2011 In Review

2011 was an environmentally and socially tumultuous year in which the work of Community Alliance for Global Justice was as timely as ever. Through educational events, media, direct actions, coalition building, and organizational development throughout the year, CAGJ accomplished a lot towards strengthening local economies and supporting sustainable food systems. This work is increasingly vital as the petrochemical-intensive global industrial food system continues to contribute to environmental and economic damage, harming growing numbers of people around the world. Especially in times of crises, this system is prone to sudden supply and price fluctuations and general instability. Communities become more susceptible to attempts to push through neoliberal policies that worsen poverty and hunger while enriching a wealthy elite, a process identified by author Naomi Klein as “disaster capitalism”.

Though Seattle was spared from major disasters in 2011, other parts of the world were less fortunate. On March 11, one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck the east coast of northern Japan triggering a 33 foot tsunami that struck more than three miles inland, and led to triple nuclear meltdown in Fukushima. 300 tornadoes left a trail of destruction across the American southeast in April, and other parts of the country were faced with hurricanes, massive droughts and disruptive winter blizzards. During the summer, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia also suffered widespread droughts while Thailand experienced the worst flooding in half a century. Droughts in Russia in 2010 led to food shortages in Egypt, the world’s largest food importer. Widespread hunger, along with a corrupt political system, exploitative economic policies, and the highest Global Food Price Index since 2008, generated mass protests in Tahrir Square which were part of a greater Arab Spring uprising that spread across the Middle East in early 2011. Protests spread throughout Europe at around the same time, continuing a pattern of growing anti-austerity demonstrations in response to neoliberal policies gutting socio-economic infrastructures and increasing poverty. In response, CAGJ offered analysis connecting the developing global movements against neolib-
eral economic policies.

Governor Scott Walker introduced an exceptionally unjust Budget Repair Bill to address Wisconsin’s budget shortfall in February. A few days later, tens of thousands of demonstrators surrounded the Capitol building in Madison with varying numbers of protesters occupying the building continuously until early March. The protests of the Arab Spring, European Summer and Wisconsin can all be seen as immediate precursors to the Occupy Movement which began at Wall Street’s Zuccotti Park in September. Though issues of corporate/government greed and corruption have been a focus of protests for a long time (particularly evident at the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle, which CAGJ founders participated in organizing), the action, first conceptualized by magazine and activist group _Adbusters_, and the slogan addressing staggering economic inequality: “We are the 99%”, inspired people around the world, leading to occupations in other states and countries soon after. CAGJ worked with local farmers to provide sustainable produce at the October 15 Global Day of Action demonstration (also the day of CAGJ’s 10th anniversary celebration), and participated in a number of other Occupy Seattle events through the fall.

2011 also saw the rise of hacktivism, the use of computer and network hacking for political ends. Within the first three months of the year, hacktivist groups disrupted websites for the governments of Tunisia and Egypt, the Wisconsin state government and Bank of America. From June to July, hacktivist groups Anonymous and LulzSec participated in Operation AntiSec, a campaign initiated in protest against online censorship, targeting numerous government and security websites and also those of destructive corporations such as Monsanto. The USDA was extremely generous towards Monsanto in 2011 (unfortunate though predictable given the “revolving door” relationship between them). On January 27 the USDA approved Monsanto’s GM alfalfa and one week later “partially deregulated” GM sugar beets. In April they allowed Monsanto to write their own environmental impact reports, and in July they announced they would not regulate Roundup resistant GM bluegrass. Throughout the year with a series of speaking engagements, conference presentations and articles, CAGJ’s AGRA Watch campaign continued to call attention to the harmful effects of GMOs pushed by Monsanto and the company’s connections to the Gates Foundation.

On December 31, while many were distracted by New Year’s Eve celebrations, President Obama signed the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Besides allocating $662 billion dollars for the military through 2012, it would allow military engagement in domestic law enforcement and indefinite detentions or deportations of citizens accused of terrorism without due process or habeas corpus.

