

CALLED TO ACTION: UPROOTING HUNGER AND CULTIVATING JUSTICE

COME TO THE TABLE CONFERENCE



March 12-13, 2019 | Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Charlotte, NC

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2019 Come to the Table Conference!

We at RAFI-USA are excited you are joining us and hope you find this time fruitful and engaging.



In 2007, Come to the Table held its first conference for people of faith, hunger relief advocates, and farmers. Throughout the conference, we were honored to meet many people engaged in the work to relieve hunger and support sustainable agriculture. We recognized that gathering together gave us an opportunity to improve, connect, and support everyone's important work.

Today we look back on decades of efforts to feed the hungry and still witness that people continue to go hungry. People who are hungry today need food today; and we honor those who work to address hunger today, tomorrow, and next week. We also acknowledge that without addressing the conditions and systems that create food insecurity, hunger will continue to plague our communities, state, and nation. This year, we gather with the theme **"Called to Action: Uprooting Hunger and Cultivating Justice"** to focus our thoughts and energies on how to address the root causes of hunger and how to build just alternatives.

Our relationships within the community have ultimately urged us to raise questions around the work of justice and hunger. In our planning and execution of this conference we asked many questions:

- What is the role of centuries of discrimination towards and exploitation of African Americans in creating and intensifying disparities in health, wealth, land ownership, and food security?
- How do we acknowledge the illegal seizure of native land and its impact, and how do we move in solidarity with native people who continue their work building resilience?
- How does our immigration policy impact our immigrant neighbors' risk of hunger?
- What would it look like to have an economic system rooted in mutual care rather than maximum profit?
- What kind of action does our faith call us to?
- How do we learn and heal together as we acknowledge past and present wounds?

We are grateful for and humbled by the amazing group of speakers who will be sharing their experience and wisdom at the 2019 Come to the Table Conference, whose work and teachings lean into these questions. Amidst all this inquiry, there are a few things we know for sure. Relationships matter. Building connections between ourselves as people and between all the facets of our work makes us stronger. This work is a long-term commitment, and when we come to it with gratitude, curiosity, humility, and a willingness to be changed, it can begin to make us whole.

We hope you will use your time at the conference to meet new people, deepen relationships, seek new perspectives and tools, and share your story. We look forward to learning alongside you.

Edna Rodriguez
Executive Director,
RAFI-USA

Margaret Krome-Lukens
Sr. Program Manager,
Come to the Table

Michelle Osborne
Program Manager,
Come to the Table

Lisa Misch
Project Coordinator,
Come to the Table

and the Come to the Table Team



COME TO THE TABLE

CALLED TO ACTION: UPROOTING HUNGER AND CULTIVATING JUSTICE

March 12-13, 2019 | Charlotte, NC

Welcome!

Over a decade ago, leaders from the Rural Church program area of The Duke Endowment, the North Carolina Council of Churches, and the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA) came together around a dream. That dream was to create a space in which farmers, faith communities, and food-related nonprofits could encounter and hear one another, and could work together to develop solutions to the persistent and complex issues affecting producers and low-income consumers. In 2007, the first Come to the Table Conference was held.

The Duke Endowment is pleased to support and participate in these vital gatherings. We have seen inspiring and innovative collaborations, and projects arise from them. We continue to believe that, when different people come together with open minds and creative energy to identify common needs and goals, amazing results emerge.

We trust that those who join us in this Come to the Table series have arrived with just these gifts and a shared purpose, and we look forward to seeing what arises from the fertile soil we are tilling today!



Robb Webb
Director,
Rural Church,
The Duke Endowment



Kristen Richardson-Frick
Associate Director,
Rural Church,
The Duke Endowment

About the Duke Endowment:

Established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$3 billion in grants. In addition to grantmaking work in four program areas (child care, health care, higher education and rural churches), the Endowment shares its knowledge by publishing resources for grantees and other service organizations, including information about what we're learning from our work in various publications, reports and evaluations. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

James B. Duke
THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

COME TO THE TABLE



The Come to the Table program, an initiative of the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA) was founded on the premise that it is both possible and morally necessary to find ways for people in agriculture to make a fair living while providing accessible, healthy food to their communities.

Our mission is to relieve hunger and strengthen just and sustainable agriculture in rural North Carolina. We do this by engaging and mobilizing people of faith, farmers, and communities. We envision a future in which people working in partnership build strong, self-reliant communities where everyone can eat healthy, just, and sustainable food.

Since 2007, the Come to the Table program has convened biennial regional gatherings throughout North Carolina. In 2017, we hosted the first statewide Come to the Table conference, with almost 500 attendees. At each event, we brought together faith leaders and laypeople, hunger relief advocates, farmers, community gardeners, community organizers, and more in order to find mutually beneficial solutions for food insecurity and local farms.

As a work of collaboration, the Come to the Table program unites the efforts and energies of diverse and committed people.

Conference Planning Team

Edna Rodriguez	Kelli Dale
Margaret Krome-Lukens	Tahz Walker
Michelle Osborne	Laketa Smith
Lisa Misch	Liz Wendell
Andrew Hudgins	Janie Hynson
Fatimah Salleh	LaShauna Austria

Charlotte Steering Committee

Yvonne McJetters
Kristin Davis
Nadine Ford
Adam Bronstone
Jean Siers
Stephanie Moore Hand

About Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA

RAFI-USA's mission is to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms. Our work is guided by the belief that in order to ensure a safe, adequate supply of healthy food we must protect farm families and encourage environmentally sound farming. We combine on-the-ground services with national and international policy advocacy in order to ensure that farmers have access to the tools they need to make the right choices for their farm and families, and to ensure that the best choice for farmers will also be the best choice for the environment and their communities. RAFI-USA works nationally and internationally, focusing on North Carolina and the southeastern United States, and is based in Pittsboro, NC.



THANK YOU

We are grateful for the contributions and support of our partners, conference speakers, volunteers, and everyone who has contributed time and energy towards this conference.

Sustaining Support Provided By:



THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

The Duke Endowment has generously provided sustaining support to the Come to the Table Program and conferences since 2007. We are deeply grateful for a relationship with a funder who shares a commitment to our mission and whom we consider a partner in the work.

Sponsors

WhyHunger

Juliet Hurley, Holistic Nutritionist @EverChangeLLC
Muslim Community Center of Charlotte



**BlueCross BlueShield
of North Carolina**

HealthyBlue

Partners



**North Carolina
Council of Churches**

The North Carolina Council of Churches – The NC Council of Churches is a statewide ecumenical organization promoting Christian unity and working towards a more just society. The Council enables denominations, congregations, and people of faith to individually and collectively impact North Carolina on issues such as economic justice and development, human well-being, equality, compassion and peace, following the example and mission of Jesus Christ.



A Certain Work, LLC – A Certain Work Consulting is dedicated to educating on issues of faith, diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Seeds of Change – Advancing racial equity and inclusion by transforming systems of oppression to create sustainable change.

