

# President's Newsletter



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Office of the President  
United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO  
La Paz, Keene, California 93531



## PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

### Farm Workers Remember Juan and Nagi

Memorial services honoring UFW martyrs *Juan de la Cruz* and *Nagi Daifallah* were held on August 16 in farm worker movement offices across the country.

At La Paz we were privileged to have with us at the services Sister *Maximina de la Cruz*, *Juan de la Cruz's* widow and Brother *Moshin Daifallah*, *Nagi Daifallah's* father.

The memorial service began when La Paz community members and guests from Lamont, Arvin and Delano marched in silence across the La Paz grounds to a memorial mass that was led by Brothers *Chris Hartmire*, *Ed Donovan*, *Ken Irrgang* and *Clete Pfab*.

After the service, members of the La Paz community had dinner with their farm worker guests from the Lamont and Delano area, many of whom were involved in the 1973 grape strike in which Brothers *Juan* and *Nagi* were killed. Many of them shared their experiences with us.



Photo by Susan Schumacher

Brother *Moshin Daifallah* (on the left) and Sister *Maximina de la Cruz* (third from the left) join La Paz community in silent march.

In our talk at the service, we explained why it was important that we pay tribute to and honor *Juan de la Cruz* and *Nagi Daifallah*. It is important to remember them because they shared the struggle with us and because of that they became one with us. In a sense, we are one of them. But unlike us, they have given everything they had for the Union. They gave their only lives on this earth for us and for all farm workers who suffer. Their sacrifices represent for us all the sacrifices that have made this Union possible.

Therefore, it would be a betrayal of who we are and of the very nature of the Union if we did not remember and

give thanks for what they have done and ensure that succeeding generations of farm workers know of their sacrifices and honor their memories.

The test of the vitality and spiritual strength of any movement of people is how well it remembers and gives thanks for those who have sacrificed the most for the movement. They represent the best of our history and ourselves and we keep celebrating year after year to keep them alive in our midst.

It is for our own sakes as well as for the memory of our martyrs that we keep their spirits alive among us and keep their sacrifices before our eyes. The best way to do this is to ensure that the Union stays true to the ideals that *Juan* and *Nagi* sacrificed for. The best memorial we can build in their memory is not in stone or marble. The best monument we can build to honor *Juan* and *Nagi* is a strong and democratic Union for farm workers. *Juan* and *Nagi* did not give their lives in vain. And they will not be forgotten.

Brother *Nagi Daifallah* was 24 years old when he was killed by a Kern County deputy sheriff in August 1973. Brother *Juan de la Cruz* died after being shot two days later on a picket line near Arvin. At the farm workers' Third Constitutional Convention in 1977, the delegates passed a resolution setting aside August 16 of every year as the official date for remembering *Juan* and *Nagi*. We also honor the memory of another UFW martyr, Sister *Nan Freeman*, January 25. Sister *Nan* was killed on a UFW picket line in Bellglade, Florida in 1972.

### Salinas Workers Visit La Paz

On Sunday August 13 we were honored by the visit of about 40 Brothers and Sisters from the organizing committees at the Merrill, Garin and Sakata ranches in the Salinas area.



Filipino workers from Salinas visit with Executive Board members *Pete Velasco* and *Cesar Chavez* in La Paz.

Photo by Susan Schumacher

These workers, many of whom are Filipino, are in the process of organizing for elections at their companies. All three ranches are large and employ about 350 workers each at peak season.

We told the workers when they were here that one of our objectives as a Union is to bring full recognition of workers' rights because only then will the employers treat the workers with the dignity they deserve. The only way to get and ensure this recognition is by organizing for an election and then sticking together until the election is won and a UFW contract is signed. Union representation is the most important thing you can have since it brings with it benefits that will protect the workers now as well as in the future, such as when workers retire.

We then took the workers on a tour of the headquarters at La Paz and then traveled with them to Delano to tour the Agbayani Village and the 40 Acres.

Workers on the organizing committees at Merrill are Brothers and Sisters *Valentin Trejo*, *Hermelinda Trejo*, *Hilda Trejo*, *Rogelio Gonzalez*, *Antonia Gonzalez*, *Juana Gonzalez*, *Carlos Gonzalez*, *Gilberto Ramirez*, *Alfredo Flores*, *Jose Higuera*, *Sofronio Posidio, Jr.*, *Estanislao Agtarap*, *Lorenzo Sagabaen*, *Daniaso Partible*, *Mario Valdez*, *Bernardo Gomez*, *Francisco Rasa*, *Jose Portible*, *Juanito Dino*, *Rodolfo Fontanilla*, and *Domingo Ricolcol*; at Garin, Brothers and Sisters *Jesus Velasco*, *Jorge Lopez*, *Celio Guerrero*, *Guadalupe Guzman*, *Luis Guzman*, *Antonio Gomez*, *Antonio Heredia*, *Benjamin Santoyo*, and *Francisco Cuen*; and at Sakata Ranch Brothers *Guillermo Zendejas*, *Elias Fernandez*, *Eduardo Tomas*, *Javier Medina* and *Guillermo Cerda*.

