



BeFriending Creation

Newsletter of Quaker Earthcare Witness
Affirming our essential unity with nature

Volume 29, Number 3 • May-June 2016

Youth and a Landmark Climate Case in Court

By Shelley Tanenbaum, QEW General Secretary

HOW OFTEN DO YOU HEAR people complain (or rant, scream, and shout) that the U.S. government is not doing enough about climate change, but they don't actually do anything about it? Last year, twenty-one young Americans and their famous scientist partner joined together to sue the Federal government. Their case is slowly making its way through the court system, and there was a hearing in Eugene, Oregon in March 2016 to consider a challenge brought by the federal government and three fossil fuel trade associations seeking to have the case dismissed. These twenty-one youth, aged 8 to 19, along with world-renowned climatologist James Hansen, say that the federal government is violating their constitutional rights by allowing the use of fossil fuels. They are seeking a court order requiring an immediate implementation of a national plan to decrease CO₂ to a safe level of 350 ppm by the year 2100. The case is based on the argument that by causing climate change, the federal government has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. The case also references the Public Trust Doctrine, which states that the government holds natural resources in trust for present and future generations. In April, the judge ruled that this case can move forward in federal court, dismissing the challenge by the government and fossil fuel companies.

One of the plaintiffs, Nathan Baring, is a member of Chena Ridge Monthly Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. We met (via Skype) to talk about the case.

1. *Why did you join Our Children's Trust to sue the federal government?*



Happy plaintiffs after the hearing. Photo credit: Our Children's Trust

Nathan: I joined this case after a lot of clearness because I realized that while I can work to affect many local establishments and local politics to combat climate change, in the long run it's the federal government that has the final say on policy and regulations to make a bigger impact. As a youth, I know that the decisions being made right now at the federal level—including offshore drilling permits, subsidies, and Obama's "all of the above" energy policy—are counterintuitive to the science that calls for phasing out fossil fuels. As an activist, I have already written many letters-to-the-editor, advocated in Juneau, rallied, and phone-banked without the sufficient results that we need. The government is disregarding youth in their decisions too often, as we are underrepresented without the right to vote, and yet we will bear the full consequences of our current politician's actions. We youth will be bearing the consequences of climate change for

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BeFriending Creation

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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 10, April 10, June 10, August 10, October 10, and December 10.

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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.

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Earthcare Calendar

June 30, 2016. Deadline for article submissions for July-August 2016 *BeFriending Creation*.

Visit Us at the FGC Gathering!

QEW will once again be hosting the FGC Earth Center as part of the annual FGC Gathering, this year at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. The Earth Center will be open from 1:30 to 5:00 pm each weekday (July 4-8), and we will have resources, speakers, and movies lined up for your education, edification, and enjoyment! Below you'll find a schedule of Earth Center events. We hope to see you there! ♪

QEW Earth Center Schedule

Monday, July 4

1:30-3:00 EQAT – George Lakey. After winning its first campaign, EQAT (Earth Quaker Action Teams) turns to an electrical utility to demand solar jobs

3:15-4:15 Agrophenology: – David Abaz. With frosts in July and heatwaves in March, learn how Round River Farm in Finland, MN uses phenology to schedule the planting of the crops.

4:30-5:30 QEW: Who we are and What we do – Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary. QEW is a network of North American Friends with a concern for Earthcare. Hear about our work and help us shape our goals for the next year.

Tuesday, July 5

1:30-3:00 Farm to School and Local Foods – David Abaz. Can your region feed itself? Hear how the Western Lake Superior people are taking back the food system.

3:15-4:15 Green architecture – Roy Taylor. How do I make my house (or meeting) energy efficient without breaking the bank? The six steps before solar panels.

4:30-5:30 Environmental Justice Apres Paris, Despues Peru – Shelley Tanenbaum and Judy Lumb, QEW and QIF. Focusing on environmental justice in light of COP21 and building on the sustainability minute approved at the FWCC gathering in Pisac, Peru, January 2016 (our Tuesday evening interest group will focus on the Paris agreement and the Pisac statement).

