



FARMWORKER JUSTICE NEWS

Farmworker Justice

www.farmworkerjustice.org

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After 25 Years, a Fresh Look for Farmworker Justice

By Bruce Goldstein

Founded in 1981 as the "Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc.," our organization is celebrating 25 years of service to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. As we move forward to our next quarter-century of high-quality advocacy with great enthusiasm and energy, we are adopting a new name and a new logo.

We decided to shorten our name to "Farmworker Justice," and in Spanish, "*Justicia Campesina*." Two words, simple and straightforward. "Farmworker" says that we serve migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families and their communities. "Justice" describes our mission - justice in the fields and in farmworker communities - and sends the message that we engage in advocacy, litigation and education to empower farmworkers to build a better future.

Removing the word "fund" helps us avoid giving the inaccurate impression that we operate as a foundation that gives out grants. Farmworker Justice is an organization that relies on philanthropic support from people like you. We thank you for your help.



FARMWORKER JUSTICE

—25 YEARS OF SERVICE—

We also commissioned a fresh new logo. The image retains the character of our first logo, which captured the people we serve, while adopting a more contemporary design. We like the new logo because the

farmworkers' tools are in the hands of individuals. The logo now contains both a man and a woman, symbolizing our strong commitment to promoting equality and fairness. We hope you like it.

We will also launch a redesigned website, that is more visually appealing, uses technology more dynamically, and is better organized and simpler to use. We hope to reach many more people through the new www.farmworkerjustice.org. You may also use the address www.justicia-campesina.org, and can still reach us through www.fwjjustice.org.

Thank you for helping us build Farmworker Justice.



Photo: Jacques-Jean Tizou / www.jjtizou.net
Pennsylvania mushroom worker and union organizer.

SELECCIONES DE LAS NOTICIAS DE JUSTICIA CAMPESINA
ESTARÁN DISPONIBLES DE AHORA EN ADELANTE EN ESPAÑOL.
¡BUSQUE ADENTRO EL SUPLEMENTO EN ESPAÑOL!

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EPA Allows Pesticide Testing on People

By Shelley Davis

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently decided to allow chemical companies, following modest procedural requirements, intentionally to dose adults with pesticides. The pesticide industry wants to conduct such research to weaken federally-imposed safety requirements. Farmworker Justice and others critics of human testing charge that these studies are unethical under national and international standards and that the small scale studies likely to be conducted will lack the size necessary to produce valuable scientific information.

The EPA, under the Clinton Administration, issued a moratorium on human studies, stating that animal and other data were sufficient for making regulatory decisions that would be protective of people and the environment. An appellate court lifted the moratorium in 2003.

The EPA's new regulations prohibit the use of pregnant women, infants and children as test subjects only when the researchers or their sponsors intend to submit the study results to the EPA for consideration under the pesticide laws. This qualified ban would not preclude studies using pregnant women or children that are conducted for submission to a different regulatory body, such as a state agency or foreign government. Likewise, it would not prohibit the submission of such a study to the EPA for purposes of regulatory decisions under a different statute like the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 2005, Congress imposed a "rider" on EPA's appropriations which requires the agency to categorically ban the use of pregnant women, infants and children as subjects in intentional dosing studies of pesticides. The new regulations appear to violate this requirement.

Intentional dosing studies are defined as those in which the test subject would not have been exposed to the pesticide "but for" participation in the research. By contrast, these regulations do not cover privately-financed observations of the human effects of pesticide exposure, when the use would have occurred even in the absence of a study.

Intentional dosing studies of adults will be permitted as long as the researchers obtain "informed" consent from the participants, approval of an Independent Review Board and

review by the EPA's Human Subjects Review Board. The value of the "informed consent" requirement is limited, however, because at the time these toxicity tests are conducted, the companies may not know – or be in a position to disclose -- all of the product's potential adverse health effects. The Congressional rider also directed the EPA to ensure that its human testing regulations are consistent with both the Nuremberg Code (established after World War II) and a 2004 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report. The NAS report recommended that human testing only be permitted when the information sought could not be obtained through other means and the research to be conducted is likely to produce scientifically valuable results. The EPA regulation does not include these limitations.

