



# ORANGE COUNTY INTERFAITH COMMITTEE TO AID FARM WORKERS



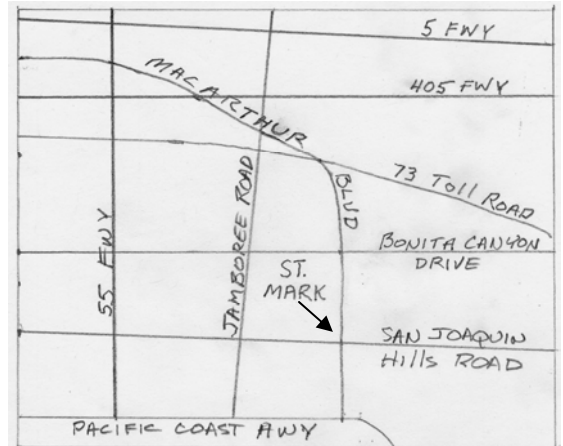
## 46TH ANNUAL FARM WORKER SUMMER CELEBRATION

**Date:** Sunday, September 18, 2011  
**Time:** 5:00 P.M.—Social Hour & Silent Auction Browsing  
6:00 P.M.—Dinner  
7:00 P.M.—Program

**Where:** **St. Mark Presbyterian Church**, which is located at 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road where San Joaquin Hills Road and MacArthur Blvd meet in Newport Beach, 92660. Exit Freeway #73 at MacArthur and proceed south to San Joaquin Hills Road, then turn right and then right again into the church parking lot. The church is kitty corner from Roger's Garden and north of Fashion Island.

**Silent Auction has some fabulous items:** tickets to Catalina, San Diego Zoo, Santa Ana Zoo, Long Beach Aquarium, Bowers Museum, Cerritos Performing Arts Center, La Mirada Theater for the Performing Arts, South Coast Repertory Theater, Pala Resort, and more!

**Dinner:** \$20 contribution per person with a prepaid reservation, or \$25 at the door. Dinner will be catered, reservations required by Tuesday, Sept. 13. All proceeds will be given to the National Farm Worker Ministry. We must have a firm count so that the correct number of dinners can be ordered. Please indicate with the check the names of the people who plan to attend. Your Committee is obligated to pay for any dinner reservation made but not paid. For reservations, call Suzanne Darweesh at 714-738-1785 and for a pre-paid reservation, make your check payable to NFWM (tax deductible) and mail it to Suzanne, 2104 Hilltop Ct., Fullerton, 92835. If you can't be at the dinner, a donation would be very much appreciated. If you have auction items to donate, please call Suzanne to let her know and thank you so much!



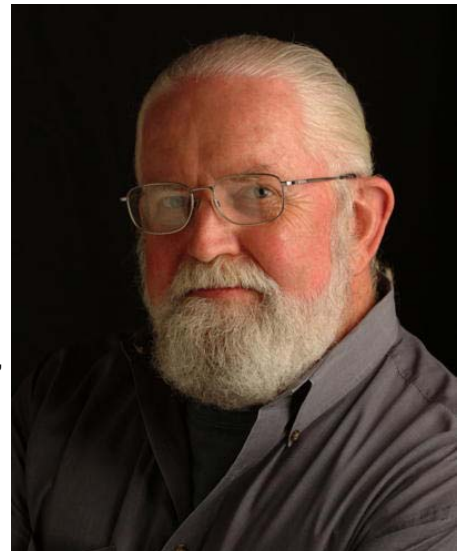
## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. MICHAEL E. CONROY, PH.D.

### ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATE

Dr. Michael E. Conroy is a former academic, funder, advocate and analyst of the emergence of new systems for corporate social and environmental accountability. For the past fifteen years he has been at the forefront of the movement to build systems that encourage and reward higher standards of corporate accountability in a wide range of industries, from sustainable forestry and sustainable tourism and ecotourism to certified Fair Trade, and responsible mining.

Building on a 25 year academic career as a Professor of Economics at the University of Texas at Austin and later as a Senior Research Scholar and Senior Lecturer at Yale University, Dr. Conroy has taught about, researched, and written about the "certification revolution" that has created unprecedented transformation of global corporate practices on social and environmental fronts over the past 15 years.

He has also spent a dozen years outside academia in the philanthropic world, first at the Ford Foundation and then with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. His academic record includes the first courses at the University of Texas on the Global Economics of Sustainable Development, a half-dozen academic books, and scores of professional publications. His latest book, *Branded! How the 'Certification Revolution' Is Transforming Global Corporations*, has been named one of the two best Business Ethics books published in English in 2007. Dr. Conroy is on the board of Fair Trade USA and co-chair of the board of Earthworks, Inc. He has served as a consultant to an initiative that is developing standards and a certification process related to farm worker conditions, food safety and pesticide use. National Farm Worker Ministry is one of the lead partners in this multi-stakeholder effort. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Conroy speak to us.



## DELEGATIONS HAVE SOME SUCCESS WITH BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO



On April 27, British consulates across the United States were visited by delegations of people who have been concerned for years about the working conditions of farm workers who pick tobacco sold to Reynolds American, one of the world's largest tobacco companies. Since British American Tobacco (BAT) owns 42% of Reynolds, an attempt is being made to work through BAT. Baldemar Velasquez, head of FLOC, and Virginia Nesmith, NFWM Director, spoke at the BAT shareholder meeting in London. Our local delegation held a rally in front of the British Consulate in Los Angeles. Barbara Johnson, Marti Schrank, and Suzanne Darweesh represented our Committee.

