

ROCLA UPDATE ON THE AMERICAS

A Measure of Justice for Victor Jara

By Gail Mott

The Center for Justice and Accountability, co-recipient of ROCLA's 2016 White Dove Award, recently won another victory in their ongoing fight against impunity for human rights violators.

On June 26, 2016, a federal jury in Orlando, Florida, found former Chilean Army officer and American citizen Pedro Pablo Barrientos Nuñez, liable for the torture and extrajudicial killing of Chilean folk-singer, songwriter and theatre director Victor Jara in Santiago, Chile, in 1973. Jara was detained, tortured and killed in the infamous Chile Stadium in the days following General Augusto Pinochet's overthrow of democratically elected President Salvador Allende of Chile. The court awarded Mr. Jara's family \$28 million in damages.

Joan Jara, Victor's 88-year-old widow, and their daughters had sought justice for Victor for decades. Following the



Victor Jara Mural in Santiago, Chile

court decision, Victor Jara's daughter Manuela was quoted in a New York Times article: "These eight days . . . concentrated all of the pain, sadness and anger Chile has gone through, and specifically the horrors at the Chile Stadium. The culture of lies, cover-ups and bullying was pulverized by the weight of the truth in this

courtroom." See Pascale Bonney, The New York Times, June 27, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/28/world/americas/chile-victor-jara-lawsuit.html>. ■

Gail Mott is a founding member of ROCLA and serves on the ROCLA Steering Committee.

sions of the Trade Tribunals.

Current Status: Fast-tracking the TPP was pushed through the House of Representatives in 2015, but the Senate has yet to take it up for a vote. Fast Track means that the final TPP would be voted on without amendments and only a reject-or-ratify vote. A letter signed by some 1,500 groups opposing the TPP was sent to Congress in January 2016. Hundreds of delegates at the Democratic National Convention held signs opposing the TPP, but the Democratic Platform was more equivocal: the Platform Committee refused to include a clear "No!" on the TPP. Many Republicans also oppose TPP and both Presidential candidates oppose it, but Hillary Clinton has supported it in the past.

Lame-duck Vote: Democratic Senate leaders have told President Obama that they do not want to vote on the TPP before the November elections, but President Obama still supports it and there are both Democrats and Republicans who want to push it through in the "lame duck" session after the election. Meanwhile, business groups have launched a well-funded lobbying campaign to pass the TPP. Your voice is needed now!

Make an appointment with your Representative and Senators during the August recess. There are many fact sheets on the TPP that you can copy and bring with you. Here's one: <http://www.citizen.org/documents/Six-Things-About-TPP.pdf>.

Sign the petition to stop a lame-duck vote on the TPP at: <https://takeaction.ourfuture.org/action/nolameduck>. ■

URGENT ACTION

Once again, ROCLA is highlighting the critical importance of opposing the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement and asking you to let your Congressional representative and Senators know you oppose it.

TPP Background: This 12-nation trade deal, which includes Chile, Mexico and

Peru, has been in the works for years, and has been widely criticized for its potential to send more jobs overseas, destroy worker rights, make medicines more expensive, threaten national, state and local environmental, financial and food safety regulations, and negatively impact net neutrality laws. The TPP would also allow corporations to challenge laws, regulations



and court decisions (including local and state laws) if they adversely impact the corporation's expected future profits. Under the TPP's "investor-state" provisions, corporations can file lawsuits in Trade Tribunals where the judges would primarily be corporate lawyers on temporary leave from their corporate jobs. Federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, could not overturn the deci-

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

THE SUPREME COURT DASHES THE HOPES OF MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

By Grania Marcus

In a sad and disappointing decision, the Supreme Court announced on June 23, 2016, a 4-4 ruling in *U.S. v Texas*, the case determining whether President Obama's 2014 immigration relief programs can go into effect. In a nine-word opinion, the Supreme Court refused to resolve any of the questions it had agreed to consider in the case.

