## PEACEPOWER

#### www.calpeacepower.org

Volume 3. Issue 2 • Fall 2007

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we are looking for writers,
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PRINTED ON 100%

POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER
WITH SOY-BASED INKS BY ALONZO
ENVIRONMENTAL PRINTING, AN
ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
GREEN-CERTIFIED COMPANY.

# Where Is the Intersection of Environmental and Social Justice?

Classrooms to the daily news. Such concern with rising greenhouse gas emissions and their effect on the planet has brought much attention to the relationship between humans and the environment. In this issue we pose the question: "What is the relationship between environmental and social justice?"

Our exploration of this question led us to uncover a wide range of movements, debates, and struggles that we believe reflect the need to respect the environment when pursuing social change goals, and the importance of employing nonviolent means to achieve ecologically sustainable ends.

In his fresh take on vegetarianism, John Campbell exposes how factory farming contributes to environmental degradation, from hazardous runoff to intense use of resources to increased global warming. Caroline Kornfield and Matthew Taylor depict struggles over the importance and sanctity of trees, from the depleted forests of Thailand to Berkeley's very own Memorial Oak Grove. Both describe the role that nonviolent activists play in preserving the trees.

Racism and classism are two often-overlooked lynchpins of environmental oppression – environmental burdens like toxic waste often have a disproportionate impact on poor people and people of color. Ryan Curtis highlights how an African-American community rose to resist a toxic dump in North Carolina. In an exclusive interview, famous tree-sitter Julia Butterfly Hill tells the tale of her stand in solidarity with the people of South Central Los Angeles against the destruction of the nation's largest urban farm.

Lani Lee and JyaHyun Lee bring us around the world to nonviolent environmental struggles in Nigeria, Colombia, and Korea. Jerlina Love introduces us to the Landless Worker's Movement in Brazil, a group that develops farms on fallow fields in order to subsist and enact their inclusive vision of land reform. Ken Preston-Pile profiles Gandhian activist Vandana Shiva, who struggles to protect both the rights of farmers and the integrity of seeds in India.

These and many other nonviolent efforts across the globe demonstrate the inextricable link between respecting humanity and respecting the environment. We hope that these articles inspire you to explore your own relationship with the world around you.

### **About PEACEPOWER**

What kind of power can persuade the British to leave India as friends, not enemies? What kind of power can move the hearts of white Americans to recognize the need for civil rights for African-Americans? What kind of power can persuade an air force pilot, ordered by a dictator to quell an uprising, to turn away from his target, unable to fire on a crowd of unarmed Filipinos? We call this Peace Power, also known as principled nonviolence. Rather than a negation of violence, peace power is a positive force for change and resistance. By renouncing the use of coercive force, it draws on the persuasive power people have over each other's hearts, or what Kenneth Boulding calls "integrative power." It can also be described as "person power," the dedication of each individual when they convert a negative drive to a positive drive. When those who have achieved this individual dedication come together, they enact "people power." This is the power that can transform our selves, our relationships, our conflicts, and our world.