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GRAND OPENING PHOTOEXHIBT

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The Migrant Farm Worker Labor Movement in Wisconsin

(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

WHEN: **APRIL 30, 6-12pm**
WHERE: UW-Memorial Union-Tripp Commons

6-8 pm: Panel Discussion

Introduction:	**Ms. Kristela Cervera**
Chicano Studies:	**Mr. Prospero Saiz**
Speaker:	**Mr. Jesus Salas**
PhotoJournalist:	**Mr. David Giffey**

Reception Follows at Memorial Union Multi-Cultural Center
Antojitos, Refrescos y Cafe

Performance:
Musica by Olmeca at Memorial Union Tripp Commons

Sponsored by: MEChA, Chicano Studies, Multi-Cultural Council, Multi-Cultural Center, Latin-American and Iberian Studies*

(*Funding Pending)

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Introduction:	***Kristela Cervera***
Chicano Studies:	***Próspero Saíz***
Speakers:	***Jesús Salas***
	David Giffey

Reception Follows at Memorial Union Multi-Cultural Center
Antojitos, Refrescos y Café

Performance / Dance at Memorial Union Tripp Commons
Live Music

Contact info: MEChA at 710 University Ave. (608) 263-4830

Sponsored by: MEChA, Chicano Studies, Multi-Cultural Council, Multi-Cultural Center, Latin-American and Iberian Studies

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE:
The Migrant Farm Worker Labor Movement In Wisconsin

This photo exhibit and discussion focuses on the farm worker's labor movement in Wisconsin through photographs documenting how that movement fit into the state of Wisconsin's labor history. It is a photo-journalistic display being circulated statewide during 1998 and is accompanied by Spanish/English interpretive brochures and booklets, a panel discussion by scholars and specialists, research documenting legal precedents set through union cases and interviews with participants in the farm worker labor movement. The project will describe the legacy of Wisconsin's migrant farm worker community over decades, and the decisive role farm workers have played in the development of the state's agricultural economy.

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STUDENT RECEPTION

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April 25, 6-8pm
M.E.CH.A Student Reception
Official Madison Opening
Pres House

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GRAND OPENING OF PHOTO DISPLAY

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APRIL 30, 6-8pm
Panel Discussion at Memorial Union Tripp Commons
Introduction: Ms. Kristela Cervera
Chicano Studies: Mr. Prospero Saiz
Speaker: Mr. Jesus Salas
PhotoJournalist: Mr. David Giffey

APRIL 30, 8-9pm
Reception at Memorial Union Multi-Cultural Center
Antojitos, Refrescos y Cafe

April 30, 9-12pm
Open Review and Live Musica at Memorial Union Tripp Commons

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April 31-May 15th -
Open Review of Migrant Photo Display at Multi-Cultural Center

Sponsored by: MEChA, Chicano Studies, Multi-Cultural Council, Multi-Cultural Center, Latin-American and Iberian Studies*
(*Pending Funding)

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE: The Migrant Farm Worker Labor Movement in Wisconsin

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Exhibit Schedule
February 28, 1998 (supersedes all previous schedules)

Jan. 12-26:	Milwaukee Public Library 814 W. Wisconsin Avenue (Panel Discussion Jan. 22)
Jan. 28-Feb. 12:	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Golda Meir Library
Feb. 13-23:	United Community Center Latino Arts Gallery, 1028 S. Ninth St. Milwaukee
Mar. 2-18:	Superior Public Library 1530 Tower Ave., Superior
Mar. 26-28	State AFL-CIO Community Services Conference Concourse Hotel, 1 W. Dayton St., Madison
Apr. 2-19:	UW-Stevens Point Campus library (Program April 2)
Apr. 25-29:	Official Madison Opening Pres House Student Center UW-Madison, 731 State St. (Reception April 25, 6-8 p.m.)
April 30-May 15:	Tripp Commons & Multicultural Center UW Memorial Union 800 Langdon St., Madison (Panel discussion 6 p.m. April 30)
May 23-31:	Madison Urban Ministry (site undetermined)
June:	UMOS (United Migrant Opportunity Services) Clarion Hotel, Milwaukee
July 1-31:	State Historical Society of Wisconsin 816 State St., Madison (Panel discussion July 16)
Aug. 21-23:	Fiesta Mexicana Milwaukee Summerfest Grounds
Sept. 7:	South Central Federation of Labor