Wednesday, July 8 1:30 – 5:30

In keeping with the FGC day of rest, we will offer a relaxing time at the Center. Come read, reflect, relax, snack and watch some videos on what people are doing to restore the ecological integrity of our world.

Thursday, July 9

1:30-3:00 The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves -- Paula Palmer, Pendle Hill's 2016 Cadbury Scholar, presents her research and asks Friends to support healing in Native American communities today.

3:15-4:15 Building Resilience in Times of Ecological Collapse: Responses from Friends in the Four Rivers Area (MN) – Richard Fuller and Friends

4:30-5:30 Water, Money and Love: A Mining Report – Bob Tammen. Clean water in Minnesota and limits to a mining economy.

Friday, July 10

1:30-3:00 Transition Towns & Pathways Toward the "Great Transition" – Ruah Swennerfelt and Pamela Boyce Simms share practices and visions for a post-carbon culture.

3:15-4:15 Friends in Unity with Nature -- Roy Taylor and Shelley Tanenbaum. QEW Worship and worship-sharing to close the FGC week.

4:30-5:30 Prayer of the World – Maia Tapp. Prayer of the World is a prayer-poem meditation which brings forth the voice of earth, sea, stone, star, and all of creation through contemplative multimedia (photography, poetry, and music).



Youth and Climate, *from page 1*

the rest of our lives. The grounds for a lawsuit were, and still are, more than present.

2. *What does it mean to be from Alaska and to be part of this lawsuit on climate change?*

Nathan: We are already seeing the effects of climate change. I am a cross-country skier—there is way less snow now than a few years ago. There are many more ice storms than there used to be. The last two years were the hottest on record in Alaska. It didn't even get below zero in Fairbanks in January. Climate change is hitting us twice as fast as in the lower forty-eight. Scientists are predicting that Alaska will lose sea-ice in just a few decades. We've all heard about the polar bears. Most people don't know that walrus are at even higher risk than polar bears because their cubs require sea-ice. The polar bears are inter-breeding with grizzlies to produce "pizzlies" with grizzlies moving north into polar bear territory. As much as we are seeing effects in Anchorage and Fairbanks (where I live), I have a friend from Shishmaref—his whole village is being relocated due to rising sea levels.

3. *What has it been like to be part of the lawsuit with youth from all over the country?*

Nathan: There is amazing diversity represented in the group, much like Anchorage, which has the most diverse high school student population on the planet. The youngest member of the lawsuit is Levi from southern Florida: he is 8 years old and his family home is in direct danger from sea-level rise. Xluhtezcatl Martinez, a 15-year-old from Boulder, Colorado started the lawsuit: he has spoken out about climate change and is a well-known youth activist. He is also a professional rapper with three CDs. We meet at least monthly with teleconferences.

4. *How has your Quaker community encouraged and supported you?*

Nathan: Quakers in Fairbanks and Alaska as a whole have been my base ever since I began activism, which was long before this case. I currently have a support committee that works specifically on grounding my work in the faith and if anything fails or I'm embarrassed, after my immediate family, the next group I look to for support is our meeting. Some of my most important and closest mentors are at meeting and the whole setting is vital to my own health and wellbeing, as I add activism to my other major stressors such as high school (with four honors classes), sports (com-

petitive skiing, soccer, volleyball and running), community service and many other activists organizations in addition to this lawsuit. My support committee gives me space to unwind, center, talk, and they keep my work faithful.

My Meeting, Chena Ridge Monthly Meeting, has been very actively engaged with earthcare for many years. Chena Ridge Meeting was a co-founder of the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition.

5. *Have you talked about this at school? What do your teachers and fellow students think about the case?*

Nathan: There has not yet been a formal setting for me to share my experiences at school. However, most of my immediate friends are very supportive and curious. Interestingly, a few of my closest friends do not share my politics and they have kidded me about the case. There are a few key teachers that I have been so very grateful for because of their curiosity, willingness to let me have extra time to complete assignments, and waivers on assignments with points solely for completion. Specifically, one teacher in particular helps me be more articulate in my arguments and consistently asks for updates on my progress. Most of my friends are extremely involved in political issues like this so they can understand where my stress is coming from. It is hard to balance this with the pressure to get top grades, but it is important enough to me to be active on environmental issues.

