



*Toward a  
Life-Centered  
Economy  
From the Rule of Money  
to the Rewards of  
Stewardship*



**John Lodenkamper  
Paul Alexander  
Pete Baston  
Judith Streit**



*QIF Focus Book 12*

# Agenda

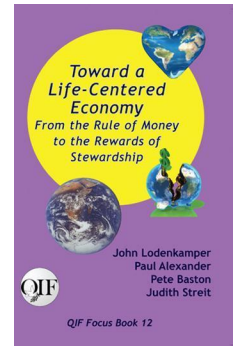
**I. Brief Introduction of QIF and Our Research Group (John)**

**II. Theme of Time over Money, Quality of Life over Quantity of Stuff (Ch. 1&2) (John)**

**III. Economic Synergism – Practical Aspects of a New Operating System (Ch. 3) (Pete)**

**IV. Transition to a Life-Centered Economy (Ch. 4&5) (Paul)**

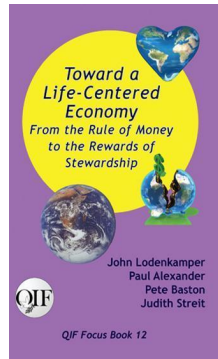
**The 4th member of our group, Judith, will be cheering us on from the audience!**





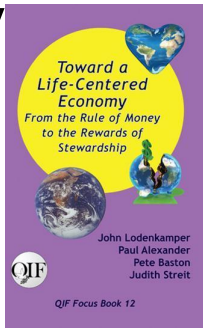
# ***Quaker Institute for the Future***

***Advancing a global future of  
inclusion, social justice, and  
ecological integrity through  
participatory research  
and discernment.***



# QIF's Heritage: Earth as a Spaceship

- Quaker economist Kenneth Boulding: one of the first social scientists to recognize Earth's ecological context
- QIF grew out of a 2003 Pendle Hill Gathering: FWCC, FCNL, AFSC, FAHE, FCUN (later QEW), Canadian Friends Service Committee, FGC, and FWCC to explore economic issues and peace, justice, equality, and restoring ecological integrity
- Decision: Need a Quaker think tank ... Quaker Institute for the Future



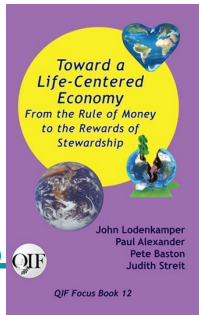
# QIF Advancing a Global Future through:

1) The Moral Economy Project that produced :  
*Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth  
Economy.*

2) Summer Research Seminars: Researchers  
present their work in a Quaker Meeting for  
Worship for Research.

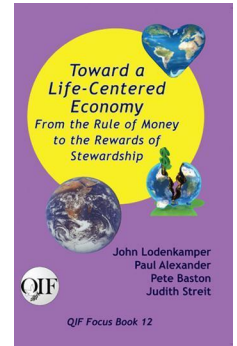
3) Circles of Discernment ... QIF Focus

Books <http://www.quakerinstitute.org>



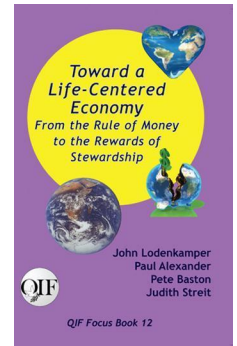
# Premises for a Life - Centered Economy

- You can't change human nature but you can appeal to its better side
- You can't buy happiness
- Changing to a new economic system can't be “ taking bad medicine ”
- Consumer action can bring positive change to our consumer- based economy
- Parents want their children to have a good future



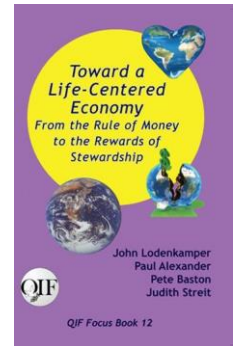
# The Time of Your Life

- Current Economic Lens
- Alternative Moral Lens
- Beyond Wellbeing: Satisfaction & Meaning
- Memorials: Celebration of a Life