According to author Anna Lappé (whose _Diet For a Hot Planet_ was CAGJ’s Book Group choice for February), the industrial food system accounts for 17% of fossil fuel use in the U.S. and a much larger percentage of greenhouse gas emissions. Switching from the corporate industrial food system to more localized and sustainable food systems, a primary goal of CAGJ’s Food Justice Project as well as the Northwest Farm Bill Action Group, is not only healthier for our bodies and communities, it’s an important part of reducing energy consumption and side effects of global warming. Along with transitioning to new political/economic systems and clean renewable energy sources, curbing energy usage is essential to ensure a better world for all. Unless changes in lifestyle and national policy are made, we will experience with increasing frequency the consequences of dependence on Mideast and deep sea oil drilling, coal mining and mountaintop removal, natural gas fracking, tar sands extraction, and nuclear fission.

In the midst of these global crises, CAGJ continued to make connections between local and international movements. Through Teach-Outs at local farms and urban gardens, CAGJ provided opportunities for the Seattle public to engage with the amazing groups (many led by youth and communities of color) who are building sustainable and socially just food systems in our own backyard. We organized speaking events and farmer exchanges that brought to Seattle many powerful voices from the struggles of indigenous peoples in Oaxaca (CEDICAM – Center for Integral Small Farmer Development in Mixteca), campesinos in Brasil (MST – Landless Workers Movement), wom-

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**Want to learn more about the Farm Bill? Community Presentation now coming to you!**

The Northwest Farm Bill Action Group has developed an introductory Farm Bill workshop, which we would like to bring to your community group. Learn the history of the Farm Bill, the impact it has on your life, and what you can do about it in an approximately one hour long interactive presentation. Workshop includes how to take action for a more just Farm Bill – it will come up for a vote within the next year! The workshop is offered for free, although we do accept donations to offset our costs. **Contact us:** farmbill@seattleglobaljustice.org
en farmers in Burkina Faso (We Are the Solution!), farmers-training-farmers in Kenya (G-BIACK – Grow Biointensive Agricultural Centre of Kenya), and urban farmers and food justice activists of the black community in Detroit (DBCFSN – Detroit Black Community Food Security Network). CAGJ also collaborated with Witness for Peace and the WA Fair Trade Coalition to send its first ever food sovereignty delegation to Oaxaca. These activities (and the relationships built around them) have created spaces for envisioning alternatives to the industrial food system, sharing stories of resistance and change from communities around the world, taking inspiration from each other, and taking action together to confront corporate power with people-power. The second edition of CAGJ’s publication, Our Food, Our Right (which will be published in 2012), was written over the course of 2011 and drew deeply from the richness of these experiences, collaborations, and “Stories of Change” – the theme of the book.

CAGJ recognizes that strengthening solidarity and coordination across diverse issues and groups is increasingly necessary in making a better world for all into a reality. Together with our participation in several local, regional, and national coalitions – including the Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council, WA Fair Trade Coalition, WA Farmworker Coalition, Making Change at Walmart Coalition, National Family Farm Coalition, Community Food Security Coalition, and US Food Sovereignty Alliance – CAGJ members have attended conferences around the United States, networking and giving presentations as part of our movement-building efforts. Forging a united front has never been more important than now against the backdrop of resurging social movements met with repression. As CAGJ has articulated the connections between different struggles in our media and communications work this year, we have also staged and joined creative actions with allies in solidarity with immigrant rights (May Day march), farmers (street theatre on the International Day of Peasant Struggle), and food workers (Paid Sick Leave action) and in resistance to free trade (banner drop over I-5) and big agribusiness (protest at the Gates Foundation). Many of our press releases and demonstrations have received local, national, and international coverage, raising the profile of these issues and helping to shift public perception – particularly challenging the narrative that industrial agriculture and GMOs are needed to feed the world.

In addition to CAGJ’s external work, we dedicated a lot of time and energy toward our internal development in 2011. Through fun and community-building fundraising events – like our Food Justice Trivia Night, Café Justitia Dinner, Fair Trade for the Holidays, and 5th Annual SLEE Dinner – CAGJ was able to raise enough money to pay our director full-time for the first time in many years. We were also awarded grants that will support the community education trainings of the Food Justice Project and the work of the NW Farm Bill Action Network over the next year. Perhaps most importantly, CAGJ embarked on a multi-stage anti-oppression process that incorporated feedback from partner organizations, community members, and past and present CAGJ activists to better position anti-oppressive, anti-racist principles at the heart of our organizing for social justice.

