

October 7, 2019

Hope at the Intersection of Climate, Race, Justice, and Democracy

A panel presentation of the Friends Economic Integrity Project, a group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends; and Jacob Weitzner of the Sunrise Movement

As a student of economics since childhood, **Pamela Haines** has spent a lifetime gathering experience, knowledge and perspective—with families, childcare workers, social activists, Quakers, Ugandans, urban farmers in Philadelphia—to speak with authority on how economic theories and structures shape our lives and challenge our deepest values.

As lead author of *Toward a Right Relationship with Finance: Interest, Debt, Growth and Security* and two Pendle Hill pamphlets, a workshop leader and a speaker, her common theme is demystifying connections between economics and daily life, while challenging people to claim their power and act on their values. Pamela's expanded on her 2018 Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Money and Soul* in a just recently published book of the same title. Both are available for sale and signing following the discussion.

Ed Dreby:

In 1993, after 20 years as a Friends school social studies teacher and administrator, and a few years directing housing renovations for Habitat for Humanity and a transitional housing organization, I turned to education and advocacy about the conflict between our economic system and our ecological realities. For a number of years I led our YM's Environmental and Earthcare Working Groups, and with my wife Margaret Mansfield I traveled extensively within our YM. I also served our YM with the National and PA Council of Churches, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Friends Committee on National Legislation.

By 2002, I'd become convinced, largely from what Quaker economist Kenneth Boulding wrote in the 1960s, that dealing with climate change would require a very different economic system. With several colleagues I initiated a project on Friends Testimonies and Economics, and a Pendle Hill Gathering in 2003 that led to establishing Quaker Institute for the Future. Margaret and I developed materials and led workshops about Friends testimonies and economics, including at two Friends General Conference Gatherings, and we participated in producing four Quaker Institute Focus Books.

Two years ago I began a project with two other Friends, from Athens, OH and Boulder, CO, urging FCNL to develop a process for discerning the kind of economic policies that sustainability in a finite biosphere will require. Steve Olshevski and I recently led a workshop at PhiYM Annual Session on the climate crisis and public banking. I've concluded that bringing carbon emissions into balance with the biosphere's ecological systems will require reforming our nation's banking system in ways that have been proven successful in other times and places. While many other huge changes will be needed, transforming the Federal Reserve from an extension of the private banking system to function as a public central bank would provide an institutional framework that could be used to develop an ecologically integrated economic system.

Steve Olshevski has had a 30 plus year career as a senior executive and businessman specializing in Information Technology.

As a Quaker, he served Radnor Monthly Meeting as Clerk and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) as Alternate Clerk. He currently serves as a General Committee member to Friends Committee on National Legislation, representing PYM and is part of the PYM Eco Justice Collaborative.

It was reading books published by the Quaker Institute for the Future including *It's the Economy Friends – Understanding the Growth Dilemma* and *Toward a Right Relationship with Finance – Debt, Interest, Growth, and Security* that convinced Steve to take action to bring attention to the Climate Crisis and its underlying systematic causes as a moral and spiritual issue for Quakers.

Jacob Weitzner is a native of Washington, D.C., and was raised in a Jewish community where he was steeped in the traditional obligation of tikkun olam, to repair the world. He is a sophomore at Swarthmore College, where is very active with the Sunrise Movement Swarthmore community.