



Menu of Hope

Recent federal legislation has disrupted the lives of many of our sisters and brothers in the immigrant community, and RMM has received numerous calls for assistance during this time of great change. In response, RMM staff, Board members and allies are developing a "Menu of Hope," which we hope to publish very soon. The menu will include sections on human rights, legal and civil rights, pastoral activities and scripture (welcoming the foreigner, loving your neighbor), how to help bring systemic change to your community, sanctuary efforts, engaging in coalitions, training and educational opportunities, and more.

To receive your copy of the Menu of Hope once it's available, please send a note to Kriya Roundtree at rmmkroundtree@gmail.com.

Thank you for your courage, your strength and your patience.

RMM legislative update

On February 6, the Justice for Farmworkers (JFW) Legislative Campaign held its first press event of the year in the Capitol. Senators Alcantara, Peralta and Savino spoke on the importance of passing the farmworker bill this year and pledged their support. Other speakers at the event included Bishop Scharfenberger from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, Alan Lubin from NYSUT, Diana Caba from the Hispanic Federation, and Long Island farmworker Boris Martinez. The event was moderated by Francis Madi from the New York Immigration Coalition. Later that afternoon, various members of the JFW Legislative Steering Committee, farmworkers and RMM allies visited various legislators and staff in order to advocate for the bill. Senator Carlucci, who in the past had abstained from cosponsoring the bill, is now an official cosponsor. This is a step towards victory as we continue to strive for passage of the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act.



Boris Martinez, Francis Madi

Cesar Chavez rally at City Hall

*"The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people."
Cesar Chavez*



Advocates, activists and farmworkers will rally in front of the New York City Hall where they will receive a proclamation from the NY City Council in recognition of Cesar Chavez Day, as well as their support for the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act in the New York State Legislature. The rally will take place Thursday, March 30 beginning at 11 a.m. Find more details [here](#).

Celebrating RMM youth programs

Save the date!

This year's "Sowing Seeds for Justice Dinner" will be a celebration of RMM's youth empowerment program, including the 20th anniversary of the Youth Arts Group. The dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in White Plains (more details coming soon!). A youth symposium will take place earlier that day at St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale. Registration deadline is April 14.

YAG @NOFA

At the recent Northeast Organic Farming Association of NY (NOFA-NY) Winter Conference in Saratoga Springs, the RMM Youth Arts Group demonstrated how to create a safe space to develop farmworker advocacy programs, and creative ways to take action (including its Theater of the Oppressed Tableaux). The conference also welcomed RMM's Youth Economic Group as a vendor.



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 20, 2017

RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM: HOSTED BY RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY

A DAY-LONG GATHERING AND CELEBRATION OF YOUTH FROM THROUGHOUT NEW YORK STATE

WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, ART, AND JUSTICE

HONORING 20 YEARS OF RMM'S YOUTH ARTS GROUP

PLACE: ST. JAMES THE LESS, SCARSDALE, NY
DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017 FROM: 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH!
THE INDIVIDUAL COST FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE \$20, WITH LUNCH INCLUDED (WE APOLOGIZE THAT WE CANNOT ACCOMMODATE THOSE WITH FOOD ALLERGIES OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS). ALSO, WE OFFER LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
WWW.RURALMIGRANTMINISTRY.ORG

Volunteer spotlight: Kathy Mendall



"I continue to enjoy being involved with the work of Rural & Migrant Ministry, and the work that is being done to help agricultural workers throughout the state, because I feel that anyone who has a voice should stand up for the rights of others who don't have a voice or are afraid of speaking out. All of us rely on the thousands of migrant workers throughout this country who work on the farms to provide us with produce, dairy, poultry, plants, wine, honey and other products that we consume on a daily basis. These workers deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and should be paid a decent living wage to be able to provide for their families and have regularly scheduled days off, so they can spend time with their families, rest and enjoy their lives. I believe we can make positive changes if we continue to work together and find other advocates and allies. Let's keep up the good work we have all been doing!"