6. *What else do you want Friends to know about the court case and climate change? How can Friends throughout North America be supportive?*

Nathan: We have had a lot of support beyond what was expected. The global Catholic community has actually filed an "amicus brief" in support and they sent their own lawyer to the case. Prominent people like Bill McKibben of 350.org and Naomi Klein, who published the book *This Changes Everything*, have written in

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Nathan Baring

QEW at QUIP 2016

By Katherine Murray

EARLY THIS SPRING, I was invited by Ben Brazil, the writing professor at Earlham School of Religion, to serve on a panel at the QUIP conference, May 12-14, in Richmond, Indiana. QUIP is an acronym for Quakers Uniting in Publications, and the organization is an international network of more than 50 Friends organizations and individuals who care about the ministry of the written and digital word.

I was invited to participate on the “Quakers Writing in Advocacy” panel, along with two other passionate and dedicated Friends working in advocacy at the legislative level. Dr. Bill Chapman (@inquakerpolicy) is clerk of Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation, and he advocates for meaningful Friendly conversations with lawmakers on all the big issues of the day, including environmental concerns. Hannah Evans (@hgevans4) is a policy associate with FCNL who lobbies on immigration issues at the federal level.

It was great to be among Friends and have dedicated time to focus on how we receive and test our leadings, and how we prepare to use the gifts at our disposal to meet the needs we see in the world. Everyone present was involved with publishing in some way—writing, editing, or promoting—and we were able to share ideas about how our Friends’ views uniquely shape the messages we share with the world.

As a representative of QEW, I spoke about our uniqueness as a spirit-led environmental organization and shared how we follow Quaker process, the varied ways we use content, and the ways we work together to create, update, and approve content. I also invited the whole group (the room was packed!) to submit articles, pitch trifolds, volunteer to work in committees that prepare web content, and more.



Dr. Bill Chapman (IFCL), Katherine Murray (QEW), and Hannah Evans (FCNL).

In answer to a question about our hopes for our work in the future, I spoke about a concern that’s been on my heart for a while: the question of how we might better bridge the perceived gaps among Friends of various traditions and work peaceably together with the shared intention of caring for our planet.

Interestingly, as the epilogue for the evening, a Friend read an article, entitled, “They’re Not Really Quakers,” which spoke to this call for acceptance among Friends. Here’s the link: <http://standatsinai.blogspot.com/2015/10/theyre-not-really-quakers.html#!/2015/10/theyre-not-really-quakers.html>

I felt honored to be invited to be part of QUIP 2016 and was grateful to be able to share QEW with a wonderful group of committed writers and publishers. I also came away with something meaningful for me personally: A renewed hope that our shared Quaker language and vision can join us in right action and help us move beyond our perceptions of our separateness.

Calling All Friends!

Whether you consider yourself a liberal Friend, a conservative Friend, an evangelical Friend, a Buddhist Friend, a non-theist Friend, or another kind of Friend altogether, we invite you to submit a 500-word, personal essay for our upcoming Special Edition of *BeFriending Creation*, “Friends on Earthcare.”

We’d love to hear how the lens of your Quaker tradition helps you make choices for right action when it comes to our planet. You might write about how the testimonies, scripture, or your experience of the inner light call you to care more intentionally for the earth. Our hope is that all Friends will be blessed by the richness of our diversity and heartened by the sense of purpose and compassion we share.

Please send your essays to Katherine at katherine@quakerearthcare.org by August 10, 2016.



The QEW Mini-Grant Program

By Mary Gilbert

EIGHT YEARS AGO QEW ESTABLISHED a program of awarding mini-grants, on a matching funds basis. The idea was twofold: (1) to help Friends meetings learn about and build relationships with QEW, and (2) to stimulate meetings to think in environmental terms whenever they undertake a project that could affect nature.