About 5 of us went upstairs to the Consul-General's office where we were warmly received and told that our concerns would be forwarded to London. Since that time, BAT has agreed to an "industry council" meeting including FLOC and several tobacco companies. RJ Reynolds has not yet agreed to be present for this meeting.

## LONG-TIME SUPPORTER JEANNE GIORDANO DIES



Jeanne Giordano of Bellingham, WA, formerly of Corona del Mar, died on April 18 at age 93. She is survived by her husband Roy, 2 children, and 3 granddaughters. She earned her RN at the University of San Francisco, and her BS and Public Health Nursing Credential from the University of California, Berkeley. She worked for 25 years as coordinator of the Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers and served on the Board of Directors of the National Farm Workers Ministry for over 30 years. Bill Steiner, in charge of music for our O.C. fundraisers, led the music at Jeanne's memorial service, and Virginia Nesmith, Executive Director of NFWM, spoke movingly: "Jeanne was a nurse and tuned in to the suffering of those around her. She knew that our world was hurting and that our agricultural system was sick at its core due to its treatment of farm workers—and she knew that the only way for a person to be healthy in the midst of all the hurt and disease was in doing something about it. And do something about it she did—from her first involvement with farm workers in 1968 to her role as coordinator of the O.C. Committee for over 20 years...She embodied so well the last line in Cesar Chavez' prayer: 'Help us love even those who hate us, so we can change the world.'"

## FARM WORKERS SUFFER A CRUSHING DEFEAT

On June 23, 2011, the UFW organized a rally in front of the Los Angeles City Hall in support of the Fair Treatment for Farm Worker bill, SB 104, which both branches of the California legislatures had passed, largely with Democratic support. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa spoke passionately of the difficult lives farm workers lead. A crowd of about 100 people (including our O.C. Committee members Suzanne Darweesh, Nadene Ivens, and Barbara Johnson) then followed the mayor and Martin Sheen to Governor Brown's LA office. Sheen, a long-time supporter of farm workers, spoke about the need for this bill to be signed by the governor in light of the 15 farm workers who have died in the fields in recent years from heat exhaustion and lack of water. SB 104 would have made it easier for farm workers to vote to join a union and ensure their rights were upheld. The rally was held while the UFW, NFWM and hundreds of farm workers and supporters held a 12 day fast and vigil in Sacramento. Gov. Brown was expected to sign the bill, but at 11 p.m., June 28, he vetoed the bill, saying that he was "not yet convinced that the far-reaching proposals of this bill" were justified.



## CIW LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRADER JOE'S



We in Orange County remember working on the Taco Bell boycott in late 2001 because the Taco Bell headquarters are located in Irvine. For three years the Coalition of Immokalee Workers visited Orange County during their off-work period to protest farm labor conditions in south Florida where 90% of the country's winter tomatoes are harvested. After a three year struggle of boycotts around the country, fasts, marches, prayer vigils, and workers sleeping overnight in the rain outside headquarters, Taco Bell finally agreed in 2005 to pay a penny a pound more to tomato pickers and to establish a Fair Code of Conduct. In 2007 McDonald's followed suit; Burger King, Subway, and Whole Foods Market signed agreements in 2008. Food service providers such as Sodexo, Aramark, Bon Appetit Management Co. and the Compass Group came to the table in 2009-10. When the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange signed in late 2010, that made a huge impact. But

still the big supermarkets (such as Kroger/Ralph's, Von's, Albertson's, Publix, etc.) have resisted with the exception of Whole Foods.

According to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' website, the giant supermarkets such as Walmart's purchase tens of million of pounds of tomatoes annually. Because of the quantity of their purchases, they can establish prices for the rest of the industry. In Atlanta, a Trader Joe's posted a sign last month that says, "We go straight to the source and bargain hard for the best prices on the best products."

But low prices are in fact already artificially low. The growers cannot sustain a necessary profit without cutting their own costs and therefore they turn to farm labor, the weakest link in the supply chain. In 1992, according to USDA statistics, the farmer received 40.8% of every dollar spent on tomatoes. By 2010 that percentage dropped to 20.5%. At the same time, farmers' expenses such as fuel, land, pesticides, and tractors were increasing. The CIW has launched a campaign against Trader Joe's around the country which included a series of protests in California in mid-July. Several members of our Orange County Interfaith Committee were present to offer their support in front of the Trader Joe's across from UCI on July 12: Frank Forbath, Henry Weil, Al White, and Suzanne Darweesh. (See photo). Members of the CIW expect to return September 30 for a march in Monrovia, headquarters of Trader Joe's.

**Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers:**  
**Co-Chairs:** Suzanne Darweesh & Andy Saavedra  
**Treasurer:** Frank Forbath, **Fundraising:** Tina Laine  
**Church Liaison & Newsletter:** Barbara Johnson, Nadene Ivens  
**Labor Liaison:** Marti Schrank,  
 Chuck Buck, Jim Ivens, Ernie Santos, Bill Steiner, Henry Weil, Al White

**Farm Worker web pages:**  
[www.ufw.org](http://www.ufw.org) (UFW)  
[www.floc.com](http://www.floc.com) (FLOC)  
[www.pcun.org](http://www.pcun.org) (PCUN)  
[www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org) (CIW)  
[www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org) (NFWM)