Kathy Mendall, Trinity Episcopal Church, Roslyn, NY

A different kind of spring break

There is still time for college students to sign up for RMM's 2017 Alternative Spring Break. The week-long program will take place March 13-17 at the Liturgia Rural Worker's Education Center in Lyons, NY. Students will have the opportunity to travel throughout western New York State, tour apple orchards and dairy farms, meet and engage with farmworkers and advocates, and learn more about the agribusiness system and the labor protections from which farmworkers are excluded. For more information, please visit the RMM [website](http://www.ruralmigrantministry.org), or contact West Cosgrove at wcosgrovermm@gmail.com.

Jim Schmidt Fellowship

The Working Together Group is now accepting applications for the Jim Schmidt Fellowship, which funds an intern who will work on a year-long farmworker justice project (beginning June 1) at a nonprofit associated with the group. If you or anyone you know has a driver's license and strong command of English and another language(s), and is interested in becoming a community organizer, popular educator, legal service provider, or other figure for radical change, please visit the [Jim Schmidt Fellowship website](http://www.ruralmigrantministry.org), or contact Katia Chapman at (845) 309-8420, or ktchapman@gmail.com. The priority deadline to apply is March 15 (the group may continue to accept applications after that date on a rolling basis).

"DREAMers" update

"DREAMers Among US," the award-winning short documentary created by RMM's Youth Arts Group that explores the struggles of undocumented students in New York, is now [available on DVD](#) with Spanish subtitles. All DVD sales and donations in the name of the film support the DREAMers Among US scholarship fund. The film is also available for viewing online [here](#).



 **Coffee House** 
Supporting
Rural and Migrant Ministry
Sponsored by
the Church of St. James the Less and
Hitchcock Presbyterian Church

  

Saturday, April 22, 2017
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church (Lower Children's House)
6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY

all come, bring your family and friends
enjoy wonderful live entertainment

Adults: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door
Students/Seniors: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door

Refreshments for sale

For more information and tickets,
contact Cheryl Smith (cherylsmith225@gmail.com)

 

January donors

Thank you to our many generous donors for January 2017.

Wayne & Margaret Alt, Leonard D. Andrew, Emily Bennisson, Penny J. Berger, Melissa J. Billings, Herbert William Birns, Jennifer Brown, Roger & Judith Bunker, Elizabeth Cashara, Celia Baldwin & Bruce Catania, Cliff Chan, Peter O'Brian Dellinger, Michael & Ruth E. Doehring, The Rev. Ron Garner, Roberta Gould, Margaret Hale, Martha Louise Harkness, Charles Hearne, Dan Hoffman, Richard Iannuzzi, Julie & Israel Lowy, The Rev. Gerald W. Keucher, Lawrence Knapp, Marsha Leavitt, Margaret Lehrecke, Alan Lubin, James Mang, Mary Manto, Nina Masonson, Esq., Tracy McCarthy, Carrie McIndoe, Chakera McIntosh & Abdou Kane, Don McNeil, Robert Meade, Jonathan Meigs, N. Napolitano, Rigoberto Avila Nativi, Linda Obernauer, Jane Orcutt, Dennis Parsons, Virgia B. Phoenix, Dolores Poscich-Woodin, Nancy Reed, Michael Relyea, Carl Reynolds, Andrea Rickert, Laura Russell, Maria Isabel Santiviago, Marjorie S. Satter, Paul Spierling, Paul A. Stermer, Crandall & Roddy Story, James Sullivan, Joan Synder, Irene P. Thiel, Constance A. Valk, Barry Van Dyke, William Vasse, Teresa J. Vilardi, Elaine Weir, William Weisenbach, Barbara Jean Weyant, Tyler Wilch, James Wood, Janet L. Wynn

Church of the Ascension, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, First Presbyterian Church Katonah, First Presbyterian Church Port Jervis, First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, Friends of the Stone Church, Grace Church Millbrook, Grace Episcopal Church Middletown, Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Long Island Region CSEA, Monticello Central School District, New World Foundation, Presbyterian Church (USA), Woodstock Reformed Church

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Please send corrections to rmmkroundtree@gmail.com.

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to create a just rural New York State. Thank you.**