COME TO THE TABLE CONFERENCE
CALLED TO ACTION: UPROOTING HUNGER AND CULTIVATING JUSTICE
 March 12-13, 2019

Agenda

Tuesday, March 12th

8:30am	Conference Registration Opens
9:30am – 10:00am	Welcome, Opening <i>Sanctuary, 2nd Floor</i>
10am – 11am	Keynote: “Freedom Farmers: The History of Black Agricultural Cooperatives and Building Sustainable Communities” by Dr. Monica White, followed by Q&A <i>Sanctuary, 2nd Floor</i>
11:15am – 12:30pm	Workshop Session #1 <i>See page 8 for workshop locations</i>
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch, Networking, Exhibitors <i>Lunch will be served in the Conference Center (1st Floor); Participants may eat there or in classrooms 135 and 139. Don't forget to check out our fabulous exhibitors!</i>
1:30pm – 4:30pm	Extended Workshops <i>See page 8 for workshop location</i>
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Exhibitors <i>Exhibit Hallway (1st Floor)</i>

Wednesday, March 13th

8:30am	Conference Registration Opens
9:00am – 9:15am	Opening <i>Sanctuary, 2nd Floor</i>
9:15 – 10:30am	Keynote: “Farm Justice, Food Sovereignty, and the Transformation of Everything” by Dr. Eric Holt-Giménez, followed by Q&A <i>Sanctuary, 2nd Floor</i>
11am – 12:15pm	Workshop Session #2 <i>See page 9 for workshop locations</i>
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch, Networking, Exhibitors <i>Lunch will be served in the Conference Center (1st Floor); Participants may eat there or in classrooms 135 and 139. Don't forget to check out our fabulous exhibitors!</i>
1:15pm – 2:30 pm	Workshop Session #3 <i>See page 10 for workshop location</i>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Break <i>Don't forget to check out our fabulous exhibitors!</i>
3:00pm – 4:15pm	Workshop Session #4 <i>See page 10 for workshop locations</i>
4:30pm – 4:45pm	Closing <i>Sanctuary, 2nd Floor</i>

KEYNOTES

Dr. Monica White

Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement

Tuesday, March 12th at 10am

Historically, Black farmers created agricultural collectives and cooperatives in an effort to build economic and political self-reliance and to demonstrate the capacity of a community to come together to provide food, housing, shelter, education, health care, and employment. This talk will provide an historical overview of several cooperatives and their efforts to create community wellness. It will also describe Collective Agency and Community Resilience, a theoretical framework that details how agriculturally-specific community organizations can contribute to the development of a food system that is inclusive, just and sustainable.



Dr. Monica M. White is an assistant professor of Environmental Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research investigates communities of color and grassroots organizations that are engaged in the development of sustainable, community food systems as a strategy to respond to issues of hunger and food inaccessibility.

*Author of Freedom Farmers:
Agricultural Resistance and the
Black Freedom Movement*

Her recent publications include "A Pig and a Garden: Fannie Lou Hamer and the Freedom Farms Cooperative," in *Food and Foodways: Explorations in the History and Culture of Human Nourishment*. Her first book, entitled, *Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement* was released by University of North Carolina Press in fall 2018. *Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement* revises the historical narrative of African American resistance and breaks new ground by including the work, roles, and contributions of southern Black farmers and the organizations they formed.

In addition to her academic work, she is the past President of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) and has served on the advisory board of SAAFON (Southeast African American Farmers Organic Network). Active in the food justice movement for over a decade, especially active in Detroit with the DBCFSN, her work in the classroom and community embodies the theoretical framework of Collective Agency and Community Resilience and the use of community-based food systems and agriculture as a strategy of community development.

As a result of her scholarship and community work, Dr. White has received several grants including a multi-year, multi-million dollar USDA research grant to study food insecurity in Michigan. She has also received several teaching and service awards including the 2013 Olsen Award for distinguished service to the practice of Sociology from the Michigan Sociological Association and the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award. She was appointed to the Food Justice Task Force sponsored by the Institute for Agricultural Trade Policy (IATP), maintains a quarterly column for the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development* (JAFSCD) and has presented her work at many national and international community organizations, colleges and universities.

KEYNOTES

Dr. Eric Holt-Giménez

Farm Justice, Food Sovereignty and the Transformation of Everything

Wednesday, March 13th at 9:15am

Eric Holt-Giménez, Ph.D. is the executive director of Food First / Institute for Food and Development Policy. Called one of the country's "most established food think tanks" by the New York Times, Food First's mission is to end the injustices that cause hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation throughout the world. Food First believes that a world free of hunger is possible if farmers and communities take back control of the food systems presently dominated by transnational agri-foods industries.

A political economist and agroecologist, Eric grew up working on farms in Northern California and worked for over 30 years in international agricultural development. He has published many magazine and academic articles on agroecology, development, food justice, and food sovereignty and is author/editor of several Food First

books, including: *Can We Feed the World Without Destroying It?*; *A Foodies Guide to Capitalism: Understanding the Political Economy of What We Eat*; *Land Justice: Re-imagining Land, Food, and the Commons*; *Food Movements Unite! Strategies to Transform Our Food System* (2011); *Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice* (2009); and *Campesino a Campesino: Voices from Latin America's Farmer to Farmer Movement for Sustainable Agriculture* (2006) in which he chronicles his involvement with this movement in Mexico and Central America over two and a half decades.

Eric lectures internationally and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of California, Boston University, University of the Pacific, Antioch University in Colombia and the National Gastronomic University of Italy. He has a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from the University of California—Santa Cruz and a M.Sc. in International Agricultural Development from University of California—Davis. At Food First, Eric's research and writing has included issues such as the global food crisis, the U.S. Farm Bill, the expansion of agrofuels, land grabs, neighborhood food systems, dismantling racism in the food system, the agrarian question, and the rise of food movements. In his words,

"Successful social movements are formed by integrating activism with livelihoods. These integrated movements create the deep sustained social pressure that produces political will—the key to changing the financial, governmental and market structures that presently work against sustainability."



Executive Director of Food First

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 12th

Track	Workshop #1 11:15am-12:30pm	Rm
Addressing Hunger	Rethinking Hunger by Rethinking Food Distribution: Gleaning for Refugee Communities <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Michael Binger & Marci Mroz	360
Community Agriculture	Successful Community Gardens from the Roots Up Adam Bigelow & Don Boekelheide	356
Economic & Labor Justice	Retail Redlining: Exploring the Intersection Between Food Security & Healthy Equity Raven King Edwards	125
Environmental Justice	Resilience, Environmental Justice, & Equitable Allyship in African American Communities of Faith Rev Dele	135
Food, Faith, & Justice	Eating Together Faithfully Stephanie Campbell & Grace Hackney	359
Food Policy Advocacy	Creating a Framework for Using Food Policy Councils to Address Root Causes of Inequity <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> LaShauna Austria & Ann Meletzke	304
Healing & Wellness	Nurturing Self-Care Practices through the Arts, Movement, & Reflection Lani Sol	268
Movement Building	Art Imitating Justice Ways of Community Gardens Casseyy Mapp-Ahmed & Crystal Rook	303
Racial Equity	Racial Wealth Gap Simulation Michelle Osborne & Laketa Smith	358
Resources for Farmers	Navigating Disaster Recovery for Direct Market & Organic Farmers Scott Marlow	133
Working Together in Community	Consent-based Decision Making: A Cornerstone for Collaboration Megan Bolejack & Gini Knight	357
Youth-Led Change	Engaging Black Youth in Agriculture: The Story of Sankofa Farms Kamal Bell & the Sankofa Youth Program	139