2011 PROJECT REPORTS

Trade Justice in 2011

Working with the WA Fair Trade Coalition, CAGJ participated in multiple creative actions to achieve a more just trade policy in 2011. However, after years of delays, three so-called free trade agreements were brought to Congress by President Obama, whose chief agricultural negotiator used to be a Monsanto lobbyist, and were passed despite considerable skepticism about their benefits amongst the US public, and very strong opposition in partner countries - Panama, Colombia and South Korea. The agreement with South Korea is the biggest in terms of economic impact since NAFTA. CAGJ targeted Reps McDermott and Smith with creative actions at their office, and we hung a banner over I-5 on June 29th, the day we also carried out awesome street theater in downtown Seattle. Samuel Nderitu, G-BIACK, Honorable Mention Prize winner

“The Food Sovereignty Prize changed the face of G-BIACK after realizing that there are people who recognized our efforts as an organization that is helping poor communities to feed themselves. After receiving the award, the organization’s staff have become more energized and more focused and all are out to show the world that this award was real. We have received many visitors and we are hoping to have many more friends.”

Samuel Nderitu, G-BIACK, Honorable Mention Prize winner

2011 PROJECT REPORTS

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Seattle, warning passers-by that despite claims to the contrary, the 3 new trade agreements were not “shiny new cars”, but the same old destructive model. Throughout the summer, CAGJ volunteers collected hundreds of signatures at Farmers’ Markets and other events on a banner to McDermott reading “Free Trade Kills Farmers: Vote NO on US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement” which he did! We are proud to say that our banner hangs in McDermott’s Seattle office today. We hope this is a reminder to work for trade policy that benefits all farmers and people and the environment, everywhere. CAGJ also sent several members on a 2 week long delegation to Oaxaca Mexico, led by Witness for Peace and co-organized by WA Fair Trade Coalition. Delegates brought back stories and photos that help us appreciate the resilience of farmers in southern Mexico, 18 years post-NAFTA, and some of the reasons Mexicans have been forced to leave their communities to immigrate to the US where they face an increasingly harsh working environment. CAGJ marches in the May Day march every year to celebrate International Workers’ Day, and to honor immigrant workers here in the Northwest who are leading the struggle for a more dignified life.

AGRA Watch in 2011

AGRA Watch had a busy and productive year. We continued to increase our profile in expressing opposition to the Gates Foundation and AGRA – in Seattle, throughout the US, and around the globe. We succeeded in activating a network of scholars and activists interested in these issues through presentations and networking at conferences and other events. Examples of presentations include: Heather Day speaking on a panel with a representative of the Gates Foundation for the first time at the UW Hililel Hunger Banquet (March 3); Bill Aal presenting at the Green Festival with the Organic Consumers Alliance (May 21); and Janae Choquette presenting on the International Solidarity Panel at the Emerging Leaders Conference (May 21). In September, Phil Bereano and Bill Aal co-presented “The Gates Foundation’s Attack on Seed Sovereignty and Responses from the Ground” with Marcia Ishii-Eiteman of the Pesticide Action Network (PANNA) at the Justice Begins with Seed Conference in San Francisco. AGRA Watch also hosted a roundtable, “Challenging Philanthro-Capitalism: Alternative Solidarities and Critical Analyses of the Gates Foundation’s Green Revolution for Africa”, at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting on November 17. Our work was featured locally, nationally, and internationally in newspapers, blogs, press releases, oral presentations, and magazine articles. Of many examples, some of the most notable are: front page Seattle Times article “Could more-nutritious crops fight hunger?” by Sandi Doughton (August 7); a three part series on the Gates Foundation and AGRA Watch by Paul Haeder in the Down to Earth NW blog; several posts by Tom Paulson on the Humanosphere Blog, such as “Hunger Banquet and the Gates Foundation vs. food activists” (March 4) and “Post-party news at the new Gates Foundation campus – Bono drops by to say hi and activists drop in to protest” (June 6); Phil Bereano’s article in GeneWatch, “GM Alfalfa: An Uncalculated Risk” (March 12); and an April interview of Travis English and Heather Day by French television show, Envoye Special for a piece on Bill Gates and GMOs (aired in 2012). As part of our media strategy, we also reactivated the AGRA Watch blog and started the process of revamping our website.

