



LEGACY

Spring 2023

On your mark, get set, GO!
**Third Annual Race to
Slow the Pace Fundraiser**

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Artist

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– Portland, OR

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Protecting the farms that feed your family



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Contributors:

Michaela Friedrich
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Cover Art:

Courtesy of Chella Gonsalves



In the heart of Los Angeles, kids learn about agriculture and farming

By Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director

I am excited for you to see this issue of our Legacy newsletter that will update you on all the great things we have been doing at CFT! In September, we held our third annual Race to Slow the Pace 5k/10k presented in partnership with the John and Jeani Ferrari Family Foundation at Bokisch Vineyards in Lodi.

We had over 200 participants gathered at Bokisch Vineyards to enjoy a beautiful morning connecting consumers with the family farms that feed them. We had some with their dogs on this journey, a few with strollers, and everyone with a great smile and enthusiasm to share in our incredible event. The race is a great event that speaks to the importance of slowing the pace of farmland development.



Our success is attributed to our participants, returning and newcomers alike. Some with dogs on this journey, a few with strollers, and everyone with a great smile and enthusiasm to share in our incredible event. An event of this size could not happen without the great team of volunteers who supported us before, during and after the event. Last, but certainly not least, the support of our generous sponsors was essential to bringing an event of this caliber to fruition. Thank you for making the Race to the Slow the Pace a tradition that we now eagerly await. Look inside this issue for more details and photos of this year's event. Stay tuned for next years' race date!

As we prepare to close out 2023, I would like to encourage you to think about your legacy and ways to ensure our food continues to be grown by family farmers who care for and steward this land. Farming is not easy, and this year has posed a particularly difficult set of challenges. High input costs, increased regulation, low commodity prices, crop loss, and the unpredictability of mother nature have tested the savviest of farmers. Agricultural conservation easements have proven to be a helpful tool for family farmers during these times. By providing a gift of any size to CFT, your legacy becomes insurance that your children, grandchildren, and generations to come will enjoy all the fresh and safe food that California farmland has to offer. Use the envelope included or make a tax-deductible donation online at cafarmtrust.org.

Enjoy this issue of the Legacy and thank you for being an important part of CFT!

Sincerely,

Charlotte Mitchell
Executive Director

CFT Welcomes new Administrative Assistant Stacey Ming

The California Farmland Trust is proud to introduce our Administrative Assistant Stacey Ming.

She first began to appreciate food and agriculture while growing up in Elk Grove – a Northern California community known to be surrounded by prime California farmland and full of nutritious, healthy foods.

“Growing up in Elk Grove allowed me to appreciate how farmlands and the agriculture industry sustain our communities.”

She was involved in Agricultural Science throughout middle and high school which included joining the first meat cutting class at Elk Grove High School. This experience led her to accept a position working in the meat department at Raley’s during her senior year.

Needing a break from her small-town routine,



Administrative Assistant Stacey Ming brings over 20 years of administrative experience to the team.

Ming moved to San Francisco where she spent over 20 years working in various corporate roles related to office management, administration and accounting.

Ming’s office management skills landed her in several different industries, a few being parking services, tradeshow labor and tech.

Stacey’s ability to plan and execute projects paired with her personable attitude and openness to new ideas make her a unique asset to the California Farmland Trust.

No matter where her career led her, she has always stayed connected to her foodie roots.

During her time in the city, Ming held positions in large, corporate catering companies and now manages a social media account called “Elk Grove Foodies” to allow everyone to share their love of food.

When she’s not teaching Pilates classes, Stacey enjoys exploring new restaurants and cooking for her friends and family.

Preserving California's Landscapes

Northern Californian artist Chella Gonsalves captures Central Valley scenery

As development continues to take over valuable California soil, moments to capture the beauty of this home feel fleeting. That is why Chella Gonsalves, an artist based in Modesto, spends her days painting before the land and the valley as she knows it disappears.

The small hobby she picked up when she was 10 years old would lead Chella to find her place in the central valley as a community member and an artist – but her roots don't only lie here.

"I'm originally from Indiana, I grew up on a 100-acre self-sufficient farm," Chella said. "I came out in the 50s to teach."

Chella said one of her good friends from Michigan had moved to Modesto for a teaching position. When her friend heard of a vacancy in the Modesto City School District for an art teaching position, she told Chella and the two drove from Indiana to Modesto during the summer of 1956.

It wasn't until two years into her retirement that Chella began to find what was going to be the muse of her artwork – farmland.