Extended Workshops 1:30pm-4:30pm	Rm
<i>Extended workshops are not categorized by track. They are three hour workshop sessions that will dive deeper into issues related to food, faith, and/or justice.</i>	
From Charity to Social Justice: Using a Story-based Strategy to Reframe the Dominant Narrative on Hunger & its Solutions Suzanne Babb, Alison Cohen, Debbie Grunbaum, Earline Middleton	145
Hunger: Root Causes & Beautiful Solutions <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> David Ferris	268
Reimagining Board Diversity Fatimah Salleh, Edna Rodriguez, & Rick Moyers	356
North Carolina Farmers Market Manager Summit Lisa Misch	358
(Re)Insecure: Food for Thought – A Simulation on Reentry Nykke Ford & Shakia Washington	Gym (1st Floor)
Building Stronger Communities: A Community Organizing & Leadership Training <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Stephanie Terry	357
The Nuts & Bolts of a Healthy Food Pantry: From Solidarity to Action Elizabeth Gerndt & Sam Hoeffler	359
From the Prophets to Jesus: Justice as a Biblical Imperative Rodney Sadler	360
Revitalizing Catawba Foodways: History, Present, & Future of Food on Catawba Lands DeLesslin "Roo" George-Warren	135

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 13th

Track	Workshop #2 11:00am-12:15pm	Rm
Addressing Hunger	Oh SNAP! Building & Sustaining Farmers' Market Incentive Programs at Any Scale Courtney Baines, Kelly Warnock, & Mary Yost	125
Community Agriculture	How to Effectively Engage Black Men into the Food System Reggie Singleton	133
Economic & Labor Justice	At a Stranger's Table: An Introduction to the East Coast Migrant Farmworker Community <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Misun Hur, Sally Jacobs, Juvencio Rocha-Peralta, & Scott Temple	356
Environmental Justice	The Social, Racial, Environmental, & Economic Impacts of Contract Livestock Production Devon Hall, Sr., Naeema Muhammad, Carlton Sanders, Craig Watts, Ayo Wilson	135
Food, Faith, & Justice	Sacred Practices of Food & Land: A Panel Discussion with Ministry Practitioners LaShauna Austria, Jarrod Davis, Sarah Horton-Campbell, & Matt Gundlach	360
Food Policy Advocacy	Boots on the Ground: A Panel Discussion on Food Access & Charlotte's West Side Erin Hostetler, Alisha Pruett, Elliott Royal, Dr. Philip Otienoburu, & Reggie Singleton	139
Healing & Wellness	The Necessity of Healing in Uprooting Oppression & Social Justice Work Kim Pevia	359
Movement Building	Reinventing the Wheel: Imagining Food Security as an Inalienable Right <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Deborah H. Barnes	357
Racial Equity	Racial Wealth Gap Simulation Michelle Osborne & Laketa Smith	358
Resources for Farmers	Nurturing a Community-Based Food Safety Culture Trish Tripp	303
Working Together in Community	Being a Better Ally: Strategies, Challenges, & Common Pitfalls for Community Engagement Alicia McDaniel & Renai Wisley	145
Youth-Led Change	Making Sustainable Ag Cool for Young People 101 Chester Williams & the ABC2 Youth Program	268

Wednesday, March 13th

Workshop #3 1:15pm-2:30pm	Rm	Workshop #4 3:00pm-4:15pm	Rm
Summer Lunch Program in the Beatties Ford Road Corridor Quaneisha Payne	303	Cooking Matters: Addressing Hunger through Practical, Hands-On Cooking Skills Cyril Murphy	139
Community-based Impact Unlocked: Leveraging Partnership for the Benefit of All Diana McCall	125	Farming on the County Line: Food as a Tool for Community Development Across All Lines Eva Moss	360
Lives on the Line: An Update on Issues Affecting Poultry Processing Workers <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Bacilio Castro & Hunter Ogletree	139	Beyond the Headlines: An Introduction to Sex & Labor Trafficking in Rural Communities in North Carolina <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Nancy Hagan	303
Just Transition: Our Stories, Our Needs, Our Future KD Brown, Elijah Brunson, Sarah Rhodes & Katherine Shor	359	The Sacred Foodscape of Eastern North Carolina: Controlled Animal Feeding Operations, Environmental Justice, & Adaptation toward Climate Resiliency Naeema Muhammad, Sarah Ogletree, & Susannah Tuttle	135
Bread & Wine in the World Andrew Hudgins, Maggie Kane & Jessica Stokes	358	Innovative Food Ministries in Rural Places Justine Post, Karin Kelly, Jamie Hawley, Ben Carson, & Bob Sturge	358
Circles of Influence & Circles of Concern: How Local Food Councils Collaboratively Opposed Negative SNAP Changes Jared Cates, Sam Hoeffler, Sarah Fletcher Daniels, & Erin Hostetler	135	Advocacy for Busy People: Getting Heard in a Noisy World Sarah Hackney	356
Journey to Wholeness: Restoration & Rejuvenation Practices Vivette Jeffries-Logan & Fatimah Salleh	268	"You OK, Fam?": Centering Healing Justice within Food Movement-Building Tavia Benjamin	359
Building Resilience is Not a Zero Sum Game: When Communities Look Within <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Nicole Johnson & Josie Walker	360	Demystifying Runaway Inequality for Social Justice Activists <i>Spanish interpretation provided</i> Sarah Fletcher Daniels	133
Creating the Catawba Trail Farm Lucille Patterson & Delphine Sellars	133	Building a Community of Practice Through Dialogue on Racial Equity & Food Shorlette Ammons & Abbey Piner	125
Standing on a Lot of Love: Land Justice in Connection with Food Justice Mavis Gragg	356	Cultivating Land Justice: Wealth Retention Strategies for Families & Communities Omari Wilson, Tahz Walker, & farmers from RAFI-USA's Farmers of Color Network Resources for Farmers Track	357
Mobilizing a Community Around Just, Local Food Access Jordyn Appel	145		
Food Youth Initiative & Theory of Change Model: Youth Change-Makers in the Food System Bevelyn Ukah & members of The Food Youth Initiative	357	Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community Randolph Keaton & Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community	268

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

WORKSHOP SESSION #1 TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH 11:15AM – 12:30PM

Rethinking Hunger by Rethinking Food Distribution: Gleaning for Refugee Communities

Michael Binger and Marci Mroz

Addressing Hunger Track | Room 360

Spanish interpretation available

Hunger is not an issue of food supply, but of food distribution. There is plenty of food produced to feed everyone, but our food system does not equally distribute that food to everyone. This session will talk about practical ways to solve this justice issue. Presenters will talk through the food system and where there is excess and waste. They will discuss ways that quality, healthy food – that would traditionally go to waste – can be rescued and redistributed to those experiencing hunger.

Successful Community Gardens from the Roots Up

Adam Bigelow and Don Boekelheide

Community Agriculture Track | Room 356

This workshop empowers attendees to help create, lead, and sustain effective community gardens. Although community gardening is highly diverse and there isn't "one right way," all gardens can benefit from the best practices and practical lessons from decades of experience that this workshop shares. Community garden benefits go beyond organic collards and yummy homegrown tomatoes (though community gardens celebrate the joys of gardening – no doubt about that!). They also cultivate community and inclusion, strengthen grassroots empowerment, encourage consensus-based problem solving, and protect the Earth through wise soil stewardship and the resistance of environmental exploitation. This session emphasizes the multiple dimensions of effective community gardening, from growing food to community organizing. Collard Greens and Common Ground, North Carolina's comprehensive community gardening handbook published by NC Cooperative Extension, serves as our basic reference.

