## Tierra Rejada Ranch

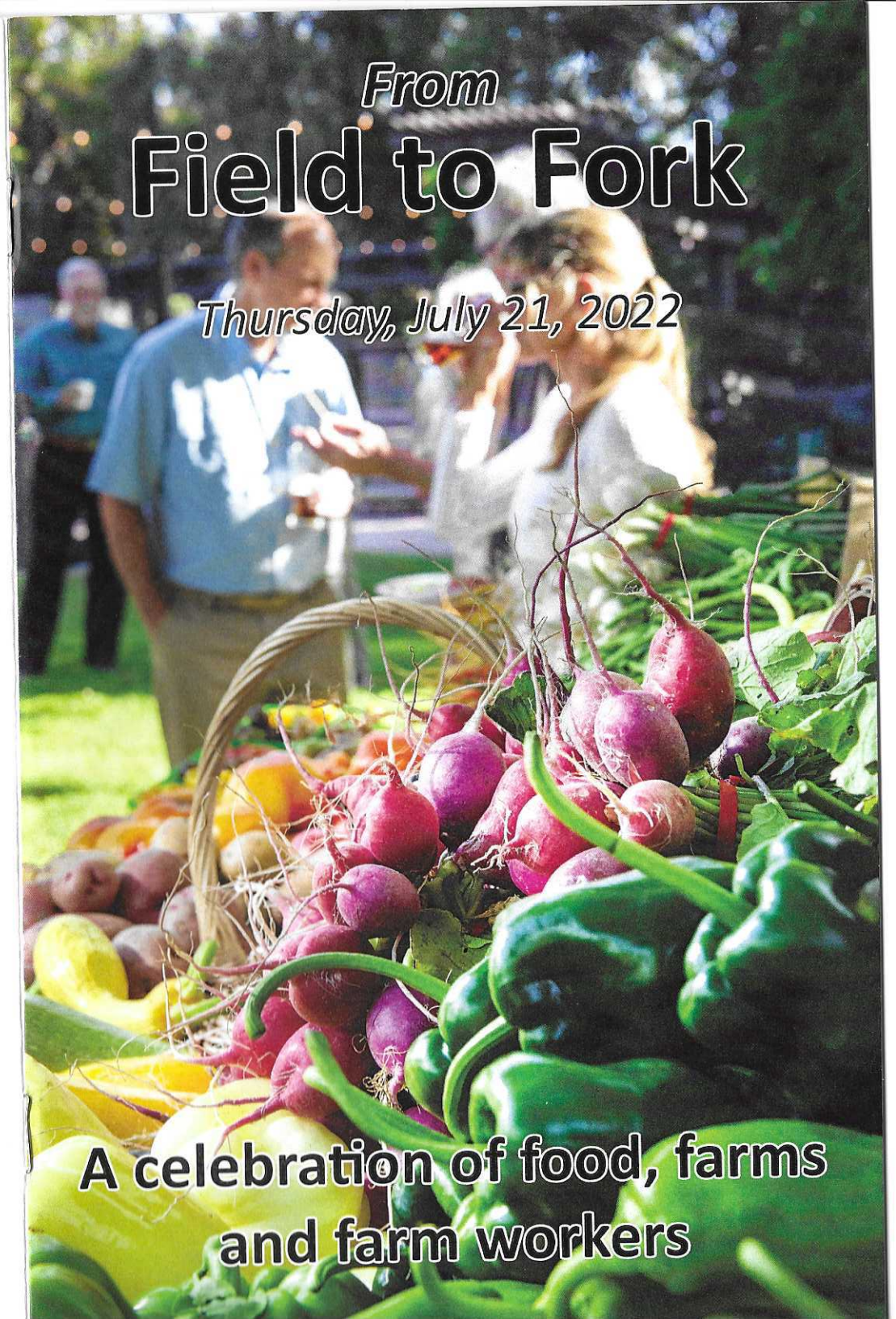
Tierra Rejada Ranch was established in 1935, when brothers and third-generation Ventura County farmers Monroe and Eldon Everett purchased 360 acres and planted tomatoes, lima beans and sugar beets. In the 1940s, they planted Valencia oranges, and in the 1950s they planted English walnuts. In 1970, Monroe's 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.



# MENU

### Appetizer Course
Trio of crostini
Prepared by Shanon Rice, *Peirano's*.
Produce provided by Farmivore.
Wine: Lapis Luna 2021 Rosé of Grenache.
Beer: Enegren Brewing Co. Liberty Pilsner and High Street Lager.