## Money-Centered Economic System



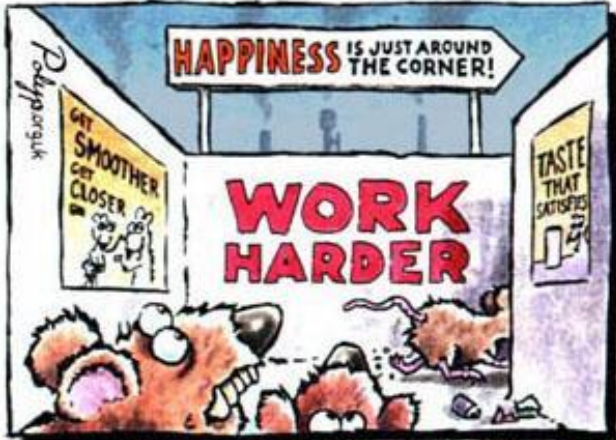
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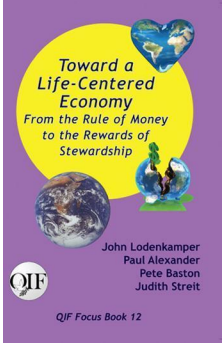
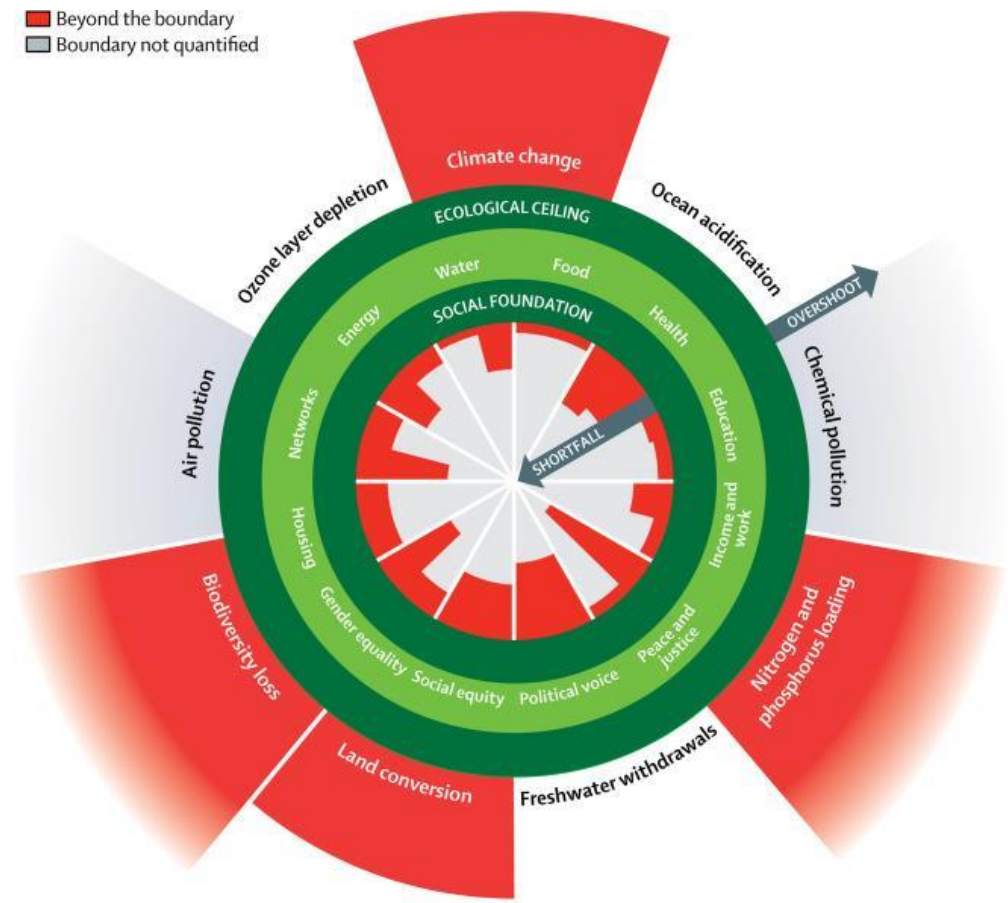


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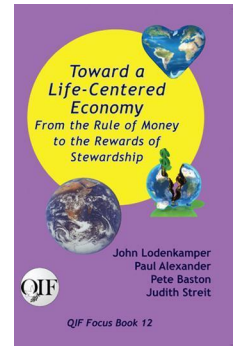
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# Life-Centered Economic System



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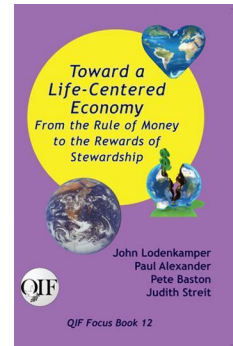
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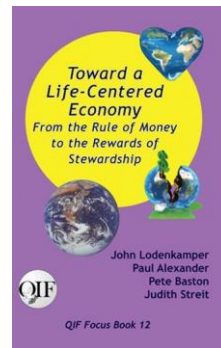
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# Beyond Wellbeing: Satisfaction & Meaning

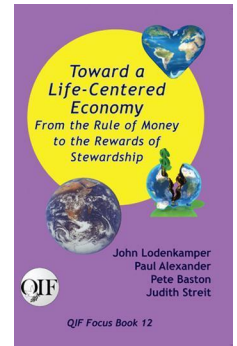
- Changing nature of work
- Satisfaction from “doing” not “consuming”
- What are we living for?
- How can we better go about it?





