

Fall/Winter 2019

NATIONAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY NEWS & VIEWS

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From the Executive Director Julie Taylor

The National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) has undergone many changes in the last year. We have seen a transition in staff and are moving into 2020 with hope and vision. “Steps, next steps and future steps,” this was the theme of the summer board meeting.

Farm workers also faced ongoing challenges last year. The boycotts continue against Wendy’s and Reynolds (VUSE e-cigarettes). These powerful companies continue to insist that they support their own self-monitoring but we know this is inadequate. Farm workers in their supply chains continue to experience exploitation. We have participated in pickets, marches, calls, petitions and a variety of other actions and will continue to join our farm worker partners in future opportunities.



Marching with the UFW



Much of the organizing by our farm workers is done nationally as they seek consumer pressure for corporate influence and we are trying to leverage our member organizational influence by education and mobilization through social media and our website.

YAYAs were also in transition in 2019. The group was convened by Taylor Snider, a YAYA member herself, who worked to expand membership and presence for the group. YAYAs supported Farmworker Association efforts in Apopka, promoted CIW organizing in Florida and engaged in food justice opportunities. A sub-committee of the NFWM board has been and will be discussing future plans for the group and will be considering how we can best work to develop youth and young adult leadership in the farm worker movement nationwide.

For NFWM, we have refocused our efforts on education through the Harvest of Justice (last year's theme was farm workers and gender based violence).

If you missed the new resources created for Harvest of Justice, please go to our website to see a short video, weekly flyers and additional resources you can promote.



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AS 2020 BEGINS,
WE GIVE THANKS
FOR FARM
WORKERS WHO
FEED US.

WE GIVE THANKS
FOR FAITH
PARTNERS WHO
STAND WITH FARM
WORKERS FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE.

THE FARM WORKER
MOVEMENT
REMINDS US TO
SEEK JUSTICE
TOGETHER.

TO ACHIEVE
JUSTICE IS TO FIND
PEACE ON EARTH.
AMEN.

-JULIE TAYLOR,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



NFWM Summer 2019

Board meeting

The summer meeting of the National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) board took place in Washington, DC specifically to learn and engage around farm worker legislation. Hosted by Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, the day on Capitol Hill began with presentations by Iris Figueroa and Adrienne DeVartanian of Farmworker Justice on the Agricultural Workers Program Act and H2A regulations. H2A visas in the US have grown exponentially in the last few years and ICE raids have created farm labor shortages around the country, creating strong demand for guest worker visas.

Kelly Bruner of Justice for Migrant Women, a new partner for NFWM in our gender based violence work, shared about the BE HEARD Act. This legislation would expand federal sexual harassment protections to businesses that employ less than 15 people, something especially important for small farming operations.

Justice for Migrant Women is the organization that promotes the Bandana Project, to raise awareness about gender based violence among farm worker women, now included in Harvest of Justice actions.



Hector Rodriguez, Jessica Culley, Carol Barton, and David Wildman visit Capitol Hill

Board members heard from Peter O'Driscoll about the Equitable Food Initiative's summer promotion through Costco on the West Coast and from Jessica Culley, leader of CATA - The Farmworker Support Group based in New Jersey and working out of Pennsylvania and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Dave Farmer of Ravensworth Baptist Church, a Supporting Organization in Wash., D.C., gave a report on a social media assessment he did for NFWM.

Taylor Snider, part-time YAYA Coordinator made a report for YAYAs and led a discussion on food justice. Clayton Sinyai of the Catholic Labor Network shared about his work and Chuck Barrett presented FairTrade USA's work in food certification.

Halley Stephenson led early arrivals in a discussion at the "People's Supper" on Thursday night. Sharon Stanley Rea and John Hill helped coordinate the Congressional visits.



Taylor Snider, YAYA and Halley Stephenson, Duke Intern

¡Presente!



Bruce Hanson:

D. Bruce Hanson passed away May 16, 2019. For decades Bruce served as a consultant to the Executive Committee of the Board and the Executive Director of NFWM. Bruce personified grace. Our

deepest condolences to Bruce's wife Rev. Jean Alexander and his family. He contributed to the community nature of the Ministry and worked with a strong commitment to the NCC.



Jack Preiss:

Jack passed away on April 14, 2019 at home in Durham, NC preceded by his wife, Joan, in 2012. Jack, with Joan's brother Fred Papert, established the Joan Preiss Memorial Fund within NFWM. Jack

went on to revive the Triangle Friends of Farmworkers (TFF) with Joan's long-time cohorts Jennifer McGovern and Dave Austin and others. TFF is only one of Jack and Joan's many legacies. As one Durhamite said on learning of Jack's passing, "He did a lot of good for a very long time."



A. Garnett Day:

Garnett Day lived a remarkable and grace-filled life. He was dedicated to justice for the underdog, compassion for those in need and had a deep commitment to peace. A minister of the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ), Garnett was committed to the civil rights, anti-war and anti-poverty movements.

Garnett served on our Board from its founding until his retirement.



Ilse Peetz:

Ilse represented Church Women United of Southern California and Southern Nevada for several years. She passed away August 21, 2018.

