Many people look back at 2016 as a year of upsets - namely, Brexit and the election of Donald Trump. In the US election, our neighbors, co-workers, peers, and family members were faced with choices, and made decisions that unveiled the deep racism, sexism, and bigotry still present in our national and local communities.

To some, these events have been painfully surprising, but for many of us, this is not new. Before the election, our communities of color have suffered from explicit and systemic forms of violence. Our gender queer friends and family have feared for their safety to walk down our streets. Our immigrant and refugee peers in school and work have not been welcome into so many of our civic institutions. These real, experienced day-to-day burdens are amplified now, causing White America to notice this suffering on an unprecedented scale.

This should cause each of us, as an advocate for justice, to truly question our role in this work. Are we building an inclusive movement? Are we organizing in ways that authentically support those burdened by our lifestyle and political system? Are we institutionalizing new ways to re-distribute resources? How can we love more, and use that love to build power?

For CAGJ, what are our lessons learned? How can we, as a global-local food sovereignty organization, recognize our role in building the movement that we need?

Last year, CAGJ leaders and volunteers took pragmatic steps to broaden our scope while sticking to our values. We are white-led, and are working to build an anti-racist and anti-oppressive organization. We do this through our solidarity campaigns: we listen to communities most impacted by an issue, and bolster their organizing by following their lead and taking action in ways they need us to.

In 2016 we celebrated the victory of Familias Unidas por La Justicia, an inspiring group of farmworkers in Skagit Valley, who CAGJ supported for four years while they waged a campaign for union recognition and a just and safe work environment. We rallied with union grocery-workers in their struggle to prevent anti-union stores from expanding in our region. We amplified the call of Coast Salish tribes who oppose the introduction of genetically engineered salmon into our food system.

In the fall, we were honored to co-host the Food Sovereignty Prize here in Seattle with Community to Community Development based in Bellingham. Winners this year included the Farmworker Association of Florida and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, which gave AGRA Watch an opportunity to amplify the voices of our African partners. Through building a shared analysis, demonstrating at the Gates Foundation headquarters, and earning local media about the prize, CAGJ helped challenge mainstream thinking about the World Food Prize and its corporate-led definitions for success.

As we move forward in 2017, we hope to build more opportunities for you to get involved, build new relationships, and forge genuine connections to inform and deepen your own commitment to this work. 2016 should be a lesson to all of us that we need to broaden our understanding of the breadth and depth of the work ahead. We need to listen more to the communities most burdened, build our own capacity for empathy and love, and challenge ourselves to get involved in more meaningful and creative ways.

Join us in building a movement in which our communities do not need a terrifying election outcome to get energized for change. CAGJ will be there to support you, and challenge you, to be a better champion for justice and our food sovereignty movement. We know we need to get this right. Here’s looking forward to building this movement, not out of fear of what’s at stake, but out of what is to be gained when we share power and love more.
Educating and Mobilizing for Trade Justice

- In 2016 we continued to connect the dots between trade justice and food sovereignty through a variety of educational efforts.
- Interns Jordan Beaudry and Lauren Taylor launched a webinar on our website in January called “Linking Food Justice to Trade Policy”, an in-depth look at both the TPP and T-TIP.
- We held several educational meetings with local food justice groups, including Seattle Tilth, Sno-Valley Tilth, Lettuce Link, and Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council.
- We co-drafted a TPP petition to WA State Reps with 350.org on behalf of “Food Lovers, Farmers, Retailers and Food Organizations”, and through concerted outreach we achieved our goal of 500 signers!
- The petition was delivered to all of WA Reps in meetings coordinated by 350.org, which CAGJ supported by organizing farmers and food justice advocates to participate and voice their concerns.

Another Food System is Possible!

In March, CAGJ organized a well attended event - Another Food System is Possible! But not with the TPP! - to highlight the impact of the TPP on food and agriculture, with invited speakers from Community to Community, Got Green, 350.org and WA Fair Trade Coalition.

TPP Is Dead

During the lame duck session that followed the presidential election, the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) was officially nixed in Congress and declared a dead trade deal. This was an achievement of the long-term organizing by a broad international coalition opposing the failed model of “free trade” that increases profits at the expense of workers, consumers, farmers and the environment. **Before the TPP was over with, we gave a final push to Representatives to come out in opposition:**

- In August, we tabled at the Rock Against the TPP concert at the Showbox.
- We produced a beautiful poster outlining our concerns as a community committed to building food sovereignty, and signed on behalf of the hundreds of people who came to our July SLEE dinner, shown in photo.
- The poster was hand-delivered to Rep. Kilmer by CAGJ interns at a SustainUS action in Tacoma in November, and sent by mail and social media to the entire delegation.

