THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY IS EVERYTHING

BY HEATHER DAY

As I reflect on the past year, I want to express gratitude for all the ways CAGJ’s Members and supporters helped me and our organization get through a tough couple of years. I was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer in the Spring of 2017, and underwent five months of chemotherapy and surgery that year. During the first two months of 2018 I was in radiation treatment every day, and started immunotherapy as well, which lasted throughout the year. During this time, our family underwent the additional stress and grief of leaving behind our home of thirteen years, 41 Legs Urban Farm.

Having been involved since its inception, CAGJ is not just my job, it is my community. Travis, my husband, is rooted in local food movements too, as a longtime Ballard Farmers market vendor and chef. And in our time of need, we really felt the love! Thank you to everyone who brought us meals, donated to help ease the financial stress, and gave a little extra love to our son Henry. Thank you to the farmers who donated healthy food to get me through treatment as strong as possible. Thank you to everyone who helped us pack and move, and wrote us encouraging notes. In our time of crisis, community was everything.

It is particularly challenging for an organization with only two staff to survive a health crisis like cancer, which requires long-term treatment. The fact that CAGJ is still going strong in our eighteenth year, despite my health challenges, can be credited to our Members who donate generously of their time and funds. But I also want to give special recognition to Simone Adler, who began working as CAGJ’s Organizing Director only 6 months before I was diagnosed. Thanks to Simone’s leadership, CAGJ has launched exciting new initiatives this past year, including the Racial Justice Leadership Collective, Rise Up Summer School, and the strategic planning and assessment that will be our focus in 2019-2020.

There is other good news: treatment worked, and there is now no evidence of disease in my body. And in the year that the mega-merger of Bayer with Monsanto was green-lighted, despite public outcry against corporate consolidation, the corporation is being held accountable for the first time for its role in causing cancer. Two US juries have found that Roundup weed killer causes cancer, and that the company failed to warn consumers of the risks of exposure. Cancer is a food sovereignty issue, and the personal is political.

CAGJ faced another daunting challenge at the end of 2018, when we found out we were losing most of our office mates, and risked having our rent increase three-fold. This too ended on a happy note, with the offer to join Welcome Table Church at their new building on Beacon Hill. We are so grateful!

Thank you for all that you do to make another world possible! We will keep fighting with you!
NAFTA 2.0 Continues Corporate Control & Climate Chaos

The text of NAFTA 2.0, re-named the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), was released in September 2018; it’s unclear whether Congress will bring it to a vote in 2019. The original NAFTA, signed in 1994, launched an era of trade rules that we likened to a corporate Bill of Rights. Ever since, we have organized transnationally to pressure for a new model of trade that reins in global corporations. With the USMCA, our hopes for this much-needed change were dashed, though we never expected the Trump administration to give up promoting anything but corporate rights. As the Institute for Trade and Agriculture Policy sums it up, “the reworked NAFTA agreement entrenches agribusiness control over supply chains, seeks to streamline approval and trade of controversial agricultural biotechnology products, fails to protect consumers’ right to know what’s in their food and where it is produced, and worsens the devastating impacts of climate change.” While NAFTA 2.0 phases out ISDS between the US and Canada over three years, large climate-polluting US companies, who aim to take advantage of Mexico’s recently de-privatized oil and gas reserves, will still be able to challenge Mexican environmental regulations.

Washington State’s Vision for Fair and Just Trade

As a member of Washington Fair Trade Coalition, CAGJ was proud to participate in the process of drafting the Vision for Fair and Just Trade. Released in July 2018, this policy platform was created by consulting a broad base of the Coalition’s membership who produced a set of positive principles for trade advocacy on behalf of people and the planet, including a section on food sovereignty.

Good trade policy supports Food Sovereignty:
- Consumers can trust they have safe and healthy food.
- People decide what information about their food is publicly available.
- Workers, producers, and agricultural families have dignity and economic security.
- Responsible producers are protected in the global economy.
- Communities can build and protect local food systems.

