

A woman with brown hair in a bun, wearing a white chef's shirt and a blue apron, is focused on garnishing a dish in a white bowl. She is wearing black gloves and a watch. The dish appears to be a piece of meat topped with fresh herbs. In the background, other people are visible, including a man in a black shirt and a woman in a blue shirt. The setting is outdoors with trees and a wooden table.

From Field to Fork

Thursday, July 20, 2023

A celebration of food, farms
and farm workers

Welcome to the 12th “From Field to Fork” fundraiser for *House Farm Workers!*

Once again, we are excited to host you and so many of our friends at our annual summertime event. We hope you enjoy the bounty of local fields and orchards, prepared by outstanding chefs, along with wines and craft beer from local producers. And we hope you enjoy the beauty of this special place, The Walnut Grove at Tierra Rejada Ranch.

As you savor the flavors and admire the view, know that you are benefiting the people who make this food and landscape possible: the farm workers who plant, tend and harvest the many crops grown in Ventura County’s wonderful soils and climate.



House Farm Workers!

Thank you for supporting our education and advocacy efforts as we strive to expand the availability of affordable, safe and stable homes for farm workers and their families.

Bon appetit!



PROGRAM

John Krist, master of ceremonies

4:30 PM

Wagon tours of Underwood Family Farms
Wine, craft beer and appetizers

5:45 PM

Welcoming remarks

6:00 PM

Dinner

Showing of *HFW!* film, "Heroes Work Here"

7:00 PM

Scholarship awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Judith Bautista, Magaly Dominguez, Yeni Gonzalez and Jesus Martinez

8:00 PM

Buenas Noches y Muchas Gracias a Todos!



MENU

Appetizer Course

Zucchini bread, and Sonora wheat biscuits with jam and cultured butter.

Prepared by Chef Anastashia Chavez, *Hatchet Hall*.

Paradise Pantry charcuterie spread.

Wine: 2022 Thacher Winery Cinsaut Rosé, Paso Robles.

Beer: Enegren Brewing Co.

First Course

Market lettuce and bean salad with coffee-toasted hazelnuts and farmer's cheese.

Prepared by Chef Natalia Iorlano, *Hatchet Hall*.

Wine: Boscoe Wine Co. 2019 Grenache Blanc, Ballard Canyon AVA.

Second Course

Ora king salmon crudo with sweet corn vinaigrette, Meyer lemon supreme, lemon oil, black garlic shoyu, avocado, togarashi, micro chive, ora king salmon roe.

Prepared by Chef Matteen Khalifian, *Yahir LA/Tangaroa Fish Market*.

Confit tomato a la vodka pasta with fresh basil and balsamic pearls.

Prepared by Chef Alex Montoya, *Waterside/Water's Edge/Honeycup Coffee/805 Creams*.

Wine: Boscoe Wine Co. 2019 Grenache Blanc, Ballard Canyon AVA.

Third Course

Grilled skirt steak with summer corn and herbed tomato succotash.

Prepared by Chef Abdu Romero, *Modern Kitchen/Slate Bistro*.

Wine: Boscoe Wine Co. 2019 Syrah-Viognier blend, Ballard Canyon AVA.

Dessert Course

Summer pavlova with citrus curd, stone fruit and lavender.

Prepared by Chefs Anastashia Chavez, *Hatchet Hall*,

and Nicole Casian, *Nikki's Kitchen*.

Beverage: Beacon Coffee.



OUR SPONSORS

House Farm Workers! wishes to thank the following, whose generosity made “From Field to Fork” possible.

