



ORANGE COUNTY INTERFAITH COMMITTEE TO AID FARM WORKERS



47TH ANNUAL FARM WORKER SUMMER CELEBRATION

Date: Sunday, September 30, 2012

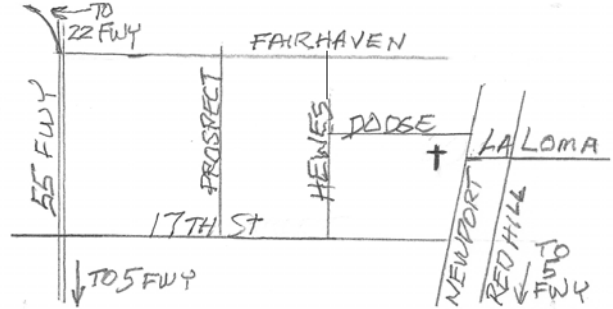
Time: 5:00 P.M.—Social Hour & Silent Auction Browsing
6:00 P.M.—Dinner
7:00 P.M.—Program

Where: Church of the Foothills, United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ, 19211 Dodge Av., Santa Ana,
Directions from North on 57 Fwy: Exit 1B to merge onto Fwy 22 East toward Orange. Exit 17A for Tustin Av., Rt. onto N. Tustin; Lt onto E. Fairhaven; Rt onto Hewes; Lt onto Dodge; Church on the right.

Directions from South on 55 Fwy: Exit 12 for 17th St.; Rt on 17th St.; Lt on Hewes; Rt onto Dodge; Church on right.

Directions from South on 5 Fwy: Exit 101B for Red Hill

toward Tustin; Rt. onto Red Hill; Lt onto La Loma Dr.; Rt. onto Newport Av.; Take 2nd left onto Dodge. Church on the left-
Silent Auction has some fabulous items.



Dinner: \$20 contribution per person with a prepaid reservation, or \$25 at the door. Dinner will be catered, reservations required by Tuesday, Sept. 25. 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. Thank you so much!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS HARTMIRE

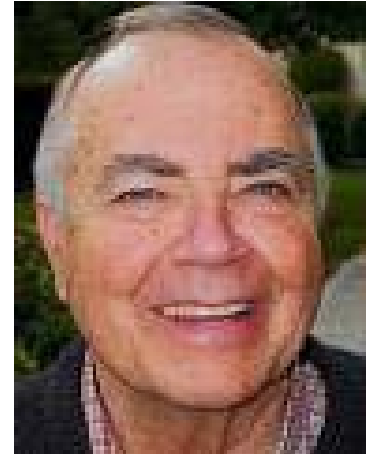
NFWM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 1971—1981

Reverend Wayne (Chris) Hartmire, former Executive Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry, will be our speaker for the September 30th fundraiser to benefit the NFWM. Chris, known, loved, and esteemed by many of us, graduated from Princeton University with a degree in civil engineering and Union Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity degree. While a counselor at Princeton Summer Camp for low income boys from the inner city, Chris began to have doubts about civil engineering as a career. Between college and seminary, he also served in the US Navy as an engineer. While in seminary, Chris worked at the East Harlem Protestant Parish, which shaped his view of the church and its ministry.

Chris served as executive director of the California Migrant Ministry from 1961 to 1971 and then became executive director of the NFWM for another ten years, after which he was staff manager for the United Farm Workers at La Paz and worked closely with Cesar Chavez.

From 1989-98, he was program director for Loaves and Fishes in Sacramento, a ministry to homeless men, women, and children. Finally, he directed Clean and Sober from 1999-2003, a residential recovery program for homeless men and women.

Chris and his wife, Pudge, have lived at Pilgrim Place since 2003 where he is still active in farm labor issues. He and Pudge have four adult children and seven grandchildren. We are thrilled to have him as our speaker!



UNITED FARM WORKERS CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The United Farm Workers celebrated their 50th Anniversary Convention in Bakersfield on May 17-19, 2012. Joy permeated the whole affair, attended by hundreds with music, flags, memories of the early days and their first convention of only a limited number of delegates in a small movie theater. Many distinguished guests saluted the progress of the UFW. Delegates passed a resolution of gratitude for the many years of support provided by California Migrant Ministry and the National Farm Worker Ministry. Attending from NFWM and pictured in photo from left to right, are Mary Jean Friel, Sam Trickey, former president of NFWM, Suzanne Darweesh, Virginia Nesmith, Executive Director, NFWM, Chris Hartmire, former Executive Director of the NFWM, Olgha Sandman, and Felix Garza, present President of NFWM.