Looking Forward: Join us on N30 2019 to Mark 20 Years since WTO Victory!

Town Hall Seattle and CAGJ are partnering to mark #N30x20! On November 30th, 1999, our multi-prong takeover of downtown Seattle worked: on that day over 50,000 protesters held the line and shut down the World Trade Organization, which was gathering to launch its policies that entrench poverty and debt around the world. The results of that week of protest were historic, as the WTO failed to reach consensus on its destructive free-trade agenda, and the institution’s power has declined ever since. CAGJ was born out of that uprising! On the 20th anniversary we will offer a day-long event to both reflect on this legacy and strategize moving forward. We must mark our collective victory, reclaim the Battle of Seattle story and raise awareness of the power of our social movements. And we must engage in current collective struggles, including the e-commerce agenda of today’s WTO. We are excited to be one of many commemorations happening that week!
SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGNS

Local Food Producer Solidarity with Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project

- In 2018 we launched our first-ever film, *Salmon People - The Risks of Genetically Engineered Fish for the Pacific Northwest* through a national webinar in April, with participants from across the country. The film was co-produced with Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project and New Canoe Media, and funded through a grant from Muckleshoot Tribe Charity Fund.
- Salmon People was also screened at the Slow Fish Conference in San Francisco; The Living Breath of wǝłəb?altxw: Indigenous Foods and Ecological Knowledge Symposium at University of WA; Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Eugene; and Indigenous Environmental Network’s Protecting Mother Earth gathering hosted by the Nisqually tribe.
- We are excited to screen the film to a large audience in April 2019, in an event co-produced with Town Hall Seattle, and including leaders featured in the film.

Looking forward: In early 2019 the FDA lifted the import ban on AquaBounty’s GE salmon eggs, opening the possibility of production and distribution of the fish in the US. In coordination with national partners Friends of the Earth and Center for Food Safety, **we will continue to oppose the introduction of GE salmon in WA state, and support efforts to ensure strong labeling if it comes to market.**

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

- In August, CAGJ members joined the twelve-mile **Farmworker March for Dignity**, organized by Community to Community Development (C2C). The march ended in a demonstration at Sarbanand Farms demanding justice for Honesto Silva Ibarra, an H2A farmworker who died last summer after being forced to work in extreme conditions.
- **As part of CAGJ’s Rise Up! Summer School, we led an educational session about the H2A guest worker program** and organized a field trip to visit C2C in Bellingham, where we also got to meet with members of Familias Unidas por la Justicia and tour their cooperatively-owned blueberry farm, Cooperativa Tierra y Libertad.
- **We were honored to have C2C Farmworker Organizer Edgar Franks give the keynote address at the 2018 SLEE Dinner.**
- In the winter, Senate Bill 5438 and House Bill 1398 were introduced in the Washington State Legislature, to protect guestworker farmworkers, increase the hiring of domestic farmworkers, and build a just, local, organic food system. In response to C2C’s call for action, **we organized our members to call their legislators.**
- In March 2019, C2C hosted its 6th Annual Farmworker Tribunal in Olympia, where farmworkers, including youth, shared stories on working conditions, the impacts of H2A, and farmworker-led solutions to climate change to a panel of tribunal judges. CAGJ helped draft and get out the press releases for the Tribunal.

Looking forward: In 2019 we will continue to support C2C in solidarity with the farmworker struggle. After passing the WA State Senate, the guestworker oversight bill has moved on to the House, where we will pressure for approval to ensure stronger protections for H2A workers, and to prevent H2C, a proposed expansion of this exploitative program.
Food Chain Worker Solidarity with UFCW 21

- We continued to support United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21 in their fight to challenge New Seasons’ expansion to Seattle in Ballard and the Central District and advocate for fairer wages and working conditions for grocery store workers. We joined the rally at New Seasons’ opening day in Ballard and leafleted outside of the store before Thanksgiving with members of the Good Jobs Coalition.
- We continue to encourage community members to put pressure on New Seasons to treat their workers and communities with respect by sharing updates across our platforms, actions, and petitions. **Looking forward:** In December 2018, a Ballard New Seasons worker was fired after speaking out about working conditions in the store. We will continue to support UFCW 21 as they monitor working conditions at both New Seasons locations.

