestants and one Buddhist. A high school student, who came with his parents because of the newspaper



announcement, proclaimed, "I am an atheist!" An adult woman said gently, "I'm a nature lover." It felt friendly.

I then invited people to share short statements about some ways they had found either to thwart climate change or to sustain the spiritual and emotional strength to keep struggling without falling into despair.

Meredith Nole, who had identified herself by saying, "I want to join this Meeting," began by telling of an Open House she had recently helped organize at a school building that is made from 100-percent recycled lumber and uses 100 percent rainwater and recycled water; it has proven that green buildings need not be more expensive than traditional ones.

Rob Garber, the chair of the

Peace & Service Committee, then told how he and his wife had discovered thermostatic radiator valves that can be installed on old-fashioned radiators to use fuel more efficiently and to keep the temperature in a steam-heated house more uniform and comfortable. They had also installed heat-conserving items like weatherstripping. Although they converted their gas stove to electric, they had a lower gas bill while cutting their electricity usage in half.

Judy Hinds, who had grown up in our Meeting, emphasized the value of keeping records so we can know what makes a difference as we change our practices. She also suggested using night lights routinely in some places where we don't read but "just don't want to stumble about."

**A**VISITOR said that her synagogue had sold low-energy lights as a fund-raiser with great success. A Presbyterian said that a quarter of the cars on American roads have underinflated tires. Enormous amounts of petroleum could be saved (along with their carbon dioxide releases) if people would keep their tires at the recommended levels. He suggested buying a foot pump, so you can fill your tires at home. There is no need to warm up your car for more than 30 seconds on a cold

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winter morning, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. The young atheist said that many Fords are equipped to run on E-85, which is 85 percent plant waste, but their owners don't know it—and E-85 is not available yet in many parts of the country.

Margaret White said she seeks creative ways to dispose of household belongings; it is sad to see so much good furniture on curbs on "bulky waste" pick-up days. An extensive conversation began about various ways to dispose of used items, including thrift shops, pick-up services, a used-tire establishment, and a for-profit store that sells good used children's clothing and toys. A visitor agreed to post such a list on the web if others compiled it, and there were many suggestions as to how to publicize it.

Meredith commented, "There is no 'away.'" When we throw our possessions "away," we often cause serious problems for others—and global warming. We all agreed creative recycling is important and painless, and decided to compile a list of nearby recycling places where we can both donate and buy.

**A**FTER about an hour, we took a five-minute break so anyone could conveniently leave; then we re-gathered as a smaller group—still about a dozen eager people, mostly visitors. Participants were much more animated than they had been in the larger group.

An immigrant told us that Hong Kong discourages private vehicles by a sales tax of 200 percent and a 100-percent annual registration fee. A young mother told how she tries to get her daughter and herself never to buy things unless they really need them. We

talked about what happens to about-to-expire food.

As another person was clearly preparing to go, the group clamored to meet again. I said I would try, and I thought the Meeting would cooperate. They suggested, "Next time we can tell how we have changed our behavior because of this time." Several commented that the discussion itself gave us strength to keep trying.

The young reporter from the local paper listened to the entire discussion, took notes, and interviewed a variety of the participants. Her article about the session began in the upper left of the front page, ran down most of the column, and had a long continuation inside. Her introductory story

**Several commented that the discussion itself gave us strength to keep trying.**

was of Greg McGhee, a Meeting attendee, who had said that he hadn't driven a car for 17 years. She had interviewed him after the discussion and included a number of good quotes. She then related a number of others' suggestions and concluded by quoting me saying, "We are all in this together."

The Meeting was indeed cooperative, and another session was planned for four weeks later. Again we used e-mail and newspaper publicity, and this time we invited comments on three topics: 1) What to do, 2) How to sustain spiritual and emotional strength, and 3) How the first session has changed our behavior.

Only five Friends and the reporter attended, partially due to the fact that it was at the beginning of school vacation, but the discussion was still lively. This time I told how the previous discussion of radiators led my husband to buy manually adjustable

radiator air valves that made our house much more comfortable by evening out the temperatures, which also saves fuel.

We talked at length about the practicalities and politics of installing solar panels, and went around the circle saying how we maintain spiritual strength for this issue. Contributions ranged from, "I must believe! I have children" to "Prayer is the most important thing I can do. It helps me seek clarity" to an expression of the distress of living in a world that is "disillusioned" but is relieved by so much beauty, both natural and human-made.

We discussed the draft of a piece, "Thoughtful Reuse and Recycling Options in Montclair," which includes not only thrift shops and pick-up services for clothing and furniture, but also places to take a variety of items such as tires, bicycles, food, computers, and books—including the annual Meeting used-book sale. Excerpts of this list were published next to another long article about the discussion in the local newspaper. The list also has been placed on the township website, on a discussion website used by over 1,000 local people, and on its own new website created by a participant in the first discussion. The effects of the Friends' actions live on.