As part of this regulation, EPA announced that it may utilize past human studies, even if they do not meet current ethical guidelines, as long as the research was not conducted with the intention of causing serious harm to the subjects and was consistent with the ethical standards prevailing at the time. This rule allows agency use of studies conducted on groups of between 6 and 50 young adults, even when such studies misidentified the test substance as a drug, not a pesticide; discounted the symptoms experienced by test subjects; and lacked adequate statistical power to be scientifically valid.

Farmworker Justice is collaborating with several farmworker, environmental and public health organizations to challenge these regulations in federal court. A bill banning the use of human subjects testing in the State of California is also pending before the California legislature.

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Immigration Reform Heats Up

By Adrienne DerVartanian

Late March and early April witnessed a whirlwind of activity in the U.S. Senate around immigration reform. The Agricultural Job Opportunities Benefits and Security Act of 2005, S. 359 (AgJOBS) enjoyed victories with its inclusion in both of the major comprehensive compromise immigration bills. However, there was not sufficient support in the Senate to complete work on an immigration bill before the two-week spring recess. At the time of this writing, it appears that the Judiciary Committee intends to take up immigration reform again, but it is unclear what, if any immigration legislation will be passed out of the Senate this year.

The immigration debate in the Senate began in earnest with the release of Senator Arlen Specter's (R-Penn.) draft immigration bill (called a "Chairman's Mark") at the end of February. The initial mark was a big disappointment – among other problems, Sen. Specter failed to provide a realistic solution for undocumented workers and ignored agriculture by failing to include the AgJOBS farmworker immigration compromise in his draft. The bill improved greatly, however, with the passage of several important amendments, including AgJOBS.

Senator Feinstein (D-Calif.), who had previously opposed AgJOBS, offered a modified version of AgJOBS as an amendment after reaching an agreement with the bill's primary sponsors, Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), as well as the United Farm Workers of America and representatives from the agricultural industry. AgJOBS would address agricultural employers' demands for a stable labor supply by giving undocumented farmworkers the opportunity to earn permanent legal status by performing additional work in agriculture. A majority of the committee, including all the Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats, supported the AgJOBS amendment. The Committee Republicans who voted for AgJOBS were Senators DeWine, Brownback, and Specter. Senators Hatch and Graham "passed," choosing not to vote on the AgJOBS amendment.

The Republican opponents were Coburn, Grassley, Kyl, Sessions and Cornyn.

In addition to the AgJOBS compromise, other amendments to the Judiciary Committee immigration bill included the legalization and guestworker provisions from the Kennedy-McCain immigration bill, the DREAM Act and a section eliminating a provision that would have criminalized undocumented presence and providing a humanitarian exception to provisions that would criminalize those providing assistance to the undocumented. On March 27, 2006, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a compromise comprehensive immigration reform bill with 12 Senators (all of the Democrats and Senators Specter, Brownback, DeWine and Graham) voting in support of the bill. The Judiciary Committee reported the bill to the Senator floor, where debate on immigration reform began the next day.

Although the floor debate began with Senator Frist's border enforcement bill (Frist beat the Judiciary Committee to the chase by introducing his own immigration bill before the Judiciary Committee had a chance to complete work on its own bill), Senator Specter subsequently offered the Judiciary Committee immigration bill as a substitute to Frist's bill. Both bills were the subject of debate.

Predictably, Senator Chambliss (R-Ga.), who has a history of introducing anti-worker immigration bills making one-sided changes to the H-2A agricultural guestworker program, introduced a bevy of amendments intended to undermine the AgJOBS compromise in the Judiciary Committee bill. The Chambliss amendments were aimed at creating a cheap, exploitable foreign labor force and would have undercut the goal of creating a stable agricultural labor force by eliminating the opportunity for farmworkers to earn permanent resident status. The amendments were very similar to the proposal Chambliss offered in April 2005, which lost by a vote of 77-21.