“CAGJ has been a strong, long-time leader in trade justice work, and was an indispensable partner in the successful fight to stop the TPP, building a deeper understanding in Washington State of how trade policy and food policy are intertwined.”

-- Gillian Locasio, Executive Director, WA Fair Trade Coalition

Looking forward in 2017

In the months that have followed the election, concerns have grown about what strategy the current administration will pursue to replace the TPP and NAFTA. Is their goal to further corporate interests and deregulate global business? Or could this be an opportunity to replace neoliberal trade deals that have incentivized offshore jobs and investor-state attacks on environmental, health, and other public interest policies?

Now is a moment to present a clear, inspiring vision of trade that puts people and the planet first. CAGJ is committed to strategizing with the Washington Fair Trade Coalition and others on what goes on the agenda to uphold the public interest and prioritize labor rights, human rights, public health, food access, and climate change. With increased targeting, detaining, and deporting of immigrants, we will work for migrant justice in the food system. We stand in solidarity with those most impacted by harmful trade deals, and will work to ensure trade policy works for all of us.
Educate for Action

- Gave workshops at local high schools, including University Prep with whom we have partnered for several years, and Rainer Beach during their 2nd annual Building Leaders of Change event.
- Hosted a day-long Teach-Out with Hilltop Urban Gardens in Tacoma, the farm whose founder, Dean Jackson, was featured as the keynote at the 2015 SLEE Dinner.
- Partnered with Professor and longtime CAGJ member Shannon Tyman for her Food Justice course at UW Bothell. Shannon’s students read CAGJ’s book, Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice, observed and received a training from CAGJ on how to give an educational workshop, and then developed their own workshops focused on the intersections of climate and food justice, which they presented to community groups at the end of the quarter.

Looking forward in 2017

- We are partnering with Valerie Segrest of the Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project and documentarian Katie Jennings of New Canoe Media to create a short call-to-action educational film about the issues of GE salmon.
- A campaign to pass a State Resolution in WA that opposes the FDA’s approval of GE salmon and calls on congress to require labeling.
- We are launching a 6-session Summer School from June-August to explore local and global food sovereignty issues and social movements. Each month will include a field trip. Topics will focus on the impact of colonization of indigenous food and waterways; the impact of Japanese internment on wealth and land distribution; and patterns of migration created by current agricultural systems in the US and globally.
Solidarity Campaigns

Local Food Producer Solidarity with Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project

- Building on our successful campaign to pressure Costco to not sell GE salmon, in 2016 CAGJ began collaborating with Valerie Segrest of Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project to raise awareness about Northwest tribal relationships to salmon, and the potential cultural, economic, and ecological impacts at stake if GE salmon goes to market. We received a $5,000 grant from the Muckleshoot Tribe to support this work.
- We organized a Wild Salmon Cook-Out on March 11, 2017 at wǝʔabʔaltxʷ Intellectual House, the new longhouse on UW’s campus. Over 200 participants learned about how GE salmon threatens a cultural and ecological keystone species in our region by listening to story-teller Roger Fernandes and speakers from Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project, Loki Fish Co. and Earthjustice. The event received major news coverage!

"The Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project appreciates CAGJ’s dedication to food sovereignty and security efforts in the Pacific Northwest, and are very enthusiastic to be partners on important issues such as GE Salmon."

-- Valerie Segrest, Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project

Farmworker Solidarity with Familias Unidas por la Justicia and Community to Community

Supporting the campaign for a union election in 2016:
- Co-organized action at January PCC board meeting and co-led 11 informational pickets at various PCC locations to protest their refusal to join the Driscoll’s boycott. Collected over 1,000 signatures on a petition to PCC to join the boycott.
- Helped to amplify FUJ’s struggle by supporting their West Coast tour, organizing the report back when they returned, and inviting FUJ to speak at CAGJ’s annual SLEEP dinner.
- Supported International Day of Action by turning out supporters for an informational picket at the Burlington Costco.
- Live-tweeted during a Chef Collaborative Q&A with Driscoll’s, and challenged their acceptance of a sponsorship by Driscoll’s.