**L**EADERS of QEW can feel pleased about this effect of their outreach. Montclair is a very diverse community about 12 miles from New York City. Although it is only four miles long by slightly over a mile wide, it has about the same population as Burlington, Vermont, including about 150 people involved in national media. The challenge of the Epistle has hardly been met, but one step has been taken toward Quaker leadership in another crucial issue. ♦

## Sustainable water use begins at home!

by Barbara Williamson  
QEWS Steering Committee Clerk

ANOTHER free weekend comes along and there's more to do to the house to make it more sustainable. Having read that 40 percent of the drinking water used in your house each month goes toward flushing toilets, the bathroom seems like the place to start.

I have an older house with older toilets that use a lot more water than the newer ones. Not ready to buy new toilets, I have another use for one of my stash of milk jugs. I put some gravel in the bottom and add water and put it in the tank. For some tanks, this is not as easy as it sounds, since you have to make sure the jug doesn't interfere with the flush mechanism. The result is that each flush uses less water than before. You can also buy a water displacer or "toilet dam" at your hardware store.

Since most toilets leak, it's a good idea to replace the flappers. New early-closure flappers are even better. They won't affect water pressure but will reduce the amount of water flushed. And they aren't hard to install.

If it's time for a new low-flow toilet, look for the kind that has added pressure, for a more forceful flush. They still use only 1.6 gallons of water but keep you from having to flush twice. The website [www.terrylove.com/crtoilet.htm](http://www.terrylove.com/crtoilet.htm) ranks the best low-flow toilets on the market.

The water heater is one of the largest users of electricity in a house. Most water heaters are set at 140°F, but 120°F is hot enough

for a shower and hot enough to kill any bacteria that could build up in your heater. I had to read the owners manual to reset the temperature (mine is too old to have an energy-saver setting). I'm not ready yet to buy a new water heater, but there were things I could do. I installed a time-control switch and an insulating jacket. The website [www.homestore.com/HomeGarden/HomeImprovement/HowTos/](http://www.homestore.com/HomeGarden/HomeImprovement/HowTos/) gives you information on insulating an older water heater.



If you're still using your dishwasher and it doesn't have a booster heater—back to the collection of owner's manuals—you may want to keep your water heater set at 140°F.

My heater is probably not destined to last much longer, so I didn't have a heat trap installed. A heat trap attaches to the pipe leaving your water heater and allows hot water to circulate through your tank when no one is using it.

The next thing I did to cut down the energy usage of the water heater was to get out my calendar and mark off three-month intervals from this weekend. This way I will remember to drain a quart of water from the valve faucet at the bottom every three months. This keeps sediment from building up and makes your heater work more efficiently.

All this messing around with toilets and the water heater left me ready for a shower and one more way to save energy. Installing a low flow shower head isn't all that hard—that's the theory. I used all my loosening tricks to get the old shower head off. Low-flow showerheads, and faucet aerators,

work by mixing air into the water. But changing shower heads can reduce hot water usage by as much as 83 percent! And since I was playing with my wrenches I added faucet aerators to my kitchen and bathroom sinks and checked for leaks. *A leak of just one drip every three seconds wastes 30 gallons of water!*

For bathroom sinks, you need an aerator that flows at 0.5 to 1.0 gallons per minute, and for a kitchen sink you should get one that flows at 2 gallons per minute. If you wash dishes by hand, you'll want to look for an aerator with a shutoff valve. If you use a laminar faucet (they spray the water through parallel streams instead of the whole faucet opening) in the kitchen, *you can save up to 17.5 gallons of water in 5 minutes while rinsing dishes.*

And with all these fancy faucets, don't forget to turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave. Just think how much water you will be saving!

AND now we get to the hard part. How long should a shower take? Showers take less water than baths but how often do we have the time to luxuriate in a bath. Well there was that time in Santa Fe (right, Hollister?). For most of us a bath can legitimately be considered a luxury. But can these people who apparently time everything really be serious about an 8-minute shower! I'm fighting this—and I don't want to be timed either. Well, maybe I'll do 10, and when I'm in a hurry I'll go for 8. I'll still be using less hot water than a bath.

Summer is coming and there are special sustainability projects for summer. More next time! ♦



## Upstairs / downstairs at the United Nations – witnessing a major disconnect on climate change

by Mary Gilbert  
QEW Steering Committee member

**M**ANY people assume that the United Nations has been paying a lot of attention lately to climate change and other development-related issues. But in reality the UN's priorities on these vital matters can be described in the same terms as where the meetings have been held—in the basement.

Since the spring of 2000 I've been attending annual sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at the UN in New York City, in order to report back to QEW what's going on internationally with regard to Earthcare.

This year for the first time I was able to get to the February Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM), which precedes the regular May CSD meeting. An IPM is held so that the chair can compile a summary of what participating nations and other parties have to say about any year's cluster of issues. This year the cluster includes air pollution, energy, industrial development and climate change. The chair's report will provide a starting point for the actual negotiating in May.

CSD doings are all held down in the basement. During the week there was a press conference for the release of a new scientific report on global warming, held right next to the Delegates' Dining Room on the 4th floor.

I can't help but feel that the contrast between the two settings tells the story. One was below ground, a windowless warren where the living world of day and night doesn't penetrate and

everyone's view is limited by walls. The other was up where light poured through floor-to-ceiling windows that give a broad view of the world... or at least of Queens.