Right to Good Food Solidarity: Got Green

- CAGJ organized with Got Green’s Food Access Team through the coalition to Close the Food Security Gap, which aims to support those who can’t afford fresh, healthy food, but do not qualify for benefits like food stamps. After the Coalition won a major victory in 2017, the Sugary Beverage Tax (SBT) went into effect in 2018 ensuring that $2.8 million of revenue goes back into communities of low income folks and people of color, who are those most directly impacted by this tax. We joined meetings to lobby City Council Members to ensure the SBT revenue funds food access programs, such as expanding Fresh Bucks. We supported media events, including getting farmers at the Columbia City Farmers Market to share their stories of support for the SBT.
- In May, we raised $1500 for Got Green through our annual Green-A-Thon team, and participated in their Earth Day door-knocking event to raise awareness about the SBT and Got Green’s work.
- Leading up to the November election, we reached out to our members to vote no on 1634 with the message “Say No to Big Soda & Yes to Food Access!” Unfortunately, due to unlimited budgets of the American Beverage Association and soda industry to spend on false advertising, the misleading initiative was approved, preventing other cities in WA from passing taxes on sugary beverages. This further entrenches chronic health issues for low income people of color, and prevents opportunities for funding streams to address food access.
- In March 2019, we participated in Got Green’s Just Transition Strategy Lab to collectively envision the next phases of Got Green’s campaigns. **Looking forward:** We will continue to organize with Got Green’s Food Access Team on next steps around the SBT funding to ensure community-driven food access programs are prioritized with the revenue, and will strategize with Got Green on our role in supporting a Just Transition locally.

EDUCATE FOR ACTION

- We were invited to Suquamish to lead an Educate for Action workshop on Food Sovereignty as part of the Kitsap Aware forum series on justice and citizenship. Our workshop focused on who benefits and who loses out in the production, distribution, and access to food.
- We organized a Teach-Out at Kamayan Farm in the Snoqualmie valley with farmer Ari de Leña who gave the 2017 SLEE Keynote. Named after a style of communal eating in the Philippines, Kamayan Farm is a small vegetable, flower, medicinal herb, and education farm that is centered on increasing access to nourishing and culturally appropriate food and strengthening our connection to where and how our food is grown.
Educating on Philanthrocapitalism

In March, AGRA Watch presented “Who Profits from Philanthropy? A Community Event about ‘Philanthrocapitalism’ and its Alternatives,” attended by over 200 people. We collaborated with Social Justice Fund NW, Resource Generation, and Thousand Currents to put on the event, organizations working to transform philanthropy. Together we examined the intersections of philanthropy and capitalism, the ways that this is impacting agricultural and economic development in the global South and here in Seattle, and alternative models for funding grassroots movements rooted in social justice and community accountability. We also created a new resource on philanthrocapitalism, which can be found on our website along with a video of the panel!

