

# Community Alliance for Global Justice 2013 Annual Report



Food Justice Project Hike-a-Thon exploring food justice on Beacon Hill.



Food Justice Project Train the Trainer for our new Educate for Action workshops!



Director Heather Day's son Henry at his first rally, March Against Monsanto.

CAGJ is truly member-driven and has done amazing work in building networks of solidarity both in Seattle and across the world. —Teresa Mares

### Membership Committee Report

CAGJ remains committed to further growing our membership and developing new leadership. Over the last year, CAGJ has enhanced our capacity to do this by completing a multi-year process of developing a new database. Our database will facilitate greater communication, membership tracking, and volunteer outreach.

CAGJ's expansive membership gathered at our 2013 SLEE dinner. Hosted at the University Christian Church in the University District, SLEE featured Saru Jayaraman, author of *Behind the Kitchen* Door and founder of the Restaurant Opportunity Center. Jayaramen focused on the ongoing struggle of restaurant workers to win a higher wage. The dinner also featured an address by Ramon Torres, the leader of Las Familias Unidas Por La Justicia, the organization representing striking farmworkers at Sakuma Brothers Farm in Skagit County. The event drew over 300 attendees, 150 donors to the dessert and silent auctions, and over 60 volunteers!

Over the year our membership team also changed. After several years in the role of membership co-chair, Chelea Eickert left for graduate school to further hone her skills as an organizer. Meanwhile a new co-chair, Matt Canfield, stepped into her role, though Chelsea continues to be involved from afar. Most excitingly, however, CAGJ welcomed back former MSW practicum intern, Danielle Friedman, as the new Organizing Director! Danielle honed her organizing skills in 2004 as a CAGJ intern and went on to work at the Statewide Poverty Action Network. In her new role as staff at CAGJ, Danielle will focus on leadership development, anti-oppressive organizing, and building CAGJ's membership.

With momentum from years past, our Membership Committee continues to work to expand our inclusive movement. In 2013, we instituted a Membership Month in an effort to engage our members more actively in sustaining the organization. This practice will continue in 2014, when we will reach out to all of our members. Additionally, the Membership Committee is also working to build the next generation of organizers and activists by instituting a more rigorous program of leadership development across the organization.

# Food Justice Project



CAGJ marches with Familias Unidas por la Justicia in Skagit Valley.

### Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice

- After releasing the second edition of the book in 2012, we now have it placed in 60 libraries and over a dozen bookstores in the Pacific Northwest and beyond
- We participated in five readings of *Our Food, Our Right* around the Pacific Northwest

# **Educate for Action**

- This year we finalized workshops including Food Justice 101, What is a Food System?, Racism, Sexism, and Classism in the Food System, and the Farm Bill
- In May, we held a Train the Trainer with volunteers and community food activists on facilitation and workshop content
- We held six Food Justice 101 presentations

## **Teach-Outs**

- The second Urban Hike-A-Thon explored the work for an alternative food system on Beacon Hill, while also considering the gentrification that can accompany it.
- We joined Duwamish Alive! to get our hands dirty restoring the Duwamish greenbelt along an important waterway for many communities, and hosted a discussion on food and fish afterwards.
- We visited Greenbank Farm and Good Cheer Food Bank on Whidbey Island, who have a unique partnership with great community impact on the island.

CAGJ marches with Familias Unidas por la Justicia in Skagit Valley to support their boycott of Sakuma Bros. Farm.



## Solidarity Campaigns

Our Food Justice Project focused on five political priorities in 2013:

I. Small Scale, Sustainable Family Farmers: Pass I-522

Labeling GMOs is something many small-scale family farmers are working for, whether for greater marketing options, seed sovereignty, or environmental health. We endorsed the Yes on I-522 effort and gathered support for the initiative. CAGJ highlighted farmer and international voices by organizing an event with Miguel Robles to make connections between the I-522 issue and the struggle for sovereign seeds in Mexico.

- 2. Farm Workers: Familias Unidas por la Justicia Farmworker Strike CAGJ collected items to support the striking farmworkers at Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm. On July 28, we delivered many boxes of donations, food and supplies. In September, a CAGJ contingent joined Familias Unidas in Burlington for a march and rally in support of farmworkers. We also had a major success in getting two local companies to stop sourcing Sakuma Bros. Berries until the labor dispute is resolved.
- Food Chain Workers: Making Change at Wal-Mart UFCW Local 21's Making Change at Wal-Mart campaign supports workers asking for fair treatment in the workplace from the world's largest grocer. Along with UFCW Local 21, we co-hosted a panel of Our Wal-Mart workers, and we organized contingents to support multiple Wal-Mart rallies.
- 4. Right to Good Food: Got Green's Fresh Bucks Program We mobilized the CAGJ community to support Got Green's campaign to increase support of the Fresh Bucks program, which makes farm fresh food available to more communities through SNAP doubling. CAGJ helped get the program added to the 2014 City of Seattle budget by gathering petition signatures, letters of support and calls to the Mayor's office.
- 5. Food Justice Everywhere: Stop the Trans Pacific Partnership Along with the Washington Fair Trade Coalition and other international partners we're working to stop the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) to make "food justice everywhere" a reality. We helped research, educate, and mobilize the community to take action in solidarity with farmers and eaters across the Pacific Rim.

# AGRA Watch



CAGJ and AGRA Watch join thousands at the March Against Monsanto.