	Labor Day Celebration 1602 S. Park St., Madison
Sept. 12-13:	UMOS Mexican Independence Parade & Festival Mitchell Park 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee
Sept. 18-27:	La Crosse County Historical Society, La Crosse
Sept. 27-Oct. 1:	State AFL-CIO Convention,La Crosse
Oct. 12-26:	Brown County Public Library 515 Pine St., Green Bay (Panel Discussion Oct. 15)
Nov. 2-22:	Madison Area Technical College 3550 Anderson St., Madison
Nov. 30-Dec. 11:	Milwaukee Area Technical College Downtown Campus

Milw. Journal Sentinel Jan. 11, '98

Exhibit traces the path to dignity

Farm workers' struggle is recounted in photos

By Jo Sandin
of the Journal Sentinel staff

With bold steps and grim determination, 24 young men left the cucumber fields near Wautoma on Aug. 15, 1966, and stepped onto the highway of Wisconsin history.

Their story and that of the thousands of migrant workers whose lives they changed is told in "Struggle for Justice" — a photo exhibit that opens Monday at the Milwaukee Central Library. The exhibit will tour the state as part of this year's Sesquicentennial celebration.

In dramatic photographs of field work, strike meetings and picket lines, the display traces the road charted by Wisconsin's migrant farm workers on their way into the American labor movement and Wisconsin law.

A bilingual booklet describing the first sustained attempt to form a migrant farm worker union in the Great Lakes region was written by David Giffey, who took many of the photographs featured in the exhibit, and by Jesus Salas, who led that first march of what came to be called Obreros Unidos (Workers United).

For most of this century, migrant farm workers were ignored or even invisible to the rest of society.

Labor/Exhibit recalls struggle in Wisconsin

From page 1

"The movement changed the way other people looked at us and transformed the way we viewed ourselves," said Salas, a third-generation farm worker whose family moved to Wautoma in 1958 and who now lives in Milwaukee and teaches at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

"Obreros Unidos and the strike against Libby, McNeill & Libby Inc. challenged the stereotypes that we were unorganizable," he said. "It also unmasked the lie that we were a contented, docile people somehow able to endure working conditions that would have enraged other workers."

Salas was 22 when he led the march to Madison to demand, among other things, a minimum hourly wage of $1.25 and improved migrant housing.

Today, migrant workers by law must earn at least the same minimum wage paid to all other workers — $5.15.

According to Mateo Cadena, director of the state Bureau of Migrant Services: "Migrant workers we have talked to say that housing in the state of Wisconsin is much better than in neighboring states. Our strong migrant labor law here demands that we inspect and certify annually each of the state's 125 migrant labor camps."

That law — passed in 1977 — wouldn't be on the books "had it not been for all those advocates in the 1960s who were marching, demonstrating, petitioning and fighting to improve conditions," said Cadena, who himself is from a migrant family.

However, that first march also yielded two immediate results — a promise by the State Industrial Commission to act on marchers' demands and increased union membership among farm workers.

By August 1967, there were enough union members so that 400 workers went on strike against Libby, McNeill & Libby Inc. in Neshkoro. After the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission ordered the first union election among farm laborers in state history, workers voted, 405-8, to unionize.