UN / Sigma Xi report:

***“Humanity must act collectively and urgently to change course through leadership at all levels of society. There is no more time for delay.”***

The mood at the press conference was serious but hopeful. There are things that can be done—if we do them together and right now. The report, *Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the unmanageable and managing the unavoidable*, was issued jointly by the United Nations Foundation and Sigma Xi, a scientific research society <[www.sigmaxi.org](http://www.sigmaxi.org)>. (At their website you can find a good summary of the report and a link to download the full report.) It is intended as a complement to the report released last November by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). It presents a “road map” of how the world can act together to mitigate the impact of climate change and adapt as best we can.

The report recommends that the nations of the world agree on a goal of not allowing global temperatures to rise more than 2 to 2.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It seems we are now at about .8 degrees C above pre-industrial, but that greenhouse gasses and black dust already released into the atmosphere will bring the rise to about 1.5 degrees C.

It says we need “a new global policy framework” and specifies what that should entail. The last sentences of the official summary, in bold, state, “Humanity must act collectively and urgently to change course through leadership at all levels of society. There is no more time for delay.”

Meanwhile, down in the basement, there was no discussion of a new global policy framework. From listening, one would conclude that market mechanisms are the only answer. The OPEC nations are calling for billions of dollars for research and development to make petroleum use cleaner, since we all know that's what we're going to rely on for the foreseeable future.

The United States trotted out small success stories about cleaner energy projects, accomplished through the workings of the market, that the U.S. wants copied around the world to make things all better.

The European Union is serious about developing technologies for more efficient energy use, and about increasing solar and wind power, and they are going about doing it on their own. Pleas from

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the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), who are at risk from rising sea levels, went unheard.

At the end of the week, the Chair's summary was not encouraging. On the last day of the IPM, the headline on an in-house NGO daily called *Taking Issue*, (on line at <[www.sdissues.net/SDIN/](http://www.sdissues.net/SDIN/)>) read "Chair's Text Rings Death Knell for the CSD." The article found no strong commitment to a real change in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, or to using environmentally sustainable energy sources.

**From listening, one would conclude that market mechanisms are the only answer.**

It can be hard to know what is going on with delegates. Those who speak on the floor can say only what they have been instructed to say by their home governments; "on stage" they can't depart from their pre-determined scripts.

But a lot goes on "backstage," among allied blocs of nations as well as between delegates and their governments back home. Although not many nations were present at the 4th floor press conference, the report will be circulated, and there will definitely be discussion within voting blocs. Delegates from around the world will inform their governments, and perhaps come back in May with slightly different scripts, more open to real negotiation. One can hope.

Janet Frieswyk, who also attended the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting on behalf of QEW, and I expect to attend CSD sessions in May. We will let you know how it goes. ♦

**Back by popular demand!**

## *Earthcare for Children* coming back updated

SINCE ITS FIRST PUBLICATION in 1995, *Earthcare For Children* has been a popular resource for children's religious education programs around the country, including many non-Quaker groups.

As QEW's last copies were being shipped earlier this year, the authors, Sandra Farley, Diana Egly, and Tom Farley of the Palo Alto (Calif.) Friends Meeting began updating all the units to address Friends' current concerns on a variety of ecological issues from a spiritual perspective, including harmful climate change. They also provided significant new resources and references.

First Day School teachers and

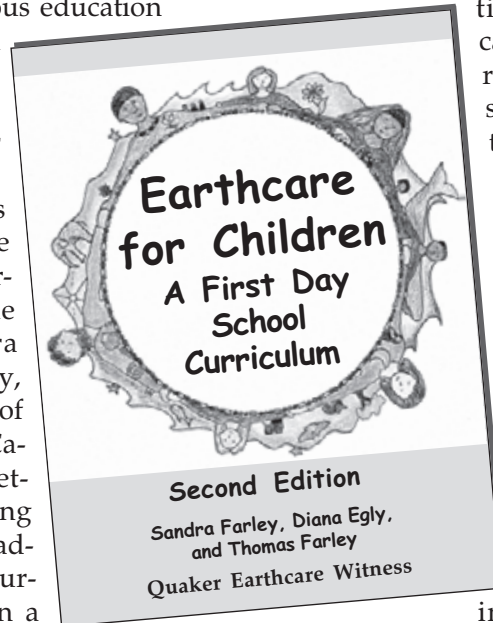
parents will find that, like the first edition, the units are very child-friendly and filled with engaging activities that they can adapt to a variety of learning situations and time allotments.

Those who have been using the first edition of *Earthcare for Children* will find many advantages to buying this upgrade. For example, many activities and readings have been improved

in response to

feedback from users.

Copies will be available after June 1 for \$15.00 + \$4.00 S & H from the QEW office or from <[www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org)>.



## *New edition of Healing Ourselves and the Earth*

THIS UPDATED BOOKLET is based on a talk, "Mistaken Beliefs that are Helping to Destroy the Earth," that the late Elizabeth G. Watson presented at the FGC Gathering in 1990.

Her challenging insights about the spiritual roots of humans' ecologically destructive behavior are as relevant—and urgent—today as they were then.

After surveying the many fronts on which the earth's ecological integrity is seriously threatened, Elizabeth

outlined five common beliefs that need rethinking if we are to live sustainably as part of the family of life on this planet. In the process, she demonstrated that Earthcare requires not only a new manner of living on the earth but a transformed consciousness about our place in Creation.