Celebrating a Union Victory

- In a historic union vote in September, Sakuma farmworkers elected Familias Unidas to represent them, with a 77% majority. This is the first indigenous Mexican-led farmworker union in the state of Washington, and has set the farmworkers on strong footing toward winning a fair labor contract.
- In November, CAGJ co-organized a celebration in recognition of the union victory with UFCW 21 and the Washington State Labor Council in Seattle.

Food Chain Worker Solidarity with UFCW 21

- Heather spoke at UFCW 21 rally for a unionized store for the new transit station in Capitol Hill, and CAGJ members joined march across Capitol Hill.
- CAGJ members and interns protested with UFCW 21 at the opening of a New Seasons store on Mercer Island.
- Joined statewide Raise Up Washington Coalition to pass minimum wage and paid sick leave laws in WA.

Right to Good Food: Got Green?

- Raised $1000 for Got Green through annual Got Green-a-thon fundraiser.
- FJP leadership testified at Seattle City Council in support of the Green Pathways Resolution championed by Got Green, aiming to “break the green ceiling and recruit, retain, and foster low income young adults of color in the green jobs field.”
AERA Watch hired new part-time staff in 2016!
In October, Simone Adler joined CAGJ as our new full-time Organizing Director. Half of Simone’s time is dedicated to AERA Watch organizing, greatly increasing our capacity to work in solidarity with our African partners.

Direct Actions at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Headquarters
In February, AERA Watch members rallied in banana costumes and delivered petitions containing over 57,000 signatures to the Gates Foundation staff, including the head of media relations. The petition, picked up by CREDO Action, asked Iowa State University and the Gates Foundation to cease supporting the transgenic banana study, including human feeding trials, and to change the trajectory for this type of research conducted at public universities. We received major press coverage, including TV news, and the Gates Foundation staff accepted the petitions while we laid out our concerns. This action was a part of our GM Banana Campaign that was an outcome of the 2014 Africa-US Food Sovereignty Summit.

In October, during the 2016 US Food Sovereignty Prize Encounter, AERA Watch activists were joined by our allies in the US Food Sovereignty Alliance to protest outside of the Gates Foundation and raise issue with the Foundation’s deep ties to the World Food Prize. We demonstrated against their model of market-based, high-tech agricultural investments, genetic engineering, and biotechnology. Food Sovereignty Prize recipient Bern Guri of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa was one of the speakers at the rally calling on the importance of food sovereignty, small farmers, and agroecology over corporate profit. Our action gained some media attention and was an important way to demonstrate truth to power during the Food Sovereignty Prize.

Community Education
AERA Watch members were invited to speak throughout the year, including at the March Against Monsanto in May, where Co-Chair Emma Shorr was interviewed for the evening TV news, the General Assembly of Doctors for Global Health, and for Seattle Central College students on Earth Day. We also held an internal educational on philanthrocapitalism, and began planning a public forum with ally organizations.

UN Conference on Biodiversity in Cancun, Mexico
In December, our two staff and two members of AERA Watch traveled to Mexico for the UN Conference on Biodiversity in Cancun. We organized a very well attended side event with our African and European partners called Biodiversity Under Threat: the Gates Foundation, Philanthrocapitalism, and the Capture of African Agricultural Biodiversity. We also participated in a pre-conference in Mexico City on the current state of genetic engineering. We wrote four blogs to educate our members about the negotiations, supported a Moratorium on Gene Drives, and participated in the Captain Hook Awards for Biopiracy, a fun and effective action.
"The collaboration of AFSA with AGRA Watch has created global awareness about the central role of so-called philanthropists in their bid to control food systems in Africa. The campaign has created a platform for African voices on food sovereignty to be heard within and beyond Africa. At the same time it has created a crucial force against corporations in their own backyards."

-- Bridget Mugambe, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Uganda

**Agroecology Exchanges**

In 2016 we laid the groundwork for our second Agroecology Exchange, which will take place in South Africa in October 2017. The purpose of the Agroecology Learning Exchanges is to build transnational ties amongst agroecology practitioners and grassroots organizations in the US and South Africa in order to strengthen the global food sovereignty movement. During the exchange a dozen US farmers and Farmworkers will be hosted by Surplus People Project and Rural Women’s Assembly. We prioritize the participation of African American farmers and farmworkers in acknowledgement of the interconnected history of oppression and injustice faced by African Americans and Black South Africans.

