

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE









Shaping CAGJ's Future

In 2024, much of CAGJ's time was directed at determining our path forward as we prepared for Heather to step down from her long-term role as executive director. There was much deliberation from the Steering Committee and other leaders as well as a meeting in September with the CAGJ community. Out of this came the new structure of a CAGJ Board and Volunteer Collective – in some ways, a return to our roots! This is a very exciting time to get involved – both the board and Volunteer Collective would appreciate additional members. CAGJ has so many relationships and so much history to build upon and is also very open to ideas, so new members can help shape the future of CAGJ based on their skills and what inspires them.

CAGJ's Volunteer Collective had its first meeting in January. While the board ensures basic functions and CAGJ's financial health, the Volunteer Collective leads our organizing for food sovereignty, both supporting our long-time partners and exploring new work. The AGRA Watch committee also continues to organize in solidarity with the African food sovereignty movement and usually meets in the morning so that Matt Canfield can participate from his home in Amsterdam!

It is more important than ever that we come together with the Trump Administration "flooding the zone" through daily attacks on immigrants, workers, free speech, and equity, to name just a few. Those of us who believe in justice may not have more money or more political power, but we have strength from integrity and the power of the people. In these uncertain and tumultuous times we hope you will find a place to bring your unique skills to collaborate with others on the path to a better world.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the restructuring process, especially long-time Steering Committee members Rachel Hoversland, Bill Aal, and Micah Orieta; and Webster Walker, who has graciously agreed to continue as our Board President.

In addition to Webster, the Board currently has two other members: long-time CAGJ member Karen Cowgill who serves as the Secretary, and Theresa Gilbert who serves as the Treasurer. Theresa is new to CAGJ and quickly coming up to speed on our deep history. Heather remains involved in board meetings to ensure a smooth transition, while CAGJ's Operations Goddess (aka Sara Lavenhar) continues in her part-time role, supporting the board and bookkeeper to maintain day-to-day functioning.

Finally, we would like to thank Heather. She has brought so much passion and commitment to CAGJ over the years and built a culture that truly values relationships and connections in addition to all the important work that CAGJ does to strengthen the global food sovereignty movement. Though she is working only part-time for CAGJ at this time, she continues to give so much energy and we are grateful to everything she has done to set CAGJ up for a successful transition.

We hope to see you at one of our monthly Volunteer Collective meetings – please reach out with any questions!

In solidarity! Webster, Karen & Theresa

Campaigns

Indigenous Food Sovereignty



Victory: We blocked GE Salmon!

Following decades of controversy, widespread market rejection, and legal and regulatory challenges, U.S.-based biotechnology and aquaculture company AquaBounty Technologies announced in December 2024 that it would stop production of all genetically engineered (GE) AquAdvantage® salmon, cull all its remaining fish, and close its last working facility. This is an incredible victory on an issue we have worked on for a long time, with so many amazing partners, including the Quinault Indian Nation, Block Corporate Salmon, Friends of the Earth, Earthjustice, Center for Food Safety and North American Marine Alliance (NAMA). The fight against GE animals started over two decades ago. We've stopped the first attempt to bring a GE animal to the market in the US! BRAVO to everyone who has worked so hard for the past three decades! Check out the campaign celebration gallery on CAGJ's website: cagj.org/2025/02/victory-against-ge-salmon/

The struggle isn't over: Cooke Aquaculture—which was responsible for the 2017 net pen disaster in the Puget Sound—purchased AquaBounty's Canadian facilities, though the company claims it has no plans to farm or sell genetically engineered seafood products. While AquaBounty doesn't have any working facilities, it's still pushing to build a pair of pipelines and obtain a sewage-discharge permit in Ohio. There is strong grassroots resistance and a legal battle that may go all the way to Ohio's Supreme Court! Block Corporate Salmon continues to monitor closely and is preparing for the next phase of action to protect wild salmon.

A Growing Culture and Block Corporate Salmon collaborated in 2024 on a series of educational posts on Salmon People and the risks of genetically engineered salmon that are gathered together with beautiful original art in a new Zine entitled Honoring Salmon, Honoring Life. The intention of this collaboration was to lift up important voices that have played a key role in stewarding the restoration of Wild Salmon habitat and to continue to raise awareness about the dangers of genetically engineered salmon. Get a copy from CAGJ, or read it online!