Copies may be ordered for \$4.00 + \$1.00 S & H from the

QEW office or from <[www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org)>.



## Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue invests in future

By Louis Cox  
and Ruah Swennerfelt

WE joined several hundred people who took part in a 100-mile, eight-day Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue across Massachusetts March 16–24. A big snow storm struck just as we left the opening ceremonies at a church in Northampton. But even as icicles clung to our eyebrows and accumulating slush hindered every step, we cheerfully slogged the first eight miles, knowing that we were helping to make history in the struggle to save this marvelous planet.

The organizers of the event, the Religious Witness for the Earth, knew that a considerable amount of CO<sub>2</sub> would be emitted just to transport people to and from different legs of the walk and to operate two support vehicles. So they purchased carbon offsets to lessen some of the ecological impact. Other pollutants would be generated, and nonrenewable resources would be consumed in planning and logistics. But the overall ecological cost of this pilgrimage was viewed as a worthwhile investment—in raised public awareness of harmful climate change and of the need for an immediate course change.

Since there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that human activities are rapidly destabilizing the world's climate, the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue focused mainly on the *spiritual* implications of this inconvenient truth. It also helped set the stage for the bigger "Step It Up" campaign that spawned some 1,400 climate-awareness events around the world on April 14.



**QEW STAFF MEMBERS** Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox were among about 25 through-walkers who braved inclement weather to complete the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue, March 16–24, 2007, linking a dozen congregations over a 100-mile route across Massachusetts.

The Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue followed roughly the same format as the five-day, 49-mile Climate Action Walk that we took through Vermont last Labor Day weekend. (That walk was led by environmental writer Bill McKibben and was sponsored by Greenpeace International.) The aim of both walks was to influence state and national leaders to support legislation calling for an 80-percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050—One relied mainly on *political* pressure, and the other applied mostly *moral* pressure.

The Religious Witness for the Earth <[www.religiouswitness.org](http://www.religiouswitness.org)> is part of a growing movement of people who believe their faith requires them to leave a healthy planet for future generations and other species. They are concerned by the fact that developed nations are unjustly taking a disproportionate share of world's resources and unjustly emitting a disproportionate amount of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

The Religious Witness for the Earth also speaks in terms of the sacredness of Creation. It asserts

that the earth was created not merely as a storehouse of resources for a privileged few to use wastefully for narrow and selfish purposes. The faith community thus provides a different perspective on the goals we set as a society and as individuals, in terms of planetary survival and spiritual health.

Participants in the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue came from many faith traditions—Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Unitarian-Universalists, Catholics, Jews, Buddhists, Methodists, and Quakers, to name a few.

Many were college students using part of their spring breaks. Various congregations along the route provided meals and overnight lodging for the 25 of us who were through-walkers. We spent evenings listening to entertainment or educational talks—and nursing sore muscles and blistered feet.

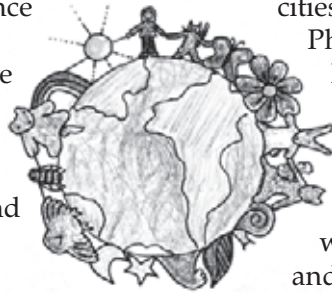
A full-time public relations agent prepared press releases and contacted news media along the route. Quite a few local papers and television stations ran pictures and stories. Just as important was our direct contact with thousands of citizens along the route. Countless drivers honked, smiled, and gave positive gestures in response to our signs and banners.

Just as rewarding were the close relationships that we formed as we gradually coalesced into a community. As we walked, we shared stories, hopes, and fears and exchanged views on various current issues. The camaraderie was a welcome antidote to the frustration and despair that can overwhelm us if we tried to face the future only as individuals. ❖

## Earth Charter declares that we are one Earth community

by Mary Jo Klingel  
QEW Steering Committee

**PREAMBLE:** "We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of the Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to future generations."



Scotland, Africa and Belgium. Work has also gone on to encourage cities to endorse the Charter, with over 4,264 local governments endorsing the Charter. In the U.S. there have been resolutions recognizing the Charter in several major cities, including Seattle, Philadelphia and Santa Rosa and one county, Ventura. In addition, Santa Barbara, Calif., will use the Earth Charter as a framework for making food and energy production local and Corvallis, Oregon, is using the Earth Charter as a framework for sustainability planning. (Thanks to Jan Roberts, the founder and president of Earth Charter U.S. for providing this information.)

I met with the Earth Charter Community Alliance for two days of business and planning, and saw their deep belief in and passion for

the Charter. I was impressed with their willingness to make conscious decisions based on the principles and values of the Earth Charter. By mid-day of the first day, the group felt so familiar to me that I had to be reminded that they were not all Quakers! They are certainly our natural allies in the work that we are doing and the vision we are seeking for the earth.

What can we do to support them?

- ◆ Go on-line and read about their work <[www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)>.
- ◆ Carry copies of the Earth Charter with you and talk to people about it.
- ◆ Find out who the EC people are in your community. Go to their events and invite them to ours. Have a QEW booth at their summits.
- ◆ Share our work with them—we can learn a lot from one another. ◆

These words begin the Earth Charter, described on its website as "a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." In *The Great Turning*, David Korten says, "Often referred to as a Declaration of Interdependence, the Earth Charter reflects a global consensus reached through a decade-long worldwide cross-cultural conversation about common goals and shared values that began in Rio de Janeiro in 1992."