**Gates Foundation Research**

In 2016, we published two reports, a critique of the Anchor Farm Project jointly funded by the Clinton and Gates Foundations, and a case study on Wageningen University and Research Foundation and the Gates Foundation. In addition to several other research projects we also advanced further in our investigation of the web of propaganda and industry institutions that are connected to the Gates Foundation and plan to release this research in a report in 2017.

**Looking forward in 2017**

- **Consultation with African partners:** we are engaging our partners in strategic planning in 2017, and hope to send AGRA Watch leaders to Africa to meet with our partners and strengthen our solidarity work. We will also participate in the 2017 Agroecology Exchange.
- **Broadening our base:** we seek to involve more Seattle-based groups, particularly in the African diaspora, and local organizations critiquing the Gates Foundation.
- **Education:** We will release a Position Paper situating AGRA Watch organizing in the current political moment, and will be synthesizing our research on the web of industry and propaganda ties to the Gates Foundation, analyzing its power structure, and creating a report for mass distribution.
Strengthening the Food Sovereignty Movement
CAGJ Celebrated 15 Years of Organizing for Global Justice at SLEE 2016!

2016 marked fifteen years since our founding, and the tenth year of hosting our annual Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere (SLEE) Dinner.

SLEE was the perfect way to celebrate: Over a meal made by our volunteers with food lovingly produced by our local producers and shared with our closest partners and members. Guests heard an engaging speech from Anuradha Mittal, founder of the Oakland Institute, who shared her deep knowledge of the colonial practices of big business and of the Gates Foundation’s impact on Africa’s food system. Anuradha inspired us with incredible stories of sustainable agroecology practices being implemented by small-holder farmers right now. We are thankful to all of our sponsors, community partners, ticket-buyers, volunteers, food, dessert and silent auction donors who helped us raise more than ever before, to keep CAGJ going strong for the next fifteen years!

2016 Community Solidarity

In 2016 we stood in solidarity with our partners and local community! A few highlights: CAGJ joined the Encampment to call for No New Youth Jail in March; In May members painted a new banner reading “Small Farms Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground” and participated in the Break Free from Fossil Fuels demonstrations at March Point refineries near Anacortes; We marched for immigrant workers’ rights on May Day in Seattle; In August CAGJ’s Director Heather Day spoke alongside other local activists at the “Scholar Activist Gathering: From 1999 to 2016 and Beyond,” during the national gathering of the American Sociological Association.

2016 Food Sovereignty Prize hosted by CAGJ in Seattle

CAGJ organized the 2016 Food Sovereignty Prize in October, co-hosting with Community to Community. Over 20 members of organizations of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance from around the country gathered for several days of dialogue, action, and a ceremony to award the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and Farmworkers Association of Florida with the Food Sovereignty Prize. AGRA Watch co-presented our critique of the Gates Foundation with AFSA, and led an action at its headquarters to protest their support of the World Food Prize.
CAGJ’s Post-Election Discussion

On November 21st, during our regularly scheduled Food Justice Project meeting, a blend of new and seasoned activists gathered to discuss reactions and feelings to this year’s devastating election outcomes, and to brainstorm ideas about how CAGJ can move forward in our organizing. The twenty people who attended answered four questions, both individually and in groups: How does this election affect you? What inspires you right now? What do we have to protect? What’s at stake in the victories that we’ve won? Attendees discussed feeling upset and angry about the outcome of the election and desiring a concrete vision of what actions we can take to support marginalized populations and create positive change. We found hope and inspiration in those who have already expressed courage regarding the president-elect. People who may not usually consider themselves political are now becoming involved – now is the perfect time to organize. An outcome of this gathering is our plans for Rise UP! CAGJ Summer School, planned for June through August!

Looking forward in 2017

The US Food Sovereignty Alliance is in the process of restructuring and CAGJ is excited to be involved in the new Western States regional group. We are planning a regional convening this spring to strengthen our relationships, deepen our understanding of our differing roles in the Alliance, and come out with priorities for collective action.

In February, CAGJ staff participated in the National Family Farm Coalition bi-annual Board and Membership meeting in Washington, D.C. With the recent passing of NFFC ED Kathy Ozer, whose leadership in the movement was long-standing and deep, we went to support the strategic planning in this difficult transitional process. We will continue to participate in working groups as members of NFFC, affirming our commitment to changing US farm and food policy to reverse the economic devastation currently faced by our nation’s family farmers and rural communities.