# **US-Africa Strategic Retreat**

AGRA Watch partnered with PANNA to raise over \$50,000 in 2013 for our Strategic Retreat with African partners, taking place in the Fall of 2014. The objectives are to build trust and begin to establish a viable, sustainable network of groups with common political values and an interest in working together; connect US and African food sovereignty networks; find ways to work together to maximize the resources we have, and kick start relationships between US and African groups. The retreat is aimed at both countering threats like Gates/AGRA/ Monsanto, and building alliances to strengthen food sovereignty and agroecology movements in US and Africa.

## I-522 Campaign

AGRA Watch participated in several educationals around Washington State to support the State's GMO labeling bill. AGRA Watch members were invited to many talks and informational sessions to discuss the importance of GMO labeling. Although the I-522 was narrowly defeated, AGRA Watch mobilized support and is geared for another round of the ongoing labeling debates.

## AGRA Watch Research

AGRA Watch interns and core activists carried out research in several areas, including a power structure analysis of the Gates Foundation; AGRA and Gates Foundation grants; the FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources/CGIAR international seed centers/the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (which receives Gates Foundation funding).

I am so proud to be a supporter and a volunteer with CAGJ. We have a global food system, and CAGJ addresses those global issues by working for strong local food economies for everyone. It's a great organization. — John Fawcett-Long

# March Against Monsanto

AGRA Watch members joined thousands of activists in Seattle to protest against Monsanto. Community members rallied together to call attention to the dangers posed by genetically engineered foods and agrochemicals produced by the seed giant corporation. AGRA Watch activists, Heather Day, Bill Aal and Jasmine Zhang had the opportunity to take the stage and wow the crowds with motivational speeches about how to mobilize together and fight corporate control of agriculture!

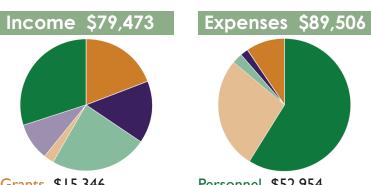
# AGRA Watch Community Meeting

2013 was a great year for AGRA Watch and we are eager to see what 2014 will bring! We started the year off with a BANG! and hosted a wildly successful community meeting inviting members of the public to learn more about the Gates Foundation's push of industrial agriculture in Africa. We aim to keep this momentum going and look forward to what 2014 will unfold!

Jasmine Zhang and Heather Day speak at March Against Monsanto.



# 2013 Financials



Grants \$15,346 Sustainers \$12,244 Donations \$18,857 Sponsorships \$1,925 Merchandise Sales \$7,470 Fundraising Event \$23,631 Personnel \$52,954 Organizing \$24,177 Fundraising \$2,398 Merchandise \$1,635 Administration \$8,342

CAGJ's dedicated Members—especially our Monthly Sustainers—continued to be the key to our thriving organization in 2013! Also, the importance of our annual SLEE dinner cannot be overstated; the majority of sponsorships and donations reflected in the report are made at the event, and combined with direct income from the dinner, SLEE raises close to half of our budget. In addition to building our membership base, we will work on expanding sponsorships in 2014. We started the year with savings, not reflected here!

# CAGJ Leadership

### **Steering Committee**

Bill Aal, AGRA Watch Matt Canfield, Membership Janae Choquette, AGRA Watch Abie Flaxman, Co-Chair Chris Iberle, Food Justice Project Alma Dea Michelena, Co-Chair Allsion Mountjoy, Food Justice Project Reid Mukai, Co-Chair Saba Samadami, AGRA Watch Emma Zheng, Treasurer

### **Advisory Board**

Phil Bereano Shana Greene Derek Hoshiko Lucy Jarosz Nancy Kool Sarah Luthens Marina Skumanich Viki Sonntag

### Staff

Heather Day Executive Director Danielle Friedman Organizing Director

# Get Involved in 2014

### May 10 Singing for Justice: Seattle Labor Chorus Benefit for CAGJ

Join CAGJ and The Seattle Labor Chorus for a fun and inspiring evening of movement story-telling and songs to celebrate our collective struggles for justice!

#### May 22 Educate for Action Presentation

Come learn about injustice in the food system in the Food Justice Project's new workshop "Hard to Swallow: Racism, Classism and Sexism in the Food System."

#### July 26 8th Annual SLEE! Dinner

Join more than 300 activists, farmers, food workers, and allied organizations for a meal created with local, sustainable and Fair Trade ingredients while learning about the role of fisherfolk in the food sovereignty movement.

#### Fall 2014 Strategy Meeting to Build an Africa/US Food Sovereignty Network

African food sovereignty movement leaders will travel to Seattle to meet with AGRA Watch and other US food activists to jointly strategize how to confront AGRA, the Gates Foundation and others promoting industrial agriculture in Africa, and to build support for agroecological and community based alternatives. Look for how to be involved through public events!

# CAGJ is run by volunteers and there are many ways to plug in! Here are just a few:

- Become a Member by signing up to donate your energy, money or time!
- Stay informed about upcoming opportunities by signing up for our monthly e-mail newsletter, project listervs, and connecting with us on Facebook and Twitter.
- Attend a meeting, event or action. Upcoming events are listed on www.seattleglobaljustice.org.
- Volunteer in the office or at an event.
- Contact us to talk about specific ways you would like to contribute!

Thank you to all the volunteers, interns and donors that made this work possible in 2013! In order to save paper, look for your names listed on our website!

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