The Senate, however, did not reach Senator Chambliss's amendments or most other amendments. Instead, the immigration debate ran into numerous obstacles, such as difficulties agreeing how to proceed on amendments. The Senate Judiciary Committee immigration bill was unable to achieve sufficient support to overcome a potential filibuster (the bill needed 60 votes in support of cloture). A subsequent compromise bill cobbled together by Senators Martinez (R-Fla) and Hagel (R-Neb), which included the AgJOBS compromise and had similar but less generous legalization provisions than the Judiciary Committee bill, won enough support that Republican and Democratic leaders held a joint press conference on April 6 to announce a new compromise. But that too fell victim to the procedural hurdles. And finally, Senator Frist's border enforcement bill also failed.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

The volunteer Board of Directors of Farmworker Justice experienced several changes in December 2005, with the retirement of a longstanding member and the addition of two longtime friends.

Domingo Gonzalez, a founding Board member of the Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc. and its longtime chairperson, retired from the Board in December 2005 after 25 years of dedicated, selfless assistance to this organization. We wish him the best of luck in the future as he continues his long history of activism.

Residing in Brownsville, Texas, Domingo has been a leading environmental justice activist and farmworker advocate in the Southwest. His past positions include Director of the Border Campaign of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, which is based in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Domingo was born in Rancho San Martin in south Texas to a farming family that was forced to become migrant farmworkers. Working with his parents during the 1960's, Domingo migrated to work in Arkansas, Ohio, Illinois and California.

In the 1960's, Domingo did volunteer work for the United Farm Workers in Arvin, California and other locations. He went to the University of Texas at Brownsville, where he volunteered on UFW boycotts. Domingo got involved with American Friends Service Committee in 1970, where he was responsible for helping UFW and others in Texas, and working with farmworker legal services and the ACLU. He served on the board of directors of Cameron County Legal Aid at the time that consolidation of several programs resulted in creation of Texas Rural Legal Aid.

In 1976, Domingo became the farm labor representative at AFSC, based at headquarters in Philadelphia. That position included extensive support for the UFW.

He later co-founded the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras in 1990. Among the accomplishments was the start of a state registry of birth defects in the Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Mexico area due to high rates of serious birth defects associated with toxic emissions from the plants. The first Neural Tube Defects conference was held in Brownsville, and included major public health organizations and agencies. The organization has expanded to include environmental health, including water pollution, along the border.

Thank you, Domingo.

Virginia Nesmith, who has served as Executive Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) since 1998, joined our Board in December. NFWM, which is based in St. Louis, Missouri, is an interfaith organization whose purpose is to support farm workers as they organize for empowerment and justice. NFWM works nationally through its forty member organizations, and locally by placing staff in areas where farm workers are organizing. Virginia studied in a Master of Divinity Program after graduating from Webster University in St. Louis in 1976 with a degree in Sociology, specializing in Peace and Conflict Studies. Among her varied jobs related to social justice, Virginia served as the St. Louis Public Action Manager for the United Farm Workers of America. She has been actively engaged in promoting the AgJOBS farmworker immigration legislation and has collaborated with Farmworker Justice for many years.

Bari Schwartz, an attorney in Washington, D.C., re-joined the Board in December; she served on the Board during the mid-1980's. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Harvard University.

Bari worked in legal services at the national level in Washington, D.C. in various capacities, and then, for twenty years, as counsel to Rep. Howard Berman (D-California). In her work with Rep. Berman, Bari worked in several capacities, including on Rep. Berman's staff and on committees on which he served. She retired from the government in 2005 and is currently pursuing various interests.

Rep. Berman's deserved reputation as the most effective advocate for farmworkers in the House of Representatives partly resulted from Bari Schwartz's skills, commitment and resourcefulness. Throughout her tenure, she ensured that farmworkers' interests were present in labor laws, immigration policy, legal services access and many other issues.

Welcome to Virginia and welcome back Bari.