Retail Redlining: Exploring the Intersection Between Food Security and Healthy Equity

Raven King Edwards

Economic and Labor Justice Track | Room 125 (Choral Rehearsal Room)

This workshop will dive into the connection between food security and health equity by highlighting the role retail groceries play in creating a sustainable food system. Defining food deserts and food swamps will help shape the conversation as we identify the disparities that exist among all populations. The link between chronic disease and food insecurity is evident, yet policies, programs, and interventions fail to address the urgency needed to uplift health equity and food justice. Adverse outcomes will contribute to a cycle of generational inequalities if we do not advocate for the opportunity for all to experience good health and wellness. This workshop will map out retail outlets (grocery stores, convenient/corner stores, dollar stores, etc.) and their role within urban and rural community food systems. Practical examples and resources relevant to addressing food insecurity in your own communities will be discussed.

Resilience, Environmental Justice, and Equitable Allyship in African American Communities of Faith

Rev. Dele

Environmental Justice Track | Room 135

Join Rev. Dele as she takes you on her journey of shaping community-based resilience from Chester, South Carolina to Cuba to Charlotte, NC. By using story, song and contemplative activities, she will share the tools and strategies used to launch Soil & Souls as a national mission enterprise. Soil & Souls' educational component is a 9-month process including three phases and four disciplines. Education begins with a mission conference, includes a Cuba immersion experience and ends with a cluster of faith communities who initiate and maintain sustainability projects for their neighborhoods. Leaders from those communities are assisted in establishing food sovereignty, water security, solar energy and ecosystem repair initiatives. Rev. Dele will share lessons learned in forming a worker-owned cooperative that will embed 10 mission leaders in 30 communities in the United States.

Eating Together Faithfully

Stephanie Campbell and Grace Hackney

Faith, Food, and Justice Track | Room 359

Join us for an interactive conversation about what it means to eat with God's intention for all creation in mind. We will explore how being people of the Table can deeply shape the way we eat and invite others to eat in our churches, our homes, and our world. What do the ways we address hunger and justice say about the God we worship? Explore the theological and practical implications of "food that laughs" and what that can mean for the work we do in our communities. Reconnect with the biblical wisdom of flourishing and consider how that impacts the ways we build a more just food system.

Creating a Framework for Using Food Policy Councils to Address Root Causes of Inequity

LaShauna Austria and Ann Meletzke

Food Policy Advocacy Track | Room 304

Spanish interpretation available

Alamance Food Collaborative is a food policy council in transition, identifying food insecurity as the catalyst for restructuring the way we function together to create effective strategies to address inequities. Join us as we illustrate our journey towards becoming a council whose individuals share a common lens regarding food justice issues and its correlation to poverty in Alamance County. Learn our process as we share the challenges and successes inherent to making structural change.

Nurturing Self-Care Practices through the Arts, Movement, and Reflection

Lani Sol

Healing and Wellness Track | Room 268

Self-care is a critical aspect of keeping our momentum in our justice activism. This workshop is an opportunity for us to learn ways to fight for causes while maintaining mind, body, and soul wellness. This workshop experience is created for those interested in learning more about how to create a self-care plan that is useful, creative, and meets the needs of your personal goals. It includes time to discuss self-care topics as a large group and in smaller groups for a more intimate conversation. This is an opportunity to take time out of your busy schedule and focus on what you want and need to live your best life!

Art Imitating Justice Ways of Community Gardens

Cassey Mapp-Ahmed and Crystal Rook

Movement Building Track | Room 303

What are the ways Art can be used as a teaching tool for communities to learn the ways of community gardens? In this workshop, we will discuss how art has been the medium chosen by marginalized communities to express their oppression and receive liberation and joy into their lives. Art is a way of activism and a mechanism to politically navigate through spaces that can be obstructed by "red tape." Marginalized communities have used art to lift their voices for access to healthy foods and to learn gardening skills so they may be self-sufficient. Art is Justice. Art is Activism. This workshop will be interactive and fun, as participants will use art to express their own justice ways of foods.

Racial Wealth Gap Simulation

Michelle Osborne and Laketa Smith

Racial Equity Track | Room 358

The Racial Wealth Gap Simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth. It is a good first step for people unaware of structural inequality, a support tool for those who want a deeper understanding of structural inequality, and a source of information for experts who want to know the quantifiable economic impact of each policy that has widened today's racial hunger, income, and wealth divides.

Navigating Disaster Recovery for Direct Market & Organic Farmers

Scott Marlow

Resources for Farmers Track | Room 133

To find support for your farm following a disaster can be an overwhelming and confusing task – especially for direct market and organic producers. And this confusion can continue long after the immediate relief has ended. This workshop will walk participants through options available to help with disaster relief and the disaster recovery process, and will also cover resources specifically for farmers, more general resources for community members, and where farmers can turn with questions for themselves or others.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Consent-based Decision Making: A Cornerstone for Collaboration

Megan Bolejack and Gini Knight

Working Together in Community Track | Room 357

Community Food Strategies uses a consent-based decision making process as a core tool for building trust, ownership, relationship, and shared responsibility among our project team. We are excited to share the Circle Forward method as a useful tool for teams of any sort – community groups, organizations, and collaboratives. We will share the basic principles of this practice, offer reflections on the benefits of consent-based decision making, and practice the method with participants. Participants will leave with tools reviewing the basic principles and steps for the Circle Forward Decision Process, and information for where to find more tools and skills in this approach.

Engaging Black Youth in Agriculture: The Story of Sankofa Farms

Kamal Bell and the Sankofa Youth Program

Youth-Led Change Track | Room 139

Agriculture serves as an abundant source of inspiration and education, and also serves as a cultural setting for youth. Join Kamal Bell and the Sankofa Youth Program as we discuss how food, culture, and education can be used as tools to uplift and inspire youth leadership. In this workshop, we will explore the history, origin story, and educational methodology of Sankofa Farms, and how we use the cultural principles of Sankofa as a guiding principle in how we grow food, build relationships, and create a learning environment.

EXTENDED WORKSHOP SESSION TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH

1:30PM – 4:30PM

These are three hour workshop sessions that dive deeper into issues related to food, faith, and/or justice.

From Charity to Social Justice: Using a Story-based Strategy to Reframe the Dominant Narrative on Hunger and its Solutions

Suzanne Babb, Alison Cohen, Debbie Grunbaum,
and Earline Middleton | *Conference Center (Room 145)*

The intention of this workshop is to challenge the dominant narrative that charitable contributions can end hunger, and that the victims in this age-old story are those who are seeking assistance. We have been conditioned by our beliefs, histories, and institutions to see the world through certain frames or “narrative glasses.” As communicators, our goal is to identify that framing – the underlying set of assumptions, perspectives and narratives that our audience is filtering information through. Our story of social justice must meaningfully challenge harmful underlying assumptions. This introductory hands-on workshop will help participants explore narrative change work, framing, narrative power analysis, and elements of campaign storytelling. Through presentations and interactive activities, participants will learn new techniques and practice using a narrative power analysis to begin deconstructing dominant narratives around hunger and its solutions.