Upon entrance to her backyard studio, three paintings serve as a reminder to the locally renowned artist as to why she has continued pursuing this passion of hers.

The three pieces capture different moments merely miles from her home where she witnessed the development of rural spaces. What used to be open fields or



Photo by Michaela Friedrich

Chella Gonsalves discovered her passion for landscape impressionism nearly two years into her retirement. orchards are now places that new generations will only know as local shopping centers and high school facilities.

"I made this series of paintings and that's when I knew that was my purpose," Chella said.

Pointing at one of the three impressionist style paintings, Chella described the moments that she came across each scene and why these instances mark the beginning of her purpose as an artist in Northern California.

"This barn was on Floyd Avenue near Modesto," Chella said. "This shows the new housing that was going in. This is the painting that really illustrates why I'm painting because you can see the houses going up right next to this rural setting."

The painting next to it is a

snapshot of what is now Modesto's Crossroads Shopping center. Chella was able to capture the moment right in the middle of the development process – half of the painting is the newly paved space and the other half, remnants of what once was a farm. She stumbled across this scene before they even had a chance to take down the farmer's mailbox.

Interested in landscapes that define California's Central Valley, almost all her work contains some semblance of Chella's eagerness to hold onto the natural landscapes of California's unique farmland.

"It might be farm equipment, or it could be a farm technique," she said. "I love to paint the outdoors. These paintings illustrate the 'why' of what I chose to [paint]."

From West Coast to Northwest

CFT Staff attends Land Trust Alliance Rally in Portland, OR

Given a chance to escape the Valley heat, network and reinforce their working areas of expertise, California Farmland Trust staff members found the Land Trust Alliance Rally to be a multifaceted win.

In early September, CFT staff members took off to Portland, Oregon where they attended workshops and connected with land trust

“I feel very privileged to have found my way into this line of work and am excited to continue to protect our natural resources.”

- Lauren Fox, Program Associate

organizations from across the country.

“I have attended a few of these now and networking with a variety of like-minded professionals throughout the nation has been extremely beneficial,” said Executive Director Charlotte Mitchell. “I enjoyed spending time with Lauren and Michaela. Watching them immerse themselves in the Rally seminars was so exciting for me.”

While in Portland, Mitchell connected with our neighbors at the Yolo Land Trust and met with their Executive Director John Currey.

Program Associate Lauren Fox said she enjoyed experiencing this early on in her career. She said connecting with people who share the same passion for this line of work gave her good insight.

She attended classes related to stewardship, easement mon-

itoring and agricultural conservation easement writing.

“I will be working to incorporate tools to craft easements that are adaptable, inclusive, and resilient,” Fox said. “I feel very privileged to have found my way into this line of work and am very excited to continue to protect our natural resources.”

Communications

Associate Michaela Friedrich joined workshops that dove into marketing strategy and best digital communication practices.

“This was one of my first professional development opportunities since beginning my career, and I learned so much that I’m excited to put into practice,” Friedrich said.





On your mark, get set, GO!

Third Annual Race to Slow the Pace is a win for farmland and CFT



Throughout California, farmland is undergoing urbanization at alarming rates, which is why slowing the pace of development is imperative to the defense of the agricultural industry.

On Sept. 17, over 200 people gathered underneath Bokisch Vineyards' 100-year-old oak tree for California Farmland Trust's third annual Race to Slow the Pace Fundraiser 5K/10K presented in partnership with the John and Jeani Ferrari Family Foundation.

This fundraiser trail run served

as an opportunity to demonstrate the value of California farmlands in real time. Bokisch Vineyards' property in the Lodi countryside offered stunning views that showed our participants all that bountiful farmland has to offer.

After the early morning race, participants stayed to enjoy delicious paella, Bokisch wine, a fresh fruit mimosa bar, and a second race of the day for the silent auction items.

Along with a custom wine bag, each participant took home a bottle of Fontana Farms Pepper-Cot Sauce and a bag of

Burroughs Family Farms organic almonds. Fruit cups provided by our sponsors at Pacific Coast Producers and farm fresh produce from Raley's for the mimosa bar were all small details that put a bow on the whole purpose of our fundraising goal – connecting consumers to the farms that feed their families.

We are deeply grateful for the support of all the event sponsors, participants, volunteers, donors and staff that made this event successful and fun.

Thank you to our 2023 Race Sponsors

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Dr. Vance C. Kennedy

The man who knew everything about water and then some

By: Michaela Friedrich

There wasn't much that could get in the way of Dr. Vance C. Kennedy's passion for education, water and the protection of our environment.

