

Sustaining All Life

Bringing Labor and Climate Justice Movements Together for a Sustainable Future



Everyone Welcome!

Monday, 9/10 | 11:30 - 1:00 PM | SF City College downtown
Tuesday, 9/11 | 1:00 - 2:30 PM | Alley Cat Books, 3036 24th St.
Thursday, 9/13 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM | SF City College downtown

Workers, labor, climate justice activists, and all people have common interests to ensure we have a sustainable future. Working together to achieve that future is not only desirable but possible and necessary. This workshop will provide tools for greater cooperation and unity, bringing our skills and resources as activists to this work.

Our society does not adequately protect workers or the environment. Making this change toward equity, justice, and sustainability is within our reach. It will require an unprecedented amount of unity among people everywhere to overcome powerful forces that will resist such change.

In this workshop led by a team of longtime union leaders we will:

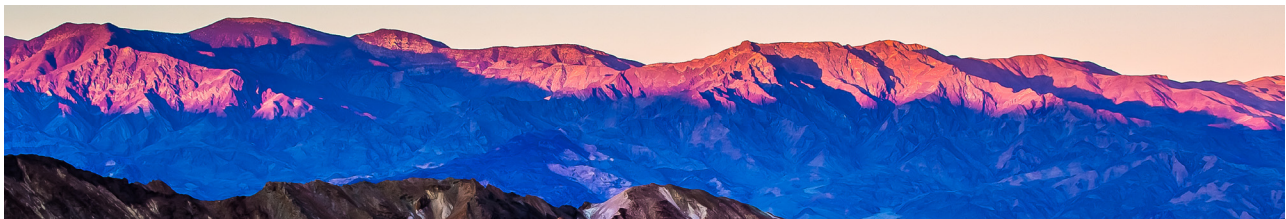
- Provide organizing perspectives, techniques and tools that we've used in our work to overcome divisions and separation between groups, to plan meetings and events in which all voices are valued and heard, to understand our differences, and to unite around our common interests as workers who share the same planet.
- Consider the divisive effects of racism, genocide, and other oppressions on the work of the labor and environmental movements and on the efforts to engage everyone in the global response to climate change.
- Learn about and try out the theory and tools of Sustaining All Life and United to End Racism as a strategy to overcome the divisions between labor, environmental, and other movements to help strengthen our relationships.
- Use practical methods to overcome the discouragement, defeats, and tensions that can keep us from thinking freshly about our common goals and vision to move forward.

Sustaining All Life and United to End Racism are international grassroots organizations working to end climate change within the context of ending all divisions among people. We use the tools of Re-evaluation Counseling* to free ourselves from the harm done by oppression and other experiences that separate us from one another and from the world around us. These tools provide ongoing mutual support and enable people to listen deeply to one another as we do personal healing work. Our goals include:

- Increasing awareness of the existence of and damage caused by climate change,
- Freeing people from oppression and hurts that turn them against one another and make them compete for resources,
- Supporting one another to organize effectively to preserve and restore the environment.

Interpretation in Spanish

* Re-evaluation Counseling (RC) is a well-defined theory and practice that helps people of all ages and backgrounds exchange effective help with each other in order to free themselves from the emotional scars of oppression and other hurts. By taking turns listening to each other and encouraging emotional release, people can heal old hurts and become better able to think, to speak out, and to organize and lead others in building a world in which all human beings and other life forms are valued and the environment is restored and preserved.



© STAN EICHNER

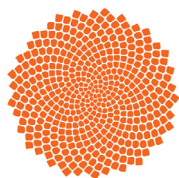
The Work of Sustaining All Life and United to End Racism

It is possible to limit the effects of human-caused climate change and restore the environment—and some big changes are needed if this is to happen. *Sustaining All Life* and *United to End Racism** believe the environmental crisis cannot be resolved without ending racism, genocide toward Indigenous peoples, classism, sexism, and other oppressions. The impact of environmental destruction and climate change falls most heavily on people targeted by these particular oppressions. Making the changes needed will require a massive movement, spanning the globe, of people of every background fighting the effects of both climate change and racism.

In *Sustaining All Life* and *United to End Racism* we believe that the barriers to building a sufficiently large and powerful movement include (1) longstanding divisions (usually caused by oppression, and especially racism and classism) between nations and between groups of people within nations, (2) widespread feelings of discouragement and powerlessness among the populations of all countries, (3) denial of or failure to engage with the environmental crisis, and (4) difficulties in effectively addressing the connections between the environmental crisis and the failures of capitalism. *Sustaining All Life* and *United to End Racism* work to address these issues and others.

The role of oppression

Our societies are based on exploitation and oppression demanding growth and profit with little regard for the effects on people, other life forms, or the Earth. Oppressions (such as racism, classism, sexism, and the oppression of young people) inflict tremendous injustices, limit access to resources, and damage the lives of billions of people. Once targeted by oppression, we are pulled to act out on others the hurts that we have experienced. Much of the emotional damage done to humans is the result of this passing on of hurt. Though humans are vulnerable to acting out oppression, oppressive behavior is not inherent, but arises only when a human has been hurt emotionally. Oppressive societies manipulate this vulnerability to establish and maintain economic exploitation.



Sustaining All Life

The importance of healing personal damage

The emotional harm done to us in our societies by oppression interferes with our ability to think clearly and sets groups of people against each other. This makes it difficult for us to think about and respond effectively to the environmental crisis. People would not cooperate with a society that exploits people and damages the environment if they had not first been hurt.

Healing from the hurts that help to hold oppression in place and lead to other damaging behavior is not quick or easy work. Many of us resist it or we may have survived by numbing ourselves to the damage we carry and by assuming that we will never be free of it.

In *Sustaining All Life* and *United to End Racism* we have learned that it is possible to free ourselves from these hurts. We can heal from hurtful experiences if someone listens to us attentively and allows and encourages us to release the grief, fear, and other painful emotions. This happens by means of our natural healing processes—talking, crying, trembling, expressing anger, and laughing. By releasing distressed feelings in a supportive network, we can stay united, hopeful, thoughtful, joyful, and committed. This in turn strengthens us in building our movements to stop the effects of climate change and racism.

* *Sustaining All Life* (SAL) is an international grassroots organization working to end climate change within the context of ending all divisions among people. *United to End Racism* (UER) is a group of people of all ages and backgrounds, in many different countries, who are dedicated to eliminating racism in the world and supporting the efforts of all other groups with this goal. UER and SAL are projects of and use the tools of Re-evaluation Counseling. Re-evaluation Counseling (RC) is a well-defined theory and practice that helps people of all ages and backgrounds exchange effective help with each other in order to free themselves from the emotional scars of oppression and other hurts. By taking turns listening to each other and encouraging emotional release, people can heal old hurts and become better able to think, to speak out, and to organize and lead others in building a world in which human beings and other life forms are valued and the environment is restored and preserved.

For more information, see:
www.sustainingalllife.org or www.unitedtoendracism.org
or write: Sustaining All Life/United to End Racism
719 Second Ave North, Seattle, WA 98109, USA
Email: ircc@rc.org **Tel:** +1-206-284-0311