The Court's tied decision means that the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision and the injunction is upheld and that the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and the expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA+) programs will not be implemented. These administrative relief programs stood to offer critical protection from deportation and the ability to work legally to nearly 5 million undocumented Americans, including 250,000 New

Yorkers, in recognition of their tremendous contributions to our communities and country. This is not justice.

Importantly however, the Court neither rebuked nor affirmed the President's authority to exercise executive action. Because it is a split decision, the Court's opinion has no precedential value. This ruling does not impact the original DACA program launched in 2012.

Steve Choi, Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition, stated, "The Supreme Court has failed our communities, ignored the law, and abdicated their responsibilities to a gridlocked and paralyzed political system that continues to come up short in providing real solutions..."

While the Supreme Court ruled against us, the fight is not over. In this contentious election year where we have seen politicians use immigrants as scapegoats, our united front is more important

COALITION LAUNCHES "GREEN LIGHT NY: DRIVING TOGETHER!" CAMPAIGN

By Jackie Vimo, New York Immigration Coalition

Following the lead of 12 other states, including our neighbors in Connecticut and Vermont, the time has come for New York to expand access to driver's licenses. Since 2001, New York State has barred hundreds of thousands of immigrants from obtaining driver's licenses due to their immigration status. This is of particular concern to immigrants upstate, many of whom work on farms in rural areas.

Without licenses, many immigrants are unable to register or insure their vehicles and face major barriers in meeting the most basic needs of day-to-day life: traveling to work, school, grocery shopping, medical appointments, and places of worship. The newly launched "Green Light NY: Driving Together!" campaign aims to ensure equal access to driver's licenses for all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status.

Out of sheer necessity, many immigrants drive with-



out licenses, putting them at odds with law enforcement, undermining trust between police and immigrant communities, and increasing the risk that a routine traffic stop will result in arrest, detention, or even deportation.

Immigrant access to driver's licenses will reduce the number of uninsured vehicles on the road, thereby lowering insurance premiums for all New York motorists. Moreover, it will allow immigrant families to more fully participate in community life and contribute to economic growth in our state. For more information and to learn how to support the campaign, go to <http://bit.ly/GreenLightNY> or <http://www.facebook.com/GreenLightNY>. ■

than ever. We will continue to fight for the 11 million undocumented immigrants and their families who are a critical part of America's workforce and communities. We will fight against deportations and for keeping families together."

In the coming weeks, the parties will make decisions about whether to seek rehearing at the Supreme

Court or pursue other legal avenues. DACA and DAPA are temporary measures at best—the only way to ensure lasting improvements is for Congress to pass long-overdue immigration reform legislation. For a more detailed discussion of this case, see <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/understanding-legal-challenges-executive-action>. ■

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Farmworker advocates visit Sen. Michael Nozzolio's (R-54th) office. Credit: Rural and Migrant Ministry

FARMWORKER ALBANY DAY, MAY 15-JUNE 1, 2016

By Paul Stermer

And so, the March for Farmworker Justice has ended.

On June 1, hundreds of people from all walks of life visited the State Capitol to call, loudly and clearly, for justice for farmworkers. We are teachers and steelworkers, lawyers and legislators, bishops and rabbis, who all share an appetite for justice, and a great affection for our fellow traveler.

"This is everybody's fight!" said Mario Cilento, President of the New York State AFL-CIO. "This is our responsibility as human beings!" The words echoed off the granite façade of the Capitol Building, and far beyond the walls of the executive mansion.

We marched to bring attention to a special brand of injustice that New York has

endured for too many years: that farmworkers, our brothers and sisters who put food on our tables, do not enjoy the same rights and protections that most of us take for granted. "We can't even afford to eat the same vegetables we pick," said Maria Gomez.

For 18 days, for more than 200 miles, we've shared smiles and tears, handshakes and hugs, food and shelter, moral and physical support. We roller-skated, pushed strollers, and walked on stilts, past mountains, beside rivers, down lonely roads, and through the center of the greatest city in the world. We discovered thousands of new allies (or they discovered us)...

And now the March has ended, but our movement has not.

Again, the New York State Senate has failed to bring the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act (S.1291) to the floor for a vote, and the legislative session has ended.

