

West Coast Regional Conference 2009  
Climate Catastrophe and Social Change,  
an Eco-Socialist Perspective

## Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (day)

\_\_\_\_\_ (eve.)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organizational, union affiliations or school (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special needs—childcare, language translation, disability, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for pre-registration (\$10 to \$30 sliding scale. please make check payable to CCDS)

### To be listed as a sponsor:

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like this information shared with conference participants? \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to have a literature table (suggested contribution \$25)

We would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the conference.

Mail this form to Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS), 522 Valencia Street #1, San Francisco, CA 94110, or fax to 415-863-5543

Phone: 415-863-6637 Email: [staff@ncalcofc.org](mailto:staff@ncalcofc.org)

Committees of Correspondence for  
Democracy and Socialism  
522 Valencia St. #1  
San Francisco, CA 94110

# West Coast Regional Conference

## Climate Catastrophe and Social Change: an Eco-Socialist Perspective



Art by Riri Templeton

Every region of the earth needs to face the coming dislocations of our ecologies, our economies, and our public health that global climate change is bringing. The crisis provides the greatest evidence that capitalism has failed. A socialist perspective can provide a necessary analysis of the roots of the problem. We call upon socialists, environmental activists, and working class organizations to come together to study the science, share experiences on physical mitigation and the social fight back, and to discuss the likelihood that only a socialist transformation, an extreme concentration of people power, can stop capitalism from killing the planet.

**Saturday, January 10–Sunday January 11, 2009**

**Laney College**

Forum lecture hall (between buildings A and B)  
900 Fallon Street, Oakland  
(near Lake Merritt BART station)

**Registration fee—\$10 to \$30, sliding scale**

Sponsors and participating organizations: *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, Global Citizen Center, Green Party of Alameda County, International Socialist Organization, KPFA radio, Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, Socialist Action, Solidarity, West County Toxics Coalition, Women of Color Resource Center



**Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009**

**9 AM - 10:30 AM - Opening plenary session**

### Panel presentation and discussion

**Joel Kovel**, editor in chief of *Capitalism Nature Socialism*; founding member of the Ecosocialist International Network; author of *The Enemy of Nature*; with Michael Lowy, promulgated the Ecosocialist Manifesto in 2001

**Carl Bloice**, a writer in San Francisco; an editorial Board member at BlackCommentator.com; a moderator at port-side.org; board member of the Senior Action Network; formerly worked for a healthcare union; member of the National Coordinating Committees of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism

**Christine Frank**, co-coordinator of Climate Crisis Coalition of the Twin Cities; author, “Global Warming: Why we need a new environmental movement” and “Hurricane Katrina: The Crime and the Tragedy”; co-convenor, Labor and Sustainability conference, St. Paul, MN; contributor to *Socialist Action* newspaper

**10:30 AM to 12 noon - First Workshop Session**

### Environmental Racism

**Henry Clark**, executive director, West County Toxics Coalition; board member of the North Richmond Center for Health; North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council, the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission; board member of Green Action and California Communities Against Toxics

### Ocean Fisheries

**Dan Bacher**, investigative journalist, editor and activist focusing on fishery and environmental justice issues; writes for the *Sacramento News & Review*, www.counterpunch.org, www.truthout.org, www.indybay.org and regional and national fishing magazines; active participant in the battle by recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, California Indian Tribes and environmentalists to restore the Klamath River and the San Francisco Bay-California Delta Estuary

**William “Zeke” Grader**, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, executive director of the non-profit Institute for Fisheries Resources; California advisor to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

### Cuba’s Experience

**Larry Shoup**, self-employed historian and Cuba solidarity activist; taught at a number of universities and is the author of three books and numerous magazine articles; currently working on *Rulers and Rebels*, a book on the history of class struggle in California

### The Science of Global Climate Change

**Christine Frank**, (see opening plenary session)

### The Economics of Global Climate Change

**Carl Bloice** (see opening plenary session)

**Cameron Sturdyvant**, technology journalist; leading Bay Area anti-death penalty civil rights activist; member of the International Socialist Organization

### Militarism and Climate Change

**David Schwartzman**, Professor at Howard University, research focus on biogeochemistry, environmental policy; activist in DC Statehood Green Party; member of the International Committee of the Green Party of the United States; member of Metro DC Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism

**12 noon to 1 PM—Lunch**

**1 PM to 2:30 PM—Second Workshop Session**

### Overview of Current Global Climate Change Actions/Activities/Groups

**Brian Edwards-Tiekert**, KPFA environmental justice reporter

### Energy Policy & Non-carbon Energy Sources - a Carbon Tax vs. Cap-and-Trade vs Regulation?

**Gene Coyle**, activist fighting International Monetary Fund and World Bank initiatives on energy; worked with Korean labor unions in defeating privatization of electric power