Hunger: Root Causes and Beautiful Solutions

David Ferris | *Room 268*

Spanish interpretation available

Through interactive group exercises rooted in Highlander’s popular education methodology, participants will come up with a collective analysis of the problem of hunger and its root causes. We will examine the difference and connection between root causes, primary consequences, and the more visible, immediate causes; build our understanding of systems of economics and governance and examine how we got here; and explore where we want to go. This session gives participants tools to analyze problems and envision solutions, and asks: What would our utopian vision that eradicated hunger look like? What would that mean for the root causes? For the economy? For how we govern? And finally, how are we committed to bringing such a transformation about? What will it require of us?

Reimagining Board Diversity

Fatimah Salleh, Edna Rodriguez, and Rick Moyers
Room 356

Nationwide, 84% of people serving on organizational boards racially identify as White. However, addressing diversity and equity on boards will not be solved solely by having more people of color serving on boards. Inspired by interviews with people of color who serve on food, farming, or agriculture boards, this workshop addresses some of the challenges of recruiting for diversity and inclusion, while also offering skill-building techniques for constructing cultural competency.

North Carolina Farmers Market Manager Summit

Lisa Misch | Room 358

Farmers market managers serve a critically important role in the success of any farmers market. However, managers can often find themselves with little job training, limited resources, and little to no support network to help them achieve their goals, which can make the position overwhelming. With over 250 operating farmers markets in North Carolina, there is collective capacity and expertise among managers. This workshop will serve as a gathering space for farmers market managers to learn, share, and collaborate. Managers will learn about newly released legal and risk assessment resources for farmers markets. There will also be open space for conversations about various farmers market management challenges like fundraising, vendor recruitment, and outreach. Lastly, managers will have the opportunity to collaborate on ways to collectively increase NC farmers markets' success.

(Re)Insecure: Food for Thought – A Simulation on Reentry

Nykke Ford and Shakia Washington |
Gymnasium (1st Floor)

This simulation showcases the compounding effects of both poverty and food insecurity through the lens of reentry after incarceration. Depending on state law and the type of felony charge, formerly incarcerated people may have a probationary period or be denied food benefits for life. This leaves many ex-offenders homeless and hungry due to their lack of access. This Reentry Simulation will illustrate the journey to self-sufficiency and the barriers that may contribute to feelings of helplessness and decreased self-efficacy. Participants will assume the identity of an ex-offender and perform tasks in four 15-minute sessions with each session representing a week. By the end of this activity, participants will have simulated a month in the life of someone who has been released from prison. Participants will encounter the same challenges faced by many ex-offenders as they try to complete their court-ordered obligations as well as maintain their day to day life.

Building Stronger Communities: A Community Organizing and Leadership Training

Stephanie Terry | Room 357

Spanish interpretation available

This workshop is for people interested in community empowerment who would like to enhance their skills in developing and implementing a concrete framework for approaching social and political change. The skills and methods explained this workshop will help participants build cohesiveness and cooperation within your organization whether it is a neighborhood association, social club, church group, or a collection of individuals. In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of what community organizing is and its processes that make ways for collective liberating action. Participants will learn about the power in forming organized collective community networks that work together in the interest and for the benefit of their community. Additionally, participants will discover strategies for building effective coalitions and the principles that guide them. We will reexamine the definition of power, relationships of power, how power is yielded, and its vital importance to social campaigns and community organizing.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

The Nuts and Bolts of a Healthy Food Pantry: From Solidarity to Action

Elizabeth Gerndt and Sam Hoeffler | Room 359

This interactive workshop is comprised of three parts. First, we will spend time reframing how we see and interact with the people that we serve, setting a foundation for cross-class solidarity. Second, we will share aspects of our training curriculum for pantry staff and volunteers, entitled "The Nuts and Bolts of a Healthy Food Pantry." The curriculum focuses on integrating principles of behavioral economics and sustainability into healthy food pantry work. Lastly, participants will take part in a food pantry assessment and begin an action planning activity.

From the Prophets to Jesus: Justice as a Biblical Imperative

Rodney Sadler | Room 360

The contemporary church has far too often lost sight of the biblical mandate for social justice; it has almost become routine to consider charity the only Christian response. In this session, we will explore the biblical mandate for systemic change and recognize our involvement in manifesting the reign of God in the midst of this world. This conversation will be part lecture, part engagement with text, and part small group work.

Revitalizing Catawba Foodways: History, Present, and Future of Food on Catawba Lands

DeLesslin "Roo" George-Warren | Room 135

In thinking about Justice, we can never forget about the ongoing dispossession of indigenous resources and erasure of indigenous voices. By having an honest conversation, led by Catawba voices, about this history and how it affects our modern food system, we can begin to think about how to heal injustice. The landscape of the Carolina Piedmont has changed drastically over the last 500 years, transforming from a savannah to a patchwork of dense forests and farmlands. In this session we'll talk about how those changes happened, what we can learn from those changes, and how the Catawba Nation is using those lessons to revitalize its community food system. The session will involve group conversation and Q&A.

WORKSHOP SESSION #2 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH 11:00AM – 12:15PM

Oh SNAP! Building & Sustaining Farmers' Market Incentive Programs at Any Scale

Courtney Baines, Kelly Warnock, and Mary Yost
Addressing Hunger Track | Room 125 (Choral Rehearsal Room)

SNAP "Double Up Food Bucks" incentive programs are one strategy available to farmers markets to help increase local food access for all community members. In this workshop, participants will learn about how two different sized farmers markets, Durham Farmers' Market and Boone Farmers Market, developed their own successful healthy food incentive programs. Using stories of how each market built an incentive program, participants will learn how strategic partnerships, diversified funding sources, and recordkeeping systems can increase the reach and effectiveness of a farmers market food access program. By highlighting both an urban and rural farmers market, this workshop will provide a realistic portrayal of the challenges and opportunities for farmers markets to increase food access. Participants will receive templates for marketing and recordkeeping materials that they can adapt for their own markets.

How to Effectively Engage Black Men into the Food System

Reggie Singleton

Community Agriculture Track | Room 133

Just as chronic, diet-related diseases impact Black communities from the consumer side of the food system, rates of joblessness and unemployability relate to Black communities from the production, processing, and distribution side of the food system. The Males Place works to expand how Black males can be involved in the food system through youth mentorship and hands-on agricultural production. This interactive and engaging workshop will explore and provide practical strategies and solutions for engaging Black males in food system work. Joined by the youth involved in The Males Place, Reggie will discuss the larger role Black men and Black communities can play in agricultural work and how that involvement reclaims human dignity and self-reliance.