The fight continues. This summer we ask you to be part

of a 3-pronged strategy to bring the FFLPA to a vote in the 2016-2017 NYS Legislative Session. For materials and ways to support the Justice for Farmworkers campaign, contact José Chapa at josechapaifw@gmail.com.

Paul Stermer is Development Coordinator at Rural and Migrant Ministry. ■

BORDER PATROL PLANS TO REVERSE 2012 POLICY

By Carly Fox

A few days ago, we received word that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will reverse its 2012 policy restricting CBP officers from acting as interpreters for state or local law enforcement agencies.

In December 2012, then acting Commissioner of (CBP) David Aguilar had announced a policy restricting his agencies' officers from acting as interpreters, which had become a common practice along the northern and southern borders. However, in June 2016, current CBP Commissioner, Gil Kerlikowske, reversed course and authorized CBP Agents to again act as interpreters for state and local police despite significant civil rights concerns associated with that practice. (See Lisa Graybill, *Border Patrol Agents as Interpreters Along the Northern Border: Unwise Policy, Illegal Practice*.)

This announcement runs counter to the goals of New York's Upstate Policing Project, which has been



working to limit collaboration between local and county law enforcement officials and Federal immigration agents in Upstate New York. Just last year, representatives from the Immigration Clinic of the Cardozo Law School, the Worker Justice Center of New York, the Workers Center of Central NY, the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice worked with the New York State Police to issue a policy limiting State Police collaboration with immigration officials. This policy included a provision that State Police would not use CBP or ICE as interpreters, and represented an acknowledgement that limiting collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and federal immigration agents keeps our communities stronger and safer.

Following the CBP announcement, more than 150 national, state and local immigrant rights organizations signed a letter to Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske of CBP protesting the policy reversal and requesting him to reconsider it. See <http://southernborder.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NGOletterKerlikowskeInterpretation-PolicyF.pdf> for a copy of the letter with signatories.

Carly Fox of the Worker Justice Center of NY is a member of the Upstate Policing Project. ■

OPINION: MIGRATION AND THE ECONOMY

By Paola Macas Betchart

The United States of America has been and is a country of migrants. Between 1820 and 1920, about 34 million persons entered the country, most staying permanently. From its beginning, this country has welcomed citizens from around the world. The poem “The New Colossus,” written by Emma Lazarus in 1883 and graven on a tablet at the base of the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island, tells the odyssey of those migrants and the warmth of a country that portrays itself as a golden door to freedom: “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Yet the debate about migration is highly polarized now, and many Americans label immigrants as opportunistic “criminals” and “invaders.”

Since 1965, the diaspora has changed its face—this time Latin Americans are migrating to the U.S. rather than Europeans, but for similar reasons as previous immigrants: violence and poverty. The causes of this newer migration often stem from U.S. development and free trade policies driven by multinational corporations, adopted in an attempt to attain prosperity. Extractive policies and political interference in Latin America have been major causes of political instability, coups, wars, destruction of natural resources, climate change and poverty.

The vast majority of migrants from our Americas come to the U.S. to occupy low-wage jobs. Almost 3 million farmworkers feed this



country. About 60,000 live in this state. New York is second in apple production, third in cabbage and first in Greek yogurt in the country. Men and women work under sun and rain, exposed to toxic pesticides; many work 100 hours a week without the right to payment for overtime or a day of rest. Migrants make it possible for us to have low-cost food, since they subsidize the cost at the expense of their own exploitation. They feed us, take care of our children, build and fix our homes, and with their remittances, they also help the economies of their countries of origin. They are not criminals.

Betting on the capitalist system has led to a global crisis where entire populations have had to abandon their countries. Mother Earth is giving us signs that it is time to change to a dream of harmony with nature. We have to reclaim our Americas—Abya Yala, as our ancient inhabitants called them. These inhabitants continue to be present in many faces and voices who can become the new flame of hope of these, our American lands that have hosted people of the world for many centuries. ■

Paola Macas Betchart is an environmentalist, native of Ecuador, and member of the ROCLA Steering Committee.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM LATIN AMERICA

THE 2016 RIO SUMMER OLYMPICS: A STEW OF CORRUPTION, ZIKA AND SUPERBUGS

When you receive your ROCLA Summer newsletter, for better or worse the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics will be nearly over. That is probably a good thing.