Ilse was a retired United Methodist pastor and dedicated to social justice efforts as well as to the work of the church in the world. Active in Church Women United, her passionate support of farm workers kept the members in her region informed and active on farm worker issues.

WITH THESE AND MANY OTHERS, WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THEIR PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES AND THE WORLD HAS BEEN IMPROVED BY THEIR DETERMINED AND FAITHFUL SPIRITS. THEIR COMMITMENT TO FARM WORKERS, THE FARM WORKER MOVEMENT AND TO THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY WILL FOREVER BE APPRECIATED AND THEIR LEGACY WILL BE A REMINDER FOR US TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE - VIVA LA CAUSA!

NFWM says goodbye to Susan Alan and Alex Jonas



Susan Alan

For 17 years Susan Alan was part of the life of the National Farm Worker Ministry. She did a little bit of everything.

If you called the office, you were most likely to hear her voice first. If you e-mailed the organization, you most likely heard back from her. If you gave money, you most likely received a thank you note she wrote. If you attended a board meeting or other major event, you most likely were met first by her. If you read the e-news or newsletter, she was the primary writer. If you needed resources, she created many of them and provided much of the content on our website.

In recent years, Susan was the key staff person for the Boycott of Sakuma and Driscoll's berries with Familias Unidas that was settled in 2016. She was also the primary staff person in relation to FLOC and their tobacco campaign and was an integral part of supporting

the Triangle Friends of Farmworkers in NC. And, since the office moved to North Carolina, Susan shaped the lives of our interns as their mentor/coordinator. At this time Susan has determined that she will move on and explore new opportunities to help make a difference in our world. We wish her well in her next endeavor and will miss her.

We also said goodbye and a big thank you to Alexandria (Alex) Jonas, who took a position as Development Manager at WISER International. Alex has been a big part of NFWM since 2007, even during her three-year hiatus to work at Fund

for Democratic Communities. She started as a Young Adult Mission Intern from the United Methodist Church and quickly became the NC Organizer and later was the Director of Development.

From the beginning, Alex was motivated by her passion for social justice and the farm worker movement: "I continue to be amazed by the farm workers and their supporters who are among some of the most inspiring justice seekers I've ever known."

She was instrumental in developing NFWM's new logo, website, digital and print communication and fundraising materials. Her accomplishments include developing our house party and sustainer programs. And we were especially blessed by her skills as a photographer.

Best wishes to Alex and her family .



Alexandria (Alex) Jonas

FLOC: The latest!



FLOC staff in North Carolina and volunteers (including the Triangle Friends of Farmworkers) have been working together to stand with farm workers facing intimidation, abuse and wage theft. In the fall they dealt with a corrupt farm labor contractor impacting six farms in Eastern Carolina. Delegations of farm workers, union organizers and volunteers delivered letters to growers. At one of the farms, organizers were arrested as they tried to inform other workers of the wage theft and the union's willingness to support them. FLOC is continuing to address this.



On Friday, October 25th, FLOC's NC organizers went to leaflet Greanleaf workers about their rights, including domestic workers who confirmed they were not being paid the \$12.25 per hour that they are supposed to receive. The FLOC organizers were arrested and charged with 2nd degree trespassing.

NFWM Updates: Welcome to our newest!

Emily Miller,
Director of
Communications



With over 15 years of experience in for-profit and non-profit, religious and secular communications, Emily brings a wealth of experience to the Ministry. She has a B.A. in Foreign Policy from the University of Virginia and has been Adjunct Faculty at both Pace University and the Fashion Institute of Technology. Emily serves now and has served on the board of the Appalachia Service Project for 15 years.

Kate Hamman ,
Administrative
Assistant



Kate grew up in Arizona and spent the last three years farming in Cedar Grove, NC with Anathoth Community Garden & Farm. The Anathoth community taught her to harvest sweet potatoes, celebrate agricultural traditions, and most importantly, support the diverse communities of farmers who grow our food. She also has a degree from Duke Divinity School and has spent time working in Costa Rica.

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I HOPE TO BE ABLE
TO MORE
EFFECTIVELY SERVE
MIGRANT
COMMUNITIES WHEN
I PASTOR A CHURCH
ONE DAY.

-HANNA STAMEY



Farm Workers Give to Us Every Day!
Will you?

Become a NFWM Sustainer today!

<http://nfwm.org/join-nfwms-sustainer-program/>

- Emily will lead communications efforts for NFWM.
- Kate will be handling operations in the Raleigh office.
- Hanna will help create Harvest of Justice materials for the 2020 season.

National Farm Worker Ministry

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Return Service Requested

With Appreciation for her service, farewell to Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff

For a number of years now, Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff has been the representative of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She has been a faithful board member and ardent ally of farm workers with connections to NFWM through the St. Louis Inter-faith



Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff

Committee on Latin America and the World Community Center where our office was previously located. We will miss Marilyn but look forward to staying in touch. Maybe she will have a little more time for her beloved grandson, Finn.

Replacing her on the board will be Lauren Brownlee. Lauren participated in the summer 2018 board meeting in Bellingham, WA. She is currently Upper School Head at the Carolina Friends School in Durham, NC. Welcome, Lauren!

NFWM

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