CAGJ by the numbers in 2016

57,793 Number of signers on Credo Action GM Banana Petition delivered Feb 15, 2016

3,293 Combined likes of CAGJ and AGRA Watch Facebook profiles
(20% increase since the end of 2015)

1,124 Number of signers on petition to PCC: Stop Selling Driscoll’s Berries!

566 Number of signers on TPP petition to WA Congressional Delegation from “Food Lovers, Famers, Retailers and Food Organizations”

91 CAGJ volunteers

39 Number of media hits, including print, TV, radio and online media (21 original and 18 re-posts of our GM Banana and Food Sovereignty Prize actions, and GE Salmon event)

19 Interns in 2016

15 Number of years we celebrated in 2016!
Thank you for helping us grow and reach our goals in our 15th year!

In 2016 we aimed to increase capacity by hiring a new full-time staff person, to complement our three-quarter time Executive Director. It was particularly important for CAGJ’s AGRA Watch campaign to expand staffing from 5 to 20 hours per week. We were able to accomplish these goals thanks to two significant grants from Swift Foundation and Small Planet Fund, which funded the AGRA Watch organizer position, and increased Member support, which funds the other half of the position. Our 10th annual SLEE Dinner was particularly successful this year – thank you to all of the organizations, food businesses and individuals who helped us raise more than ever before! (Please note that “Fundraising Event” under Income does not include Membership donations or new/updated Sustainer donations made at the SLEE Dinner, which netted $20,000 in 2016!)

In October we brought on Simone Adler as our new Organizing Director! Originally from Philadelphia, Simone came to CAGJ from the Bay Area, where they coordinated a program on food sovereignty and land rights with Other Worlds.

**Financials**

**Total Income:** $95,174

- **Grants:** 43%
- **Contributions:** 26%
- **Funding Events:** 13%
- **Sustainers:** 15%
- **Merchandise:** 1%
- **AW Reserves:** 1%

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**Income**

- Fundraising Event: $12,350
- Contributions: $24,919
- Sustainers: $14,360
- Grants: $41,300
- Merchandise: $1,072
- AGRA Watch Reserves: $1,172
- **Total Income:** $95,174

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**Expenses**

- Personnel: $43,093
- Organizing: $21,323
- Admin: $13,033
- Fundraising: $2,758
- **Total Expenses:** $80,207

**Beginning Balance:** $11,226

**Ending Balance:** $26,193
THANK YOU to everyone who makes CAGJ’s organizing for a better world possible!

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Derek Hoshiko
Lucy Jarost
Nancy Kool
Sarah Luthens
Marina Skumanich
Viki Sonntag

STAFF
Heather Day, Executive Director
Simone Adler, Organizing Director
heather@cagj.org
simone@cagj.org

Community Alliance for Global Justice
606 Maynard Ave S #102 Seattle WA 98104
contact_us@cagj.org
(206) 405-4600
www.cagj.org
Get Involved and Stay Connected in 2017!

CAGJ is run by our volunteer members and there are many ways to plug in! Here are just a few:
Become a Member by signing up to contribute financially and/or with volunteer hours!
Join our 6-session Summer School Jun-Aug to explore local and global food sovereignty issues and social movements. Field trips included!
Stay informed about upcoming opportunities by signing up for our monthly e-mail newsletter, project listservs, and connecting with us on Facebook and Twitter.
Attend a Food Justice Project meeting - 3rd Tuesday/month at CAGJ office.
Come to an event or action - check out the calendar on our website.
Volunteer in the office or at an event.
Contact us to talk about specific ways you would like to contribute!

Community Alliance for Global Justice Celebrates

11th Annual SLEE Dinner

Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere!

S A T U R D A Y , J U L Y 2 2 , 2 0 1 7

Happy Hour 5:30pm; Dinner 6:30 - 9pm
University Christian Church - 4731 15th Ave NE, Seattle 98105
Tickets available June 1st! cagj.org

Keynote by Ari de Leña, Kamayan Farm
“Farming for Cultural and Ecological Resilience”

Ari de Leña is a queer, mixed filipina farmer who operates Kamayan Farm, a vegetable, medicinal herb, and education farm in the Snoqualmie Valley where she strives to do work that connects food, medicine, and culture. Ari will share how she works to build cultural and ecological resilience by healing the trauma and displacement embedded in the U.S. agricultural system.

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