Brazil’s extremely unequal society, hidden beneath the usual Olympics media hype, has spawned myriad difficulties—leaky pipes, exposed electrical wires and blocked toilets in the Athletes’ Village, political instability and corruption, and waterways so polluted by human and chemical waste where athletes will swim that they have been warned to keep their mouths shut while swimming. Over 90% of water tested contained antibiotic resistant superbugs and powerful viruses. Some athletes have already decided not to attend due to the prevalence of Zika in Rio.

Meanwhile, 77,000 evictions in the *favelas* have rendered many slum-dwellers homeless and shooting deaths by police have reached 2,600 since 2009, increasing 135% just since 2015, in an attempt to impose control so the world does not see the reality of poverty. A handful of wealthy families have made billions off of government-subsidized Olympic infrastructure contracts, which have cost Brazil \$12 billion. The Olympics and falling oil prices have strained Brazil’s budget to the point that the government has closed many schools, health clinics and other community services, with predictable



consequences. The Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro has declared a “state of public calamity,” threatening services even for the Olympics and the Rio Olympics has been dubbed the “Exclusion Games.”

And then there is political instability: Dilma Rousseff, the left-leaning President from the Workers’ Party, has been impeached in a drawn-out process that began in late 2015. The final impeachment is expected to take place in late August. Some observers are describing this as a “coup.” Acting President Michel Temer is extremely unpopular and there are frequent competing protests on both sides. In addition, leftist civil society groups and social movements are mounting well-planned demonstrations from August 1-5, including a pop-up “Evictions Museum.”

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes’ words, “These things happen when you host an Olympics in the developing world,” are not reassuring. ■

**NEWS BRIEFS
FROM LATIN AMERICA****FORMER
MAYOR OF
BORGNE,
HAITI,
ARRESTED**

By Sarah Brownell

The Friends of Borgne, Haiti, and 2007 White Dove Award winner Sarah Brownell, recently learned that the former Assistant Mayor of Borgne, Haiti, Francius Dauphin Estimable, known as “Johnny,” has been imprisoned in Cap Haitien on politically motivated arson charges. Other members of his political party and family have been threatened. As of August 2, 2016, he remains in prison in terrible conditions.

During his 2006-2011 term, Mr. Estimable was responsible for many improvements to Borgne: he paved roads, revitalized the beach area, provided extensive support to earthquake survivors and cholera education, and initiated a Sister Cities relationship and cultural exchanges with Honeoye Falls, New York.

When Haiti elected President Michel Martelly of the Parti Haitien Tèt Kale (PHTK) in 2011, Haitian mayors became appointed instead of elected, and Mr. Estimable lost his mayoral office. While out of office, Estimable’s “Fondasyon Dauphin” helped some 75 children from poor families attend school, supported struggling schools, and provided free after-school programs in computers, band, and sewing. Mr. Estimable also helped establish a food



program for Borgne’s elderly and disabled residents, supported a marching band in partnership with the Friends of Borgne and helped bring RIT students to Haiti for cultural exchanges.

When local elections were finally held again in October 2015, Mr. Estimable ran for Mayor of Borgne at the request of local community groups. The unofficial count showed a landslide victory for his Vérité party, but the final results showed the Vérité party lost, which made many suspect the election results were fraudulent.

In June, when the new PHTK mayor was officially installed in Borgne, some angry residents set fire to the mayor’s office and other buildings. Estimable was not in town during the inauguration, but he was arrested on July 5, 2016, and charged with arson. His arrest has all the hallmarks of political persecution to intimidate Vérité.

Sarah Brownell, members of ROCLA, Friends of Borgne, and Catholic Worker Rochester, have reached out to the Haitian National Human Rights Defense Network, Amnesty International, and

the Institute for Justice and Democracy among others, to attempt to get Mr. Estimable released. Contact Sarah Brownell for more informa-

tion: sabeie@rit.edu. ■

Sarah Brownell is an engineering professor at RIT who has worked in Borgne on sanitation and other projects.

