

WELCOME TO THE



COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

RACIAL & ECONOMIC
JUSTICE

SEPTEMBER 29TH TO OCTOBER 2ND 2016

WCCC 2016: Racial & Economic Justice Summary

Social justice has long been held at the core of the intentional communities movement. Many communities have been formed around values or missions based in social justice, pursuing it sometimes in direct activist ways and sometimes through structure and culture. And in a time of increasing inequality, vocal racism, and violent fearmongering that struggle for social justice is all the more important.

Yet, there is a long way to go before we realize our values of social justice internally, a first step that is essential if we want to influence the broader world. Intentional communities remain disproportionately white and many are only open to those with money. The diversity of the communities movement does not reflect the diversity of the larger communities they exist within.

We can and are doing better. There are efforts across the country, by both emerging and established communities, to increase access to people of color and those without financial resources. We made the theme of this year's conference racial and economic justice so we can continue this important conversation and highlight some of the incredible initiatives that are happening.

Thank you for joining in the continued work to create stronger intentional communities. Enjoy the land, enjoy the learning, and enjoy each other.

- *The Groundswell Team*

Welcome to Groundswell Institute and Community

Groundswell is a unique project that explores the intersection of community, ecology, and queer paradigms.

Consisting of a non-profit retreat center and a developing residential ecovillage, Groundswell nurtures the cooperative ecology and culture that are essential for a sustainable future.

The non-profit Groundswell Institute creates visionary queer consciousness-raising and environmental programs, while also renting out the facilities to like-minded groups or individuals to gather for transformation.

The residential ecovillage lives across the creek from the retreat center, helping steward the land, maintaining permaculture-based agricultural systems, and helping provide the people power to run the nonprofit.

Together, the Institute and community work to create sustainable natural and human ecologies that invite people in to create a more conscious, connected, and cooperative culture.

Format of Conference

We have deliberately made this conference more slowly paced. We want folks to be able to connect with one another over our longer meal periods and at our post-dinner activities. All workshops will be 90 minutes in length, while most of our special events will be 2.5 hours long.

Refer to the schedule insert in this program to see a more detailed timing breakdown.

Special Events

Documentary Screening

On Friday evening we will be screening a few documentaries that explore the intersection between the movements for racial and economic justice and intentional communities:

Arc of Justice: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of a Beloved Community -

Arc of Justice traces the remarkable journey of New Communities, Inc. and the struggle for racial justice and economic empowerment among African Americans in southwest Georgia.

Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street -

At once a cautionary tale of urban policies gone wrong and a message of hope for all American cities. In 1985, African-American, Latino, Cape Verdean, and European-American residents in Roxbury, MA united to revitalize their community.

Gaining Ground: Building Community on Dudley Street

In the midst of the economic meltdown, Gaining Ground explores the innovative, grassroots organizing efforts of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) in Boston. **FRI 9:30pm in Dining Hall**

WCCC Keynote

Moving Beyond Diversity To Collective Liberation: Engaging the Communities Movement in Racial & Economic Justice w/ Deseree Fontenot & Tavi Baker

Struggles for equitable land-use and fair housing policies have intensified across the country at an unprecedented rate in recent years. As a result of neoliberal urban renewal policies and the entry of predatory financial institutions into the rental market, low-income communities and communities of color have been swept into new waves of gentrification and displacement. What does the suburbanization of poverty, the gentrifying face of the urban inner city, and the ongoing challenges of rural immigrant communities have to do with existing and forming intentional community networks? With the well-known lack of socio-eco-

conomic, cultural, and racial diversity within the communities & cohousing movement, it's hard to tell where these intersections might merge. How could an entire discourse about placemaking and modelling ecologically sustainable lifeways be strengthened by a grounded racial and economic justice analysis and practice? What would it take to build a more accountable & expansive Communities Movement that fosters connections with social justice movements and proliferates radical alternatives to human relationships with land, place and home?

