

Eulogy of Nan Freeman

On Tuesday, January 25, 1972, Nan Freeman, a young Jewish woman from Boston, gave her life for Farm Workers. She was 18 years old when she died.

To some she was a young girl who lost her life in a tragic accident. To us she is a sister who picketed with farm workers in the middle of the night because of her love for justice. She is a young woman who fulfilled the commandments by loving her neighbors even to the point of sacrificing her own life.

To us, Nan Freeman is Kadosha in the Hebrew tradition, "a holy person" to be honored and remembered for as long as farm workers struggle for justice.

How can we measure the gift she has given to our cause? Will God give her another life to live? God has given Nan Freeman just one life and now that life is ended. Think of that, all who cherish our farm workers union: Nan Freeman, our young sister has poured out her one life so that farm workers everywhere might be more free.

There is no way to repay her immeasurable gift. There are no words to thank her for what she's done. Some things we can do: our whole movement is declaring a period of mourning that will correspond to the traditional 7-day period of mourning.

We can remember Nan Freeman. We can honor her life and express our thoughts to her family. We can give more of ourselves just because she has given everything. We must work together to build a farm workers union that is worthy of her love and sacrifice.