**U.S. PROMESA BILL PROMISES
TO IMPOSE NEO-COLONIALISM
ON PUERTO RICO**

Puerto Rico has been facing possible default on its bond debt for several years, a result in part of U. S. enforced strategies of exploitation of the natural and human resources of Puerto Rico. In May, a group of hedge funds sued to freeze the assets of Puerto Rico’s Government Development Bank in order to stop the bank from spending money on the island that the hedge funds want to go toward debt payments. The Puerto Rican House and Senate responded, saying the island’s funds would go first to human services.

As Puerto Rico was about to default on a \$2 billion bond debt payment, on July 1, 2016, the U.S. Senate passed the PROMESA bill by a vote of 68-to-30 that puts in place a federally appointed control board with sweeping powers to run Puerto Rico’s economy. In signing it, President Obama said: “[It] is an important first step on the path of creating more stability, better services and greater prosperity over the long term for the people of Puerto Rico.” Senator Bob Menendez vehemently disagreed, calling the legislation “the ultimate neocolonialism”:

“It is a vote to authorize an unelected, unchecked and all-powerful control board to determine Puerto Rico’s destiny for a generation or more . . . It is a vote to cut the minimum wage down to \$4.25 per hour for young



workers in Puerto Rico. It’s a vote to make Puerto Ricans work long overtime hours without fair compensation. It’s a vote to jeopardize collective bargaining agreements. It’s a vote to cut worker benefits and privatize inherently government functions. It’s a vote to close schools and shutter hospitals and cut senior citizens’ pensions to the bone. It’s a vote to put hedge funds ahead of the people.”

Father Luis Barrios, former Chairman of the Latin American Studies Department at John Jay College and ROCLA ally, agreed in a *Telesur* interview that the bill is not about benevolence, but instead the result of more than a century of U.S. imposed colonial economic exploitation. José La Luz, a labor organizer in Puerto Rico and the U.S., characterized the control board as “a colonial junta” that is a “glorified collection agency for the hedge funds and the vulture funds.” Not surprisingly, Puerto Ricans are protesting what they see as just another manifestation of American imperialism. For more information on the crisis and its background, see: <http://www.truthout.org/speakout/item/33275>. ■

ROCLA'S FALL 2016 PROGRAMS



Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7pm Paul Chiavarri, "Is This a Revolution? Reflections on Guatemala in 2015."

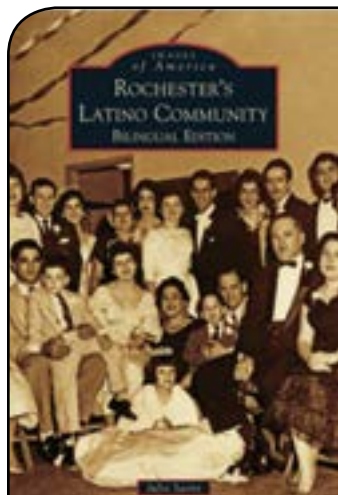
In a complex and complicated year of national elections (2015), Guatemalans were outraged by the corruption of their highest public officials. They took to the streets in dramatic shows of strength and courage, ousting their formerly elected president. Was it a revolution? Paul Chiavarri, who taught English in Guatemala City throughout 2015, will take us on a journey through those turbulent days.



Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7pm "Moments of Campaign" film.

On February 17th, 2013, Rafael Correa won the election to become President of Ecuador for the third time. 42 days before that, he embarked on a frenzied campaign. The film captures the times when everything isn't under control and when the dual nature of

Correa as a public/private figure is revealed. Not just about a specific campaign, the film reflects on contemporary forms of political life. Location to be announced.



Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7pm Julio Saenz, "Rochester's Latino Community."

The Rochester Latino community traces its roots back to pioneers like Puerto Rican Domingo Delgado, a key Eastman Kodak executive of the 1890s. Julio Saenz has recently published a book on Rochester's Latino community, past and present, featuring 197 black and white photos. Mr. Saenz is a journalist and Director of Poder 97.1 FM, Rochester's bilingual radio station.