Members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Council

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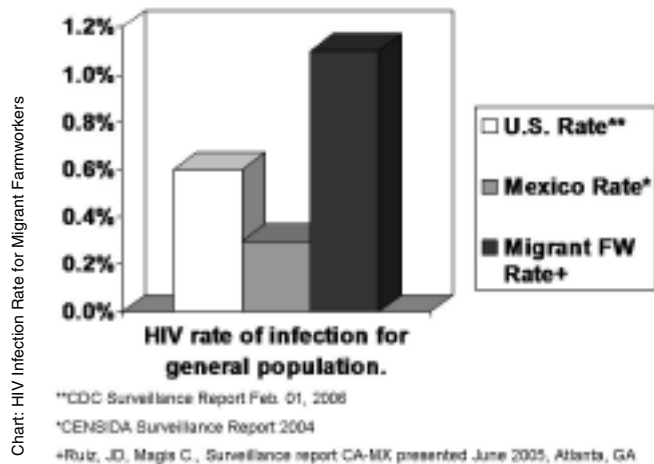
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New Studies Show High HIV Infection Among Migrant Workers

By Steve Diaz



Two new studies show a high rate of HIV infection among Mexican Migrants within Mexico and in California. The studies were jointly coordinated by the University of California and the Mexican National HIV/AIDS Center (CENSIDA). The prevalence of HIV was 1.1% among 1,500 adult migrants tested in rural communities in five Mexican states. The HIV prevalence among migrants in this study is not applicable to the general population in Mexico, whose HIV prevalence estimate is 0.3% (for ages 15 to 49 years). In California, HIV prevalence was 0.6% among 800 Mexican migrants surveyed in numerous locations in Fresno and San Diego counties.

“These data raise concerns that the HIV epidemic may be expanding within Mexico and among Mexican migrants in California” said Dr. George Lemp, one of the project directors. “Mexican migrants are an integral part of California communities, and because they are so marginalized while in the U.S., they have little to no access to prevention and treatment of HIV and sexually transmitted infections,” Lemp said.

Research conducted among migrants working or living in California also found a high prevalence (3.2%) of Chlamydia trachomatis infection, another sexually transmitted disease. In addition, survey results indicate high levels of sexual and drug using risk behaviors while the migrants are in California. Data collected in Mexico also indicate that the majority of HIV risk behavior occurs while migrants are in the U.S. Prevention efforts should be aimed at both sending and receiving communities to protect the workers and their families. •

Source: Universitywide AIDS Research Program, University of California, “Joint Studies from the University of California and the Mexican Secretariat of Health Find High Rates of HIV Infection among Mexican Migrants in California and Mexico”

Asian Guestworkers in the U.S.

By Virginia Ruiz



Foreign citizens hired through guestworker programs for agricultural jobs in the US during the past 60 years have come primarily from Mexico and the Caribbean. In recent months, however, international labor contractors have turned to Asian countries such as Thailand and Vietnam to provide a temporary work force for American agriculture using the H-2A temporary agricultural worker program. These Asian guestworkers are more vulnerable than their Mexican and Caribbean counterparts because they travel farther and incur more debt to come here, and because there are fewer institutional and non-profit resources available that have the cultural capacity to address their needs. Asian H-2A workers have reported paying thousands of dollars to recruiters for the opportunity to work in the U.S., sometimes assigning deeds of land to the labor recruiter to secure the fees and their return home.

California-based Global Horizons, Inc. is one of a handful of labor contractors that brings in H-2A workers from Asia. It has provided workers to agricultural employers in several states, including Washington, Hawaii, California and Florida. Its labor practices have come to the attention of several state and federal authorities. For example, last year, Washington State agencies charged Global Horizons with violating state wage and labor regulations during the 2004 growing season. The state's Labor and Industries and Employment Security departments cited the company for not having a farm labor contractor's license, underreporting and underpaying workers' compensation premiums, not reimbursing workers' airfare from Thailand to the U.S., and wrongful withholding of federal taxes and a nonexistent state income tax. The company was also cited for health and safety violations involving worker housing. State officials assessed over \$216,000 in back wages owed to workers.

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FARMWORKER JUSTICE

Honoring Arturo S. Rodriguez



Farmworker Justice will celebrate our 25th anniversary at a reception in Washington, D.C. on May 9th by presenting the seventh annual Farmworker Justice Award to Arturo S. Rodriguez, President of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). Rep. Howard Berman and Rep. Hilda Solis, two California Members of Congress with strong ties to the farmworker movement, will help present the award. Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the UFW, will make a special appearance by video.