Exposing the Cornell Alliance for Science

Launched with 5.6 million dollars from the Gates Foundation, CAS’s agenda is to produce propaganda claiming that biotechnology and genetic engineering are the solutions to hunger and poverty, and that anyone who challenges this belief is anti-science. CAS is having a growing influence on GMO and seed policies in many African countries, and our research aims to expose the role of CAS’s African fellows, who undergo a 12 week training at Cornell focused on shaping a pro-GMO narrative and promoting corporate biotech industry interests. Our research, conducted in part by our brilliant interns, includes, how much funding the fellows’ institutions receive from the Gates Foundation. Our preliminary work was internally shared with AFSA members. We will publish our results in 2019.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Our collaboration with our partners and with AFSA will focus on countering the false narratives that are denouncing agroecology, and lifting up the incredible work that is transforming our food system on local and global levels. This long-term narrative-shifting work is central to our organizing in the US, while cross-fertilizing the food sovereignty movement in Africa. Through our participation in the USFSA’s International Relationships Collective, we are strategizing on how AFSA and the USFSA can find synergy in our connected struggles. AGRA Watch will support the Agroecology for Climate Action campaign through media and communications work, and we hope to find material support for producing popular education materials for the campaign. We will also integrate the strategic discussions we had with Kenya Food Alliance and GBIACK into the next phases of our campaign, which will involve regular consultation with our partners, particularly in Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa.
Membership in the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

Following years of collaboration and trust-building with the African food sovereignty movement, AGRA Watch became an official member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa as a Friend of AFSA! This is a strategic alliance for us to join, as we are one of the few organizations based outside the continent that is campaigning against the corporatization of African agriculture and the influence of the Seattle-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

At the invitation of AFSA’s leadership, in November AGRA Watch sent Co-Chair Bill Aal, Simone and Heather to Senegal to participate in AFSA’s General Assembly and 2nd African Food Systems Conference. We participated in determining AFSA’s first continent-wide 2-year campaign: Agroecology for Climate Action (#A4CA)! The campaign officially launched in March 2019. Going forward, we will participate in AFSA’s working groups on climate change and seeds.

Meeting with Kenyan Agroecologists

Prior to the AFSA meetings in Senegal, Simone spent a week in Kenya meeting with our long-time partners, who Heather and her husband Travis first met during their 2009 trip. Daniel Maingi of the Kenya Food Alliance introduced Simone to several food sovereignty leaders including Gituanja Gachie, an agroecologist and founder of a local grassroots organization in Githunguri. British colonization left rural families with hardly any land to grow food, which multinational corporations have exploited through dominating the seeds market and creating public perception that GMO seeds are more productive than indigenous varieties. Farmers are trapped into buying expensive fertilizers and pesticides, and prohibited from saving seed. Yet on Gituanja’s small plot of land, he and his family are demonstrating the resilience of agroecology and building local food sovereignty.

Simone was also hosted by Samuel and Peris Nderitu of Grow Biointensive Centre of Kenya (GBIACK) at their training center and farm in Thika, and learned about their work to expand biointensive agriculture methods among small-scale farm holders. GBIACK trains farmers, especially young women, on how to grow as much diverse food as possible within a small amount of land to feed communities and generate income. GBIACK has trained thousands of Kenyans who have started more than 50 satellite farms and over 70 other farming projects in their communities, orphanages, schools, and hospitals. In addition, young women are trained in off-farm activities, such as bead work, cooking, and sewing, which they view as a part of food sovereignty in order to create income for people to buy seeds and start gardens.

We are so grateful to the CAGJ community and our funders for making our trip possible!
MAKING ANOTHER WORLD POSSIBLE THROUGH MOVEMENT BUILDING!

One of CAGJ’s greatest contributions in 2018 was the energy and time we invested in helping to build strong institutions; these alliances are the foundation of the Food Sovereignty movement, and will build the power necessary to transform our global food system. We showed up for our allies’ actions, and coordinated daily vigils for two months over the summer at the Seattle Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office to protest the family separation policy.

People’s Agroecology Encounter

We co-ordinated the first Pacific Northwest People’s Agroecology Encounter at the end of the summer, bringing together over 50 farmers and food justice advocates in Bellingham, where we were hosted by Community to Community (C2C). We enjoyed delicious food, much of it grown by participants, learned about organizing for agroecology and Afro-ecology, and planted seeds from the Landless Peoples Movement in Brazil in the C2C garden.