VISIONARIES



Tierra Rejada Ranch

CHAMPIONS



Pinkerton Ranch

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Brokaw Nursery LLC

Alfred Friedrich

Pyramid Flowers

Housing Authority of San Buenaventura

Pecht Ranch

STEWARDS

Athens Services, Broome Management LLC, Travis Agricultural Construction
Total Labor Force, Underwood Family Farms

BUILDERS

City National Bank, Deardorff Family Farms, Donlon Ranch, William Kearney, McCune Foundation, John McGrath and Sons, Mission Produce Foundation, People's Self Help Housing, John Shores Family Partnership, Ventura County Credit Union,

COLLABORATORS

Ball Family Trust, JHD Planning LLC, Law Offices of Barbara Macri-Ortiz,
Ventura Rental Party & Events

ABOUT *HOUSE FARM WORKERS!*

Ventura County has some of the best agricultural land in the United States and also is one of the most expensive places to live. Ten cities and nearly 100,000 acres of irrigated agriculture exist side by side in relative harmony, but low-income workers — including those on the farm — are hard-pressed to find affordable homes. As a result, multiple farm-worker families often share a house designed for one family. Sometimes a garage or shed is called “home.”

House Farm Workers! was established in 2004. Volunteers work countywide and in seven cities to educate the public about the need for affordable farm worker housing, and to urge public officials to permit and support more such projects.

In the past 19 years, more than 1,900 family rentals or single-family homes dedicated to farm worker families have been built or planned in five cities and on unincorporated land. Nevertheless, the need for safe, decent and affordable homes for the county’s estimated 36,000 resident farm workers remains acute.

If you want to learn more about this effort, which is critical to the county’s agricultural economy, you or your organization may request a presentation by a representative of *House Farm Workers!*

We invite you to become involved by joining a city committee, arranging a film presentation in your community, or just sharing what you learn tonight with neighbors and friends.

For more information, contact *House Farm Workers!* at (805) 209-9819 or info@housefarmworkers.org. Visit us online at www.housefarmworkers.org.



Vista Hermosa Apartments, Santa Paula

WHAT WE DO

City Committees

House Farm Workers! has established committees that cover the unincorporated county, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo and Moorpark. These volunteer-driven committees are the heart of the organization and have played a critical role in advocating on behalf of the farm worker community since 2004. The city groups mobilize public support, engage public officials, and collaborate with other grassroots organizations.

Farm Worker Immersion Project

House Farm Workers! and the CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI) Center for Community Engagement have partnered with Reiter Affiliated Companies and Cabrillo Economic Development Corp. to provide an immersion opportunity for CSUCI students focused on the farm worker experience, agriculture, and farm worker housing. The goal of this program is to deepen students' understanding of farm worker issues by experiencing, if only for a day, the working and living conditions of some farm worker families in Ventura County. During the immersion, students have the opportunity to pick and pack produce in the fields, as well as tour a farm worker housing development and speak with farm worker families about what access to safe, decent and affordable housing has meant for them.



Housing bus tour

In 2022, we revived our annual public bus tour to introduce community members to the policy issues and practical realities involved in developing affordable housing in Ventura County. Funded by a grant from Bank of America, the 2022 tour brought participants to farm worker housing developments in Saticoy and at Limoneira, as well as the construction site for the 360-unit Somis Ranch farm worker housing complex. The day also featured a panel of experts discussing the challenges affordable-housing developers face.

Farm Worker Housing Study

In partnership with the County of Ventura, *HFW!* is conducting a countywide farm worker housing study. The study seeks to give a voice to the county's estimated 36,000 farm workers, shining a light on local housing needs for this vulnerable yet essential population. The last time a farm worker housing study was conducted was in 2002. The new study will be completed by 2024.

THE ELLEN BROKAW SCHOLARSHIP

The Ellen Brokaw Scholarship is awarded each year to college-bound or current college students whose parents are farm workers in Ventura County. The scholarship is named in honor of Ellen Brokaw, founding chair of *House Farm Workers!* A prominent member of Ventura County's agricultural community, she has long been an inspirational leader in the campaign to improve the lives of farm workers and their families.