I had the privilege of representing QEW at the meeting of the Earth Charter Community Alliance this past January. I learned that a primary way that the Earth Charter grows is through summits, with over 50 US cities holding summits, in addition to those in

## Inuit heard at Circumpolar Conference

**AROUND THE WORLD** indigenous peoples are joining the international dialogue this world needs. When I hear something like the following I take a deep breath and smile with hope.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), consisting of Inuit peoples from the U.S., Canada, Russia and Greenland, is bringing a case against the U.S. to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR), a judicial arm of the Organization of American States, in an unprecedented attempt to link climate change to international human rights laws.

The Inuit delegation is led by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, international chair of the ICC until 2006, who has just been nominated for a

Nobel Peace Prize. Watt-Cloutier said: "For us in the Arctic our entire culture depends on the cold. The problem of climate change is what this is all about. ...we will be bringing in lawyers to talk about the link between climate change and human rights."

At first the ICHR rejected the ICC's case, but now has agreed to hear it, beginning March 1, 2007. The ICHR, can issue findings, recommendations and rulings. It can also refer cases to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica, though the U.S. has always made clear it does not consider itself bound by the court's rulings.

—Mary Gilbert  
Friends Meeting at Cambridge

# *Earth Democracy* Justice, Sustainability, and Peace

by Vandana Shiva

South End Press, 2005, 205 pp.

Reviewed by Louis Cox

**I**N her *Stolen Harvest*, *Biopiracy*, *Water Wars*, and other books, anti-globalization activist Vandana Shiva has detailed the outrages that are being committed against humanity and nature, in such areas as genetic engineering, water privatization, and market centralization.

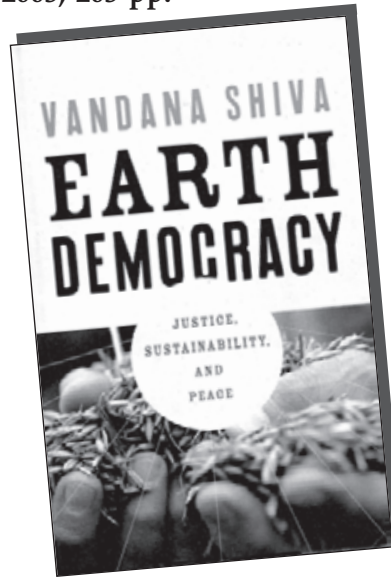
In *Earth Democracy*, Shiva takes a more comprehensive view, calling for a resurgence of democratic action and citizen empowerment as the only way to resist ruthless exploitation of people and the commons by a corporate elite. Her radical call to create a just, sustainable, and peaceful planet seems to resonate with the Quaker call to become citizens of the "Peaceable Kingdom."

But she describes her vision in so many gems of wisdom throughout the book that I am at a loss to summarize them adequately. So I will just let her speak for herself:

◆ Globalization leads not just to the death of democracy, but to the democracy of death, in which exclusion, hate, and fear become the political means to mobilize power and votes.

◆ Living democracies are based on the intrinsic worth of all species, all peoples, all cultures; a just and equal sharing of this earth's vital resources; and sharing the decisions about the use of the earth's resources.

◆ Remembering we are Earth citizens and Earth children can help us recover our common humanity and



help us transcend the deep divisions of intolerance, hate, and fear that corporate globalization's ruptures, polarization, and enclosures have created.

◆ Living economies recognize the creativity of all humans and create spaces for diverse creativities to reach their full potential. Living economies are diverse and decentralized.

**◆ In the Third World, ecology movements are not a luxury for the rich; they are a survival imperative for the majority of people, whose lives are put at risk by the market economy and threatened by its expansion.**

◆ Earth democracy globalizes compassion, justice, and sustainability.

◆ Not only does this focus on the market hide the existence of nature's economy and the sustenance economy, it hides the harm that market growth causes.

◆ More pages in the media are de-

voted to the "health of the market" than to the health of the planet or well-being of people.

◆ The more the poor are dispossessed of their means to provide their own sustenance, the more they have to turn to the market to buy what they formerly produced themselves.

◆ The creation of the colonial category of land as terra nullis (empty land), served two purposes: it denied the existence and prior rights of original inhabitants and it obscured the regenerative capacity and processes of the earth.

◆ The logic of empty land is now being expanded to "empty life." Terra nullis is now used to appropriate biodiversity from the original owners and innovators by defining their seeds, medicinal plants, and medical knowledge as nature, and treating the tools of genetic engineering as the only path to "improvement."

◆ The transformation of commons into commodities has two implications. It deprives the politically weaker groups of their right to survival, which they had through access to commons, and it robs from nature its right to self-renewal and sustainability.

◆ Trade rules and neoliberal reforms institutionalize laws that render compassion itself illegal.

◆ The "efficient" market economy becomes highly inefficient when the destruction of nature's

economy is taken into account. Industrial agriculture uses 10 times more energy than it produces.