Fall 2018: From Bellingham to Dakar!

The Fall of 2018 was a whirlwind! On September 29 we held our 12th annual SLEE Dinner, with keynote speaker Edgar Franks highlighting C2C’s work at the intersection of immigrant justice and agroecology. Our 300 guests enjoyed the bounty of Fair Trade and locally-sourced foods, and raised a quarter of our budget! In October, CAGJ co-hosted the 4th National Assembly of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance with C2C in Bellingham, playing central roles in coordinating the logistics. We were excited that ten of our own members participated in the multi-day gathering. CAGJ is playing a leading role in several parts of the new structure, including the Youth Process, co-ordinated by Simone, the International Relations Collective, and the Secretariat. In November three CAGJ leaders traveled to Senegal and Kenya, where we built deeper relationships with our African partners, and became members of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa.

Food Sovereignty Prize

CAGJ helped to plan the 10th Food Sovereignty Prize, and Simone co-emceed the award ceremony that took place at the National Assembly. The Prize was awarded to Black Mesa Water Coalition, who was honored for their commitment to restoring indigenous food sovereignty and uplifting youth leaders among Navajo and Hopi communities. Organización Boricuá de Agricultura Ecológica de Puerto Rico was recognized particularly for their mobilization of Food Sovereignty Brigades to assist farmers with recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Collaboration with NFFC & NAMA

We had the opportunity to join National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) and Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) on their “America the Bountiful” tour stop at Nisqually Nation for the Indigenous Environmental Network’s Protecting Mother Earth Conference. We were honored that our Salmon People film was screened at the gathering, and we learned from stories of activists from local tribes and around the country. Heather traveled to DC in Feb 2019 for the NFFC board meeting, supporting the finalization of a multi-year strategic planning process. We value the opportunity to connect with NFFC members from across the country, particularly to learn from farmers experiencing crises in their rural communities.
Recognizing that CAGJ has a mostly white base of members and supporters, CAGJ prioritized developing a stronger shared analysis of racial justice in the food system through developing leadership on anti-racism and histories of oppression related to land, agriculture, and food. We dove into the struggles to end colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy, and continue to bring this approach into CAGJ’s intersectional work for food sovereignty.

Catalyst Project Anne Braden Anti-Racism Training Program

Simone was accepted to the Catalyst Project’s 4-month political education and leadership development program designed for white activists in social justice organizations to build skills in becoming accountable, principled anti-racist organizers building multiracial movements for justice. Simone participated in 3 intensive trainings in Oakland and completed an organizational anti-racism assessment of CAGJ which helped lay a foundation for CAGJ’s strategic assessment and planning process.

Rise Up! CAGJ Summer School

We launched our first-ever Rise Up! CAGJ Summer School, an anti-oppression leadership development and political education program. Over 20 people committed to the 3-month program, and dove into themes related to our campaigns through community discussions and field trips to contextualize the history and current struggles. Summer School impacted people on a personal level, bringing new members and leaders into CAGJ. Summer School was organized around:

- African Food Sovereignty: Field Trip to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to observe and challenge their industrial model of agriculture in Africa. (June)
- Farmworker Justice: Field Trip to Community to Community Development and Cooperativa Tierra y Libertad, a farm worker owned and operated cooperative in Whatcom County. (July)
- Indigenous Rights to Fishing Lands & Decolonization: Field Trip to the Swinomish reservation to participate in Swinomish Days. (August)

"I had the privilege of attending the USFSA National Assembly thanks to CAGJ. I was overwhelmed to be in that space, bearing witness to radical hope and joy. I’m grateful and inspired by grassroots movement building and CAGJ for fostering my learning, and bringing me into that work."

- Robyn Greenfield

CAGJ LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

“CAGJ Summer School provided a very valuable education in a short amount of time, and helped me gain a broad perspective of food justice and all the ways it intersects with racial justice, immigration policies, environmental justice, and labor organizing.”