In this presentation, we will offer an historical and political framework for exploring these questions, as well as highlight visionary present-day community & cohousing projects that are grasping at the root causes of racialized displacement, environmental racism, and wealth inequality by challenging the commodification of land and housing, engaging in practical land redistribution and reparations processes as part of growing their membership, and building cooperative and democratic housing models that are led by communities of color, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ-identified communities and low-income communities. *Read Deseree and Tavi's bios in the presenter section.* **SAT 9:30am in Dining Hall**



FIC Auction

We will be holding a live and silent auction in support of the Fellowship for Intentional Communities, an important sponsor of the conference. **SAT 1:15pm at Dining Hall**

Communities Salon

Meet some of the various intentional communities that are doing great work on the West Coast. There will be an opportunity to hear from the different companies both during an introductory speech and then as members of the communities answer questions and talk more in-depth at tables setup throughout the dining hall. **SAT 2:45pm at Dining Hall**

POC & Ally Caucus Breakout Sessions

This will be two separate breakout sessions: one space for all POC identified conference attendees to discuss projects, needs, and challenges and the other for non-POC identified folks to discuss how to integrate

the lessons from this conference into their communities. **SAT 6:15pm at Dining Hall**

Open Space Technology

Open Space is the only process that focuses on expanding time and space for the force of self-organisation to do its thing. Although one can't predict specific outcomes, it's always highly productive for whatever issue people want to attend to. Some of the inspiring side effects that are regularly noted are laughter, hard work which feels like play, surprising results and fascinating new questions.

Open Space Organizing Session: SUN 9:00am on Dining Hall Deck

Open Space Workshops: SUN 10:15am at Dining Hall

Workshops

Friday Workshops

Building Relationships while Exploring Differences w/ Brent Levin & Penny Sirota

The terrain of differences can be generative in nature and can result in deepening of connection between folk, as well as help us get to the better, more creative solutions. This workshop will offer a chance to share stories, experience strategies and harvest some wisdom. Participants will leave with some tools and techniques, ideas and encouragement to help their communities navigate that tricky place of different priorities, needs, and values on the way toward agreement. **WS 1: 4:45pm in Dining Hall**

Fun Games for Co-operative Communication w/ Kate "Sassy" Sassoon

Have you ever been stuck in a tedious meeting going nowhere, and wished that you could just stop the agenda and do something fun? Productive process doesn't have to be boring! Games are fun, invigorating, and can help jolt a process out of a rut and get people thinking outside the box. Here we cover a variety of games for use in cooperative communication settings. (5-50 participants) **WS 1: 4:45pm in Living Room**



Saturday Workshops

Creating a Conflict Management Plan w/ Kate "Sassy" Sassoon

When you get a group of humans together, its safe to say that conflict is inevitable. Rather than ignoring this (until we can't anymore), healthy groups plan for conflict. In this workshop we develop a comprehensive plan to help your group constructively anticipate conflict, manage it in the moment, and heal from it - individually and as a group - so you can come back together even stronger than before. **WS 2: 11:15am in Dining Hall**

How to Live a Long & Healthy Stress-Free Life in Community w/ Al Lampell

Most people believe that stress comes from outside them, from a person, place, or thing. This is not true. Stress comes from inside you, from your thinking. In an unhealthy community (the belief that stress comes from without) we resort to control and manipulation to get our needs met by others (guilt, anger, bullying, etc.) We believe we need others to learn how to behave properly so we can live peaceably. The truth is that we need to see things differently so we can eliminate stress in our lives and bring us to a state of peace. This presentation is essential for our awakening. We awaken, our community awakens, the world awakens.

WS 2: 11:15am in Tidrik Lodge

Peaceful Coexistence Exercise: Grounding Community Consciousness w/ Erik "Red Scarf InEnglish" Schmitz

This workshop will help communities find peaceful coexistence with one another and the land they occupy as they engage in a mission.

I have developed the exercise based on the Chinese concept of humans dancing between the Heavens and the Earth, the indigenous concept of queer and two-spirited individuals having a significant spiritual place in community, and the Anthroposophical teaching firstly that the land has consciousness and secondly that humans tend said consciousness.

The course will teach participants the exercise. The exercise facilitates community members tapping into the collective consciousness of fellow members, aligns overall community intent, and anchors that into the consciousness of the land. Instruction includes the movement, positions, and directives on paper with specific delineation based on gender-identity and sexual orientation. **WS 2: 11:15am in Living Room**

Creating Resilient (Fire-safe, Cooperative) Communities in a World of New Climate Realities w/ Eliot Hurwitz & Magdalena Valderrama

Since last year's wildfires in Lake County there has been a surge in local cooperation. The initial burst of heroic energy and enthusiastic neighborliness has become a deeper cooperative process as we rebuild and see how new global climate realities mean that our community must cooperate in the face of the threat of local wildfires.

We are long-time community organizers and members of the Adidam spiritual community. Of our nearly 300 members, clustered around the Mountain Of Attention meditation sanctuary, 140 of us lost homes in the 2015 Valley Fire (the third most destructive wildfire in California, which also destroyed Harbin Hot Springs and over 1300 homes in the County). This session will explore the kinds of issues involved in building an effective local coalition to promote affordable, fire-resistant homes, including how to establish a local "Municipal Advisory Council" that can advocate for progressive approaches before your county Board of Supervisors. We will also share the work-in-progress on our new "Bright Village" development, a cohousing style project that will house 40 people (including low income), including our legal, financial and architectural strategies.