Farmworker Justice







Left: Heather Day & UFCW organizer Faviola Lopez, Tribunal judges. Right: Marching for Farmworker Justice in Skagit Valley, WA

In January 2024, Heather Day was honored to be invited to hear Farmworker testimony as a judge at the 11th annual Farmworker Tribunal organized by Community to Community Development with Familias Unidas por la Justicia Farmworker union (FUJ). Tribunals are an organizing model seen around the world where those who have otherwise been silenced by governments and other institutions with power create a platform to speak and be heard. Every year farmworkers tell their own stories to their lawmakers in our state capitol, and appeal to them to support their legislative priorities. Health, self-determination, and representation are the three pillars of the farmworker community's demands.

During the 2024 legislative session, farmworkers were fighting to protect the groundbreaking overtime law passed the previous year, which growers threatened to overturn. Farmworkers also achieved a major victory when their bill directing the state to track the impacts of the H-2A program on working conditions and wages in WA state was signed into law. This victory is important not only for farmworkers in WA, but also serves as model legislation and inspiration for farmworkers across the country as they continue to advocate for self-determination, job stability, and fair wages.

CAGJ joined the annual **May Day Farmworker March** in Skagit County in 2024, which visited the beautiful tulip fields where the workers who tend the flowers often face terrible working conditions. After farmworkers appealed to FUJ for support, they were able to earn respect for basic human rights like access to drinking water and toilets. They're still struggling for fair wages and 40 hour work weeks!

Free Lelo!

Trump's draconian and brutal regime has targeted a beloved Farmworker leader, Alfredo Juarez. Known as Lelo, he has joined his family in union organizing activities since he was twelve years old, and has become an important voice for justice in FUJ. In March 2025, ICE violently attacked Lelo as he was dropping his wife off at work, and has since detained him at the notoriously awful Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Lelo had given testimony at the state capitol against the H-2A guest worker program, which displaces local immigrant farmworkers, just a few days before his arrest.

Follow C2C (@foodjusticec2c) and FUJ (@fujwashington)!



Campaigns

Food Worker Justice Victory: We stopped the merger!



CAGJ celebrated an incredible victory with grocery worker union UFCW 3000 when the proposed megamerger of Kroger and Albertsons was rejected by multiple court rulings! In September we rallied with UFCW workers and Attorney General (now Governor) Bob Ferguson, who spoke just before entering the court to bring new charges to stop the merger. After a federal judge and a King County judge in Washington state rejected the mega-merger in mid-December, Albertsons announced they were terminating all efforts to complete the merger! It is critical that we continue to fight the increase of grocery monopolies across the US, which leads to higher prices for customers, layoffs for employees, and the loss of markets for farmers and suppliers. We thank UFCW members for leading this important struggle.

Thanks to CAGJ's Organizers!

CAGJ's work for food justice could not happen without the support of our hardworking organizers! Sara Lavenhar holds it all together, wearing many hats as CAGJ's Operations Goddess, and providing essential support to CAGJ's Executive Director, Heather Day. We are grateful to sisters Erika & Johanna Lundahl who launched our SLEE Dinner organizing, which was expertly coordinated through October by Sept Gernez.

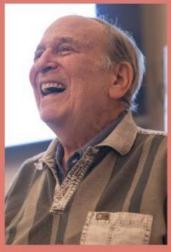




Left:: Heather Day & Sara Lavenhar tabling at NW FolkLife Right: Johanna & Erika Lundahl at CAGJ's Summer Picnic

AGRA Watch







AGRA Watch members enjoying SLEE: Phil Bereano (top) & Webster Walker (bottom)

CAGJ's AGRA Watch program continues to meet regularly (gathering volunteers from Amsterdam to Seattle via Zoom) and convene allies on a monthly basis from across the US, Europe, and Africa to determine the best strategies for strengthening networks of solidarity with the African Food Sovereignty movement. We develop joint research and actions which culminate in an annual press conference and publicity campaign in September to protest AGRA's corporate agriculture conference in Africa. This effort was particularly powerful in 2024. (AGRA was formerly known as Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, until they decided to drop the controversial term "green revolution" from their name in 2022. It is funded primarily by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.)

In August, faith leaders working with **Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI), announced that they had sent a letter to the Gates Foundation demanding reparations** "for causing extensive damage to Africa's food systems with its aggressive push for industrialized agriculture, much of it under the banner of AGRA (formerly the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)". This was the first call for reparations from the Foundation by any organization.

