

## **NFWM News & Action Alerts**

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## On Common Ground

NFWM Executive Director Julie Taylor will be attending *On Common Ground. Julie* will also be sharing about NFWM at St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church (Corner of 86th and West End Ave) on Sunday, January 27th, following the 11:00 am worship service. To connect with Julie and for more information, email her at jtaylor@nfwm.org or call 919-302-9581.

# On Common Ground

Explore the vital connection between faith and the advancement of human rights through a panel discussion with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Gerardo Reyes Chavez, theologians Brian McLaren, Obery Hendricks, and Hussein Rashid, Rachel Kahn-Troster of T'ruah and moderated by Noelle Damico of the Alliance for Fair Food!

Monday, January 28, 7pm | Church of St. Ignatius Loyola | 980 Park Ave, NYC Come and see what faith can do!









For more information: allianceforfairfood.org | info@allianceforfairfood.org

SAVE THE DATES & be on the look-out for future announcements about support actions.

This coming spring, farm workers from Immokalee and their national allies will join forces on four of the country's flagship state universities – University of Michigan, Ohio State University, UNC Chapel Hill, and University of Florida – to demand Fair Food on campus... or an end to contracts with Wendy's!





# Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2019 Introduced in Congress

The National Farm Worker Ministry joins our partners the United Farm Workers of America, the United Farm Workers Foundation, Farmworker Justice and others in applauding U.S. Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) for their leadership in introducing AWPA of 2019. We look forward to supporting this legislation throughout the year.

### **UFW/UFW Foundation Statement:**

Immigrant farm workers whose skill and hard work feed America and all of us have earned the right to apply to legally remain in the United States and would be able to do so under the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2019, introduced by Representative Lofgren and Senator Feinstein. It would also guarantee growers the legal and stable workforce they say they need. This urgently-needed measure would allow field laborers to apply for "Blue Card" status providing them the legal right to stay and work without peril.

The Lofgren-Feinstein bill is equitable and rational immigration reform serving the needs of both farm workers and growers. Doesn't it make more sense to let law-abiding, tax-paying undocumented farm workers in this country now earn legal status before turning to substantial numbers of additional guest workers from outside the U.S.?

Those who qualify under the Agricultural Worker Program Act would have to demonstrate they have consistently been employed on U.S. farms over the past two years, pass thorough background checks and pay a fine. Permanent legal status would only come after workers continue laboring in agriculture over an additional three- to five-year period.

The Agricultural Worker Program Act offers America's farm workers and their families—

including many U.S. citizen children—relief from the palpable fear that paralyzes local communities and threatens stability in the agricultural industry. People are afraid to leave their homes when they drive to work every morning. They deserve relief.

We are grateful to Representative Lofgren and Senator Feinstein for their leadership and commend them for authoring this legislation. ###

# YAYA Celebrates Ms. Linda Lee & Continues Work with Black Farm Workers



On December 11, YAYA had the honor of celebrating Ms. Linda Lee as she received the Treston Davis-Faulkner Legacy Award presented by Central Florida Jobs with Justice. Jobs with Justice shared Ms. Lee's biography as a farm worker leader with Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF) and creator of the Apopka Memorial Quilt.

<u>Click here</u> so you can read more of the inspirational words her granddaughter Cheyanne shares about her, "Through her aches and pains that she pays no mind to, she continues the battles that our loved ones once fought but can no longer. Nevertheless, she still instills her tender love, patience, and kindness into ones known and unknown."

YAYA members are meeting with Ms. Lee and other staff and community members from Hope CommUnity Center and FWAF on a monthly basis as part of ongoing work to support Black farm workers in Central Florida. The group will be collecting oral histories of Black farm workers, collaborating on food justice work based in the FWAF community garden, and supporting the community in addressing health concerns.

# Hurray to the Orlando NFWM-YAYA Chapter 2019 Officers!



Taylor Snider - Advocacy/Awareness Co-chair Yaretzi Perez - Service Co-chair Zubir Hussein - Secretary Tareek Leonard - Communication Co-Chair Ofelia Sanchez - Membership Chair/Treasurer

Special thanks to Albert for helping out as Elections Commissioner!

Stay tuned for the upcoming work this incredibly talented and dedicated group of young people has planned for 2019. They are working with intentionality and courage to mobilize young supporters to the farm worker movement in Central Florida and create impact locally and nationally. We are so grateful for their service and commitment.



Did you know many companies offer a matching gift program to encourage philanthropy among their employees?

Gifts from employees, spouses and retirees may also qualify for a match. Guidelines and amounts vary with each company. Typically, individuals must submit forms to their employers. Check with your employer to get more information about matching gift benefits.

As a preliminary step, search online for the phrase, "Does my employer match donations?" You'll find links to databases listing many large employers with matching gifts programs.

Remember, contributions of any amount help us support farm workers' campaigns!

**DONATE TODAY!** 

NFWM Supports These Boycotts led by our Farm Worker Partners.

We hope you will, too!