### Urban, Racial and Economic Justice and Ecology

**Mateo Nube**, director of the Movement Generation Justice and Ecology Project; former director of Urban Habitat’s Leadership Institute; former Northwest Coordinator of the AFL-CIO’s Organizing Institute; a member of the musical group Los Nadies

**Jason Negrón-Gonzales**, Movement Generation Volunteer Program Committee member; former Director of Movement Generation, and co-founder of the Justice and Ecology Project; former Organizer, Campaign Director and Education Director at People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER), a membership-based community/labor organization in San Francisco

### Trade Policy

**Victor Menotti** (tentative), co-director, International Forum on Globalization, author of the IFG reports: “Free Trade, Free Logging: How the World Trade Organization

Undermines Global Forest Conservation”, and “How the WTO Diminishes Native Sovereignty”; and Institute for Fisheries Resources report “WTO and Sustainable Fisheries”; international trade advisor to the world forums of artisanal fishers; policy advisor to the Organic Consumers Association; founding Board Member, California Coalition for Fair Trade

### The Developing World and Global Climate Change, e.g., China and India

**Jeff Mackler**, founder of the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice; coordinator of National Assembly to End the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and Occupations; director of the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal; national secretary of Socialist Action

**David Makofsky**, professor at the Central University of Nationalities in Beijing, China; previously in the Sociology Department at State University of New York, Binghamton, in the field of industrializing societies; member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism

**Robert Weil**, author of *Red Cat, White Cat: China and the Contradictions of “Market Socialism,”* and many other articles and papers on Chinese political economy and class relations; activist in labor, environmental, civil rights, international solidarity and other social movements; Visiting Assistant Professor and Lecturer at UC Santa Cruz, where he is currently a trade union organizer; a Senior Fellow at the Oakland Institute

### Greening the Economy—Green jobs, Green Technologies—What About the Capitalists?

**Kevin Danaher**, co-founder of Global Exchange; founder and Executive Co-Producer of the Green Festivals; Executive Director of the Global Citizen Center; PhD in sociology from the University of California at Santa Cruz; author and/or editor of 12 books, including his latest, *The Green Festival Reader*, and *Building the Green Economy: Success Stories from the Grassroots*

**Jack Rasmus**, Adjunct Professor of Political Economy and Politics at St Mary’s College; playwright and author of *The War at Home: Corporate Offensives from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush* and the soon-to-be-published *Epic Recession and Global Financial Crisis*

### Water

**Adam Scow**, senior organizer at Food & Water Watch, a national consumer advocacy organization dedicated to protecting water as a public trust; planning committee for the annual California Water Policy Conference sponsored by Public Officials for Water and Environment Reform; previously researcher on California irrigation subsidies and water transfers in Washington D.C.

**2:30 PM to 3 PM—Break**

**3 PM to 4:30 PM—Third Workshop Session**

### Slow Growth, No Growth or De-Growth—Where Are We?

**Joel Kovel** (see opening plenary session)

### Capitalism and Soil Degradation, Destruction and Formation

**Salvatore Engel-DiMauro**, Professor of Geography at the State University of New York at New Paltz; research on soil degradation, society-environment relations, the European Union, imperialism and anti-systemic movements

### Transportation/Urban Policy

**Irwin Sperber**, Professor at State University of New York – New Paltz, Sociology Department; a founder of the Union of Radical Sociologists; active in community groups opposed to environmental predation; research on alienation within environmental NGOs, the effects of junk science in the struggle for environmental justice, and the role of such NGOs as the Nature Conservancy, Scenic Hudson, and the World Bank in causing havoc to fragile ecosystems; an associate editor for *Capitalism Nature Socialism*

### Green Capitalism—Is It Possible?

**Simeon Newman**, student of sociology at UC Berkeley and a carpenter; activist opposing water privatization, particularly the move by the water bottling industry to grab Northern California’s water resources; a member of Socialist Action.

### The Survival of Indigenous Peoples in the Age of Global Climate Change: Articulating Biological and Cultural Diversity

**George T. Martin**, Senior Editor of *Capitalism Nature Socialism*; Professor of Sociology at Montclair State University, New Jersey; a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz; and a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey

**7 PM to 10 PM—Evening Event**

**Joel Kovel**—“The Necessity and Logic of Ecosocialism”

**Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009**

**9 AM to 12 noon—Final Plenary Session**

**12 noon—film showing**