### First Course
Charred corn and avocado salad.
Prepared by Chef Maya Chrestensen, *M on High Street*.
Produce provided by Underwood Family Farms.
Wine: Clos des Amis 2021 Chardonnay, Olivelands Vineyard, Santa Paula.

### Second Course
Grilled pork loin with 3-squash risotto, braised red chard, fennel parsley chimichurri and balsamic pearls.
Prepared by Chef Alex Montoya, *Water's Edge Restaurant*.
Produce provided by Tamai Family Farms
Wine: Four Brix Winery 2014 Rhondezvous, Camp 4 Vineyard, Santa Ynez.

### Dessert Course
Blackberry cocoa cake with a cara cara compote.
Prepared by Anastashia Chavez (*Pas De Deux Confections*) and Deb Dawson (*Desserts to Die For*).
Produce provided by Petty Ranch and Tamai Family Farms.
Beverage: Beacon Coffee.

# 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.

### Young Advocates Committee
In 2015, *House Farm Workers!* launched an initiative to engage young adults in farm worker housing advocacy through social gatherings, storytelling, and community outreach. Since then, we have connected with local high schools, community colleges and universities, shown our film to hundreds of students, and have trained youth to be effective advocates for farm worker housing.
In May 2017, we partnered with One Step a la Vez, a youth center in Fillmore, to take part in a special farm worker Immersion.

### Farm Worker Housing Study
In partnership with the County of Ventura, *HFW!* is preparing to conduct a countywide farm worker housing study. The study seeks to give a voice to the county's estimated 36,000 farmworkers, 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 *House Farm Workers!* 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 chairwoman of *House Farm Workers!* A prominent member of Ventura County's agricultural community, involved in production of lemons, avocados and nursery stock, she has been an inspirational leader in the long campaign to improve the lives of farm workers and their families.

**Our 2022 Recipients**

**Vanessa Magaña**
Santa Paula High School
*Attending Cal Lutheran University*

**Martha Maldonado-Arias**
Hueneme High School
*Admitted to CSU Channel Islands*

**Mireya Avila Mejia**
Fillmore High School
*Attending CSU Channel Islands*

**Previous Recipients**

**Marlén Garcia Cano**
Fillmore High School (2019)
*Ventura College*

**Emilia Contreras**
Channel Islands High School (2018)
*CSU Channel Islands*

**Erik Magaña**
Fillmore High School (2019)
*UC Santa Barbara*

**Monica Cisneros**
Santa Paula High School (2018)
*UC Santa Barbara*

**Felix Cruz**
Rio Mesa High School (2018)
*UC San Diego*

**Lorenzo "Anthony" Palomera**
Fillmore High School (2018)
*UC Santa Barbara*

**Osvaldo Ambriz**
Santa Paula High School (2017)
*Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*

**Litzy Hernandez**
Hueneme High School (2017)
*UC Berkeley*

**Alma Monjaraz Tapia**
Rio Mesa High School (2017)
*CSU Fresno*

**Viviana Avelar**
Santa Paula High School (2016)
*UC Santa Barbara*

**Daniel Garcia**
Channel Islands High School (2016)
*UC Riverside*

**Juan Magaña**
Santa Paula High School (2016)
*UC Irvine*

**Ayari Palencia**
Hueneme High School (2015)
*CSU Channel Islands*

*Ellen Brokaw and 2015 recipient Ayari Palencia.*

# OUR SPONSORS

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

## VISIONARIES

Mitchell & Associates, APC
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

**Tierra Rejada Ranch**

Brokaw Ranch Company

## CHAMPIONS

Farm Credit West
Committed. Experienced. Trusted.

Leavens Ranches LLC
A Family Farming Company

Limoneira
Since 1893

**Coastal Pipco**

**Pinkerton Ranch**

**Rancho Santa Clara del Norte**

**Karen and Tom Pecht**

## COMMUNITY LEADERS

**Brokaw Nursery LLC** **Brianne McGrath** **Pyramid Flowers**

**Mission Produce Foundation**

## STEWARDS

Broome Management LLC, Farm Bureau of Ventura County, Al Friedrich, J.K. Thille Ranches, Rancho Rodoro, Total Labor Force, Underwood Family Farms

## BUILDERS

Donlon Ranch, Leslie Leavens, McCune Foundation, John McGrath and Sons, Port of Hueneme, John Shores Family Partnership, Ventura County Credit Union, Ventura Pacific, Michael Skaff

