

## SAIIC Annual Board Retreat- August 29 - September 1, 1997

**T**he SAIIC board of directors, staff and interns met in the hills of Sonoma county this past Labor Day weekend for SAIIC's annual meeting. The goals were to discuss ways to strengthen SAIIC as an organization and to come up with a solid plan for 1998. The three days of meetings were a great success. A key element of the retreat was the strong spiritual element that pervaded our meetings and guided us in our work and our plans for the future. We came down from the mountain refreshed, renewed and ready to work hard to nurture SAIIC as it grows and develops. We came away with a clear sense of SAIIC's mission and importance, and we feel very confident that with Laura Soriano as SAIIC's Executive Director, and with the increased involvement of the board, the organization can look forward to a strong and vital future.

We worked together to refined SAIIC's objectives, values, and long-term organizational goals. After carefully appraising our performance as an organization, we came up with a realistic plan for accomplishing our goals. With the help of Adriana Ballén, an organization development consultant, the board members and staff learned new tools to more efficiently achieve SAIIC's mission of developing and managing programs that promote peace, social justice and the full participation of Indian peoples in the decisions and events that affect their lives. The board members elucidated SAIIC's most deeply held values to be love, respect, honesty, unity, communication, creativity and commitment. By examining and clarifying SAIIC's values,

mission and vision, we were able to form a more unified group, and to develop the strategies for realizing a plan of action for the future.

Our organizational goals for the next year are to fortify SAIIC's foundation by initiating a strong resource development plan, continuing to focus on staff and board development, and instituting new and more efficient systems for operating the organization.

These new goals will allow SAIIC to better fulfill its programmatic objectives, which center around providing information about South and Meso American Indian people's efforts to defend their human rights, and to attain self-determination and protection of their environment. SAIIC will continue to facilitate direct communication, cultural and spiritual exchange between Native peoples of the continent and to provide information to Indian organizations and communities so that they can gain access to international resources appropriate to their activities. To achieve these objectives, SAIIC will execute the following programs for the 1998 year: to put out two editions of Abya Yala News in English and two issues in Spanish, to record and distribute four radio programs, and to coordinate the visits of four Indigenous leaders from the south. We are looking forward to implementing the new strategies and plans developed at the meetings that will help us face the challenges and opportunities of the future. 🐸

