The Immigration policies under the Trump administration are terrible and inhumane, but they are nothing new. The immigration system in this country has been inefficient and unjust for many years and using separation of families as a intimidation tactic is something that we have seen throughout history. **Immigrants, indigenous peoples, and other communities of color have been persecuted since this country was founded and these current policies are only perpetuating hundreds of years of discrimination and criminalization.**

The last few months have brought new memories of the vulnerability of immigrants here in the United States.

More than 2000 families have been separated at the border. Why is this happening? Because we have followed a long history of criminalizing immigrants and in particular people of color. Many are saying this is not what our country stands for and these actions are “un-American.” The truth is, this is very American and all we have to do is look at our country’s history of treatment towards immigrants to see the reality.

1492 - The genocide of the indigenous peoples begins with the trip of Christopher Columbus to America.

1619 - The slave trade in the U.S. begins in Virginia and continues for more than 200 years. The slaves were kidnapped in Africa, forced to work in plantations, flogged, marked and lynched. **Slaves were considered a property and families were routinely separated during the auctions.**

1790 - The Naturalization Law restricts citizenship to "free white people" of "good character."

1830 - The Law of Forced Transfer of the Indians forced displacement, at gunpoint, 15,000 American citizens belonging to the Cherokee indigenous community of the southern United States to reservations in Oklahoma. More than 5,000 people died in what is known as the "Trail of Tears."

Continued on page 4...
CATA is a non-profit, migrant farmworker organization governed by and comprised of farmworkers and low-wage immigrant workers who are actively engaged in the struggle for better working and living conditions.

Staff
General Coordinator: Jessica Culley
Administrator: Marge Niedda
Organizers: José Manuel Guzmán, Kathia Ramirez, Leila Borrero Krouse, Nuber Nieves
Communications Coordinator: Meghan Hurley
Administrative Assistant: Iris Nazario
Photos: CATA Staff

CATA is proud to be a member of EarthShare New Jersey (ESNJ), a non-profit organization created and directed by member organizations to represent us in employee workplace giving campaigns.

Please consider making a donation to CATA through your workplace. Don’t have a workplace giving campaign at your office? Contact CATA to assist you in setting one up. The code for CATA for the Federal Campaign is 39411 and the NJ State Campaign is 3341. Visit www.cata-farmworkers.org for a complete list. For more information on ESNJ go to www.earthsharenj.org.
CATA Members Need Your Support

We want to share some of the hard work that our members are doing on behalf of the immigrant community. They are standing up for themselves and their community even though it is becoming increasingly risky to do so. They are fighting for fair wages, access to drivers’ licenses, better working conditions, and a pesticide-free agricultural system. Your support of CATA directly supports their attendance at marches, protests, conferences, meetings, and events so they can make their presence known and their voices heard. To learn more about CATA and make a donation, visit: www.cata-farmworkers.org. Thank you!

Allies and CATA members are working hard together in New Jersey to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour for ALL workers. We are fighting against proposed exclusions of several different categories of workers, including farmworkers. **Want to help? If you live in NJ, call your state representatives and senators and demand that all workers deserve a $15 minimum wage.** To find contact information for NJ state politicians, visit: [https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/districtnumbers.asp#8](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/districtnumbers.asp#8)

This year, CATA members in NJ have been active in the Campaign for Expanded Access to Driver’s Licenses, pushing for legislation that would provide New Jersey residents, including qualified people in the immigrant community, access to obtaining a driver’s license. For more information on the campaign and to sign the petition, visit: [https://www.letsdrivenj.org/petition](https://www.letsdrivenj.org/petition)
History of Immigration... Continued from page 1

1846 - 1848 - War of U.S. - Mexico. The United States invades Mexico to have control of land and resources and ends with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo through which Mexico is forced to cede more than half of its territory.

1865 - The Ku Klux Klan is founded to maintain white supremacy through intimidation and violence.

1882 - The Law of Exclusion of the Chinese prohibited the Chinese immigrants to enter the United States and it authorized the deportation of undocumented Chinese people in the United States.

1929 - U.S. Border Patrol is created and for the first time, separate categories are established for "legal" and "illegal" immigrants.

1930's - Massive deportations of Mexican workers abound, many of whom are U.S. citizens (more than 400,000) because they are accused of taking jobs from Americans during the Great Depression.

1943 - The Bracero Program is launched, which includes 5 million temporary agricultural workers, mostly Mexicans, to compensate for the shortage of labor caused by the Second World War.

1954 - Operation Wet Back allows the deportation of several million Mexicans, including many U.S. citizens, which fuels uncontrolled racial discrimination, especially in border cities.

DECADES OF 1970 - PRESENT

The era of the War on Drugs begins.

Operation Cóndor was launched in 1974 and lasts 15 years, through which the CIA intervenes to support

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political repression of the left in countries such as Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Brazil. 
More than 60,000-80,000 people were killed and mass migration to the U.S. occurred.

