



CLEAN AIR

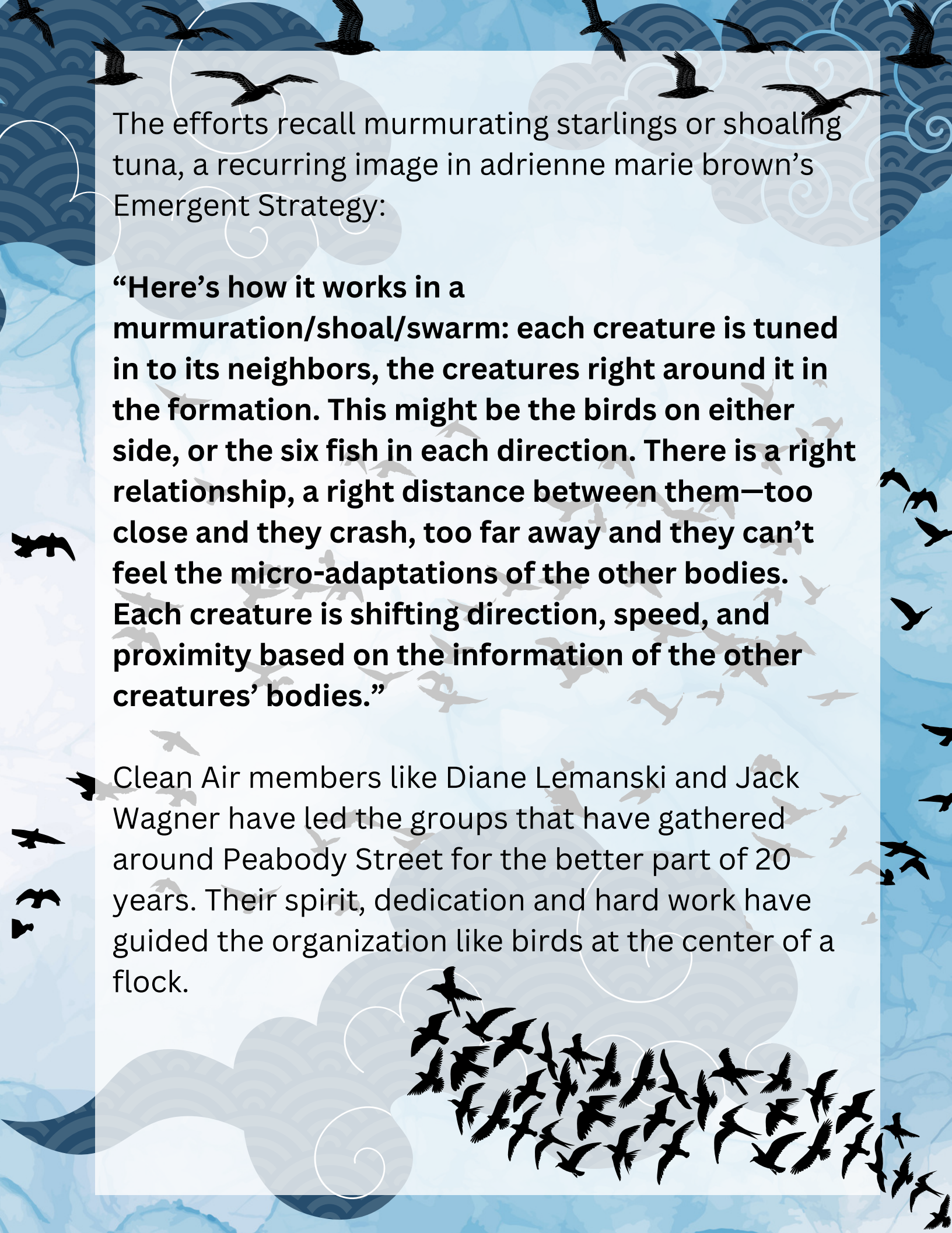


Emerging
Together

Justice on Peabody Street in Buffalo's Seneca-Babcock neighborhood has been a long-time coming. Residents have spent two decades organizing to stop an illegal concrete crushing operation that created substantial noise and sickening air pollution.

The work was demanding and difficult, but victories were always around the corner. This year the team saw the City of Buffalo's Housing Court order the demolition of the concrete crushing operation's headquarters. It was leveled in August. The owner settled with the state Attorney General's office, too.


Organizers, members, and local leaders have come and gone over the life of the Peabody Street campaign. But the steady work of brave and resilient core members have led whoever flocked around them, pushing the work forward.




The efforts recall murmuring starlings or shoaling tuna, a recurring image in adrienne marie brown's Emergent Strategy:

“Here’s how it works in a murmuration/shoal/swarm: each creature is tuned in to its neighbors, the creatures right around it in the formation. This might be the birds on either side, or the six fish in each direction. There is a right relationship, a right distance between them—too close and they crash, too far away and they can’t feel the micro-adaptations of the other bodies. Each creature is shifting direction, speed, and proximity based on the information of the other creatures’ bodies.”

Clean Air members like Diane Lemanski and Jack Wagner have led the groups that have gathered around Peabody Street for the better part of 20 years. Their spirit, dedication and hard work have guided the organization like birds at the center of a flock.



The background features a light blue color with white, swirling, cloud-like patterns. Scattered throughout are silhouettes of birds in flight, some in black and some in a lighter grey. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

In the coming year, folks on Peabody will be watchdogging the enforcement of the state settlement agreement against the owner of the concrete crushing operation. In negotiations, the state has agreed to allow him to crush additional stone onsite. The work, which would restart the dangerous and traumatizing operations that plagued the neighborhood for years, is a major concern for the team.

At Clean Air, we believe in fostering community by connecting with grassroots leaders like Diane and Jack, supporting their work and offering resources that can help refine their unique skills.

Help us continue our work in 2023 with your support today. We have a goal to collectively raise \$75,000 so we can keep emerging together next year.

Can you join that work with a donation today?

In solidarity,

Phil Gambini, Just Transition Organizer, alongside the Clean Air Staff and Peabody Street campaign team