At a Stranger's Table: An Introduction to the East Coast Migrant Farmworker Community

Misun Hur, Sally Jacobs, Juvencio Rocha-Peralta, and Scott Temple

Economic and Labor Justice Track | Room 356

Spanish interpretation available

The goal of this workshop is to make visible the experiences and voices of migrant farmworkers who are often invisible to the general public and to foster dialogue on critical issues in the current local and national discussion regarding immigration, labor, mental health, and inclusivity. The workshop will feature three components: 1) Excerpts from the documentary *At a Stranger's Table*. This documentary highlights the Latino H-2A/migrant farm workers' plight and tracks them in their isolated, rural environments, and provides a deeper look at their lives and their contributions to the U.S food supply. 2) Exhibit artwork including portraits of migrant workers, drawings, paintings, and artifacts left behind at labor camps. The artwork is another medium used to create conversations about the migrant worker communities. 3) Presentation of a research study titled "Migrant Farmworkers' Labor Camp Locations and the Relationship with Health and Well-Being in Eastern North Carolina."

The Social, Racial, Environmental, and Economic Impacts of Contract Livestock Production

Devon Hall, Sr., Naeema Muhammad, Carlton Sanders, Craig Watts, and Ayo Wilson

Environmental Justice Track | Room 135

In North Carolina, we have more livestock than people. Panelists will discuss the social, racial, environmental, and economic effects contract livestock production at this scale has on rural communities, farmers, and farm families. Using community-participatory research, public records, and first-hand experiences, the panelists will dispel misinformation presented by industry leaders. Representing their unique experiences, panelists will explore the multifaceted ways that Confined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs) impact communities in North Carolina.

Sacred Practices of Food and Land: A Panel Discussion with Ministry Practitioners

LaShauna Austria, Jarrod Davis, Sarah Horton-Campbell, and Matt Gundlach

Faith, Food, and Justice Track | Room 360

Join us for a panel discussion about ministries that practice connection with the land, creation care, and the spiritual practice of growing and eating food together. How does caring for the land help us also care for one another and our community? Join a conversation with practitioners sharing their experiences of ministry at these intersections: Sarah Horton-Campbell, Common Life Church and Farm; LaShauna Austria, Benevolence Farm; Jarrod Davis, Selah Community Garden; and Matt Gundlach, formerly of Beatitude Gardens.

Boots on the Ground: A Panel Discussion on Food Access and Charlotte's West Side

Erin Hostetler, Dr. Philip Otienoburu, Alisha Pruett, Elliott Royal, and Reggie Singleton

Food Policy Advocacy Track | Room 139

The mission of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Food Policy Council is to serve as a forum for discussing food issues, building relationships in the local food system as well as educating, advocating for, and communicating policy issues. One of the greatest policy efforts of the Char-Meck Food Policy Council is improving food access on the West Side of Charlotte. Home to some of the city's greatest food access needs, the West Side is the focus of many non-profit organizations, individuals, farms, businesses and universities striving to make change in their communities. During this panel discussion, we will host leaders from the West Side's food community to share their stories, their work, their ideas on local food, the role they see development having, how local government is and can best engage with their work and what we, as a larger food community, can do to support better food access.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

The Necessity of Healing in Uprooting Oppression and Social Justice Work

Kim Pevia

Healing and Wellness Track | Room 359

There is a hunger in each of us to heal that must be addressed in order for us to have enough room on our plate to do our best work. In this interactive, experiential workshop we will explore what we hold and what we carry. We will witness and share the collective wounding that happens as we work to uproot oppressions. We will cultivate and practice the methods of healing that are available to us. This workshop will include interactive conversation, discussion and story circles as ways of sharing experience, stories and healing.

Reinventing the Wheel: Imagining Food Security as an Inalienable Right

Deborah H. Barnes

Movement Building Track | Room 357

Spanish interpretation available

Too many of our neighbors continue to go hungry or are forced to rely upon non-nutritious, calorie-dense, industrial foods – the only options that are available in the food deserts and food swamps where they live. Food giveaways on which the poor may rely provide mostly “shelf stable” foods, that are filling, but also constitute poor nutrition. Poor nutrition not only leads to obesity, malnutrition and disease, it also impedes the consumer’s life chances and longevity. Thus, our current strategies to thwart hunger are not the panacea we intend. This session asks us to “come back to the table” to reimagine healthy visions for food security that can be deployed at local and state levels. Not satisfied to trade the problem of hunger for malnutrition, we will ask creative and critical thinkers to pose new questions and offer strategies for designing a new sustainable, local food system that considers food an inalienable right.

Racial Wealth Gap Simulation

Michelle Osborne and Laketa Smith

Racial Equity Track | Room 358

The Racial Wealth Gap Simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth. It is a good first step for people unaware of structural inequality, a support tool for those who want a deeper understanding of structural inequality, and a source of information for experts who want to know the quantifiable economic impact of each policy that has widened today’s racial hunger, income, and wealth divides.

Nurturing a Community-Based Food Safety Culture

Trish Tripp

Resources for Farmers Track | Room 303

Consumers of fresh produce are interested in learning more about how growers mitigate food safety risks within their farm or community garden. Managing small-scale production areas often require the need for volunteers. This can make it difficult to identify necessary food safety practices that ensure proper handling of fresh produce. During this session, participants will learn about the top food safety risks and be provided tools to identify and mitigate risks within their operation. CFSA’s Local Produce Safety Initiative staff will share with you ideas about how to cultivate relationships within your community and how to maintain a consistent food safety culture.

Being a Better Ally: Strategies, Challenges, and Common Pitfalls for Community Engagement

Alicia McDaniel and Renai Wisley

Working Together in Community Track |

Conference Center (Room 145)

This workshop will explore the impacts that traditional community engagement practices have on community allies and stakeholders. Attendees will be guided through a discussion and activities that highlight more equitable and inclusive community engagement strategies. Common challenges like community member exhaustion, exclusion, and “tokenism” will be explored and problem-solved. The workshop aims to highlight that even with the best intentions of community engagement, injustices do occur, but can be avoided given sincere consideration to the internal dynamics of the communities served.

Making Sustainable Ag Cool for Young People 101

Chester Williams and the ABC2 Youth Program

Youth-Led Change Track | Room 268

The signature program at ABC2, the World Changers, is a program for disadvantaged young people ages 10-24 of various academic levels and demographics, who are living in economically deprived rural communities. These areas also suffer from disproportionate health disparities and access to systems of care & resources. Learn how to empower young people by providing a life skills program that promotes: positive values, healthy habits, and education through community development, culture, and awareness– resulting in real life power. ABC2 is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth empowerment in rural Halifax County, North Carolina.

WORKSHOP SESSION #3 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH 1:15PM – 2:30AM

Summer Lunch Program in the Beatties Ford Road Corridor

Quaneisha Payne

Addressing Hunger Track | Room 303

Childhood hunger is a growing issue in this country, especially in low-income communities facing food insecurity. This issue is intensified during summer months when school is not in session. This presentation will provide insight into the importance of summer lunch programs in the Beatties Ford Road Corridor, a food insecure neighborhood in Charlotte, and the progression towards expanding the visibility of these programs. We will also discuss the need for the Charlotte community to establish a resource list of programs that can help families in need with school-aged children.

Community-based Impact Unlocked: Leveraging Partnership for the Benefit of All

Diana McCall

Community Agriculture Track | Room 125 (Choral Rehearsal Room)

The work of community gardening and partnership building is a key approach to addressing hunger and building just communities. Using the model of Asset Based Community Development and the experiences of the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden, participants will consider what assets lie in their own communities as well as how building reciprocal relationships can benefit all and build strong programs and even stronger communities.