With a genuine interest in these subjects and a background in chemistry and geology, the California Farmland Trust founding board member contributed a vast amount of valuable research to many communities throughout his lifetime.



Dr. Vance Kennedy with good friend Denny Jackman who is holding a plaque honoring him with the Vance Kennedy Award.

Early Career

In 1950, Kennedy had entered his master's program, pursuing one of his many degrees. His scientific background granted him a handful of opportunities, some of which he can't explain how or why, only that they had happened.

"The [United States Geological Survey] was a marvelous group to work for because even then they trusted me as a brand-new guy working on a master's," Kennedy said. "I was just starting, so how they found me I have no idea, but they called me up and said, 'Hey do you want a sum-

mer job?'"

He never looked back.

With one week of training under his belt, USGS set him loose in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho where Kennedy did what he does best.

In 1950, he began testing lead, zinc and copper contents in soils near water pathways in a Coeur d'Alene mining district. This was the beginning of a long, fulfilling career with the USGS.

Even at 100 years old, Kennedy detailed his procedures like it happened yesterday.

"I was going along and knowing that in the streams there'd be enormous amounts of

zinc," he said. "I was out sampling the stream and as I expected in a mining district, it had enormous amounts of dissolved metals in it."

Kennedy's first scientific article became published after that summer. Shortly after, he received a call from the Coeur d'Alene mining district that he laughed off.

"I found the first ore deposit in the world that summer," Kennedy said with a grin. "I never got any credit for it, but that's a great story."

In his lifetime, Dr. Kennedy published over 40 scientific articles related to chemistry and geology.

Lifelong Learner

Kennedy had a true passion for water, but his appreciation for the land was a close second.

Kennedy championed for educational opportunities within local communities. One of the many he suggested was a program to educate Central Valley youth on water sources.

He believed that if people had a general understanding of where their water is coming from, communities would be able to join a greater conversation around climate issues.

He became an advocate for farmers and ranchers all over the

Central Valley of California.

"The way the erosion wore, was that we ended up with many of the clays that were incorporated in the flood water that went into the ocean, but farmlands here are a combination of sand and silt, so the permeability is great," he said.

Kennedy and his longtime friend Denny Jackman discussed how permeable soils of the Valley help recharge the aquifer any time it rains. Farmers help recharge the aquifer when they irrigate.

"The city of Modesto uses well

"If you secure the water, you've secured the land and if you've secured both you've secured the food."

- Dr. Vance C. Kennedy



Vance Kennedy with John Ferrari – the Central Valley Farmland Trust's first easement holder.

water. Half of it is from ground-water pumps and the other half from river flow," Kennedy said. "Up until they planted almond trees in the foothills, the water coming down the river was free of nitrate. The water coming underground from farmers' flood area was lower nitrate, so you could distinguish the water from the farmers being contributed to the city and what was coming from the river."

He said half of Modesto's source is from the river and the other half is from the groundwater supplied by flood irrigation techniques.

Kennedy attempted to fight for further investigation on this for a long time and never had any luck. He said even though records were accessible, people were resistant to look into it.

He remained persistent in his effort to make this information accessible to the public. He felt confident that knowledge of this would change his community's narrative around water, land and food security.

"It's just an estimate, but on the order that half of the city water is coming from underground

flow from recharging from the farmers and the farmers aren't getting any credit for it – they're being punished," Kennedy said.

Secure the water, secure the land and secure the food

Kennedy's involvement in California Farmland Trust – first known as the Central Valley Farmland Trust – began when he lost a piece of his land to development in Modesto.

He received compensation for his losses shortly after and donated some of his profit to CVFT and the American Farmland Trust around 2004.

From that point forward, Kennedy saw the organization through each of its milestones. He lived to see the protection of 17,606 acres across 81 farms and 6 California counties.

His ties to CFT's mission to protect California farmland rests in knowing what these lands are capable of.

In one of many letters to his friends at the Modesto Bee, Kennedy wrote:

"Global warming is inevitable... In California we can expect a great reduction, and perhaps elimination, of snow storage in mountains, increased intensity of precipitation and much longer and intense droughts. That is where wholesale preserving of permeable farmland soils become imperative over everything else."

Kennedy said recharged groundwater would become the savior of the cities in the case of a drought. His high-level understanding of land and water leaves no room for wondering why Kennedy was adamant about propelling the mission to protect the best farmland in the world.

"If you secure the water, you've

secured the land and if you've secured both you've secured the food."

In 2014, The California Farmland Trust established the Vance Kennedy Award in honor of his leadership and commitment to the protection of farmland. Since 2014, there have been three recipients of the award who have demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to farmland protection.