# Our Economic System Reimagined

- Operation of Money-Centered System
- Alternative Life-Centered System
- Transition Considerations

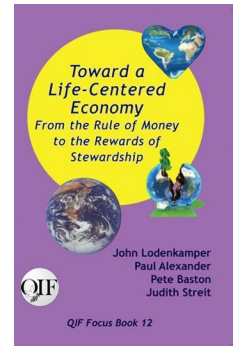


# Operation of the Money-Centered Economy

# ECONOMY

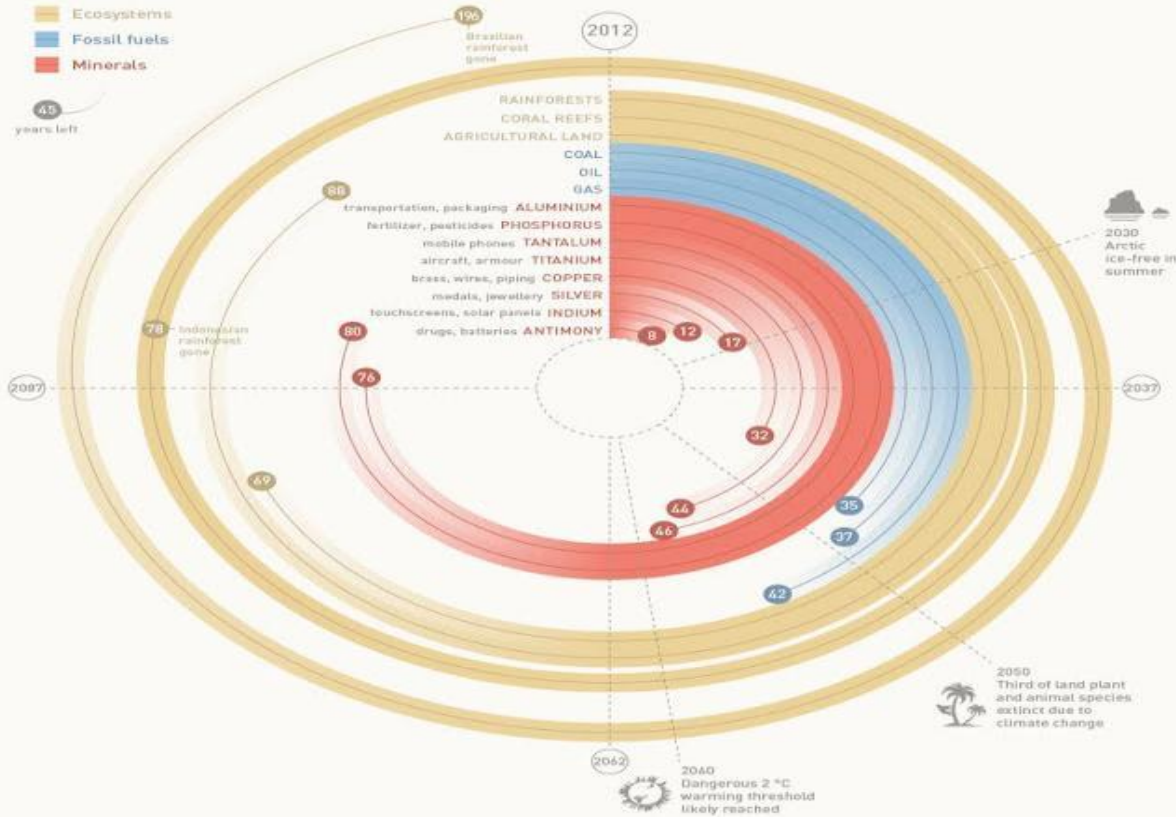
# SOCIAL SYSTEM

# ECOSYSTEM



# Stock Check

Estimated remaining world supplies of non-renewable resources



Sources: UN TEEQ, US Geological Survey, BP, Worm et al (2004), London Metal Exchange. Figures are worldwide. Living natural resources listed are worst-case based on published estimates. Minerals and fossil fuel data based on known reserves currently economical to extract, assuming fixed % increase in usage per year. No provision made for changes in demand caused by new technologies, discoveries of new reserves or market forces. Agricultural land means land suitable for rainfed cultivation not of other land usage. Thirty year historic agricultural expansion rates are applied.