An applicant must be a Quaker group—a meeting or church, school, camp, etc. We want groups to discuss their planned project as a community, discerning together and sharing reasons for choosing that project, weighing out the costs and benefits of being ecologically responsible, while simultaneously building community and doing good for the earth.

Our \$500 grants are small, and they are matching grants, which means the group must come up with \$500 of their own to contribute toward the project, but QEW mini-grants can provide much-needed support for local projects like community gardens, bike lending programs, low-flow toilets, and solar projects. Since QEW introduced mini-grants, they have helped to fund 52 projects, for a total of \$15,682. We have helped with projects in 18 states, from coast to coast, and completed five projects with African Friends, two in Bolivia, and four in Mexico.

We do encourage a three-year interval between applications from the same group, because we don't want to encourage dependent relationships. In practice, we have given grants in consecutive years to the Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City because their projects are diverse, they are working with an organized plan, and making that grant hasn't impeded our ability to fund other grants. We have also funded two mini-grants in one calendar year to a meeting in Iowa for very different purposes: One grant helped to create a pollinator garden on the meeting's land and the other helped with solar power for a Quaker college in Kenya.

We hope to share with you in each issue of *BeFriending Creation* a story about a particular grant. This time we feature our work with Friends in Bolivia.

Trees in the Altiplano

The city of El Alto in Bolivia sits at an elevation of 13,600 feet. Specific native trees can actually grow at that altitude in Bolivia. Ruben Hilare—inspired by what he learned at a UN meeting in Cancun that he attended with members of the QEW UN Working Group—and other young Quakers decided that trees should grow in El Alto. The government of Bolivia is aware of the value of nature and supplied trees at no cost. The Friends had to plant the trees and water them; they set up a rotating system that brought buckets of water to the saplings and build shelters around the trees for protection from winter winds for the first couple of years. The QEW mini-grant helped fund shelter materials and tools.

I ran into Ruben at the FWCC conference in Peru this January. He told me that many of the trees planted have survived and sent me pictures of the trees in leaf. His church is very proud of the trees, and there's a bonus. Ruben wrote, "The impact of the project was that many families, including the local government



Continued on next page

have been concerned about the needs of having trees in El Alto. The Quaker church was the first institution planting these trees, and after that many people added more trees on the streets.”

Pachamama in Practice

Emma Condori, who spent a year at Earlham School of Religion, has formed a small committee that includes Friends. They are establishing a Friends International Bilingual Center in La Paz as a site for outreach that will serve people's needs. Emma says that often people want to have a meeting or workshop and cannot find a place willing to let them use the space. Now they will have one. There is a kitchen where simple meals can be prepared. Emma is planning workshops, including one for women based on the QEW Population tri-fold she translated into Spanish.

A QEW mini-grant is helping with a children's earthcare program that is part of this larger project. Children from La Paz and El Alto will come for a full day or a half day twice a month for 4 -6 months. The idea is to have the children take action, not just hear about things. Emma says they will “hear, see and work.” Examples of what's planned:

- Travel to a beautiful place for an encounter with nature, and then come back and talk about how important nature is for each of us.
- Bring concerns from their own families, such as problems their grandparents in the countryside might be having with crops.
- Start a recycling project. Recycled paper can be sold by the kilo.
- Work with recycled fabric.

The program will also teach children what is happening beyond Bolivia. They plan to record news stories to discuss; for example, Emma feels drought, floods, and disasters such as typhoon Haiyan are climate-related stories the children should learn about. The program will finish with a celebration, and the intention is to involve parents so that they will be able to promote the same kind of program for next year. ♡

To see examples of past QEW Mini-Grants or get a copy of the grant application for your own project, please visit the Mini-Grants page on our website: <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/quaker-earthcare-witness-mini-grants>

Thank You for Spreading the Word!