Lives on the Line: An Update on Issues Affecting Poultry Processing Workers

Bacilio Castro and Hunter Ogletree

Economic and Labor Justice Track | Room 139

Spanish interpretation available

This eye-opening presentation by poultry worker members and organizers of the Western North Carolina Workers' Center, an organization that has organized poultry workers since 2002, will provide an overview of the issues faced by poultry workers in NC and across the country. Current and former poultry workers will share their experiences working in egregious conditions. Workers will also talk about the worker-led campaigns to demand justice within the industry and give audience members the opportunity to take action in solidarity with poultry workers in NC.

Just Transition: Our Stories, Our Needs, Our Future

KD Brown, Elijah Brunson, Sarah Rhodes, and Katherine Shor

Environmental Justice Track | Room 359

Mindfully accounting for the impacts of environmental injustices in NC, we aim to explore the concept of "A Just Transition," and determine what we gain from seeking a Just Transition in our own communities. We will deconstruct the way "we be" and create the ways in which we will be through an interactive, popular education, and Theatre of the Oppressed (TO)-inspired workshop. We will deconstruct our oppressive stories and refine our story-telling skills. We aim to cultivate a more comprehensive strategic lens for approaching environmental issues, building solidarity, and using valuation systems to determine the most appropriate arguments for our intended audiences. Participants will improve in communication/storytelling, planning, and improved community building skills. We plan to use aspects of popular education, so come comfortable enough for movement for all ability levels.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Bread & Wine in the World

Andrew Hudgins, Maggie Kane, and Jessica Stokes
Faith, Food, and Justice Track | Room 358

Many of us know about communion and even practice it regularly, but why do we confine this sacred meal within the walls of the church? We will explore how communion is happening all around us, throughout our day, inviting us to participate in something much larger. This workshop will look at how communion can happen outside the church - including at a pay-what-you-can restaurant in Raleigh or a food pantry. We will learn about the inherent theological importance of unity, dignity, and thanksgiving given by this sacrament. Join us for a panel and discussion about what all this means for organic and healthy relationship-building in a way that addresses injustice within our food system.

Circles of Influence and Circles of Concern: How Local Food Councils Collaboratively Opposed Negative SNAP Changes

Jared Cates, Sarah Fletcher Daniels, Sam Hoeffler, and Erin Hostetler

Food Policy Advocacy Track | Room 135

In 2018, a network of local food councils in North Carolina activated to ensure support of SNAP in the Farm Bill. Recognizing their individual strengths, connections, and needs, this group strategized together to leverage the policy expertise of some groups with the relationships and influence of others to make a difference for their respective and collective communities. In this session, we will share policy and advocacy organizing tools for communities. We also will share principles for racial equity practice that were at play in this first collective policy effort of our North Carolina network of local food councils. We will invite other stories and lessons of advocacy and organizing, and discuss the potential for North Carolinians involved in food and equity work to connect and collaborate for change on other important issues for our collective community.

Journey to Wholeness: Restoration and Rejuvenation Practices

Vivette Jeffries-Logan and Fatimah Salleh
Healing and Wellness Track | Room 268

Anyone involved in the work of social justice also needs to make time for self-care, and especially for marginalized people—the act of taking care of oneself is a revolutionary act. This workshop will explore ways in which the busyness of our lives can take us away from our whole selves. We will discuss practices aimed at restoration and rejuvenation. We will offer time for small group discussion.

Building Resilience is Not a Zero Sum Game: When Communities Look Within

Nicole Johnson and Josie Walker
Movement Building Track | Room 360

Spanish interpretation available

While most communities could use extra funding to support their initiatives, funds are not always available at the time needed. If funds do exist, communities are pressured to compete both internally and externally with other worthy initiatives. The good news is that building resiliency is not a zero sum game. Communities can look in and around their communities to identify what they already possess, move forward with their vision, and in so doing, build resiliency. Communities that approach building resiliency with a clear idea of the resources they have are better able to identify what's missing, what's present, who's missing, and why. In this workshop, we will work through real-life community issues in order to demonstrate a process of building resilience from start to finish. We hope that participants will leave the workshop with a sense of how to address issues and how to explore unconventional means to solve problems.

Creating the Catawba Trail Farm

Lucille Patterson and Delphine Sellars
Racial Equity Track | Room 133

Childhood hunger is a growing issue in this country. Developing a partnership and collaborative relationship with land conservation organizations to address equity in agricultural acquisition can lead to opportunities to increase food security and better community health. Learn how Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN) was able to acquire access to 53 acres of conservation property and their efforts to reclaim an old farmstead that was once part of a plantation system covering several thousand miles. UCAN will take participants through the entire two year process leading to the establishment of the Catawba Trail Farm. Come explore with UCAN the many lessons learned, pitfalls, and setbacks experienced by a small minority nonprofit.

Standing on a Lot of Love: Land Justice in Connection with Food Justice

Mavis Gragg

Resources for Farmers Track | Room 356

This session will discuss the importance of land ownership as a means of food equity; the history of land ownership in the United States with particular emphasis on inequities and the continuing impact of those inequities; current legal challenges that impact land ownership; and how to address these challenges.

Mobilizing a Community Around Just, Local Food Access

Jordyn Appel

Working Together in Community Track | Conference Center (Room 145)

This session explores how Feast Down East mobilized efforts to address inequalities in accessing healthy and local foods in low-income neighborhoods in Wilmington, NC. The Local Motive Mobile Farmers Market program was designed based on intentional and honest conversations through roundtable sessions and door-to-door surveying in ten Wilmington Housing Authority neighborhoods, with the goal of creating an inclusive mobile farmers market representing the needs expressed by the communities. With food sourced from the Feast Down East Food Hub, the Local Motive Mobile Farmers Market accepts SNAP/EBT, offers 'Double-Up' incentives, and includes a Community Advocate program at each market, creating a stronger sense of ownership among residents. The market also highlights existing health-based educational resources through collaborations with the Cape Fear Food Council to address healthy food access barriers. This discussion will outline the road blocks and speedpasses experienced in starting a mobile farmers market and share feedback from public housing residents and partners.

Food Youth Initiative and Theory of Change Model: Youth Change-Makers in the Food System

Bevelyn Ukah and the Food Youth Initiative

Youth-Led Change Track | Room 357

The Food Youth Initiative is a network of youth that envision and support the advancement of a just food system. The network focuses on issues from immigration, (migrant) farm labor rights, community ownership, and awareness raising around the school-to-prison pipeline. They work creatively through all of these issues with food and justice as their platform. Attendees are welcome to engage youth about their experiences, challenges and unique opportunities in their advocacy, policy and justice work.

WORKSHOP SESSION #4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH 3:00PM – 4:15PM

Cooking Matters: Addressing Hunger through Practical, Hands-On Cooking Skills

Cyril Murphy

Addressing Hunger Track | Room 139

Providing access to food is the first half of the battle ending hunger and injustice. The second is ensuring people can cook the food! All cultures have unique flavor profiles and use very similar cooking techniques. Take the dumpling, in Chinese food – wontons, Mexican food – empanadas, Italian – ravioli. Most dishes can “boil” down to a handful of techniques! In this workshop, participants will learn techniques like knife skills, sautéing, roasting and more. We will also provide information and tips about how you can teach these skills to others. Lastly, it's always important to cook with the seasons – this helps your budget and your farming community – we'll discuss how staple menus can transform with the seasons.