Ellen Brokaw at "From Field to Fork," 2022

Our 2023 Recipients

Judith Bautista

Pacifica High School
CSU Long Beach

Yeni Gonzalez

Channel Islands High School
UCLA

Magaly Dominguez

Hueneme High School
UC Riverside

Jesus Martinez

Hueneme High School
UC Berkeley

Previous Recipients

Vanessa Magaña

Cal Lutheran University (2022)

Martha Maldonado-Arias

CSU Channel Islands (2022)

Mireya Avila Mejia

CSU Channel Islands (2022)

Jesus Martinez

UC Berkeley (2021)

Litzy Hernandez

UC Berkeley (2021)

Bryan Rodriguez

Ventura College (2021)

Bryan Navarette

CSU Long Beach (2020)

Paola Gonzalez

CSU Channel Islands (2020)

Rosita Lopez

CSU Monterey Bay (2020)

Marlén Garcia Cano

Ventura College (2019)

Emilia Contreras

CSU Channel Islands (2019)

Erik Magaña

UC Santa Barbara (2019)

Monica Cisneros

UC Santa Barbara (2018)

Felix Cruz

UC San Diego (2018)

Lorenzo "Anthony" Palomera

UC Santa Barbara (2018)

Osvaldo Ambriz

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (2017)

Litzy Hernandez

UC Berkeley (2017)

Alma Monjaraz Tapia

CSU Fresno (2017)

Viviana Avelar

UC Santa Barbara (2016)

Daniel Garcia

UC Riverside (2016)

Juan Magaña

UC Irvine (2016)

Ayari Palencia

CSU Channel Islands (2015)

IN THEIR WORDS

Ellen Brokaw *House Farm Workers!* Scholarship candidates are required to submit a personal statement as part of the application process. The following passages are excerpted from the essays written by this year's scholarship recipients.

If it wasn't for my parent's hard work, I wouldn't have had the motivation I have today to pursue a career. They continue to make sacrifices so that I may have the opportunity to continue studying and live at my fullest potential. My parents inspired me to become confident, responsible, and committed ... Being confident led me to take risks and challenge myself because playing it safe wasn't going to get me far in life. I enrolled in college classes and took summer classes. There were times I wanted to drop my college classes but I didn't because I was so dedicated to succeed and my family was counting on me to be the first one to attend CSU/UC. In the end, everything I did paid off.

— Judith Bautista

To grow as a dreamer born in Mexico without citizenship or DACA, I want to use my degree to further explore with more resources the issues surrounding my unresolved questions and to illuminate the way for others who will come after me in my future profession. I choose to bring the world a few more answers than it had when I was put in it in order to inspire teenagers my age to work hard and make my hardworking farm worker mother proud ... I have the courage to grow as a student with the goal of helping people while pursuing a career in the medical field and helping my family. I continue to investigate even the simplest aspects of life in light of my own purpose. Life works in mysterious ways and forms, but I continue to work hard every day.

— Magaly Dominguez

Attending college to pursue higher education will help me break the cycle in my family and open the door for my younger siblings and cousins. Going to college will help them realize that if I can do it, they can too. Being able to have higher education will be proof to my parents that the sacrifices they made in life are worth it. It will show them that the American dream that they had all along was worth chasing after. Not only will it fulfill their dream but mine too. I have always wanted to make my parent's sacrifice not go in vain and pursuing higher education will be significant to me because it will show me that the pain and sweat I see every time they come back from work has been worth it.

— Yeni Gonzalez

I was given an opportunity to prove my worth one summer when I stepped up and helped my parents pay for living expenses when COVID-19 hit during my senior year at Hueneme High. Due to work restrictions at the time, both of my parents weren't able to provide for our family, and so I spent several months working at the Sun Valley Group, a flower nursery in Oxnard, as a farm worker, while simultaneously balancing my schoolwork, and taking care of my younger sister. If I was given the chance to live in more safe and affordable housing, I wholeheartedly believe that I could have made more of an impact on my home community, and help those who were in similar situations as mine.

— Jesus Martinez

CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY AND A PARTNERSHIP



House Farm Workers!



When California became a state in 1850, it started with 27 counties. Ventura was not one of them. Local leaders in the booming town of San Buenaventura — a largely agriculture-dependent community that sprang up around the site of what was first a Chumash village and then a Spanish mission settlement — began agitating as early as 1859 to break away from Santa Barbara County. In 1873, the state Legislature granted their request.