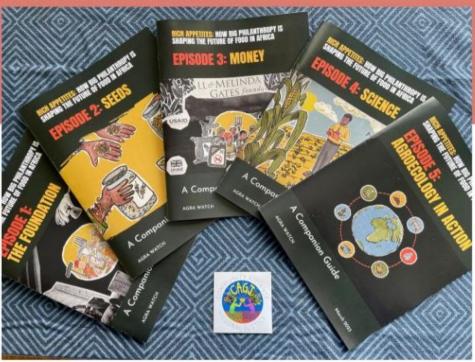
SAFCEI's call for justice was amplified by our jointly organized press conference (held virtually, with media attending from across Africa as well as other locales), putting critical voices front and center in the media just as AGRA launched its 'Africa Food Systems Forum'. Simultaneously, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) released a briefing paper entitled, "Pulling Back the Veil: AGRA's Influence on Africa's Agricultural Policies," which exposes how AGRA uses strategic financial backing and embedding of consultants in government institutions to entrench industrial models detrimental to farmers. CAGJ is a Friends of AFSA member.

The Gates Foundation has yet to respond adequately to SAFCEI; thus, the pressure campaign continues. AGRA Watch will hold a webinar with SAFCEI organizer Gabriel Manyangadze in the Spring of 2025 (keep an eye out for the date!), entitled Reappraising the Gates Foundation 25 Years Later: Toward Reparations and Redistribution, to highlight the role of Bill Gates and the Foundation in the changing political landscape. While tech billionaires like Elon Musk are reshaping our world, the model for this undemocratic rule was established by Bill Gates who, for more than two decades, has normalized the role of billionaires as legitimate policymakers. The webinar will bring together leaders from education, public health, and agriculture to critically assess the Gates Foundation's legacy and strategize ways to challenge the power of extreme tech wealth. The moderator will be journalist Tim Schwab, whom we hosted at Town Hall Seattle in 2023 to discuss his powerful investigation, "The Bill Gates Problem: Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire".



We continue to promote our short film series, "Rich Appetites: How Big Philanthropy is Shaping the Future of Food in Africa", and we're seeking funds to translate the films into more languages. The Companion Guides are always popular when we table in the community! Watch all five films online for free, and please share widely: www.richappetitesfilm.com/

AGRA Watch member Matt Canfield recently participated in a strategy session, Shifting Financial Power: Defunding Industrial Agriculture, Redirecting Funds to Agroecology, that was organized by AFSA in Nairobi, Kenya; it was great to connect with many of our friends and colleagues! He continues his research as faculty at Leiden University about how the digitalization of food systems is shaping food sovereignty in Kenya, as well as the role of the Gates Foundation. He recently received a grant to extend his study to compare implementation in India and Colombia to Kenya. In April, Matt collaborated with the Biodiversity and Biosafety Network of Kenya (BIBA Kenya) and the Africa Technology Assessment Platform (AfriTAP) to publish their joint research, "Connecting Communities or Corporations? Digital Agriculture, Data Harvests, and Food Sovereignty in Kenya".





Community Education



Embracing LOVE in the Food System!

During the Spring of 2024, CAGJ and Everyone's Food Sovereignty Alliance (EFSA) co-hosted an eight-week intensive designed to reimagine the food system through the lens of food sovereignty. "Embracing LOVE in the Food System" was created by long-time CAGJ Member Megumi Sugihara, who recently founded EFSA in Olympia, WA. The program offers carefully curated reading and video materials introduced weekly for self-paced learning, with in-person skill-building workshops on the weekends. The in-person gatherings are an interactive co-learning space that include facilitated conversation on the theme of the week and a hands-on workshop. Olympia's participants had a fabulous experience, and continue to meet regularly a year later! Megumi would love to offer a hybrid program in Seattle (in-person/online); get in touch if you're interested!

In May, we launched **Food for Thought: A Book Club for Anti-Corporate Food Systems!** We focused on themes related to our campaigns, including corporate control, destructive philanthropy, and people's movements in resistance. CAGJ members facilitated discussions about a rich selection of books, including *The Bill Gates Problem: Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire*, by Tim Schwab, and *Translating Food Sovereignty: Cultivating Justice in an Age of Transnational Governance*, by CAGJ's own Matt Canfield. Let us know if you'd like to be part of the book club in 2025!

In the past year, we've been excited to help dream up the **Kuleana Corridor, an initiative of Northwest Folklife**, a music festival attended by 250,000 people every year over Memorial Day weekend at Seattle's Pacific Science Center. Folklife curator Ben Hunter had the vision to incorporate food sovereignty into the festival as an essential part of folk culture. We reached out to hundreds of passers-by at our table in 2024, where we focused on raising awareness about the African Food Sovereignty movement's rejection of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which is located just across the street from the festival venue. In 2025 we're excited to see an expanded space, with more organizations participating and a celebration of the Salmon People with whom we fought to defeat GE salmon.