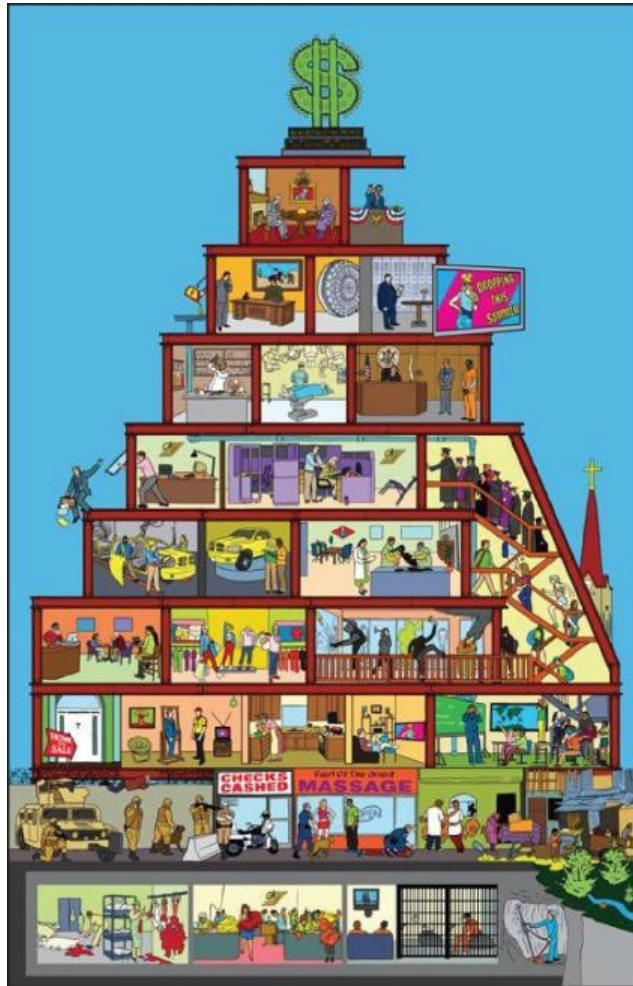
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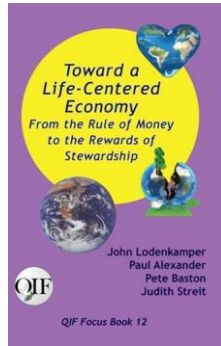
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## The Credo of the Money-Centered Economic System: **Time is Money**

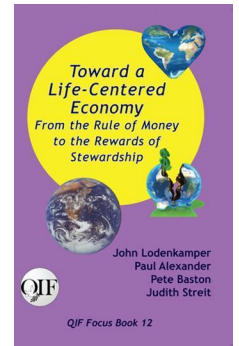


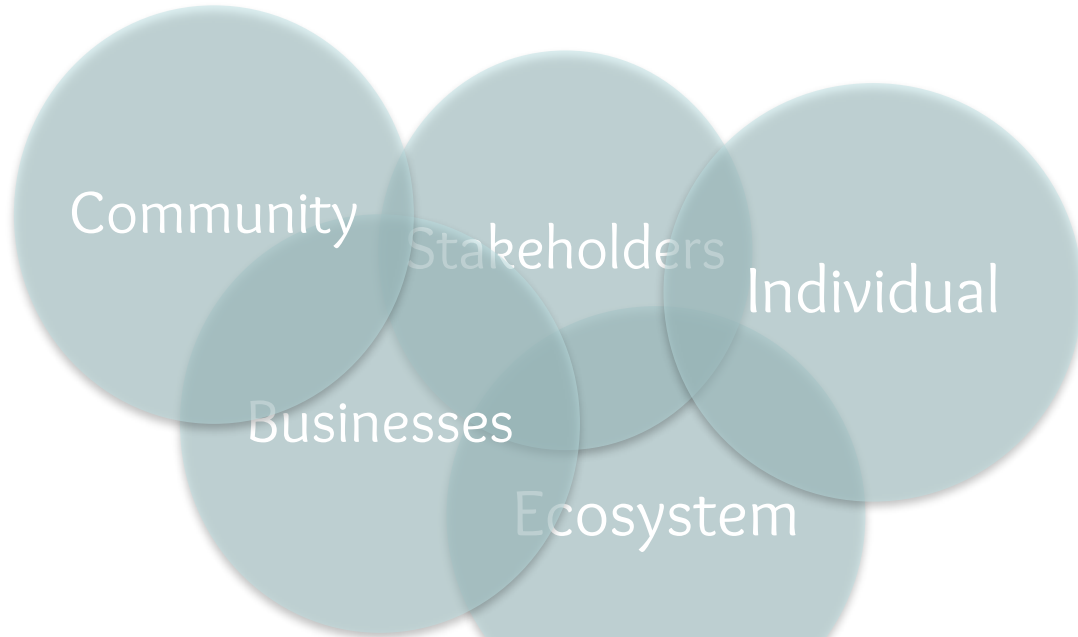
# Operation of the Life-Centered Economy