Farmworker Justice has been very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Arturo and the union. The UFW's General Counsel Marcos Camacho plays an active role on our Board of Directors. "Artie" has revealed himself to be strategic in his thinking, selfless, dedicated, creative, collaborative and multifaceted. He has served farmworkers and the union well.

We especially appreciate his leadership at the national level in achieving a compromise on immigration policy with major agribusiness organizations; winning the opportunity to negotiate with these powerful, notoriously anti-union interests was a major

achievement. In the ensuing sophisticated campaign to pass the bipartisan "AgJOBS" bill, farmworkers have been at the cutting edge of the national debate on immigration policy. Our additional collaborations include pesticide safety litigation and worker education as well as lawsuits over H-2A guestworker program abuses and labor contracting, and have revealed Arturo's deft handling of complex issues in difficult environments. His success in organizing Gallo of Sonoma also enabled Farmworker Justice to expand the selection of union wines at our annual socially responsible wine tasting.

Mr. Rodriguez succeeded Cesar Chavez as president of the UFW in 1993. A native of San Antonio, Texas, he earned a B.A. degree at St. Mary's University in Texas and a masters degree in social work in 1973 from the University of Michigan. After organizing for the UFW's grape boycott in Michigan, where he met his future wife, the late Linda Rodriguez, he moved to California to begin a 30-year career organizing farm workers and negotiating collective bargaining agreements. Arturo and the UFW recently won

Award Reception May 9th

important changes to the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the unique state collective bargaining law for farmworkers.

Previous winners of our award include Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the UFW; Raul Yzaguirre, former President of the National Council of La Raza; Rep. Howard Berman of California; Rep. George Miller of California; Maria Echaveste, of Nueva Vista Group and former Deputy Chief of Staff to President Clinton; and Baldemar Velasquez, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.

You can help us honor Arturo Rodriguez and support Farmworker Justice by becoming a sponsor of the award reception or by purchasing an individual ticket to the May 9th event. Sponsorships are available in the individual and nonprofit categories of Benefactor (\$2,500), Patron (\$1,000), Special Friend (\$500), and Sponsor (\$250). Corporate sponsorships also are available. Individual tickets are \$75. All timely sponsors will be recognized in the event program and will receive the appropriate number of tickets.

You may send us a check or use a credit card through Paypal at our website on our special events page at www.farmworkerjustice.org. For further information, please contact Ms. Lorna Baez at 202-783-2628, or lbaez@nclr.org. •

SAVE THE DATE

First Annual West Coast Farmworker Justice Reception

Monday evening, July 10, at the
National Council of La Raza
annual conference
Los Angeles, California

25th Anniversary Committee

We appreciate the support of our 25th Anniversary Committee. Members include former Board of Directors members and staff, longtime friends and allies, as well as some newer collaborators.

Rep. Howard Berman, Member of Congress

Ron D'Aloisio, California migrant educator;
former executive director

Ross Eisenbrey, V.P., Economic Policy Institute;
former Board member

Garry Geffert, West Virginia attorney;
former executive director

David Hall, Executive Director,
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid; former Board chair

Mike Hancock, federal wage and hour division
staff; former executive director

Wade Henderson, Executive Director,
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Prof. Ray Marshall, former Secretary of Labor

Rep. George Miller, Member of Congress

Bruce Montgomery, Arnold & Porter;
former Board member

Janet Murguia, CEO,
National Council of La Raza

Kristine Poplawski, San Francisco attorney;
former litigation director

Mark Schacht, Deputy Director,
CRLA Foundation; former executive director

Eric Schlosser, author,
Fast Food Nation and Reefer Madness

Rep. Hilda Solis, Member of Congress

Valerie Wilk, education union official;
former health specialist

Immigration Reform

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The Judiciary Committee is likely to take up some combination of the compromises after the recess. Although it is unclear if the Senate will manage to pass a bill, if it does, it will have to be meshed with the House bill H.R. 4437 during a House-Senate Conference Committee.

The House immigration bill pushed by Rep. Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc) has served as the impetus for many rallies recently, bringing hundreds of thousands of immigrants and immigrant advocates to the streets. H.R. 4437 includes many harsh provisions, such as criminalization of millions of undocumented persons, including children; the expansion of the meaning of “smuggling” to include persons such as priests or social workers providing assistance to undocumented persons; and construction of a fence along the US-Mexico border; to name a few. It fails to address the immigration crisis in agriculture and would only make the situation worse by failing to provide a realistic solution for the undocumented, who are the majority of the agricultural workforce.