The Wednesday graphics we've been sharing on Facebook each week have been getting a lot of attention! Thank you for liking and sharing them! You can download them from our website at <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/resource/graphical/get-qew-graphics-share>

Keep in Touch!

Thanks for sharing our posts on Facebook and following along on Twitter!



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QEW Mini-Grants and ProNica

By Brad Stocker

IN MARY GILBERT'S ARTICLE in this issue, you learned what QEW Mini-Grants are, but you may be less familiar with ProNica. ProNica is a Quaker-founded NGO that currently works in solidarity with nine Nicaraguan projects. The organization began under the guidance of Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) in 1987, and later evolved into an autonomous NGO. It is still a Quaker organization: six of the seven board members are Friends, and all involved are expected to hold Quaker values. ProNica is funded primarily with donations from SEYM, individuals, and from Friends Witness Tours and other service tours from educational institutions.

ProNica has no projects of its own; rather, it forms solidarity with those in the country who have work and need support. ProNica follows along the lines of Eduardo Galeano's ideas:

"I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person. I have a lot to learn from other people."

Or, as shared by one Friend on the QEW discussion listserv:

"If you have come to help me, you are are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." Lila Watson, Aboriginal woman of Australia.

Recently, QEW and ProNica have found two projects that overlap in mission and vision. One was the inventory of the flora and fauna within the planned route of the Nicaraguan Transoceanic Canal (which is thankfully now on hold), which was supported by both a QEW Mini-Grant and ProNica. The second is the current project with the Acahualt Women's Center.

The Acahualt Women's Center had excellent family planning materials, produced in Spanish, but they did not have the funds to reprint and distribute them. As the QEW Population group will tell you, population growth is a concern and focus for reducing impact on Earth and family planning is one path to alleviation. Their materials were vetted by several people in QEW and found to be rich and accurate.



With the help of ProNica and one of its board members, the Acahualt Women's Center and ProNica put together a project proposal to reprint the materials, distribute them, and have a short workshop for their people on how best to use them. The QEW Mini-Grants committee found it well within its parameters and funded the project for \$500.

ProNica provided the matching requirement for the QEW Mini-Grant and has posted the information in its newsletter and on its website. ProNica makes a specific appeal for donors to give to the project and thus double the money, via the grant, in much the same manner that public radio fundraising campaigns do.

Individuals who wish to help with this fundraising specifically for the Acahualt Women's Clinic Family Planning Project, can do so on the ProNica site (<http://pronica.org/donate>). Also please feel free to share this with others as you feel so led. ♪



We Our Representatives

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED Becoming a Yearly Meeting representative for QEW? Yearly Meeting reps serve as a liaison between local meetings and the organization. The reps share new information and resources from QEW with Friends at yearly and monthly meetings and they share with QEW ideas and suggestions that would help local meetings engage Friends on topics of earthcare and sustainability.

Yearly Meeting Representatives are the crucial link between QEW and Yearly Meetings. Bring your creativity, leadings, and passions to your work for QEW! Every approach is valuable. Here are some ideas of what you might do as a QEW yearly or monthly meeting rep:

1. Connecting with QEW

- A. Attend the two annual Steering Committee Meetings whenever possible.
- B. Serve on one QEW committee and one working group: participate in ad hoc committees as led.
- C. Use the web site and list serves to stay connected between meetings.
- D. Write articles for BeFriending Creation, especially about events in your Yearly Meeting
- E. We are a Q community of Friends with diverse earthcare interests; ask for and share support and information.

2. Connecting with your Yearly Meeting

- A. Attend your Yearly, half and quarterly Meetings. Seek out Friends with interest in earthcare. Listen to their concerns and offer support. Build connections. Become a “face of QEW”.
- B. Bring “QEW in a box” for display tables. Bring trifold and BeFriending Creation. Share about our on-line presence.
- C. Offer or facilitate earthcare workshops at your Yearly Mtg. Complete reports as requested; bring reports back to QEW about your Yearly Meeting. Offer verbal reports in plenaries.
- D. Be sure all your meetings know about QEW Mini Grants.
- E. Encourage a line item in your YM budget for



QEW.