# ECOSYSTEM

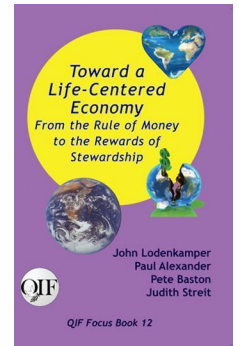
# SOCIAL SYSTEM

# ECONOMY



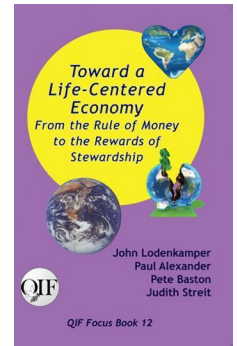


## Economic Synergism in a Life - Centered Economy



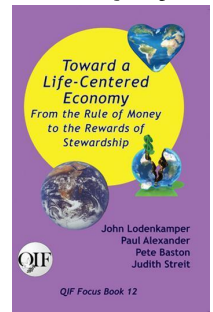
# Foundational Values for A Life-Centered Economy

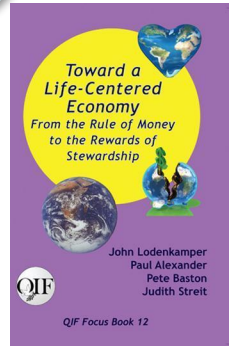
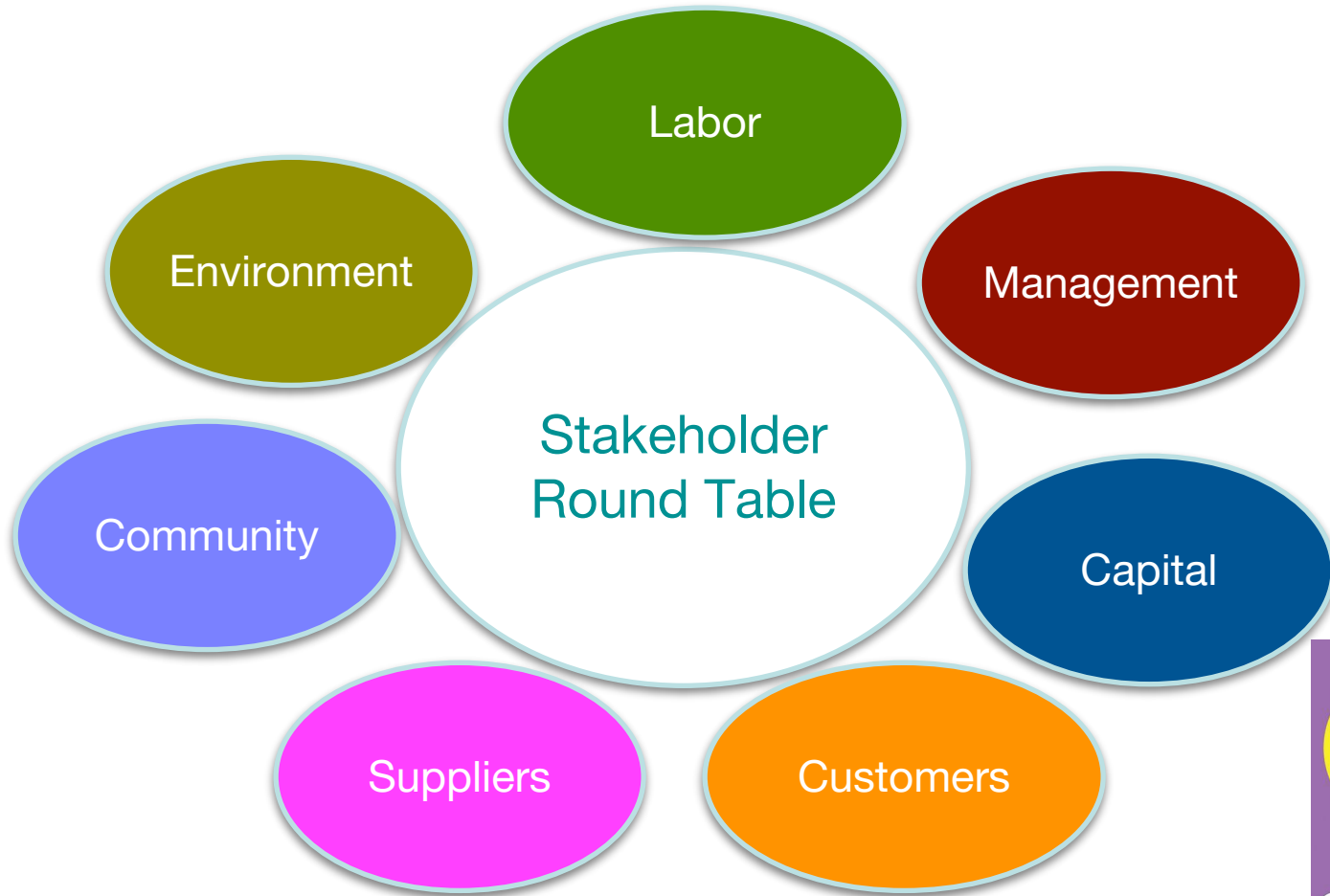
- Time over Money
- Quality over Quantity
- Sustainability over Depletion
- Human Potential over Exploitation
- Small- scale over Large-scale