As a landowner, chemist, biologist and geologist, Kennedy understood the way water and land worked together.

When we sat down for an interview in July, he said if there was one thing to share about him,

to let it be this:

"Make sure the farmers get full credit," Kennedy said. "I can't persuade anyone to look at the old records of where the water is coming from, but you can make a fairly accurate estimate about how much water is coming from farmers. It hasn't been done, but it should be."

***Make sure
the farmers
get full credit.***

- Dr. Vance C. Kennedy

Jackman said Kennedy's involvement in farmland protection was based on the logic that we would have a strategy to protect the farmland and provide that land with the best water.

Vance Kennedy died on August 17, 2023. He lived to be 100 years old but was a man that you would believe had lived a thousand lives. He was a true advocate of agriculture and applied his research to support farmers and Central Valley communities. He is missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Our farmlands are better off because of Vance and his dedication to our cause.

Opportunity to Give

Tuesday, November 28th | cafarmtrust.org/givingtuesday



Giving Tuesday is an annual global generosity movement. This opportunity to celebrate giving can take many forms, but for some, it's a chance to give to non-profits that make a difference in their communities – like The California Farmland Trust.

For CFT, this season of giving is about acknowledging the farmers and farmland that feeds our families. Having high quality, nutritious produce is a luxury, and we have over 400 commodities that grow right in our backyards. Working together to

protect California farmland is imperative for the food security of our communities and communities around the world. No farmland means no food. Help us in our efforts to secure tasty, nutritious food for you and generations to come.

To join the movement and learn more about Giving Tuesday visit: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=cvft&id=48>

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IN ACTION



\$81

for the 81 farms
CFT has protected



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kit to a classroom



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Join our community of donors to secure farmland for years to come

Disclaimer: This information is provided as a service to highlight a matter of current interest. It is not intended to constitute a full review of any subject matter, nor is it a substitute for obtaining financial or legal advice from an accountant, financial advisor, or an attorney. Information contained within was accurate at the time of publication in October 2023.

Required Minimum Distribution

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is the smallest amount account holders must withdraw from employer-sponsored retirement plans each year once you reach retirement or the age of 72. If you fail to meet your RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50%. The RMD rules apply to all employer-sponsored retirement plans (including profit-sharing plans, 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans. Roth 401(k) accounts are exempt from the RMD rules if the owner is alive. The RMD rule applies to account owners of one of these types of accounts. If you have inherited this type of plan after the death of the plan holder, the balance of the account must be distributed within ten years, except under certain circumstances.

To do: Calculate your RMD. Plan your withdrawal. Decide which account(s) to make withdrawals from, and how much of that withdrawal you plan to give. You may have an RMD total and certain accounts with individual RMDs. California Farmland Trust is a qualified 501(c)3 organization and can receive your RMD. We must receive your gift by December 31st, for your donation to qualify this year. If you have check-writing privileges on your IRA, please mail your check by December 15th, to allow time to process your gift. When you file your taxes for the year, include your donation on the relevant tax document.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Contribute to a donor-advised fund and enjoy tax savings on that amount when you itemize. A DAF allows you to make a charitable contribution to California Farmland Trust, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend additional grants from the fund over time.




To do: Complete the contribution by December 31st. You do not have to designate the funds this calendar year to receive the tax benefits.

Direct Gift of Stocks

You may enjoy two tax benefits with a gift of appreciated stock: Avoid paying taxes on the appreciated value and qualify for an income tax charitable deduction based on today's market value, when you itemize.

To do: Complete all transfers by December 31st. This includes electronic transfer, hand-delivery of the securities or mailed stock and stock power (mailed separately for security).

End-Of-Year Planning

-  Update your will or living trust. Ensure that your designations are still appropriate, and your charitable intentions are noted.
-  Review your retirement plan beneficiaries. Assess your named beneficiaries to ensure you've considered your loved ones and favorite causes.
-  Review your life insurance policy. If you have a policy that is no longer a significant piece of your estate plan, consider making a gift by assigning ownership to the California Farmland Trust or making us the beneficiary.

IRA Distribution

If you are 59½ or older, you can take a distribution from your IRA (traditional IRA, SEP or SIMPLE IRA) at any time and make that gift to California Farmland Trust without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount.

To do: Contact your financial institution holding your IRA assets for distribution instructions.

Employer Match

Do you know if your company offers a gift matching program? Many times, employers will give where you give – doubling the impact of your gift. Check with your HR department to see if these options are available.



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