3. Connecting with Monthly Meetings

- A. As you are led, travel to Monthly meetings for QEW workshops. Lead discussions from trifold or BeFriending creation or your own leadings. Share about QEW’s work. Remember the value of worship sharing about earthcare.
- B. Find Monthly Meeting Representatives; encourage and support them. Invite them to annual QEW Meetings
- C. Inform MM reps about ways to order trifold, use the web site, access the QEW community

4. Take good care of yourself; mind the Light, ask for support. Know that we are all in this for the long haul.

Interested? Contact Mary Jo Klingel (clerk of Outreach) or Shelley Tanenbaum (QEW General Secretary) at [shelley\[at\]quakerearthcare.org](mailto:shelley[at]quakerearthcare.org) for more information! ♪



BOOK REVIEW

Our Life Is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey

Reviewed by Judy Lumb

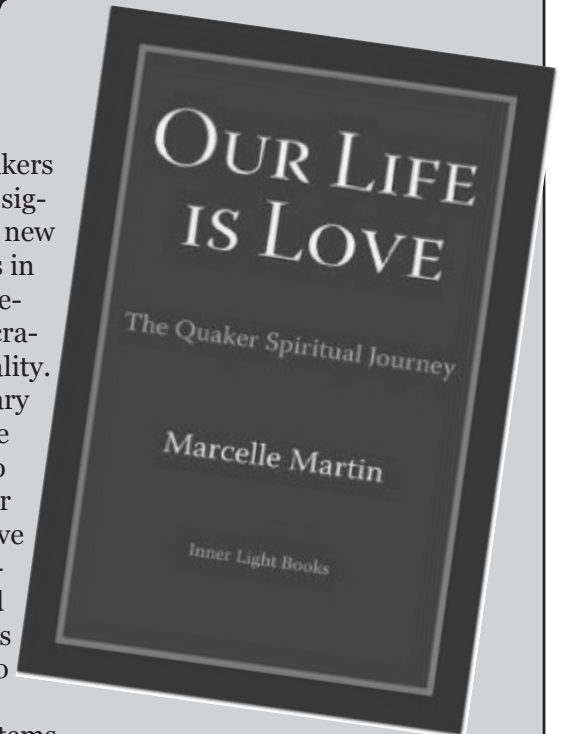
I HAVE ADMIRERD AND BEEN INSPIRED by the writing of Marcelle Martin in *Friends Journal*, so I was very happy to learn that her book was released. It is a very effective juxtaposition of vignettes from the lives of early Friends and contemporary Friends. She divides the spiritual journey into ten elements: longing, seeking, turning within, openings, refiner's fire, community, leadings, the cross, abiding, and perfection. She elucidates each element with writing in journals by early Friends and then with descriptions of the lives of contemporary Friends. Then she told her own spiritual journey. I read these one or two a day over a period of time and found them all very inspiring. But then I got to the heart of the matter, why she wrote the book:

"... [H]umanity faces great challenges. Environmental destruction and worldwide economic instability could bring disasters of great magnitude. In order to survive the social and ecological changes that have been set in motion by our disruption of the planet's ecology, the human race needs to respond with a shift of consciousness sufficient to dramatically change our collective behaviour. We need to learn to live with one another, and with all of creation, in healing and sustainable ways.

"Important changes were ushered into the world through the faithful efforts of many Quakers described in these pages. Their struggles, experiments and discoveries helped to make space for something new in human thinking and being. Seventeenth-

century Quakers contributed significantly to new experiments in religious freedom, democracy, and equality. Contemporary Friends have continued to bring greater truth and love into individual lives and communities and also into global and national systems. ...

"Only with divine guidance and only by allowing divine wisdom and healing to come through us can we collectively make the shift of consciousness needed in our time. It is crucial, therefore, to wake up more fully to our relationship to the indwelling Spirit of God and to our place in creation. To follow the divine will for us in this time of change, it will not be sufficient to believe that Christ—or any other sacred being—has already saved us. Something more fundamental than just this *belief* is required. We must fully wake up to the divine Reality that suffuses the world and makes all things sacred."