# Economic Structure Reimagined: A Life-Centered Economy

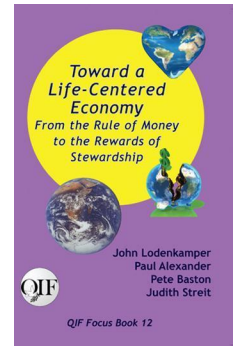
- What and How Much Goods & Services Should Be Produced ?
- How Shall Goods & Services Be Produced ? By Whom and With What Resources & Technology
- For Whom Shall Goods & Services Be Produced ? Who Will Enjoy the Benefits and How Will They Be Distributed





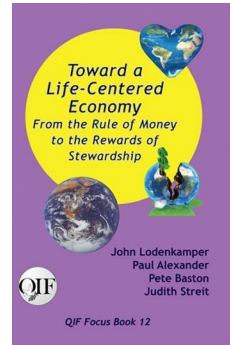
# Enabling a Life-centered Economy

- Growing knowledge of current problem
- Availability of better tools
- Focused consumer action





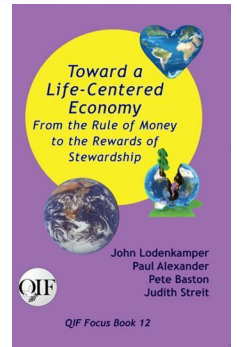
# The Credo of the Life-Centered Economic System: **Time is Life**



# 1. ECONOMIC SYNERGISM



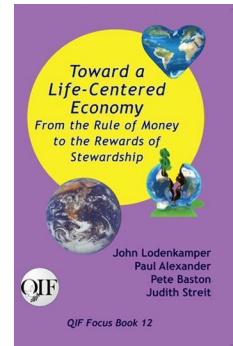
Interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects



## 2. EXAMPLE OF ECONOMIC SYNERGISM: THE HARDWARE STORE



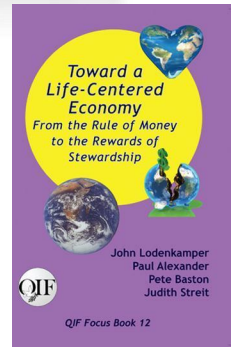
Customers discuss problems with staff: both end up wiser  
Repair services : prevents throw away  
Provides knowledge of latest green products benefits ecosystem  
Connections with surrounding community . Gathering place



### 3. THE HUMAN HOUSEHOLD: KEY ECONOMIC UNIT



- Producer of paid and unpaid work
- Consumer of goods & services , creating aggregate demand
- Connected to surrounding community
- Can foster " Synergism " through integration with general economy



## 4. HOUSEHOLD SYSTEM COMPONENTS



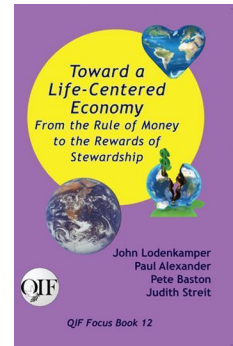
Basic human needs : Food , shelter, utilities , lifestyle goods

Clothing , furnishings , equipment, transportation , communication, etc:

