

**IN THIS ISSUE**  
**DUNCAN HILCHEY**

**Shepherding community engagement**



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**I** start by sharing some exciting news: We have just launched our [Community Supported Journal Shareholder pledge drive](#). This support will allow us to become an open access journal—eliminating journal subscriptions, fostering the broadest distribution of JAFSCD content. We are modeling our open access campaign on a model familiar to those involved with food systems—community supported agriculture (CSA)—to become a *community supported journal*. We are seeking pledges from food studies, food systems, sustainable agriculture, and other degree, research, and extension/outreach programs from around the world to purchase the open access shares in JAFSCD. The pledge campaign will run through August 31, 2017 (with payments due in September). If we meet our threshold of \$65,000 in pledges, we will become open access as of January 1, 2018.

As part of our effort to broaden JAFSCD’s reach and impact, we will soon begin to use *altmetrics* to look at our social media penetration as a measure of JAFSCD’s impact at the community level—especially in communities of intractable poverty and food insecurity. This is made possible with the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This quantitative data, along with a stakeholder survey and story telling, should help us gain valuable insights into what practical change JAFSCD is fostering at the forefront of the good food movement, along with how JAFSCD is becoming more diverse and inclusive in its content.

We hope you will join us in this endeavor by encouraging any program, organization, or department you are affiliated with to pledge now and annually, becoming a member of the JAFSCD Shareholder Consortium. Learn more at <http://www.lysoncenter.org/index.php/jafscd-shareholder-campaign>.

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*On our cover:* At the Bloomington (Indiana) Community Orchard, a long-standing volunteer and member of the Education Team teaches a new volunteer how to conduct dormant pruning of a peach tree during a winter work-and-learn day.  
 (Photo by Ann Schertz; used with permission.)

In this issue we are very pleased to share not only an outstanding group of papers covering such fresh topics as community orcharding, shepherding community engagement, collective impact, and working with African American farmers in the South, but also the new work of two JAFSCD columnists—the first of Monica White’s columns, *Freedom’s Seeds: Reflections of Food, Race, and Community Development*, and news of a standalone collection of John Ikerd’s *The Economic Pamphleteer* columns.



Monica M. White

In *Freedom’s Seeds: Reflections of Food, Race, and Community Development*, **Monica White** introduces herself and her new column and shares the *Voices of the Food Movement in Detroit*, where residents are avidly rediscovering their agrarian roots. Dr. White is assistant professor of environmental justice at the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a joint appointment in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology.

Next, **John Ikerd** explores how the good food movement is, in fact, largely a woman-led movement in *Sustainability: Part of the New Women’s Movement*. And for readers who can’t get enough of John Ikerd’s work, we present to you a collection of his 22 columns published in JAFSCD since our launch in 2010 in *The Economic Pamphleteer: Collected Essays by John Ikerd on the Economics of American Food Systems*. The collection includes a foreword by **Doria Robinson**, executive director of Urban Tilth in Richmond, California, in which she shares John’s influence on her work. This collection is a must-read in food systems seminars. Find the complete free collection at the [JAFSCD Columnists page](#).\*

This issue of open-call papers introduces us to a number of cutting-edge food systems development themes. In *A Preliminary Overview of Community Orcharding in the United States*, **Megan Betz, Jacob Mills, and James Farmer** provide us with the first detailed look at community orcharding in the U.S. as a unique form of community development. This is followed by two papers drilling deep into the promise of *commercial* urban agriculture in two large North American cities: **Sharla Stolhandske and Terri Evans’s** *On the Bleeding Edge of Farming the City: An Ethnographic Study of Small-scale Commercial Urban Farming in Vancouver*, and **Christian Hunold, Yetunde Sorunmu, Rachel Lindy, Sabrina Spatari, and Patrick Gurian’s** *Is Urban Agriculture Financially Sustainable? An Exploratory Study of Small-scale Market Farming in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.




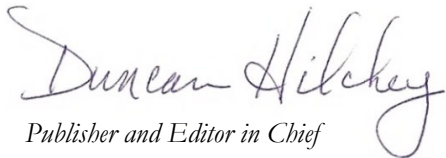
John Ikerd and Doria Robinson

Next is a set of reflective essays on the experience of working with stakeholders in four regions of the U.S. First, **Sarah Franzen** uses observational film-making to explore the critical role communication plays in the successful engagement between Cooperative Extension educators and African American farmers in *Reality Education: Agricultural Knowledge Exchange in the U.S. South*. In *Shepherding Community Engagement to Strengthen the Local Food System in Northeast Iowa*, **Arlene Enderton, Corry Bregendahl, and Alice Topaloff** present an evaluation of a unique approach to cultivating stakeholder empowerment in local food work. In their reflective essay, **Lesli Hoey, Kathryn Colasanti, Rich Pirog, and Lilly Fink Shapiro** explore the limitations and promise of using the collective impact framework in good food work in *Implementing Collective Impact for Food Systems Change: Reflections from Michigan*. Then **David Conner, Florence Becot, and Diane Imrie** test out the USDA’s new impact assessment toolkit and suggest tweaks in its application in *Critical Reflections on the USDA Local Food Economics Toolkit*. Our final paper in this issue is *Factors Influencing the Use of Food Storage Structures by*

*Agrarian Communities in Northern Uganda*, in which **Charles Owach**, **Godfrey Bahigwa**, and **Gabriel Elepu** explore the critical nature of food preservation in highly food-insecure communities.

We offer four book reviews in this issue: **Kristen Lowitt** reviews *Globalization, Agriculture, and Food in the Caribbean: Climate Change, Gender and Geography*, edited by Clinton L. Beckford and Kevon Rhiney. **Gregory Zimmerman** reviews *Growing Livelihoods: Local Food Systems and Community Development*, by Rhonda Phillips and Christopher Wharton. **Heather Johnson** reviews *Food, Farms, and Community: Exploring Food Systems*, by Lisa Chase and Vern Grubinger. And **Sarah Martin** reviews *Real Pigs: Shifting Values in the Field of Local Pork*, by Brad Weiss.

I wish to thank all our authors and especially our reviewers for their patience in the preparation of this issue. While we are very pleased with the our new website for sharing JAFSCD's content, we are less than enthusiastic about our new peer-review system, which, alas, has been confusing for all concerned. We will continue to use Open Journal Systems as our publishing platform ([www.FoodSystemsJournal.org](http://www.FoodSystemsJournal.org)), but we are returning to our tried-and-true peer-review system, *Manuscript FastTrack*, for the time being. 



*Publisher and Editor in Chief*

\* JAFSCD columnists page: <https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org/index.php/fsj/pages/view/columnists>