In August, we had a blast at our **Food Justice Picnic**, an opportunity to relax, connect, and refresh ourselves with delicious food and drink. We were transported to another world through the musical performances of Erika Lundahl and Inland Seaway. Huge appreciation to picnic organizer Johanna Lundahl, who stumped and delighted guests with her brilliantly designed Foraging for Justice Scavenger Hunt! Many guests enthusiastically played Jenga and Food Justice Bingo, searching for plants in the P-Patch and learning about what food sovereignty meant to each other.

WTO +25: Keeping Seattle's Protest Legacy Alive

Twenty-six years ago, a global movement called "Globalize Liberation, Not Corporate Power" successfully took mass direct action to shut down the World Trade Organization in Seattle on November 30, 1999. Out of that powerful week of protest, CAGJ was born. Thanks to Seattle's Museum of History and (MOHAI), Industry we've created multiple opportunities for Seattlelites to learn from the inspiring legacy of the WTO protests. MOHAI's exhibit, "Teamsters, Turtles, and Beyond: The Legacy of the Seattle WTO Protests" opened on the 25th anniversary of the Battle in Seattle - Nov. 30th, 2024. In early 2025, CAGJ co-hosted an interactive WTO story-telling event featuring one of the luminaries of the global justice movement, Walden Bello!

In April, we co-organized the weekend-long Art & Revolution Convergence with arts organizers David Solnit, Dana Schuerholz, and Jo Redline Christian, starting with a hands-on workshop at MOHAI after which participants created a beautiful community mural in South Seattle reading "Fund Communities, Not War!" The next day, 60 people gathered at Vashon Green School to learn how to use art to invigorate activism and organizing with creative signage, puppets, theater, poetry, and more. Farmworkers, Salmon solidarity activists, and CAGJ members were among the participants; we all came away feeling great hope and possibility!

On a beautiful Spring morning, Heather Day led the **WTO Protest Walking Tour** of downtown Seattle, which led directly into the huge Hands Off! Rally at Pacific Science Center. We will likely host more tours in the future – we are dedicated to keeping Seattle's protest legacy alive in the fight for a fairer global economy.

National Family Farm Coalition recently invited Heather to speak about the Battle in Seattle, giving several members the opportunity to tell their stories of representing farmers and fishers that historic week in 1999. Trade Justice is one of NFFC's priorities, and it's vital to connect today's work to this collective movement history.

Strengthening our Food Sovereignty Movement

In addition to our solidarity campaigns, CAGJ continued to participate in multiple movement spaces in 2024, including National Family Farm Coalition, US Food Sovereignty Alliance, and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa.

We started building new movement synergies through our participation in the gathering of NADAWG, the **North American Digital Agriculture Working Group**, on a farm in California. NADAWG is a coalition of civil society activists, researchers, food system workers, and funders exploring alternative agricultural futures. It began in late 2021 to develop a space for close collaboration among North American allies tackling corporate-led farm technology and lifting up worker-centric technology.

AGRA Watch is particularly interested in collaborating with NADAWG on strategies to confront the Gates Foundation's role in promoting digital agriculture: look for a webinar on this topic later in 2025! We continued to host monthly organizing meetings with AFSA - Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa - along with several US and European allies, with whom we strategize on joint research and campaign initiatives.

Every year CAGJ, as a member of **US Food Sovereignty Alliance**, helps to organize the **Food Sovereignty Prize**. For sixteen years, the prize has been given annually to one domestic and one international organization advancing food sovereignty. The 2024 Prize was awarded to the **Little Village Environmental Justice Organization** (LVEJO) in Chicago and **La Via Campesina – Arab Region and North Africa** (LVC ArNA), with members in Sudan, Mauritania, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, and Tunisia. This award is especially poignant this year amid intense global strife. The ongoing assaults in Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon, and elsewhere reveal how withholding access to food and farmland is wielded as a weapon of war and oppression. The peoples and resistance movements within these regions have demonstrated remarkable courage and resilience. For those facing violent attacks, food sovereignty transcends mere survival and represents a vital means of self-determination and justice.

In early 2025 Heather participated in the annual "fly-in" to the nation's capital organized by **National Family Farm Coalition**. She joined ranchers and the captain of a shrimping boat from New Orleans to lobby Congressmembers to pass Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling for American beef – thousands of small-scale ranching operations are being put out of business due to an unfair WTO ruling and Congress not acting to protect them. This is one of many issues NFFC is advocating for in the push for a new Farm Bill, but it's unclear when that might be introduced, given the chaos of the current administration.