◆ In reality, the U.S. is a model of how not to grow and produce food. In 1990, nearly 22 percent of U.S. farming households had incomes be-

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low the official poverty thresholds, twice the rate for all U.S. families.

◆ No species seeks entitlement to their share of water through the marketplace; they get their access to water through being members of communities and ecosystems.

◆ It is public money that makes privatization run, and at 10 times the cost of operating the systems publicly.

◆ At a time when a quarter of the world's population is threatened with starvation due to the erosion of soil fertility, water, and genetic diversity, chasing the mirage of unending growth becomes a major source of genocide.

◆ Those who want greed rewarded through the private takeover of common property deny that cooperation, sharing, and self-regulation can work in human society.

◆ What has been called the tragedy of the commons is, in fact, the tragedy of privatization.

◆ Even if 80 percent of the world's population—the poor people—were to be eliminated, it would only address a small percent of the environmental problem. The lifeboat will sink anyway because of "population pressure" generated by the rich and their energy slaves.

◆ Societies have never succeeded by following a path of unending growth based on overexploitation of resources.

◆ Unless worldviews and lifestyles are restructured ecologically, peace and justice will continue to be violated and, ultimately, the very survival of humanity will be threatened.

◆ Things are most effectively done at

the level closest to where the impact is felt. The solution lies in giving local communities control over local resources so that they have the right, responsibility, and ability to rebuild nature's economy, and through it their own sustainability.

◆ In living economies, economies and ecology are not in conflict. They are mutually supportive.

◆ Living economies, with human creativity at the core, thus mimic nature's diversity, self-organization, and complexity.

◆ Corporate globalization is creating dictatorship over food and water, over the most vital aspects of our lives. It is robbing us of freedoms at the most fundamental level—that of survival.

◆ For citizens to reclaim their freedoms, we have to reinvent democracy. We have to deepen and broaden it.

◆ The real heads of state are global corporations whose interests are put above the interests of citizens.

◆ It is the indignity of being treated as disposable that pushes people toward religious fundamentalism in order to retrieve a sense of self, of meaning, of significance.

◆ Without economic democracy, political democracy becomes a force for dividing people, not uniting them.

◆ Globalization has no self-correcting mechanism. Localization constantly responds to ecological feedback from nature and political and cultural feedback from people.

◆ Globalization is a false economy. Localization creates honest economies based on real costs, real prices.

◆ Only on the foundation of strong local democracy can strong national and global democracies be built.



Vandana Shiva

◆ Corporate globalization is dismantling the role of the state in regulating corporations, while religious fundamentalism is demanding that the state have an increased role in policing people.

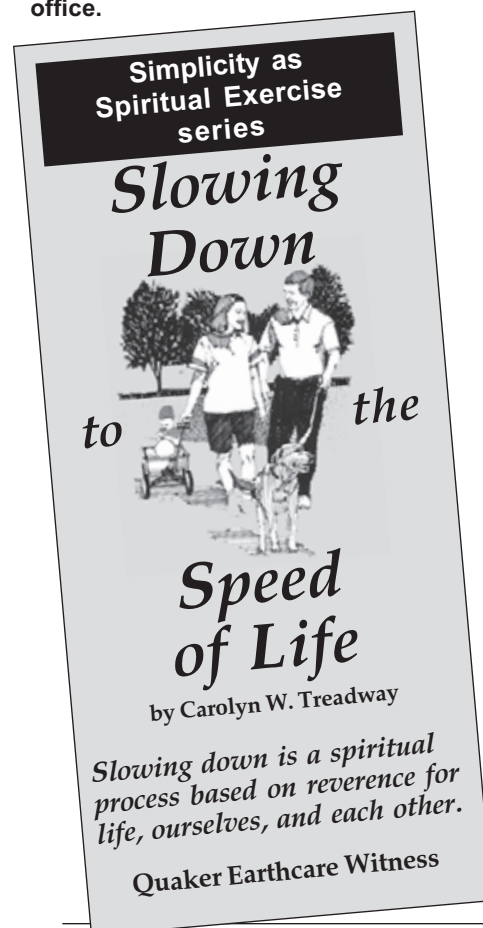
◆ Relationships exist because we all belong to an Earth family—through sharing the same biosphere and living on the same Earth, one planetary home, we are all relations.

◆ Cultivating and conserving diversity is no luxury in our times. It is a survival imperative.

—I hope these quotes have whetted your appetite to read the rest of this enlightening and inspiring book! ◆

## New QEW pamphlet!

Includes practical, professional guidance for those wanting more time and space for Earthcare and soul care. Copies may be ordered from the QEW office.



**PALMETTO FRIENDS** Gathering followed up on Ruah and Louis's visit last year with a "localvore" meal at this year's session. The Horry/Five Rivers Friends Meeting hosted the lunch on March 3, 2007 and served about 32 Friends. The process of putting the meal together was initiated by your *Friends Journal* article. One of the happy outcomes was learning about and visiting Freewoods Farm, a treasure in our community that we were not fully aware of. We had heard that cane syrup was made there—the old fashioned way with a mule-powered mill. We used that as sweetener.

I hope that our lunchers will be in contact with local growers. I know that I look for location more when I am in the grocery store. Thanks to Alice Wald, we have "discovered" Anson Mills and their mission to preserve heirloom grain production in South Carolina.