WS 3: 4:45pm in Tidrik Lodge

Making Peace With Conflict: NVC in Everyday Life w/ Martine Algier

When building thriving, sustainable communities one of the essential pieces for their foundation is conflict resolution skills. Nonviolent Communication (NVC) has been internationally recognized as a tried and true process through many decades of work by hundreds of teachers in a vast array of situations ranging from warring tribes in Africa to businesses, communities, social change organizations, schools, churches and individual families seeking help to create ways to stop the cycle of violence & to live together harmoniously.

A brief Introduction to NVC will be followed by interactive experiences to take us into "living the process." Participants will have a chance to use their own current issues to explore how NVC can help to escape from the cultural trance that keeps us thinking in ways that generate separation. We'll enter the realm where our honest expression is welcomed & more choices for shaping our world with the language we use are illuminated.

WS 3: 4:45pm in Living Room

Radical Inclusivity in Intentional Communities Panel

What is like for people from marginalized and oppressed groups to live in intentional communities that are predominantly white, straight, able bodied, etc.? How can ICs move beyond the pursuit of diversity to creating meaningful inclusivity? In this panel & open discussion we'll dig deeper into strategies and best practices for making intentional communities accessible to all people by highlighting the stories and experiences of queer & trans folks, people of color, & people living with disabilities in intentional communities. **WS 3: 4:45pm in Dining Hall**

Sunday Workshops

Resilience-Based Organizing for a Just Transition w/ Vanessa Raditz & Deseree Fontenot

Every year thousands of homeless youth arrive in San Francisco, many of them coming from rural areas. Most of these youth are fleeing abuse & neglect stemming from poverty, racism, and homophobia, and now find themselves facing homelessness, police violence, and incarceration in the city. In this workshop, we will start with this example to explore how these interlocking violences are connected to the extreme resource extraction and environmental degradation that is also occurring in rural communities. We will discuss the principles of resilience-based organizing and the vision of the Just Transition movement, as a launching point to begin strategizing the role that intentional communities can play in supporting rural organizing towards a just transition for people and the planet. **WS 4: 2:45pm in Dining Hall**

The Intentional Communities Movement: Past, Present, Domestic, and Global w/ Sky Blue



Intentional communities have been acting as laboratories and social experiments for cooperation, sustainability, and social justice since at least the 1930's. The current movement encompasses a broad array of models and organizations that bridge historic communities with new innovations responding to global

issues. This workshop will provide an overview of the different kinds of intentional communities, the organizations at play, a bit of the history, the current state of affairs, and the role of the communities movement in the larger movement towards cooperation, sustainability, and social justice. **WS 4: 2:45pm in Tidrik Lodge**

Presenters

Al Lampell, Fair Oaks Eco Village

Al is trained and certified in mediation and facilitation, along with being a teacher/student/counselor for "A Course in Miracles" a psychological, spiritual, body of study of the human condition. He leads weekly study groups as well as seminars achieving higher consciousness; Love; and Relationships. He is involved in the Santa Clara County Dispute Resolution Program performing case input and mediations. He sits on the board of two major local charities. *For more info on Al and his work go to conscious-communications.com.*

Brent Levin & Penny Sirota, Emerald Earth & Monan's Rill

Penny and Brent each have between one and two decades of living in intentional communities and in recent years completed a two-year facilitation training with Laird Schaub. They are interested in bringing better facilitation skills and communication skills to those in intentional communities and to those groups attempting to form communities or collaborative associations.

Deseree Fontenot, POC Sustainable Housing Network

Deseree is a co-organizer of the People of Color Sustainable Housing Network (POCSHN). As a scholar and activist, Deseree's work is centered at the intersections of geography, ecology, ethics, spirituality and land-based movements. She is part of a number of political & community organizing projects in the Bay Area, including the Queer Ecologies Project, Abundant Beginnings, and POC SHN. Deseree is committed to co-creating radical approaches to queer, ecological, racial and economic justice work that centers the experiences of communities of color and proliferates models of resilient, sustainable, and life-affirming economies. She has lived in communal houses for almost a decade. *For more about the POCSHN go to pochousingnetwork.com.*



Eliot Hurwitz & Magdalena Valderrama, Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association

Eliot has spent 25 years working in national, state and local government on sustainable development policy, focusing on community-level issues. Until last year he directed the Calistoga Institut, and he serves as the Chair of Cobb Area Council.