As the County of Ventura marks its 150th birthday this year, *House Farm Workers!* joins other community groups to celebrate both the anniversary, and the county's support of agriculture and farm workers. This support has manifested recently in several ways:

- Creation of the Farmworker Resource Program, which provides multilingual support services including financial assistance, workplace conflict resolution, and help accessing healthcare and other family resources.
- Approval of the Somis Ranch project, the largest dedicated farm worker housing complex in county history.
- Support for the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation project, a stakeholder-driven initiative that taps state funding to develop and implement an array of strategies to ensure a resilient agricultural economy.
- In partnership with *House Farm Workers!* and local cities, the launch of a comprehensive countywide farm worker housing study and survey, which will generate crucial data to inform and guide strategies to increase the stock of affordable housing for agricultural workers and their families.
- Funding and administrative support for the Farm Worker Household Assistance Program, which helped hundreds of families weather the loss of income due to pandemic-related business shutdowns.

Happy birthday Ventura County! We look forward to continued collaboration!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the event volunteers, *House Farm Workers!* wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their hard work and contributions to this evening's dinner:

The chefs

Nicole Casian, *Nikki's Kitchen*

Anastashia Chavez, *Hatchet Hall*

Natalia Iorlano, *Hatchet Hall*

Matteen Khalifian, *Yahir LA/Tangaroa Fish Market*

Alex Montoya, *Waterside/Water's Edge/Honeycup Coffee/805 Creams*

Abdu Romero, *Modern Kitchen/Slate Bistro*

Other contributors

Bank of the Sierra

Command Performance Catering

Newport Meats

One Step A La Vez

Pyramid Flowers

Santa Paula FFA

Saticoy Lemon Association

Tina Thayer

Ventura County Community Foundation

Vesta Foodservice

Worldwide Produce

The farmers

Chris Sayer, *Petty Ranch*

Jason Tamai, *Tamai Family Farms*

Craig Underwood, *Underwood Family Farms*

Tehachapi Grain Project

Valley Spuds

The beverage makers

Beacon Coffee

Boscoe Wine Co.

Enegren Brewing Co.

Thacher Winery

The coordinator

The Planning Committee extends special thanks to Chef Anastashia Chavez for coordinating the efforts of all the chefs and farmers responsible for this evening's menu. Find her on Instagram at @anmairi.

Event Planning Committee

John Krist (chair), Alex Flores,

Leslie Leavens, Bernardo M. Perez, Joe Ramirez,

Kirsten Schultz, Gabrielle Vignone,

Jane Donlon Waters.

Scholarship Committee

Linda Braunschweiger (chair), Chris Stephens,

Kirsten Schultz, Gabrielle Vignone,

Jane Donlon Waters.





Tierra Rejada Ranch

Tierra Rejada Ranch was established in 1935, when brothers and third-generation Ventura County farmers Monroe and Eldon Everett purchased 360 acres and planted tomatoes, lima beans and sugar beets. In the 1940s, they planted Valencia oranges, and in the 1950s they planted English walnuts. In 1970, Monroe's daughter Linnea and her husband, Rick Brecunier, moved to the ranch. In 1972, as the local walnut industry declined, they began planting a few acres of pumpkins. Each year more walnuts were removed and, in addition to more pumpkins, acreage was converted to pick-your-own blackberries and vegetables for a roadside stand. After 20 years or so of running the roadside business, Rick and Linnea leased and then sold the business and a portion of the property to Craig Underwood. In 1991, a small area under the walnut trees was set up to accommodate company picnics and events. The Brecuniers have generously donated use of The Walnut Grove for tonight's event.

Brokaw Ranch Co.

Brokaw Ranch Company farms avocado, citrus, and other sub-tropical fruit crops in Ventura and Monterey counties in California.

Mitchell & Associates

Based in Camarillo, **Mitchell & Associates** is an accounting firm offering traditional tax services and consulting for businesses, including all areas of accounting, bookkeeping, and financial-based planning.

Muranaka Farm

Muranaka Farm is a specialty produce grower and shipper based in Moorpark, leading the nation in production of bunched green onions and leeks.