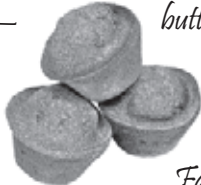

—Grace Gifford  
Palmetto Friends Gathering  
Conway, S.C.

## "Put the State on Your Plate"

Take the "Eat Local" Challenge Lunch



### Palmetto State Localvore Menu

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Carolina Gold rice and grits</b>—<br/>Anson Mills, Columbia, S.C.</p> <p><b>Sweet potatoes</b>—grown by<br/>Chese Jolly, Green Sea, S.C.</p> <p><b>Collard greens</b>—grown by<br/>Sammy Collier, Green Sea, S.C.</p> <p><b>Butterbeans</b>—grown and processed<br/>by Ruth &amp; Jimmy Patterson,<br/>Green Sea, S.C.</p> <p><b>Cornmeal</b>—Awendaw<br/>Spoonbread, Awendaw, S.C.</p> <p><b>Eggs</b>—Ovis Hill Farm,<br/>Timmonsville, S.C.</p> <p><b>Butter, cheese, milk, and<br/>chocolate milk</b>—Happy Cow<br/>Creamery, Pelzer, S.C.</p> <p><b>Muffins</b>—variety of types, made<br/>with cornmeal and whole wheat<br/>flour from Anson Mills; K &amp; J eggs<br/>from Scranton, S.C.; milk and</p> | <br><br> | <p>butter from Happy Cow<br/>Creamery; and sorghum<br/>cane syrup from Blizzard<br/>Branch and Freewoods<br/>Farm, Burgess, S.C.</p> <p><b>Tea</b>—American Classic Tea,<br/>Wadmalaw Island, S.C.</p> <p><b>Oatmeal Cookies</b>—made with<br/>toasted hand-cut oats and<br/>whole wheat flour from<br/>Anson Mills; butter from<br/>Happy Cow Creamery;<br/>and sorghum cane syrup<br/>from Freewoods Farm.</p> <p><b>Blueberry crisp</b>—made with<br/>blueberries from Mr. and Mrs.<br/>Floyd, Green Sea, S.C.; whole<br/>wheat flour from Anson Mills;<br/>and butter from Happy Cow<br/>Creamery.</p> |
|---|---|--|

**I HAVE BEEN** trained by Al Gore to be one of his "1,000 Messengers" to take his climate crisis message across the land at the grassroots level. I'm thrilled to be one of the 1,000 in the nation!

Our training with Al Gore, with contributions by top climate scientists and environmental educators, was amazing. I'm now available to give presentations about the climate crisis to any group which invites me.

Have other Quakers been trained to be messengers for Al Gore? I'd like to be in touch to share ideas. Please let me know at <Carolyn@PlanetCare.us>.

—Carolyn Treadway  
Normal, Illinois

**A RECENT ISSUE** of *Coop America Quarterly* (No. 69, Summer 2006) had a number of excellent, detailed articles of interest to members of QEW:

- Forests situation critical.
- Strategies for forest protection.
- Targeting corporate paper use.
- Managing forests sustainably.
- Protecting ancient forests.
- Coop America's paper project.
- Woodwise companies directory.

Many Friends are familiar with many of the thoughts expressed, but the thoroughness of these articles has merit for all of us to read. Write to:

Coop America  
1612 K Street NW #600  
Washington DC 20006

Individual copies are \$4.00. For members of a group or Meeting, orders of 10 copies are \$2.00 each, and 100 copies are \$1.00 each, plus postage.

—Robert L. Wixom  
Columbia, Mo.

**LEONARD JOY'S** article on economics and Ed Dreby's article on money in recent issues of *QEW's Quaker Eco-Bulletin* are excellent.

These articles give a broad picture of the difficulties faced by any who attempt to change our usual and customary practices, particularly when they are powered by the money economy.

—Alicia Adams  
Miembres, N.M.

## Quaker Earthcare Witness Order Form

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Yearly Mtg

Interests

### Please check the appropriate boxes

- 1-year support for Quaker Earthcare Witness  
(includes subscription to **BeFriending Creation**)
- \$500/US  \$100/US  \$50/US (avg)  \$35/US  Other \$\_\_\_/US

Make checks payable to **Quaker Earthcare Witness**. Send with this form to  
**Quaker Earthcare Witness, 173-B N. Prospect St., Burlington, VT. 05401-1607.**

TOTAL \$

Canadians may contribute through Canadian Yearly Meeting for a tax receipt, starting at \$45/Can. Please send check to Canadian Yearly Meeting, 91-A Fourth Ave., Ottawa, ON K1S 2L1. CYM needs to know that the money is for QEW support. Forward this form to QEW to let us know that you have chosen to contribute through CYM.

## Urban Friends work for food sustainability

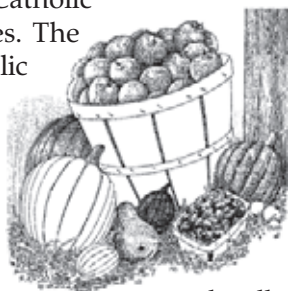
I'M NOW WORKING for an urban organic farm/CSA. It's located in North St. Louis, Mo., which is mostly abandoned city lots. We are reclaiming the land for small-scale farming. We have 23 family shareholders, and we provide local produce for a couple of Catholic Worker hospitality houses. The farm is part of the Catholic Worker movement. We are lucky to have an orchard with the farm, with bees, and a few chickens.