We organized several events and actions throughout the year, including two study sessions based on our research into the science behind sustainable farming and new developments in the Gates Foundation’s agricultural programs. Such internal education efforts strengthened our collective analysis and deepened discussion around campaign strategy and messaging, while other events allowed us to engage with the general public. Our leafleting at the opening of the new Gates Foundation campus (June 4) generated lively discussion between AGRA Watch activists and attendees and raised greater awareness of these issues within the Seattle community.

AGRA Watch continued to build relationships with African activists and farmers, hosting and arranging speaking engagements for Fatou Batta, a leader of Groundswell International and the We Are the Solution! Campaign from Burkino Faso, and Samuel Nderitu (photo below) of the Grow Biointensive Agricultural Centre of Kenya (G-BIACK), one of our partner organizations. After nominating G-BIACK for the 2011 Food Sovereignty Prize,
they won Honorable Mention and Samuel presented on
their work to thousands of people at the Community
Food Security Coalition Conference in Oakland. We facili-
tated a farmer-to-farmer exchange and presentations to
the community and University of Washington when he
visited Seattle after the conference in November. We also
raised funds for the library of the Manor House Agricul-
tural College in Kenya.

Initial planning for a conference on the Gates Foun-
dation and African agriculture consumed a great deal of
our time in 2011, and this will continue to be a focus of
our work in 2012. So far, we have developed a proposal for
the conference (including objectives, themes, and over-
all vision) and begun to solicit support from national and
international partners.

**AGRA Watch in 2012**

The New Year is off to a great start with revived plan-
ing for our big conference on Gates/AGRA and African
resistance. PANNA has agreed to partner with us and
contributed funds towards hiring a coordinator, while
other major organizations have agreed to co-sponsor
the conference including Food First, Grassroots Interna-
tional and National Family Farm Coalition. We will ratchet
up the publicity challenging the Gates Foundation’s ac-
tivities in Africa and continue to work with other NGOs
against the GE industry; to this end, working with our
South African colleague Glenn Ashton, we have already
placed the first Op Ed in the Seattle Times critical of the
Gates Foundation’s work, which elicited a response from
them in the form of a Letter to the Editor – another first,
as they have never directly responded to us before. We
also co-organized a demonstration at their campus pro-
testing their ties to Monsanto as part of a global day of
action. Both the Op Ed and the demonstration received
world-wide publicity.

In 2012 we will continue to insure that the Gates
Foundation can no longer ignore us and our African col-
leagues. We will improve our press resources, the quality
of our webpage, and the reach of our blog. More inter-

nal education and participatory workshops have been
planned for the year on such topics as countering industry’s pro-GE arguments, recent Gates Foundation activi-
ties, and biopiracy. In order to build our capacity, we will
also concentrate on involving new people in our work
and growing our membership. Above all, we will contin-
ue to take advantage of “targets of opportunity” as they
come along.

“**What I like most about CAGJ is the way they have
taken a negative message - “no to corporate globaliza-
tion” - and turned it into a positive one - “yes to local
economies.”**”

*Jason Salvo, Local Roots Farm*

**Food Justice Project in 2011**

CAGJ’s Food Justice Project accomplished a lot in
2011, educating, informing, connecting, building solidar-
ity, and taking action to change our food system. Our
Teach-Outs and community education continued to
organize our members and communities to demand a
just, fair, healthy food system and envision how we can
get there. We amplified voices of allies and food justice
champions, supporting projects (through outreach and
getting our hands dirty!) locally that are growing, pro-
ducing, and realizing food justice in our communities,
and connecting that work to taking action for systemic
change.