## CAMPESINO CENTER

### Farm Workers Testify at OSHA Hearing

Farm workers from King City, Watsonville, and Salinas appeared before a meeting of the California Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee (OSHA) on August 11 in San Francisco to protest a proposed change in present health regulations regarding toilet facilities in the fields.

The present regulation provides for separate toilet facilities for each sex.



The minimum number of toilets required is one toilet for every 15 workers. The growers and Farm Bureau want to change this ruling and have one toilet provided for every 40 workers and, if the crew is made up of only five people, no toilet at all.

The growers and Farm Bureau base their request on the premise that this will be a more efficient, effective way to work, since the workers won't be taking so much time on bathroom breaks. The growers want to get out of providing any toilet facilities in their fields as long as there is "immediately available transportation" to other facilities.

Brother *Juan Huerta* from the King City Campesino Center pointed out that bathrooms in the fields were only a relatively recent development in California and it is obvious that in proposing a change in the laws the growers are just trying to get out of having to provide a basic right to their workers. Other testimony from workers who were at the hearings brought out other important points, such as waiting excessive periods of time to use the bathroom can cause health problems like infections and urinary retention as well as causing workers to abstain from drinking needed quantities of water in the first place and jeopardizing their health in that way. The alternative of using the field as a toilet is not only a health hazard to the workers, but to the consumer, also.

The growers and Farm Bureau threatened to walk out of the August 11 meeting when they saw that farm workers had every intention of testifying against their proposed change. It is clear to us that the growers are taking advantage of the members of the committee by making arguments that sound fine on paper, but are completely unrealistic and ridiculous if you have any experience in the fields.

After listening to testimony from both sides, the committee decided to hold another hearing in the near future. Because of our appearance at this committee hearing, the committee may recommend that the standard remain as it is. We will also be present at the next meeting as we are determined not to let the growers get away with compromising farm workers rights.

## AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

### Decisions

Two decisions were passed down from the Agricultural Labor Relations Board involving George Arakelian Farms in Calexico and Kyutoku Farms in Salinas.

In both cases, the company was found guilty of refusing to bargain in good faith with the Union and were ordered to pay a "make-whole" remedy to the workers on those ranches. In addition to that, the ALRB extended the Union's certification at those ranches for another year.

The UFW had won an election at Arakelian on December 8, 1976 and at Kyutoku on September 9, 1975.

### CITIZENSHIP PARTICIPATION DEPARTMENT Endorsement Letters Sent to Politicians

All 62 candidates endorsed at the Union's Second Biennial Political Endorsement Conference on July 30 in San Jose received letters informing them that the conference delegates voted to endorse their candidacies in the November general election.

Fifty-eight candidates for election or

reelection for Congress, State Senate and Assembly received formal notices of endorsement, as did the four UFW-supported candidates for statewide office: Governor *Brown*, Lt. Gov. *Mervyn Dymally*, Congresswoman *Yvonne Brathwaite Burke* (candidate for State Attorney General), and Secretary of State *March Fong Eu*.

In the letters, we told the union-endorsed candidates, "This endorsement acknowledges your commitment to the farm workers in their struggle for justice and self-determination."

The Political Endorsement Conference was sponsored by the UFW's Citizenship Participation Department.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### New Certifications

Arrow Lettuce Co./Salinas/cauliflower, broccoli/Aug. 15.

Manquero Packing/Fresno/pole tomatoes, plums, nectarines, oranges/Aug. 15.

## BOYCOTT COORS BEER AND ALL J. P. STEVENS PRODUCTS

### PERSONNEL

La Paz Transfers	From	To
Mark Delehanty	NFWS	Security
Lupe Murgia	NFWS	Security
Angel Rojas	NFWS	Security
Susan Schumacher	Word Management	NFWS
Garland Taylor	RFK Medical Plan	Word Management
New Staff	Office	Department
Javier Cadena	La Paz	Print Shop
Clete Pfab	La Paz	RFK Medical Plan
Patricio Rodriguez	La Paz	Security

**We send wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery to Brother Chris Hartmire, director of the National Farm Worker Ministry. Chris is in the intensive care unit of the Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles.**

**Get Well Soon, Brother!**

**We Miss You.**

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