Whether AgJOBS is part of the final Senate bill and whether it would survive a conference committee are all questions to be played out over the next several months. Stay tuned to our Legislative News webpage for more updates about immigration reform in the Senate! •

Farmworker Justice Health Education Update

By Jennifer Freeman

Farmworker Justice continues to fight HIV/AIDS infection in the farmworker community. Currently, Farmworker Justice is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA to adapt behavioral interventions identified as effective in combating the spread of HIV. The goal of the CDC’s Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBI) project is to bring scientifically proven HIV prevention interventions to the public for wider use. Farmworker Justice will adapt four of these interventions for use in migrant communities

Farmworker Justice already successfully adapted the Popular Opinion Leader (POL) behavioral intervention. Farmworker Justice’s adaptation focuses on young Latino migrant men who have sex with men and is called the Young Latino Promotores project. An article describing the development and implementation of this project will be published in the fall of 2006 in the *AIDS Education and Prevention Journal*. POL is a community-level intervention originally used to encourage safer sexual norms and behaviors among gay men in the rural south. POL functions by identifying leaders or “trendsetters” in existing social networks from a specific community venue and teaching them communication skills to encourage safer behaviors to their friends.

Farmworker Justice is currently working on a curriculum that explains the process of adapting the POL so that it can be used by different kinds of community organizations, health departments, and other capacity building assistance providers across the nation. Farmworker Justice will be providing capacity building assistance (CBA) for agencies interested in implementing POL, including teaching them how to conduct ethnographic assessments of communities, adapting the intervention so that it is culturally and linguistically appropriate for a target population, and evaluating the effectiveness of the program. In the coming months, Farmworker Justice will help provide training on the POL model to organizations in New Jersey, Missouri, Georgia, and other national CBA providers, with more training dates to come. Farmworker Justice is excited to partner with the CDC in bringing this effective intervention to other diverse risk communities to help decrease the rate of HIV infection nationwide. •

Staff News

Farmworker Justice welcomes several new staff members. Jennifer Freeman, our Migrant Health Specialist, comes to us from the University of Pennsylvania, from which she will soon receive her Ph.D. in Education. While education policy and practice with marginalized populations is one of her interests, Jennifer also devoted her time to HIV prevention efforts with injectors and sex workers. Jennifer is enthusiastic about the opportunity to interweave her passions for education and HIV prevention and research at Farmworker Justice. Farmworker Justice also welcomes two new administrative assistants, Barbara Vodapivc and Shontai Johnson. Barbara is working as an assistant to Shelley Davis, who is visually impaired. Barbara previously worked at the American Council for the Blind as an Advocacy/Governmental Affairs Assistant. Shontai is providing general assistance to the office and brings with her a wealth of experience in office administration. •



A new book, published by the International Labor Organization's International Institute for Labour Studies, includes a chapter written by Bruce Goldstein about the history of attempting to reform labor contracting.

The book comes out of a roundtable discussion in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2005 called Merchants of Labor: Policy Dialogue on the Agents of International Labour Migration. Participants included government officials from sending and receiving countries, labor advocates, academics, and one international labor contractor. Bruce's article is entitled "'Merchants of Labor' in Three Centuries: Lessons from History for Reforming 21st Century Exploitation of Migrant Labour." The book, Merchants of Labor, was edited by Christiane Kuptsch, a senior research officer at the ILO. It may be downloaded from the ILO website at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inst/publ/books.htm>

Farmworker Justice also has served as a valuable resource to many farmworker advocates by preparing analyses of current proposals for immigration reform. The analyses represent the farmworker perspective on proposals relevant to the ongoing Congressional immigration debate. Some pieces include "Farmworkers and the Kennedy-McCain Immigration Bill"; "Another Proposal from Sen. Chambliss to Exploit Immigrants Workers: the Agricultural Employment and Workforce Protection Act, S. 2087"; and "Senator Specter's Draft Immigration Bill Fails America's Agricultural Community." These bulletins and more can be found on Farmworker Justice's webpage in the Legislative News section:

<http://www.farmworkerjustice.org/LEGISLAT.HTM>. •

Asian Guestworkers

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In September 2005, Global Horizons settled these charges with the State. In the settlement, the company admitted to violating numerous laws and agreed to pay penalties and make complete financial restitution to workers and the state totaling more than \$230,000. The settlement also provided for an independent investigator to monitor future compliance with the laws, required Global Horizons to provide information on its activities to the State, and allowed the State to immediately revoke Global Horizons's farm labor contracting license and discontinue recruitment services in the event of future violations of the law or the agreement. Washington State officials revoked Global Horizons's farm labor contracting license in late December 2005, citing its failure to comply with the terms of the settlement. The company is appealing that decision.

At press time, Global Horizons had just signed a collective bargaining agreement with the United Farm Workers, covering all of Global's workers, both foreign and domestic, in the US and in other countries. The agreement prohibits Global from charging guestworkers a recruitment fee, provides a 2 percent pay increase over the Adverse Effect Wage Rate required by federal law for the H-2A program, and includes a grievance procedure to help ensure compliance with state and federal laws.

Farmworker Justice will continue to monitor these new developments and to work with the UFW and other labor advocates in the US and Asia to address labor law violations and exploitation of Asian guestworkers. •

Farmworker Justice to Receive Award on Migrant Health

In May, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) will present an award to Farmworker Justice for its longstanding work on behalf of farmworker health. NACHC represents migrant health clinics that serve farmworkers and sponsors the annual National Farmworker Health Conference.

Deputy Director Shelley Davis will be accepting the award at the national conference in May.

Socially Responsible Wine Tasting Successful

The AFL-CIO generously hosted the fourth annual Socially Responsible Wine Tasting on December 7 at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The event raises money for Farmworker Justice, promotes wines from unionized vineyards where farmworkers are treated decently, and offers attendees a great opportunity to socialize and learn about wines. Over 130 people attended, our largest gathering so far, and we hope it continues to expand.

Once again, the informative, entertaining wine columnist Michael Franz told us the story behind the wines and provided tasting tips. Wines tasted included Chateau St. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay (Washington State); Chateau St. Michelle Cold Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon; Chateau St. Michelle Indian Wells Merlot; Gallo of Sonoma Chardonnay (Sonoma County, California); Gallo of Sonoma Cabernet Sauvignon; Gallo of Sonoma Pinot Noir; St. Supery Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 and St. Supery Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc 2004.

We appreciate the AFL-CIO's generous support for this event, particularly General Counsel Jon Hiatt, who has gone out of his way to help us make the event a success. We also thank Chateau St. Michelle, St. Supery and Gallo of Sonoma for their donations of wine. In addition to the individuals who purchased tickets, we benefited from the following sponsors:

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United Mine Workers of America



Farmworker Justice Receives Award for Policy Analysis and Advocacy

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Legislative and Political Action Department has announced that Farmworker Justice is receiving the 2005 Arnold Mayer Partnership Award for its work on labor and immigration policy. Arnold Mayer was a Vice President of the UFCW who played a significant role in bringing the abusive Bracero guestworker program to an end in the early 1960's and continues in retirement to be a strong supporter of farmworkers. We thank UFCW's Joseph T. Hansen, the International President of UFCW, and Michael J. Wilson, International Vice President and Director of the Legislative and Political Action Department, which has played an important role in opposing anti-immigrant guestworker proposals and supporting the AgJOBS farmworker immigration compromise.

Farmworker Justice Volunteer Wins Child Labor Award

Jim Leonard, our volunteer attorney, recently received the Florence Kelley Consumer Leadership Award from the National Consumers League. The award is given annually to “advocates who exemplify a commitment to social justice for consumers and workers.” Jim was honored for his work to improve protections for child farmworkers, which he did as Farmworker Justice's representative in the Child Labor Coalition. The award is named for the woman who was for decades the driving force behind the National Consumers League and the most effective of child labor advocates in the United States until her death in 1932. According to NCL vice president Darlene Adkins, "Jim has brought to the Child Labor Coalition a remarkable mix of knowledge, energy, integrity, and passion." Jim was honored with other awardees at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. attended by Farmworker Justice staff and numerous consumer and labor advocates. •



David Strauss, Executive Director, AFOP; James Leonard, Florence Kelley Consumer Leadership Awardee; Linda Golodner, President, National Consumers League.