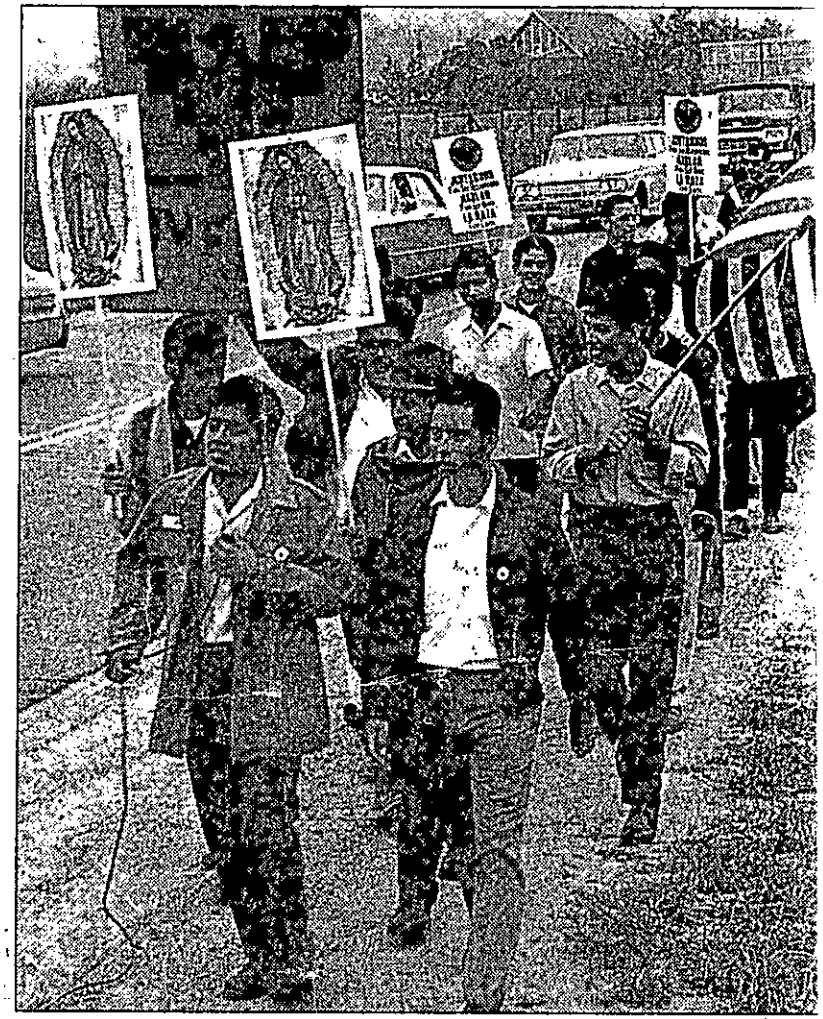
As the season ended and workers left to follow the harvest elsewhere, the company retaliated by mechanizing the plant. Workers who returned the next year found themselves displaced and jobless, adrift in Milwaukee seeking help from a relatively new anti-poverty agency — United Migrant Opportunities Services.

By that time, Salas already was in Milwaukee, coordinating efforts to support California migrant workers through the grape boycott organized by Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers.

When some migrant union members found UMOS unresponsive to their needs, they appealed to Salas, who led an agency takeover that placed Hispanic people in leadership roles in UMOS and a number of other agencies organized and run by Anglos. Lupe Martinez, UMOS director for the last 20 years, comes from a migrant family.

Ken Germanson, president of the Wisconsin Labor History Society — one of the photo exhibit's sponsors — was a Milwaukee labor leader when he became involved with migrant labor issues through the grape boycott.

"At the time, American labor unions were largely the territory of white males," he said. "For many union members the grape boycott was their first chance to get together on workplace issues with people of other cultural backgrounds."



Religious and patriotic symbols mark a demonstration for farm workers' rights, in "Struggle for Justice: The Migrant Farm Worker Labor Movement in Wisconsin," at the Central Library.

"Struggle for Justice: The Migrant Farm Worker Labor Movement in Wisconsin" will be on exhibit at the Milwaukee Central Library through Jan. 26. A panel discussion on the exhibit will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 in the Loos Room of Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St.