Decade of 1980 - The military interventions of the United States in Central America under the pretext of the war on drugs causes political instability, war and mass migration from countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

1994 - The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) causes economic displacement, lower wages and increased migration from Mexico. More than 2 million small farmers lose their livelihoods and their lands when corn subsidized in the United States floods the market and devalues the prices of the domestic Mexican harvest.

Since 2000, even more things have happened - The Patriot Act gave more powers to the government to monitor immigration. The Department of Homeland Security, the Secure Communities program to link local police with immigration enforcement, and other programs were created.

When we the progression of U.S. history, it seems obvious how we have arrived where we are today. The legacy of this country is founded on a flagrant indifference to all people who are not white, who are not rich, and who have no power.

But in this timeline there is another story that we can also tell, a story that has the same, if not more importance and that is the story of resistance. Throughout this history there were communities resisting - the rebellions of slaves, the participation of slaves in the civil war, the protests of immigrant workers against poor and unjust working conditions, the movements for the civil rights of African-Americans and Latinos, the organizing of agricultural workers in the 1970's, the struggle for DACA by the “Dreamers.” We are also part of a long history of struggle which has made progress and achievements but there is much left to do.

We have to keep this history of resistance going, always speaking up for the needs of our communities, fighting for what is right and just, and never giving up.

**Thank you to Juntos in Philadelphia for providing some information and inspiration for this article.**
Food Sovereignty at the Local Level: Testimonies from CATA Members

By: Kathia Ramirez, CATA Members

As of the summer of 2018, CATA has three thriving organic community gardens, one in Bridgeton NJ, one in Kennett Square, PA, and one in Salisbury, MD. We established community gardens so that members of the community who are mainly fed by industrialized, cheap, and heavy pesticide produce can have access to local, naturally grown, culturally appropriate food at no cost.

Here are some current gardeners thoughts on the creation of and their participation in the Community Gardens.

KENNETT SQUARE, PA

My name is Jose Arturo. I am originally from Mexico but have been in the USA for 32 years. I live in Kennett Square, PA. Many years I worked in the mushroom industry. I am a participant of a community garden where we have planted fruits and vegetables. Everything is organic. We have planted tomato, peppers, chili peppers, squash, cilantro, cantaloupe, watermelon...we plant a little of everything, also medicinal plants. Growing organic is important because back in our country, as we were growing up, everything was organic. We used to plant corn, beans and squash and we were healthier. Now, when we eat canned food and food with chemicals, we end up with many illnesses. I would like for my family, starting with me, to eat more organic food without chemicals to be healthier.

My name is Jose Luis and I am from Moroleon, Guanajuato, Mexico. I work at Kaolin Mushroom Farms. I water the tops of the mushroom beds. I have been coming to the community garden for 4-5 months. I like to grow organic because fruits and vegetables are healthier. I like tomatoes, chili peppers, summer squash and corn. I like everything we grow.

Continued on next page...
Garden Testimonies... Continued from page 6

BRIDGETON NJ

My name is Apolonio and I am from Guatemala and I have been participating in the garden since it started in 2012, so 6 years now. I became interested because it gave me access to growing my own food and its free. We harvest a lot and its organic! I have learned to eat food that is chemical-free and its advantages. I like everything: papalo, cilantro, tomato, tomatillo, green beans, jalapenos, potatoes….

My name is Migdalia and I am Puerto Rican from Jayuya. I have been collaborating as a volunteer in the community garden since February of 2015. It called my attention that the produce was pesticide-free. Everything organic and natural. I became so interested in growing organically that I involved my grandchildren so that they can learn about organic food and how healthy it is. It is a privilege to participate in the garden. You meet and learn from different cultures and their way of eating. You learn about medicinal plants, its uses and benefits. I have made many friends. We share our crops and our knowledge. My favorite crop is cilantro since I use it for almost all of the food I prepare. Very tasty, organic and healthy. I try to meet my obligations in the community garden of Bridgeton by visiting the garden, watering, and cleaning and beautifying our garden for the benefit of our community. My motto is “Together we are more.”

SALISBURY, MD

My name is Humberto and I am from Guanajuato, Mexico. I work at a nursery. I have been participating in the garden since it started last summer. The opportunity to grow our own food is what interest me to participate. Healthy food at an accessible price. We have planted: tomato, tomatillo, cabbage, peppers, jalapeños, corn, squash, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumbers, eggplant and some herbs. I would like to know who are those regulating food prices to advocate for farmers to get a better price for what they grow and for farmworkers to get better wages.
I want to be an ally with CATA’s work for justice!

Here is my donation of:

$30___ $50___ $75____ $100____

$250___ $500______ Other____

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip:_________________________________________________________
Phone:________________________________________________________________
Email:_________________________________________________________________

You can mail your tax deductible checks payable to:
CATA, P.O. Box 510, Glassboro, N.J. 08028

If you prefer, you can donate online through our secure website:
www.cata-farmworkers.org