The Food Justice Project worked diligently through-
out 2011 to compile an exciting second edition of Our
Food, Our Right. After months of outreach, writing, and
editing, the final manuscript for the second edition was
finalized in early 2012! Focusing on “stories of change”,
this edition will be published in time for the 2012 SLEE
dinner, and will focus on a multi-course offering of analy-
sis, recipes, essays, and profiles of some local farmers
growing for change. From the local to the global, and
dissolving the differences between the two, Our Food,
Our Right will cover local farmworker organizing cam-
paigns, young farmers, urban gardeners, organizing for
a just farm bill, domestic fair trade, trade justice, women
in food sovereignty, alternatives to the “Green Revolution”
in Africa, and more. Farmer profiles include Sue McGann
at Marra Farm, Sean Conroe at Alleycat Acres, Jason Salvo
and Siri Erickson-Brown at Local Roots Farm, Erick and
Wendy Haakenson at Jubilee Biodynamic Farm, Chandler
Briggs at Island Meadow Farm, and Lottie Cross at Clean
Greens Farm. Don’t miss lots of tasty recipes and DIY skills
to grow and eat your own food, along with a foreword by
author and activist Raj Patel! You can see the full table of

Teach-Outs in 2011 included visits to five food and
farm projects in the Seattle area. We visited Central Co-
op, Cascadian Edible Landscapes, the annual Spring into
Bed event at Seattle Youth Garden Works, Clean Green Farm, and Tacoma HUG - Hilltop Urban Agriculture. Our 2011 Teach-Outs helped members get to know multiple parts of our food system – urban growers, rural farmers and producers, programs and education for underserved communities or those facing barriers to farming and healthy food, and co-operative retail. Dozens of participants got educated and supported these allied projects through sweat equity. Each Teach-Out was paired with a political action to make our voices heard for food system change.

2011 also included the launch and grant funding for our Community Education work. We're developing a series of presentations around various themes, and in 2011 we worked to collect past workshop materials we've put together, distilled those themes and focus on specific areas, began determining content and talking points, and developed a plan to compile and finish presentation modules on themes with community involvement, along with training for speakers and presenters in 2012.

We also supported and involved our members in multiple campaigns throughout the year, including the UW student-led campaign to Kick Out Sodexo, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) Campaign for Fair Food, and the National Family Farm Coalition. At CAGJ's annual SLEE dinner and after, we supported the multi-sector effort to protect workers' rights and pass an ordinance in Seattle that would mandate most employers to give their workers some form of paid sick leave. CAGJ also continues to participate in crafting local food policy through the Regional Food Policy Council, including the development of an Equity subcommittee to focus on issues of justice, inclusion, and representation in our food system. We look forward to continue to bring an anti-oppression, global solidarity, and alternative food economy framework to these discussions in 2012.

Food Justice Project in 2012

The year ahead looks to be an exciting year. The second publication of Our Food, Our Right will be complete and published in the summer! Our Teach-Outs will continue as well, with a renewed focus on putting our politics into practice, educating about food systems on the ground, as well as intentionally tracking where we have been, who we are supporting, and how well we are engaging the community.

In 2011, much time was spent on the early phases of a community education curriculum. This focus came about as we are often asked to speak about global food justice issues at conferences, events, and classes. A second piece of the plan is to provide training in presenting the curriculum for CAGJ members and other interested individuals. This year, increased focus has been given to this project as we utilize this project to actively engage and sustain a broader base of volunteers and further develop and empower individuals as leaders – a core principle of CAGJ. We hope that later this year the Food Justice Project will be launching this project to a wider public! We’ll also make resources available online.

FJP will also continue its work to support and mobilize for action on campaigns and issues in the food movement here and abroad. Our work will include political action for worker and immigrant rights, countering the free trade agenda, education about race, class and gender in the food system, supporting community-based food systems, and more!

Report on Membership Committee

In the past year, the Membership Committee has been focused on how we educate and activate people to engage in CAGJ's organizing. We're working on finalizing a membership packet that informs people of all of CAGJ's programs, and gives transparency to CAGJ's structure and decision-making process. Working as Membership Co-chair for CAGJ, my job is to recruit, involve, and build the leadership of volunteers. I aim to build teams, inspire others to develop their own leadership capacities, and foster collaboration. I urge people to volunteer and become members with my cheerful membership pitches and exuberant e-mails, calling for helping hands with a special event. This constant contact encourages participation, provides opportunities for leadership and relationship building, and reminds all of how members and volunteers add value to our alliance.

"CAGJ is a vibrant community that helps us to imagine what more just and sustainable food and trade systems should embody. This important work will lead to the creation of local economies that function more equitably on behalf of all community members."