Mindful Consumption

Re-Imagining Household labor: A perspective that places highest value on our time

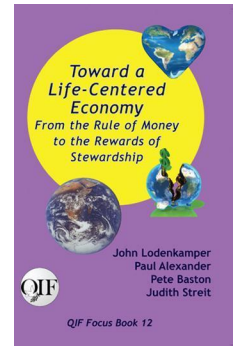
Money : Local banking options , debt management , investment selection



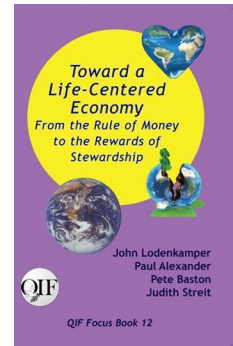
## 5. SYNERGISTIC HOUSEHOLD OPERATION: PROMOTES A LIFE-CENTERED ECONOMY



Can influence aggregate demand for "green" products services  
May provide more satisfying work options  
Influences at local level  
Telecommuting trend brings more family connections

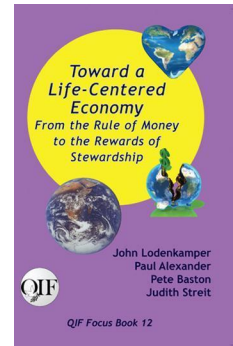


# Transition to the Life-Centered Economy



# Emphasize Networks and Systems

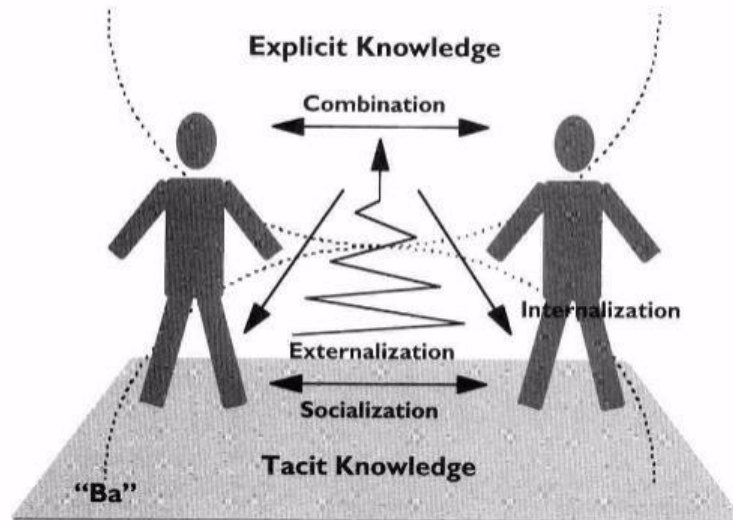
- A focus on Local economies
- Distributed/connected economy
  - Internet allows for ability to maximize organizational networks and for communities to:
    - self-organize
    - distribute information for greater transparency & market access
    - minimize costs with maximum competition in markets
    - connect neighbors in new ways
- Pro-sumers (producers like solar & promotion)
- Collaborative Commons (sharing)



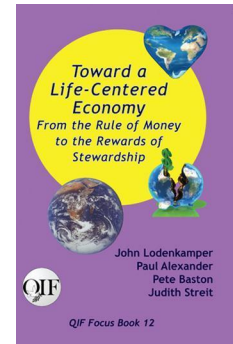
# Context “Ba”

- **Ba** is a context, which harbors meaning. - shared space that serves as a foundation for knowledge creation. (physical/mental/virtual/spiritual)

FIGURE 2. Ba and Knowledge Conversion



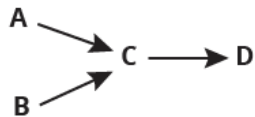
Nonaka  
a  
Konno



# Processes supportive of systems thinking, community ecology and cooperation

## Event Oriented Thinking

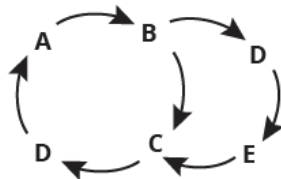
Thinks in straight lines



In event oriented thinking everything can be explained by causal chains of events. From this perspective the **root causes** are the events starting the chains of cause and effect, such as A and B.

## Systems Thinking

Thinks in loop structure



In systems thinking a system's behavior emerges from the structure of its feedback loops. **Root causes** are not individual nodes. They are the forces emerging from particular feedback loops.

The World is a very complex system. It is easy to have too simple a view of it, and it is easy to do harm and to make things worse under the impulse to do good and make things better.