We were marched down the aisle amid loud cheering and clapping. Virginia Nesmith, and Chris Hartmire, both addressed the crowd. An afternoon was spent touring the UFW headquarters at La Paz including a wonderful museum exhibit, concluding with dinner and music on the lawn.

D'ARRIGO BROS. REFUSE TO RENEW UFW CONTRACT

Did you know that Santa Clara University is the oldest institution of higher learning in California? Also, that it is the first to be named after a woman? It is also one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Thirty of us from all over the country representing many different religious backgrounds, spent two days in mid-August, (the executive committee spent an extra day) attending the NFWM board meeting in Santa Clara, examining our work with farm laborers, visiting D'Arrigo Farms and Sundance Berry Farms, hearing about the work of two UFW (United Farm Workers) farm worker organizers, listening/watching oral and video reports from NFWM staff, looking at our budget and interacting with each other. We became re-energized and excited about new developments.



National Farm Worker Ministry Board Members praying at the headquarters of D'Arrigo Farms

We visited the beautiful marble headquarters of D'Arrigo Farms in Salinas. D'Arrigo markets vegetables nationwide under the label Andy Boy. In 2007, many years after the UFW first won an election at D'Arrigo, a contract was finally signed thanks to an amendment to the California Agricultural Relations Act requiring binding mediation when the growers refuse to negotiate. Shortly before the contract was to expire, D'Arrigo orchestrated a campaign to try and decertify the UFW – that attempt was ruled illegal by the Agricultural Relations Board. The company owner John D'Arrigo, and the head of labor relations, John Snell were both cited for unlawful behavior. Now the company is stalling in negotiating a new contract; the company is refusing to raise wages and wants to be able to fire people "without due cause". It also increased the number of workers hired by a labor contractor but the contract only applies to direct hires, not to workers hired by a contractor. Mr. D'Arrigo was not in his office, even though an attempt to speak with him was made in advance but we did speak with Mr. John Snell. He indicated there were some difficulties in present negotiations which we already knew. One of our members noted that in all the beautiful pictures around the reception area, none of them included farm workers.

After lunch, we visited Sundance Berry Farms in Moss Landing, a much more pleasant experience and not just because we were invited to sample the strawberries! Sundance Farms is a pilot program for the Equitable Food Initiative. For those of you who heard Dr. Michael Conroy speak last year at our farm worker dinner at St. Mark about the certification of food produced under fair labor conditions, this is the next step and what an exciting step it is! The EFI is developing certifiable standards in the area of farm labor conditions, pesticide use and food safety. It promotes a dignified livelihood for farm workers, a stable and professional work force, and safer, environmentally sustainable food for retailers and consumers.

The National Farm Worker Ministry and the United Farm Workers were among the founding organizations of EFI and have representation on the steering committee. Other organizations that are part of the EFI are: Andrew and Williamson Fresh Produce International, BonAppetit, Calvert Investment, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Consumer Federation of America, Costco, Farm Worker Justice, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Oxfam America, Pesticide Action Network of North America, and Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste (PCUN). It was exciting because this has been needed for a long time, and because we had a chance to speak with the President of Sundance Berry Farms, Ernie Farley, and even more to speak with the leadership team of the strawberry pickers and other farm employees and understand what a giant step this is for them to figure out how to improve the handling of the product and what working conditions are needed to achieve this. After several years of talking and planning, we rejoice in this operation and look forward to its expansion. For more information check their website: [Equitable Food Initiative.net](http://EquitableFoodInitiative.net)

—by Suzanne Darweesh, NFWM Board Member



The farm workers pictured above are members of the leadership team at Sundance Berry Farms at Moss Landing, CA

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 (UFW)
www.floc.com (FLOC)
www.pcun.org (PCUN)
www.ciw-online.org (CIW)
www.nfwm.org (NFWM)