What Do You Recommend?

Have you read a compelling book, watched a stirring video, or been inspired or assisted by a web site you've found recently?

If so, write up your recommendation and send it to katherine@quakerearthcare.org and we'll share it with Friends in a future issue of *BeFriending Creation*.



**STAMP OF
APPROVAL**

New and Revised! Population Pamphlet Series

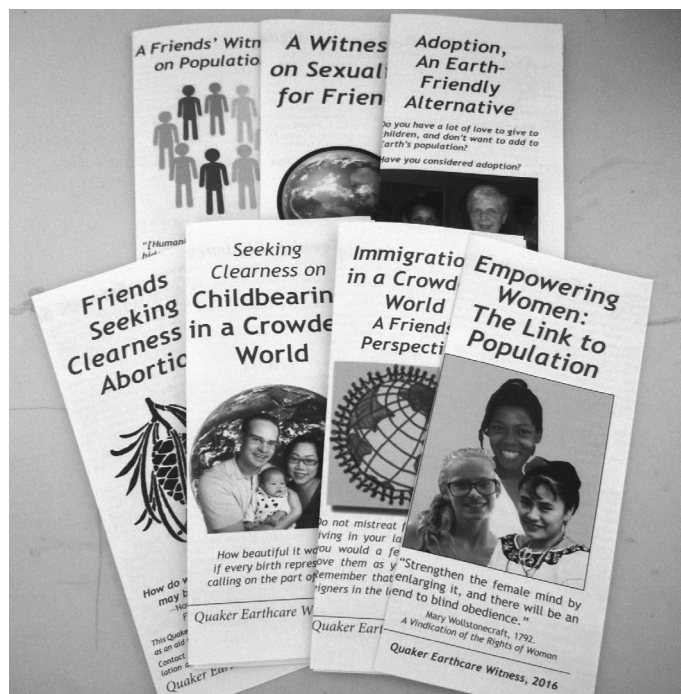
The Friends in QEW's population working group have recently updated a number of pamphlets and added a new pamphlet in our population series. Now the series includes the following pamphlets, which you can download from our website or request in print form to share with your local monthly meeting or other Quaker organization.

The Population pamphlet series includes:

- *A Friends' Witness on Population* (also available in Spanish)
- *Seeking Clearness on Childbearing in a Crowded World*
- *Adoption: An Earth-Friendly Alternative*
- *A Witness on Sexuality for Friends*
- *Immigration in a Crowded World*
- *Friends Seeking Clearness on Abortion*
- **New!!** *Empowering Women: The Link to Population*

To view the pamphlets online, go to <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/pamphlets> and click the one you'd like to view. If you'd like to download the pamphlet to your computer for printing or sharing, right click the PDF on the right side of the pamphlet page and choose Save As.

QEW has also made available a Spanish version of our popular pamphlet, *Contemplative Action in the Time of Climate Change*. Please share with those who might be interested! ♪



Did You Know...

You can order printed copies of our pamphlets to share at your monthly or yearly meeting? Email Katherine at katherine@quakerearthcare.org and she'll put them in the mail for you! You can see the entire listing or our available pamphlets online at <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/pamphlets>.

✂ — — — — —
YES, I'd like to show my support for QEW!

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

I want to contribute \$100____; \$200____; \$500____; Other _____

____ My check/cheque is enclosed. Payable to QEW, P.O. Box 6787, Albany, CA, 94706

____ I'd prefer to pay by my credit card: MC____; Visa ____; Amount _____

Name on Card: _____ Card # _____ Security Code _____ Exp Date: _____

____ I would like to give monthly. Please charge my credit card \$ _____ each month.

Too Late, *continued from page 12*

individuals and maintaining healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. The alternative is unconscionable—unprecedented migration, more frequent severe weather, massive agricultural failures and resulting famines, extreme fresh-water shortages, increased species extinctions, and deadly conflict triggered by scarce resources.