Magdalena has done extensive work in non-profit administration, including education and economic development and serves as a chair of the Global Cooperative Forum.

They have been partners for 35 years, students of Adi Da Samraj since 1979, and are co-founders of the Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association. *To find out more about their work together, go to livingincommon.org.*

Erik "Red Scarf InEnglish" Schmitz, Portland Radical Faeries

Red Scarf InEnglish has been a member of a variety of different communities: from homesteads, to summer camps, to gatherings, to living with both chosen and given family. He is a survivor and a creator. Five years ago, Red Scarf was given a 9.8% chance of living five years. In that time, he has transformed himself into a radical faggot socialist. His life motto involves always listening to the intuition and that everyone has value. If you'd like an example, ask him how he got the name Red Scarf.

Kate "Sassy" Sassoon, Sassy Facilitation



Kate (Sassy) Sassoon is the founder of Sassy Facilitation: Supporting Cooperative Communication, which provides facilitation, education, and group process design to democratic organizations. As a veteran member, worker, and participator in coops and collectives for over 20 years, Sassy has seen many faces of the co-op sector, and has direct experience in co-operative housing, childcare, democratic education,

program implementation, event management, and food systems. She strives to bring lucidity, productivity, and humor to her classes. *You can download free tools, learn more about co-ops, and explore Sassy's work at www.sassycooperates.org.*

Sky Blue, Fellowship for Intentional Community/Federation of Egalitarian Communities

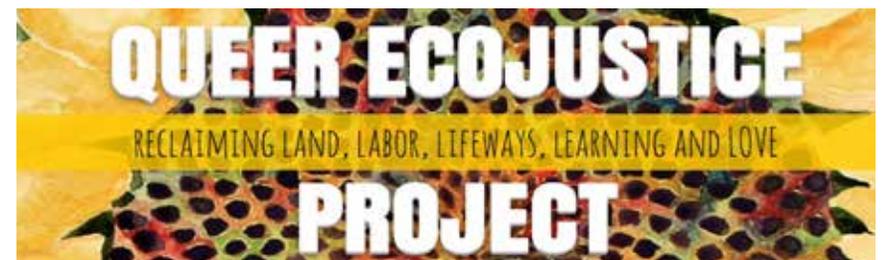
Sky is a long time member of Twin Oaks Community, is the incoming Executive Director for the Fellowship for Intentional Community, delegate to the Federation of Egalitarian Communities, on the Board of and Treasurer for Ecovillage Charlottesville, and was recently a North American delegate to the 20th anniversary summit of the Global Ecovillage Network. He's also helped start and run small co-operative businesses and manages the Twin Oaks Communities Conference.

Tavi Baker, POC Sustainable Housing Network

Tavi is a co-founder of The People of Color Sustainable Housing Network (POCSHN). Since moving to Berkeley in 1996, she has lived in three coops: the African American Theme House (Afro House), Rochdale Village, and Parker St Coop, where she has lived since 2009. She was inspired to start POCSHN as a way of centering the wisdom and experience of black, indigenous, and people of color communities in the current intentional communities movement. *For more about the POCSHN go to pochousing-network.com.*

Vanessa Raditz, Queer Ecologies Project

Vanessa is an educator and organizer with the Queer Ecologies Project, catalyzing culture, consciousness, and community at the intersection of ecological justice and queer liberation. She works with homeless youth in SF, and is passionate about connecting queer youth with land and earth-based skills to help them heal trauma and find the tools they need to transform society. She holds a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences from UC Berkeley. *For more info on the Queer Ecologies Project you can head over to bit.ly/queerproject.*



Participant Directory

Albin Maki
Ami Puri
greenspokes@gmail.com
B/T Craig
socktramp@gmail.com
Barb Walley
sacredlifeskills@gmail.com
Ben Tasner
bentasner@outlook.com
Betsy Morris
betsy@kali.com
C.T. aka Lawrence Butler
ctbutler@together.net
Camy Seitz-Cherner
camillesc@alumni.stanford.edu
Feathers aka Chris Siegriest
featherandnettle@gmail.com
Christopher Magill
cmagill@gmail.com
Codi aka Chris Gauthier
integrohealth@gmail.com
Crista & Elan Underwood
crista42@yahoo.com
Daniel Hamilton Jones
danielhamiltonjones27@gmail.com
Deborah Cochran
qfamilyfarm@gmail.com
Elektra Grant
grant_elektra@yahoo.com
FionaRhea aka Fiona Rickford
120acres@comcast.net
Fred Lopez
fredatpeace@gmail.com