Photo Credit: National Consumers League

Symposia on Guestworker Programs

By Virginia Ruiz

On March 3, 2006, Farmworker Justice and Oxfam America hosted a half-day conference in Washington entitled “Imported Labor in Europe and Canada: A Symposium on Guestworker Programs and Foreign Contract Labor.” This was the second conference to closely examine foreign contract labor systems in an effort better to inform the current debate about immigration in the U.S. Congress.

In October 2005, Farmworker Justice sponsored a symposium on the history of foreign contract labor systems in the United States. Several Congressional proposals on immigration policy would create new guestworker programs or expand existing ones to address the presence of undocumented workers in this country and to regulate future migration. In some proposals, legislators would grant a guestworker status based on a temporary, nonimmigrant work visa, while others advocate a permanent immigration status and path to citizenship. These policy choices raise fundamental questions about the nature of immigration status and the political and economic freedoms held by people who live and work in the United States. The experts gathered at these symposia provided attendees with essential information about guestworker programs in the United States and other developed countries to help conference attendees evaluate new legislative proposals for guestworker programs and devise their own policy suggestions.

Speakers at the two conferences included academics and labor and immigrant advocates from North America and Europe, as well a former guestworker. The keynote speaker at the October conference was Baldemar Velasquez, President of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, which has been organizing Mexican guestworkers employed in North Carolina agriculture.



The brief survey of foreign contract labor systems revealed valuable lessons that should inform current discussions about new guestworker programs. The conferences demonstrated the vulnerability of the foreign workers who hold restricted nonimmigrant status. Even when government agencies have sought to impose substantial labor law requirements on employers of guestworkers, the protections often have been meaningless because the workers are unable to enforce the law or are unwilling to attempt to enforce the law for fear of losing their job or not being called back in a future year. The symposia identified key issues that policymakers must confront as they consider future immigration and labor policy.

Attendees included representatives of nonprofit advocacy organizations, labor unions, Congressional offices, the faith-based community, think tanks, and the media.

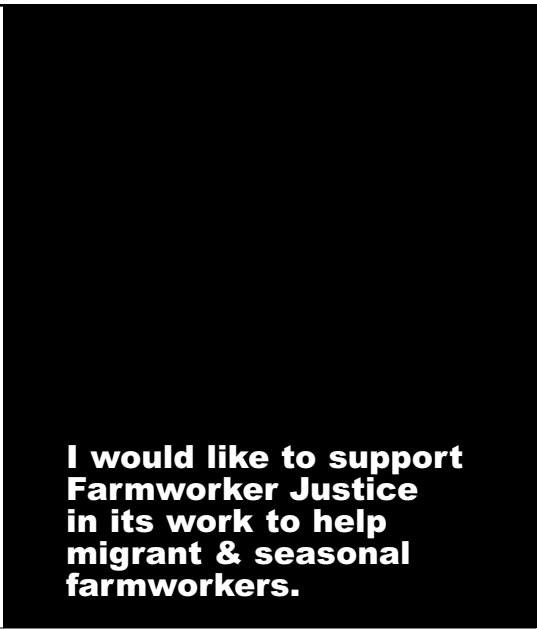
Co-sponsors of the events were the AFL-CIO, National Council of La Raza, Service Employees International Union, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. The symposia were also supported financially by The California Endowment, the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund and the Rosenberg Foundation. We thank our cosponsors and funders for their support of these events. •



Farmworker Justice plays a leadership role in advocacy for migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the nation's capital. For twenty-five years, FJ has been helping empower farmworkers to improve their wages and working conditions, labor and immigration policy, health and safety, and access to justice.

Please help Farmworker Justice continue and expand its work by making a financial contribution to our work.

Thank you very much.



I would like to support Farmworker Justice in its work to help migrant & seasonal farmworkers.

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