At the farm we are just finishing our outdoor kitchen, where we will be teaching cooking and nutrition classes to neighborhood youth and families. We also have a work-study program for youth coming out of drug/truancy court.

Another project we are really excited about is the opening of a farmer's market in North St. Louis. We received a grant to identify local farmers and inner-city gardeners and help them establish a

farmer's market. The market will also be able to accept food stamps to really make us more accessible to this low-income area. It's an exciting time to be there.

I think I've stirred up some local interest in QEW. I announced



at Meeting last week an initiative to promote local, sustainable food sources. We are going to meet and talk about that soon.

With a little prompting, my food coop is buying more and more

locally, and we are beginning to address issues of sustainability.

One Friend, whom I least expected, was telling me about something she had read in the *Canadian Friend*. She said they were talking about QEW and she had to find them. I directed her to your website, and I'm hoping this small group will spark some new support for QEW.

—Anna Sandige  
St. Louis (Mo.) Friends Meeting

## BeFriending Creation

**BeFriending Creation**, Vol. 20, No. 3, May–June 2007. Newsletter of **Quaker Earthcare Witness**. ISSN 1050-0332. Published bi-monthly.

We publish **BeFriending Creation** to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, stimulate discussion and action, share insights, practical ideas, and news of our actions, and encourage among Friends a sense of community and spiritual connection with all Creation. Opinions expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of Quaker Earthcare Witness, or of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The editor is responsible for unsigned items. Submission deadlines are February 7, April 7, June 7, August 7, October 7, and December 7.

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**Membership** is open to all who demonstrate commitment to support the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness and who support its work at the Monthly or Yearly Meeting levels, or through other Friends organizations. Quaker Earthcare Witness is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation; contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

### VISION AND WITNESS

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity. WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

**Steering Committee Clerk:** Barbara Williamson, 2710 E. Leigh St., Richmond VA 23223; 804/643-0461; [barbaraawmson@juno.com](mailto:barbaraawmson@juno.com).

**Gen. Secretary:** Ruah Swennerfelt, 173-B N. Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05401. 802/ 658-0308; [Ruah@QuakerEarthcare.org](mailto:Ruah@QuakerEarthcare.org).

**BFC Editor:** Louis Cox, 173-B N. Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05401. 802/658-0308; e-mail: [Louis@QuakerEarthcare.org](mailto:Louis@QuakerEarthcare.org).

**Website:** [www.QuakerEarthcare.org](http://www.QuakerEarthcare.org)

May–June 2007

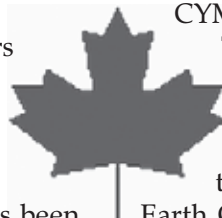
✓ Climate change article inspires Meeting's outreach.	1
✓ Clerk's message: Sustainable water use begins at home.	3
✓ Witnessing a major disconnect on climate change at the UN.	4
✓ <i>Earthcare for Children</i> coming back updated.	5
✓ Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue invests in the future.	6
✓ Earth Charter declares that we are all one Earth community.	7

## QEAN's 2007 report: *'We are no longer voices in the wilderness'*

MANY FRIENDS with concerns about ecology are members of the Quaker Ecology Action Network (QEAN). QEAN maintains an e-mail discussion list and hosts special interest groups at Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), regional gatherings, and local meetings and worship groups. QEAN members encourage their local meetings to take actions consistent with CYM's Sustainability Minute and the subsequent CYM Minutes in support of the Earth Charter.

While the dominant topic of discussion has been the connection between peace and environmental concerns, the conversation has been complex and wide ranging. Air travel, water, sustainable lifestyles, nuclear energy, food security, biotechnology, sustainable communities, biofuel, toxic substances, and other themes have been explored by the group. ...

Organizational matters have also been significant. The website has been re-designed and the associations with the Earth Charter Initiative and Quaker Earthcare Witness have been maintained. A representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness has been nominated. We are mindful of efforts of other Canadian Churches, KAIROS, and Faith & the Common Good, and know that we are not alone as a faith community



in this matter.

At CYM's 2006 sessions we... made a short presentation to Consultation & Renewal, particularly in reference to Environmental concerns. We support CYM's involvement in Quaker Earthcare Witness. Two of our members are active in the Quaker Institute for the Future.

QEAN members continued to be involved in their own meetings and communities. Several meetings have considered the Earth Charter Queries sent last year. One QEAN member helped organize a very successful Sustainable Lifestyles Symposium at Camp NeeKauNis in August, attended by people from 14 different communities. "Youth Explore the Earth Charter" workshops have been held on Vancouver Island.

Along with other environmental groups, QEAN has been thrown off balance by the recent surge in public awareness and concern about global climate change and other ecological issues. Our situation has changed dramatically, from being voices in the wilderness to being part of the main conversation. It remains to be seen how this will affect QEAN's work.

—Arnold Ranneris and John Scull, co-clerks