All ROCLA programs are held at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, unless otherwise indicated. The church is handicapped accessible and looped for those with hearing loss. ■

UPDATE ON CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENT 2016

By Vic Vinkey

This year, at the request of ROCLA's Cuban partners, the 27th Friendshipment Caravan consisted primarily of intense work to educate our federal legislators about the need for legislation to end the Cuban embargo and remove all restrictions on travel to Cuba. As part of that mission, Pastors for Peace staff member Manolo De Los Santos visited Rochester on June 21st.



Manolo de los Santos speaks at 27th Cuba Friendshipment event

Thanks to the efforts of Niambé Tomlinson, Regional Assistant to Senator Gilibrand, ROCLA members accompanied by Manolo de los Santos presented information to a joint meeting of staff members from Senators Gilibrand's and Schumer's and Representative Slaughter's offices. Manolo, who currently lives in Cuba, described the present situation there and urged passage of legislation aimed at achieving our objectives of ending the blockade (H.R.3238 and S.491) and removing travel restrictions (HR.664 and S.299). (Complete texts and the status of these bills are available at www.Congress.gov.) We also told them about ROCLA's work and our members' advo-



cacy to end the blockade, and gave them additional information about Cuba. The staffers listened and asked questions, and said that they hadn't heard anything from their constituents on this issue.

That evening, ROCLA Steering Committee members and supporters enjoyed a excellent potluck dinner at Cobbs Hill Park followed by a presentation from Manolo. Your donations enabled us to give him \$1,000 worth of medicines to give to the Cuban people. We thank all who donated and helped plan and attend the Congressional visit and potluck. We just learned that Manolo and the other Friendshipment participants made it to Cuba and have been joyfully received!

Please call or write your Congressional representatives to urge passage of the above legislation. For further information: <https://ifconews.org/> or Vic Vinkey, vinkey@frontiernet.net.

Vic Vinkey is a member of the ROCLA Steering Committee. ■

Dr. Arnold Matlin Speaks at the First Sister Cities International Congress in Managua, Nicaragua



Arnie Matlin is a decades-long Nicaragua solidarity activist who was named a Hero of the Revolution by the Sandinistas in 2004. He was invited to give the closing keynote address at the First International Sister Cities Congress on July 16, 2016 in Nicaragua. His remarks are excerpted below. [Ed. Note]

Honored officials, activists, and friends,

My name is Dr. Arnold Matlin. I am a founding member of the El Sauce-Rochester Ciudad Hermana Task Force and Secretary of the Rochester Committee on Latin America . . . The Matlin family supports a Casa Materna in El Sauce through Proyecto Niman Ortiz. Magda Lanuza, who is interpreting for me, is the Project Manager.

It is a great honor and privilege to have been invited to this important conference by the Mayor of El Sauce, Alcaldesa Rosa Amelia Valle Vargas . . .

My first point is simple. Never trust the U.S. State Department in its interactions with Nicaragua . . . For over a century, the U.S. State Department has never deviated from its goal—to make Nicaragua a U.S. colony. They have done this by military aggression, economic aggression, and political aggression . . . Even as we sit here in this conference room the U.S. State Department is actively striving to help the right-wing parties achieve dominance in the November 6th elections.

Solidarity activists—stand with Nicaragua. Why are we in solidarity with Nicaragua? What

makes Nicaragua different from other Latin American nations that could also use our assistance? I think the answer is that Nicaragua had a revolution that overthrew a terrible dictator. And then, the revolution did not turn on the people. The revolution was a Sandinista revolution, and the Sandinistas did everything in their power to fulfill their revolutionary promises to the people of Nicaragua.

In the 1980's, the United States intervened with military and economic aggression [and] after the triumph of the revolution, [Nicaragua] again had more martyrs. I'll name only one. Arlen Siu was one of the first FSLN women combatants to be martyred by the National Guard. She was not from El Sauce, but she was killed in the hills near El Sauce. The Casa Materna in El Sauce is called "Casa Materna Arlen Siu" in her memory . . .