(Kenneth Boulding)

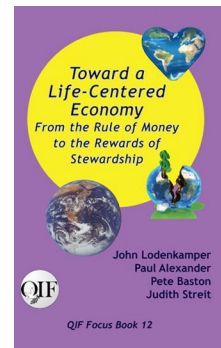
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Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist.

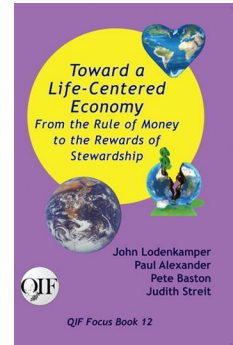
— *Kenneth E. Boulding* —

AZ QUOTES



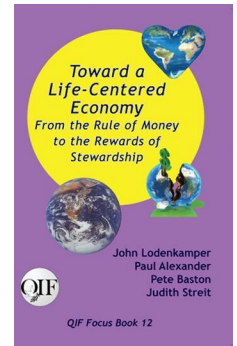
# ***Processes for reinvigorating community & relationships***

- Dialogue and deliberation practices
- Restorative justice
- Community Organizing
- Block parties & progressive dinners
- Local markets (farmer's markets)
- Farm/Ocean to Table
- Nextdoor type social media
- Networks of networks



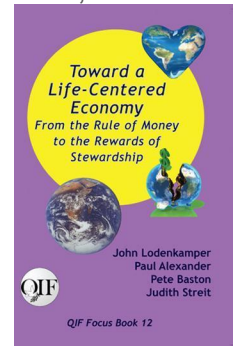
# Core Economic Processes

- Small scale capitalism
- Local Investment and finance.
- Cooperatives (Binary Economics)
- Market pressure mechanisms (boycotts, disinvestment, sustainable consumption, etc.)
- Psychic Capital – Importance of faith and hope (expectations)
- Soil and water systems (regenerative processes)
- Anchor Institutions
- Farm to Table and Food Hubs
- Community based economies: makers' districts (maker movement) CSA's, time banks, tool sharing, etc
- Vocational paradigm
- Mindful consumption (highlight purchases)
- Mindful investment (ESG's, PRI, Local Investment)



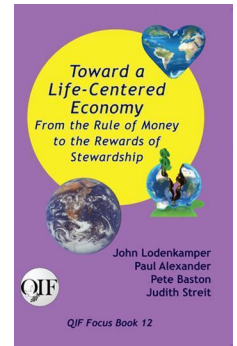
# Vibrant Local Examples

- Denver Anchor Network
- Farm to table
- Local Food Hubs (Valley Food Partnership)
- Transition towns (UK)
- Local currencies
  - [Brixton Pound](#) and [Bristol Pound](#) in the UK, [BerkShares](#) in the USA, and [Salt Spring Dollars](#) in Canada.
  - Mutual Credit Currencies: Time based (Mile High Hrs.) and Local Exchange Trading Systems
- Ours to Own (Calvert Investment)
- Credit unions
- Small entrepreneurs (Uber, money venders, combi drivers, tuk tuks/mototaxi, small shops)
- NW Education Deliberation/Child Ombudsman/TIF Deliberation/DRCOG Water Dialogues, TBD Colorado, BBC dialogues, Envision Utah.
- Tiny House Movement
- B-Cycle/Zipcar/Car2go/Scooters
- Onebook Denver
- IAF/Together Colorado



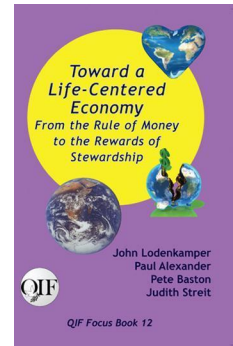
# Building an ethical foundation of ecological economics

- Membership: humans are members, not masters, of the community of life.
- Householding: deriving our own lives from other living systems, these systems must be respected and maintained.
- Entropic thrift: recognizes natural thermodynamic limits of resources, that lead to scarcity, and so require wise use and just sharing.



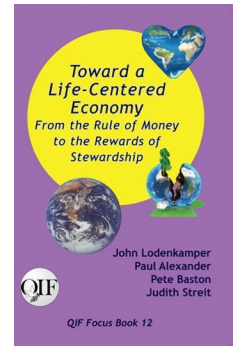
# Grounded in a Deep Morality

- Fairness
- Equity
- Common Good
- Do no harm
- Value each person's and group's gifts



# The Way Forward

- Reclaim Our Agency as Consumers & Investors
- Support Local Enterprises of All Types
- Be a *Changemaker!* Join “Green” Action Groups
- Success: “ Grandchildren’s Letter from 2050”



# Questions and Discussion