Left: North American Digital Agriculture Working Group in CA. Right: National Family Farm Coalition Fly-in, in DC.

Event (SLEE) Income 7.8% Grants 28.1% Contributions 47.7% Sustainers 16.1% **Expenses Fundraising** 6% Financials Admin 23% Organizing Personnel 6% 65%

Income

Fundraising Event	\$9,606
Contributions	\$58,632
Sustainers	\$19,713
Grants	\$34,500
Merchandise	\$405
Total Income:	\$122,856

Expenses

Personnel	\$96,218
Organizing	\$9,120
Admin	\$34,247
Fundraising	\$9,142
Total Expenses:	\$148,727

Beginning Balance: \$59,455 Ending Balance: \$33,584



Finances & Fundraising

We are so grateful to CAGJ's Members who continue to generously support Food Sovereignty organizing - we could not do it without you! Special thanks to our major donors and members who make annual Matching Grants for Membership Month. Huge thanks to our Monthly Sustainers - over 70 of them! And thanks to the brave funders who make grants to CAGJ despite - or because of - our critique of Gates and philanthrocapitalism: UFCW 3000, Satterberg Foundation, Stansbury Family Foundation and Seymour and Sylvia Rothchild Family Foundation. We also want to acknowledge the many many donors too numerous to name here who make SLEE a successful annual fundraiser. Every food donation, silent auction item, dessert, and ticket makes a difference.

CAGJ's 18th SLEE Dinner on October 19th was a fantastic gathering. It was nourishing as always to come together, have fun, and engage in thought-provoking conversations. We felt a renewed sense of hope and connection, needed now more than ever. To celebrate CAGJ's legacy and impact, four members shared some of their CAGJ stories at SLEE: Phil Bereano, Chris Iberle, Lisa Colligan, and Emily Reilly. Seeing the room so full of generous people working together to make the world a better place was truly inspiring. With everyone's support, we raised critical funds to continue our work for food justice and food sovereignty!

Thank you to everyone who makes CAGJ's organizing for a better world possible!

Anne Tobin

Maria Tomchick

Emily Tormey

Antonio Tovar

Lauren Tozzi

Shannon Tyman

Elisabetta Valenti

Amy Truax

Atta Ul Haq

MEMBERS Danielle Abbott Rico Abrams Niveditha Achanta Zimyl Adler Marlene & Marc Adler Hayden Agnew-Wieland Charles Anavawa Molly Anderson Hester Angus Cadmus Atake-Enade Marc Auerbach James Austin Hossein Avazi Erica Bacon Gilbert Bakirwens Neil Banas Johanna Bandler Susan Banks Bob Barnes Dana Barnett Carino Barragan Leigh Barrick Mariann Bassey Kristen Beifus Michelle Benetua Philip Bereano Mauricio Berho Jonathan Betz-Zall Rebecca Borders Violet Borders Carolyn Boyle Alanna & Brett Boynton Mette Brogden Susan Brower Alaina Brown Jonathan Brown Emma Buktenica Dacia Burley Dina Burstein Ruth Callard Peri Caylor John Chapman Susan Chin Janae Choquette Amber Christiansen Youjin Chung Gboungue Clamoungou Emma Coopersmith Elaine Corets Valerie Costa Karen Cowgill Shelby Cramer Julie Creahan Tiffany Crosby Barbara Culp Bill Daniell Charles Davis Heather Day Moira Day Timothy Day Greg Deer Mary Pat DiLeva Ross Doll Niaz Dorry Jill Dowling Sol Dressa Elan Ebeling Mandy Edwards Adrienne Elliott Mark & Julene English

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Eric Feise

Ashley Fent

Patricia Fink

Willow Fox

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Abraham Flaxman Brynnen Ford

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Laura Titzer

Megumi Sugihara

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CAGJ was deeply saddened to lose a vital member of our community in November 2024, Elaine Nonneman. A leader in advancing feminist civil society organizations around the world, she will be deeply missed.





Get involved and stay connected in 2025!

CAGJ is run by our volunteer members and there are many ways to plug in!

- Join CAGJ's Volunteer Collective! We currently meet at 6:30PM on the 3rd Monday/month
- Become a Member by donating or just complete our online form!
- CAGJ is seeking members who want to join our board to build a strong, resilient organization
- Volunteer for events, projects, or at our Beacon Hill office
- Stay connected: Sign up for CAG's monthly email newsletter and project listservs
- Follow CAGJ and AGRA Watch on Instagram, Facebook & Bluesky @cagjseattle/@agrawatch



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