- Emily Barry, RiseUp! Summer School Participant

Racial Justice Leadership Collective

We developed a Racial Justice Leadership Collective (RJLC) to create a space for integrating new perspectives from the Anne Braden Training into the anti-oppression principles that guide CAGJ’s work. We incorporated the RJLC into our monthly Food Justice Project meetings to activate participants in taking action on our solidarity campaigns through a framework of racial justice. The RJLC met from February to June, and committed to developing an analysis of how racism is embedded in our food system, and to deconstructing the dynamics of wealth, power and privilege through personal reflections.

CAGJ BY THE NUMBERS IN 2018

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<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount donated by 119 sustaining members</td>
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<td>Shares and post clicks of our content on social media</td>
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<td>Numbers of views of Salmon People film on Facebook &amp; Vimeo</td>
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<td>Days: Daily Vigils at Seattle ICE Office co-ordinated by CAGJ</td>
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<td>Interns</td>
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<td>Participants in the Rise Up! Summer School</td>
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<td>CAGJ leaders who traveled to Senegal and Kenya</td>
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<td>Full-time Staff</td>
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FUNDRAISING REPORT: STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN SEATTLE

CAGJ is feeling the effects of our city’s rising living expenses, and recognizes the need to bring our staff’s salaries up to a more sustainable level. In 2018 CAGJ’s budget grew significantly due to gifts aimed at increasing our Director’s salary; in 2019 we aim to raise our Organizing Director salary as well. CAGJ’s budget was also greatly impacted by having to move our office at the end of 2018; our rent doubled, and other associated costs (like insurance) mean we must raise more in 2019. Fortunately this presented the opportunity to move out of a basement and into our beautiful new space at Welcome Table Church!

CAGJ’s financial stability still relies on the support we receive from the hundreds of donations for our annual SLEE Dinner, both in-kind and direct support. We want to give a special thank you to our SLEE Dinner Sponsors: UFCW 21, UAW 4121, Central Co-op, New Roots Organics, Acequia Institute, Friends of the Earth, G&O Family Cyclery, Green Cleaning Seattle, Seattle Natural Cleaning, Shoreline Central Market, and Social Justice Fund NW. Huge thank you to our annual In-kind Sponsors: Real Change, Loki Fish Co., Madres Kitchen and Equal Exchange!

We are so grateful for our multi-year grants from Stansbury Family Foundation and Swift Foundation. In 2019 CAGJ will re-apply for these grants which have greatly expanded our capacity these past two years. And we hope to continue building our grassroots base of support - our Members provide the solid foundation upon which CAGJ is able to continue to build the global food sovereignty movement.

“CAGJ brings big international problems into focus at the local level where we can tackle them in meaningful ways. Some of these struggles can seem overwhelming, but CAGJ gives us local handles.”

Amy Hagopian, UW Public Health

Financials

Total Income: $142,238

Total Expenses: $140,559

Income
Fundraising Event $25,485
Contributions $59,233
Sustainers $22,768
Grants $36,547
Merchandise $1026
Other Income $388
Total Income: $145,447

Expenses
Personnel $95,956
Organizing $20,503
Admin $16,172
Fundraising $11,775
Total Expenses: $144,406

Beginning Balance: $42,822
Ending Balance: $43,861
Thank you to everyone who makes CAGJ’s organizing for a better world possible!
Get Involved and Stay Connected in 2019!

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!
- Help to organize our annual SLEE Dinner
- Volunteer for a project or work area as an Intern!
- 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
13th Annual SLEE Dinner

Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere!

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019

Happy Hour 5:00pm | Dinner 6:30 – 9pm
St Demetrios Church, 2100 Boyer Ave, Seattle 98112
Tickets available in May!

Keynote by Doria Robinson, Executive Director of Urban Tilth in Richmond, CA
Doria will speak on the theme of how food sovereignty is central to climate justice.