Farming on the County Line: Food as a Tool for Community Development Across All Lines

Eva Moss

Community Agriculture Track | Room 360

This session will be a case study exploration of how community agriculture can bring together seemingly disparate groups of people, crossing political, social, and cultural lines, through shared love and connection to land, farm, food, and as result, each other. This approach to food justice will be juxtaposed and compared alongside the citizen engagement avenues offered through our federal regulatory system by government agencies, including the USDA, FDA, and EPA.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Beyond the Headlines: An Introduction to Sex and Labor Trafficking in Rural Communities in North Carolina

Nancy Hagan

Economic and Labor Justice Track | Room 303

Spanish interpretation available

Human trafficking is a worldwide phenomenon and it is occurring in communities of all types across North Carolina. It is a business enterprise that takes advantage of individual and societal vulnerabilities, including economic imbalance, poverty, and gender and ethnic inequities. Human traffickers force, fool, or frighten others into performing labor or sex acts for profit; they exploit individuals' vulnerabilities and commodify human beings for their own gain. This session provides an introduction to human trafficking, both sex and labor, with a particular emphasis on the forms of labor trafficking that may exist in rural and agricultural communities within the state. The presentation will include a discussion of current strategies being used to address human trafficking in North Carolina and will offer participants the opportunity to discuss local and state-level actions that they can take in their own communities to increase their capacity to confront trafficking and better serve survivors.

The Sacred Foodscape of Eastern North Carolina: Controlled Animal Feeding Operations, Environmental Justice, and Adaptation toward Climate Resiliency

Naeema Muhammad, Sarah Ogletree, and Susannah Tuttle

Environmental Justice Track | Room 135

Sacred Foodscapes for All Creation is a program of NC Interfaith Power & Light that aids faith communities in forming sustainable and just relationships to food and land as a means of achieving carbon neutrality. Our presentation will provide an overview of the Sacred Foodscapes for All Creation program, making clear the connections between food production, consumption, and waste and carbon emissions/global climate change. We will then consider the particular foodscape of Eastern North Carolina, with an emphasis on Controlled Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), through a discussion with Naeema Muhammad of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN). Our discussion will focus on the response of North Carolina communities surrounding CAFOs to environmental degradation, potential solutions to the problems posed by North Carolina's hog lagoons, and the connection between these environmental and environmental justice concerns to the concerns of climate justice.

Innovative Food Ministries in Rural Places

Justine Post and a panel of faith leaders

Faith, Food, and Justice Track | Room 358

Thinking beyond community gardens? In this workshop, you will hear from a panel of pastors and practitioners from rural North Carolina who are actively engaging in or promoting their local food system. From eggs to bread to beef, come to hear stories, ask questions, and learn successful strategies for engaging with your local food system. Panelists include: Casting Bread Bakery, a social enterprise committed to a triple bottom line approach; My Father's Cows, a ministry that raises grass-fed cattle on local farms; and The First Ladies of First UMC Hickory, 24 hens that provide eggs, education, and meaning to the greater Hickory community.

Advocacy for Busy People: Getting Heard in a Noisy World

Sarah Hackney

Food Policy Advocacy Track | Room 356

You've already got your hands full on the farm, with your family, or on the job. How are you supposed to make time to advocate for a better food and farm system too? How can you connect with policy makers who control regulations and programs that are key to building that better future? This session provides busy people – farmers, community leaders, and beginners alike – with key insights into how to organize at the grassroots and be heard on food and farm policy issues that matter to you. We'll dive into the nuts and bolts of how to be impactful with limited time and resources, and share the secrets of what types of actions actually move the needle.

"You OK, Fam?": Centering Healing Justice within Food Movement-Building

Tavia Benjamin

Healing and Wellness Track | Room 359

In this workshop, we will discuss tenets of healing justice and the pathway to transformation it provides, as well as the opportunities available to us to integrate healing into the work we do to create the food system we need to feed and nourish all beings and the Earth itself. The National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network (NQTTCN) is a healing justice organization that works to transform mental health for queer and trans people of color, one of the most vulnerable communities of our lifetime. Queer and Trans Communities of Color in North America have long been resilient and able to survive in political and societal environments that continue to deny their humanity. We believe that the values of healing justice that help focus and tap into human resilience and transform trauma are necessary themes to be integrated into Food Movement-Building moving forward.

Demystifying Runaway Inequality for Social Justice Activists

Sarah Fletcher Daniels

Movement Building Track | Room 133

Spanish interpretation available

Why do the wealthy get all the breaks while so many others struggle to pay the bills, live in fear of a major health crisis, and get buried under debt? Many of our country's problems are getting worse because of a major underlying issue: inequality. According to author and labor activist Les Leopold, Runaway Inequality is the "ever-increasing gap in income and wealth between the super-rich and the rest of us." This economic inequality has been growing at an unprecedented rate since the 1970s, but most people don't know that the primary reason is something you've probably never heard of: financialization. Reversing inequality will be necessary to alleviate economic insecurity, racial injustice, the decline of democracy, defunding of public services, environmental degradation, and numerous other social problems. This workshop will provide the knowledge and inspiration needed to bring regular people together in a broad-based movement for lasting, fundamental change.

Building a Community of Practice Through Dialogue on Racial Equity and Food

Shorlette Ammons and Abbey Piner

Racial Equity Track | Room 125 (Choral Rehearsal Room)

Improving our ability to apply a racial equity analysis takes practice. Come hear one method that the Committee on Racial Equity (CORE) team and their allies at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) are using to do just that and share your own experiences and tools for intentional practice. We will share an overview of the process that has developed among CEFS employees and our community of practice in equitable food systems in the Triangle, experience a quick version of this practice, and share your own wisdom, insights, and reactions. Leave with a copy of the toolkit for implementing this practice in your own communities.

Cultivating Land Justice: Wealth Retention Strategies for Families and Communities

Omari Wilson, Tahz Walker, and farmers from
RAFI-USA's Farmers of Color Network
Resources for Farmers Track | Room 357

In this workshop, we will learn and hear stories from RAFI-USA's Farmers of Color Network as they discuss strategies to protect land & home, agricultural business ownership, and ways to stabilize and grow wealth within families and communities. "Land is legacy and promise, its retention and utilization essential to community economic development and environmental sustainability."

Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community

Randolph Keaton and Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community

Youth-Led Change Track | Room 268

Founded in 2015, Youth Ambassadors for a Better Community (YABC) is a Youth Leadership Group located in Delco, NC. Our mission is to "increase the quantity, quality and sustainability of community gardens throughout B.E.S.T. (Bolton, East Arcadia, Sandyfield towns). Our group prides itself as the first youth-led food policy council in the state with a focus of instilling leadership, entrepreneurship and social skills in teens across the Tri-County areas of Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus counties. Our goals are:

- Increasing garden activity opportunity
- Increasing food stability
- Bringing communities together
- Promoting environmental, social, and economic awareness

**RURAL ADVANCEMENT
FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL-USA**

Physical Address
274 Pittsboro Elem School Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Mailing Address
PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone: (919) 542-1396



@rafiusa

rafiusa.org/cttt