Many of us despaired when the FSLN lost the presidential election in 1990. However, they did not surrender. They did not lose their revolutionary fervor. They were in opposition for 16 long years, but they never gave up. Then, in 2006, and again in 2011, President Ortega was returned to office

as President of Nicaragua.

Those of us who never lost hope about the future of Nicaragua have supported the Sandinista revolution from 1979 to the present. Now is not the time to turn our backs on the FSLN. We owe it to the people of Nicaragua to continue to support their revolution, and to support the party of their revolution. We owe it

to the heroes and martyrs to remember their sacrifice and to carry on their work . . .

This is the time for each of us to support the Nicaraguan Revolution by supporting the organization that carried out that revolution—the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional! The speech is available in its entirety at <http://afgj.org/nicanotes4>. ■

ROCLA NEWS



27th Annual Rochester Labor Film Series starts September 2

By Marilyn Anderson

Put these films on your calendar for every Friday from September 2nd through October 28th, 2016, with an additional screening on November 18th! ROCLA is a co-sponsor of the festival and members can get free tickets from Marilyn Anderson at upcoming ROCLA meetings and before each film in the lobby of the Dryden Theater. Introductions before each film will supply background on issues raised in the films, offer insight into the films' production or the filmmakers' intent, and help viewers further understand the films.

The films present a variety of issues ranging from an illuminating view of the global banking-financial situation (*Master of the Universe*), to the pernicious effect of GMO seed companies on farmers and how they resist (*At Any Price*), to a mining strike in Spain. A New York State film, *Frozen River*, is a Sundance Film Festival awardee.

The Labor Film Series, which has shown over 300 films since 1989, has become part of Rochester's cultural calendar. All showings are at the Dryden Theatre George Eastman Museum 900 East Avenue. Go to rochesterlabor.org for descriptions of the films. ■

Marilyn Anderson is a member of ROCLA's Steering Committee.

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ROCLA UPDATE ON THE **AMERICAS**

HELP KEEP ROCLA'S WEBSITE CURRENT!

ROCLA has an informative website (see: <http://rocla.us/>) where webmaster Jim Bearden posts current information about Latin America on an ongoing basis, as well as announcements of programs and other news. If you have information, articles or action opportunities about Latin America that you believe may be of interest to ROCLA members, please email the link or content to Jim at: jeb.bearden@gmail.com. ■

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When you sign up for ROCLA's email list, you will receive your newsletter earlier than the print version and in color, and ROCLA will save the cost of paper and postage. To sign up for the ROCLA e-mail list, please go to www.rocla.us and **click on "Subscribe to ROCLA Email."** Then enter your name and email address and click on **"Subscribe."** Stay informed about ROCLA programs, upcoming events and urgent actions! ■

ROCLA MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1973, the Rochester Committee on Latin America (ROCLA) seeks to build bridges between the Rochester, NY, community and the people of Latin America. Through its monthly presentations, speakers, films, and quarterly newsletters, ROCLA educates local residents about the culture, economics and politics of the countries of Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean and the ways globalization, U.S. trade and drug-war policies impact the lives of their people. ROCLA also supports the work of frontline organizations involved in working for justice and democracy in the global south, including the Latin America Solidarity Committee (LASC), Nicanet, Committee in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador (CISPES), Network In Solidarity with the people of Guatemala (NISGUA), Rights Action and the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendship. We also encourage our members and others to advocate for U.S. policies that support human rights and reverse the often oppressive history of U.S. involvement in Latin America. Annually, ROCLA presents its international and local White Dove Awards for outstanding leadership and service in the cause of human rights in Latin America.

Steering Committee Marilyn Anderson, Paola Betchart, Kathy Goforth, Bob and Marilyn Kaiser, Grania Marcus, Arnie Matlin, Lew Montemaggi, Peter and Gail Mott, Callie Rabe, Vic Vinkey, Tom Ward • **Publishing Team** Editor: Grania Marcus, Designer: Jim Anderson