The FWCC Pisac Sustainability Minute lists multiple ways *individuals* can move from a high to low carbon footprint (see the /April 2016 issue of *Befriending Creation*), and there are numerous lists available that are specific to local environments. Personal lifestyle changes that nearly all of us can choose to enact today include eating less meat and reducing personal air travel.

In the developed world at the institutional level, some immediate changes include transforming our electric grid to all-renewable energy, enhancing our public transportation (local and long distance), and

converting to all-electric transportation.

While we are called to act as soon as possible on individual and institutional changes to address climate change, it is even more important to consider the spiritual crisis that has led us to the brink of environmental and economic disaster. Our growth-addicted consumer global economy has failed to meet the needs of the majority of the world's population and we are already exceeding the earth's capacity to sustain healthy ecosystems. What is needed is a vision of how we can live in right relationship with earth's ecosystems while providing basic needs for all of humanity.

What are you and your Meeting called to do? Tell us your story of climate change action, and we will share it to inspire others. ✍

Youth and Climate, *continued from page 2*

support.

This case is very personal to all of us individually and it is not at all about the politics, outside interest, or money in any way. This is the way that we are currently able to be heard and many of us are already experiencing the effects of climate change first-hand. The science is clear, it's the politics that aren't, and if the climate comes anywhere near the dire predictions that scientists like James Hansen, a former NASA scientist on our case, are predicting, future generations are in for a rough ride. Let us not wait until we have to change or it may very well cripple life as we know it. If we change now, the innovations are endless, the technology is more than capable, and the result is best for everyone.

If Quakers personally want to help with this case, they could donate to Our Children's Trust, which is the nonprofit funding this case. They can also send letters

of support. Just being

supportive and active in your own communities is vital to this movement.

7. *When do you expect a ruling on the lawsuit?*

Nathan: The judge has unlimited time to decide, but we expect to hear about our standing by mid-May. The judge asked great questions during our hearing in March. There was a huge rally at the courthouse on March 8: 75 students from the local high school joined about 500 others to support us.

Note: The judge decided in early April that this case will go forward. QEW will report on future developments in the case. You can learn more about Our Children's Trust at www.ourchildrenstrust.org. ✍

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars Now!

JUNE 16-19	JULY 3-9	AUGUST 12-14	OCT 6-9
Powerful Faith-Based Organizing for Climate Justice , at Pendle Hill Wallingford, PA	Visit the QEW Earth Center at the FGC Gathering, St. Joseph, MN	Holy Experiments: Risk, Courage, and Spirit , ESR Leadership Conference, Richmond, IN	Come to the QEW Fall 2016 Steering Committee , Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA

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Join Us at the FGC Gathering!

July 3-9, 2016

QEW Earth Center

Register Now! fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details

Later Will Be Too Late Plus Tard Ce Sera Trop Tard*

By Shelley Tanenbaum

In December 2015 world leaders committed their countries to significantly change the ways that they are contributing to global climate change, they agreed to share resources to support countries most vulnerable and most in need, and they pledged to increase their commitment every five years. However, the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C will not be achieved with the current national commitments to reducing greenhouse gasses.

We are at a critical turning point. Science tells us that we have about 10 years to radically reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gasses if we are to come anywhere near the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. Governments, businesses, and individuals have begun a transition to carbon-free emissions, but at a pace that will not allow for preventing catastrophic impacts from climate change and in ways that often inflict harm on the world's most vulnerable people.

The time to act is now and the place to act is at all levels. We Friends value action in the world more than pious words. For those of us living in energy-intensive



Southern Florida is already experiencing sea-level rise.

developed communities, many of us are committed to lifestyle changes that significantly reduce our individual carbon footprints. However, we must also commit to policy and program changes in government, in business, and in non-governmental organizations because individual actions alone are not enough. Our Quaker values lead us to work toward societal changes that are needed to meet the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees while respecting the human rights of all

See Too Late on page 11

* from a Metro sign during COP21 in Paris