## COLLABORATORS

Deardorff Family Farms, The Dunbar Group, Susan Johnson, People's Self Help Housing, Terry Farms, Ventura Housing Authority, 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 18 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 or the countywide task force, 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*

# 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.

*Scholarship recipient Erik Magaña with Ellen Brokaw at the 2019 "From Field to Fork" event.*

*I worry a lot about my brothers and what will be of them if I am not there constantly on their backs about making smart choices. There are certainly gang affiliations in the area and we are often startled by gunshots that are heard nearby. Growing up, you kind of get used to such experiences, but they are not proper living conditions young children should be enduring. My dad's dream is to buy a home of his own and move to a safer neighborhood, and thus (he) takes on long hours at work to make that happen ... His stress and worries, along with my mother's, would be lessened if we lived in an affordable and safe housing environment.*

**— Vanessa Magaña**

*I do not want my father's efforts of having to wake up at three in the morning to get ready for work despite the harsh weather conditions, the pandemic, and forest fires, and sometimes arriving home at eight o'clock feeling tired and hungry, to go to waste. I want to be able to act as a role model not only for my siblings and family, but also to anyone who is going through difficult times ... To do so I have to attend college and use all my previous experiences to obtain a job that I love and pays well. The death of my grandmother, the hospitalization of my grandparents, and my parents being uninsured immigrants had a huge impact on the career path (in healthcare) I want to pursue.*

**— Martha Maldonado-Arias**

*When I started high school, my family and I were lucky to have been able to move into the Central Station Farmworker Family Apartments developed by Carrillo Economic Development Corp. The apartments that I reside in have completely changed my life and have allowed me to become the successful woman I am today. My living situation prior consisted of a one-bedroom, one-bathroom studio. At that time, the studio was the most we could afford ... In order to be able to get my school assignments done, I would have to do them in the bathroom because that was the place with the least amount of noise ... After moving to the CEDC apartments, I was finally able to have my own space, but most importantly, I was able to finally have a quiet space to do my school work.*

**— Mireya Avila Mejia**

# "From Field to Fork" 2021: The drive-through edition

The organizers canceled the 2020 fundraising dinner for *House Farm Workers!* because of COVID-19. By July 2021, pandemic restrictions had eased enough to allow for limited interaction, but not enough that we felt comfortable inviting 260+ people to mingle, unmasked, for drinks, conversation and dining. So we shifted gears and provided a hybrid event: Diners drove through a pick-up site at McGrath Family Farm in Camarillo, took their gourmet takeout meals home, and tuned into a Zoom version of our usual program, featuring a mix of live and recorded presentations.

*Aaliyah Kendricks (left) and Jazmin Guevara, with Santa Paula High School Agricultural Science Academy, volunteer at the 2021 "From Field to Fork" dinner drive-through.*

*Lotta Andonian picks up her meal, above. At left, Lynette Coverly helps chef Tim Kilcoyne fill dinner bags.*

# 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

Anastashia Chavez, *Pas De Deux Confections*
Maya Chrestensen, *M on High Street*
Deb Dawson, *Desserts to Die For*
Alex Montoya, *Waters Edge Restaurant*
Shanon Rice, *Peirano's*

## The farmers

Chris Sayer, *Petty Ranch*
Jason Tamai, *Tamai Family Farms*
Craig Underwood, *Underwood Family Farms*
Mike Roberts and Max Becher, *Farmivore*

## The beverage makers

Beacon Coffee
Clos des Amis Wines
Enegren Brewing Co.
Four Brix Winery
Lapis Luna Wines

## The coordinator

The Planning Committee extends special thanks to Chef Tim Kilcoyne for coordinating the efforts of all the chefs and farmers responsible for this evening's menu. Find him on Facebook at *Chef-Tim-Kilcoyne*.

**Event Planning Committee**
John Krist (chair), Alex Flores, Debbie Brokaw Jackson, Tim Kilcoyne, Leslie Leavens, Paola Ortiz-Muñoz, Bernardo M. Perez, Joe Ramirez, Grant Sles, Gabriella Vignone.

**Scholarship Committee**
Linda Braunschweiger (chair), Chris Stephens, Paola Ortiz-Muñoz, Gabrielle Vignone.

**Additional scholarship application reviewers**
Debora Schreiber, Karen Flock, Joe Ramirez.

**Other contributors**
Bank of the Sierra
One Step A La Vez
Paradise Pantry
Pyramid Flowers
Santa Paula FFA
Saticoy Lemon Association

*Program designed by John Krist and printed by Signature Graphics, Ventura.*