Gene Dratva
zathraslives@gmail.com
Heather Springer
heather.springer@gmail.com
Honeybee aka Allison Beer
abeer0690@gmail.com
Jackie Barshak
jbarshak@hotmail.com
Jess McDougal
lullabeedesigns@yahoo.com
Joanie Linney
joan_linney@ymail.com
Joshua Chambers
chambers.joshua@gmail.com
Julia Rose Golomb
julia.golomb@gmail.com
Julie Aheam
conundrum67@yahoo.com
Kalil Cohen
reelboi@gmail.com
Kestrel Mills
kestrel.stardust@gmail.com
Kristen Lucas
lucas.kristen@gmail.com
Lance Parker
sonofzeus@comcast.net
Lance La'shagway
elelsf@gmail.com
Lauren Brown
hirshson@yahoo.com
Laurie Hauer
lbhauer@gmail.com
Linda Sartor
linda@monansrill.org

Mika aka Maria Gonzalez
Mikaenscco@icloud.com
Mallik aka Mallikarjun Posanipalli
mallik.fico@gmail.com
Mikel Oboyski
thatoldblackmagick@gmail.com
Nicole Frances Moss
nmoss@coa.edu
Nora Barnett
barnett.nora@gmail.com
Leu Ching Hana Leung
rowboats@gmail.com
Mireya aka Myrella Thompson
myrellathompson@gmail.com
Morganna "Mo" Stanworth
mstanwor@gmail.com
Rachael A Tanner
r.ann.tanner@gmail.com
Rachel Courage aka Rachel DeCaro
racheldecaro@gmail.com
Rachel Hope
pepperorchid@gmail.com
Rachel Freifeider
handmadegardenspdx@gmail.com
Raines Cohen
rainesc@gmail.com
Rory Skuce
middletonmassage@yahoo.com
r u n i aka Gregory Baylus Keydel
keydelg@gmail.com
Sequoia Kantara aka Kristin Benjamin
lianacolibri@gmail.com
Sina
s.faleniko@AMSAMOA.EDU
Tamar aka Mom Nom
tamibaylus@gmail.com

Sea Witch aka Trish Gallagher
Middletonmassage@yahoo.com
Werner Kontara
werner@kontara.com
Wow aka Patrick Geise
pjgeise@gmail.com
Zandra aka Alex B M Kai Kai
demanddignity2015@gmail.com

Presenters

Al Lampell
alampell@hotmail.com
Brent Levin
brent@emeraldearth.org
Eliot Hurwitz
eliot@livingincommon.org
Kate Sassoon
sassy@sassycooperates.org
Magdalena Valderrama
magdalenavh@gmail.com
Martine Algier
martinealgier@gmail.com
Penny Sirota
penny@monansrill.org
Red Scarf InEnglish aka Erik Schmitz
erik.j.schmitz@gmail.com
Vanessa Raditz
vraditz@gmail.com

Organizers

Deseree Fontenot
dfonteno@gmail.com
DoubleSnake aka Jim Montgomery
2snake@groundswell.institute
Faire aka Kevin Faircloth
faire@groundswell.institute

Kyle DeVries
kyle@groundswell.institute

Sky Blue
sky@ic.org

Sprite aka Spencer Peterson
spencerjamesdesigns@gmail.com

Residents

Jes Versace
versace.jes@gmail.com

Kotori Murphy
kotori.murphy@gmail.com

ShaneOnYou aka Shane Graff
s_graff86@yahoo.com

Shawn Shine aka Shawn Newman
thehonestyhour@gmail.com

Spring Collins
springcollins16@gmail.com

Thor Young
thor@groundswell.institute

William Stewart
quillemot@gmail.com

Notes, Musings, & Doodles

The WCCC is co-sponsored by:



GROUNDSWELL

w/ additional support from
People of Color Sustainable Housing Network

POCSHN is a resource network for people of color (POC) interested in building intentional, healthy, and affordable housing communities in the Bay Area and beyond. Since starting in February 2015, it has grown to become an intergenerational network with seven co-organizers, 1,000 members, and bi-monthly meetings.

The network was established in response to extreme increases in housing costs, rapid gentrification, and the lack of socio-economic and cultural diversity within the intentional community movement across the United States. POCSHN is committed to creating an entire ecosystem of POC-centered communities that are eco-

logically, emotionally, spiritually, and culturally regenerative. For More Info visit: www.pochousingnetwork.com