Steve Lansing, UFCW Local 21
Become a member of CAGJ if you want to:

- Support and be a part of grassroots organizing
- Become a leader who enacts social change in your community
- Collaborate with those who share your interests in strategies for community empowerment and sustainable food systems
- Help strengthen local economies everywhere
- Transform the industrial, corporate-driven food systems and promote existing alternatives as we join the global struggle for food sovereignty for all!

The benefits of CAGJ membership

“As a member of CAGJ, I am gaining the ability to communicate a strategy for advancing social justice, including analyzing how systems of privilege and oppression create inequalities in the food system. This year, I traveled with CAGJ to the Community Food Security Coalition Conference in Oakland. This event introduced me to leaders in the food movement, including small-scale farmers from Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, and the US. By participating in the 2011 Teach-Outs, I learned first hand how smallholders in Seattle enact food sovereignty. This insight inspires me to challenge the neoliberal assault of our food and farming systems. I believe that the ways in which we produce, distribute, and consume food are essential factors affecting our self-identity and the empowerment of our communities. Thus, I work for CAGJ, or rather, CAGJ works for me.”

—Chelsea Eickert, Membership Co-Chair

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Marina Skumanich
Viki Sontag

Director
Heather English Day

Annual Report team
Bill Aal
Janae Choquette
Chelsea Eickert
Chris Iberle
Eric Menninga
Reid Mukai
Laura Titzer

Total expenses: $82,010

$38,172 — Personnel
$26,897 — Organizing
$8,551 — Admin
$1,488 — Computers
$6,902 — Fundraising

2011 Actuals: $92,799

$28,550 — Major Donors
$28,050 — SLEE Dinner
$15,200 — Sustaining Memberships
$14,092 — Grants
$608 — Annual Memberships
$1,200 — In-kind Donations
$767 — Misc.
$1,488 — Computers
$2,429 — Fair Trade Merchandise
$608 — Annual Memberships
$14,092 — Grants
$28,050 — SLEE Dinner
$15,200 — Sustaining Memberships
$608 — Annual Memberships
$1,200 — In-kind Donations
$767 — Misc.
$1,488 — Computers
$2,429 — Fair Trade Merchandise
$28,550 — Major Donors

As Coalition of Imakolee Workers say, Consciousness + Commitment = Change! Commit to becoming a member today or renew your membership by returning the enclosed card or joining online: www.seattleglobaljustice.org/get-involved/become-a-member/
Thank you to our 2011 SLEE Funders!

Central Co-op
Margie Roswell
Satterberg Foundation
Stansbury Family Foundation

Thank you to our 2011 SLEE Farm & Food Donors!

**Food Justice Urban Hike-a-Thon!**

**Saturday April 28**

10am – 3pm Hike from ID to Madison Valley

3pm – 5pm Celebration at MLK Community Center:

**32nd and Republican in Madison Valley**

**Come by even if you didn’t hike!**

Fundraiser for 2nd Edition of “Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice”? Support CAGJ’s Community Supported Publishing Campaign! We need your help to raise $5,000 to design and print our book with the quality necessary to distribute to libraries, book-sellers & food justice organizers throughout the land.

The Hike-a-Thon is a Food Justice walking tour from CAGJ’s office in the International District through the Central District to Madison Valley! Discover your foodshed by foot, and raise funds for the 2nd edition of CAGJ’s **Our Food, Our Right** publication – see the Table of Contents on CAGJ’s website! There will be lots of surprises and discoveries, and even ways to make your voice heard for food justice along the way. **Bring your knapsack, walking stick, and hiking shoes!**

**Featured Hike-a-Thon partners:** Danny Woo Community Garden, GroundUP Organics, Green Plate Special, 41 Legs Urban Farm.

Register as an Individual solo hiker or to Start a Team of hikers:

All hikers (solo individuals and hikers on a team) pledge to raise $50 to support **Our Food, Our Right**’s publication by asking their friends, family, co-workers, and community to donate just $5, or $10, or $15, or more to support great work.

[www.crowdrise.com/cagjhike](http://www.crowdrise.com/cagjhike)

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere Dinner**

**July 14, 2012**