

From: **Gabriel Thompson**

Date: Sun, Oct 28, 2012 at 9:30 PM

Subject: Email from a fan

To: [smlipton@sjsu.edu](mailto:smlipton@sjsu.edu)

Hi Scott,

My mom, Sandra Hietala, who is a member of First Christian Church, told me this evening about the origins of the San Jose minimum wage hike proposal. (My dad, Jim Thompson, is also a member of FCC.) I'm a freelance journalist based in Oakland and have written about labor and immigration for a bunch of places, including the New York Times, The Nation, and Mother Jones.

One of my current projects is a biography of Fred Ross, Sr., who was a longtime organizer who is best known for mentoring and training Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Ross first came to San Jose in 1952, invited to speak at the San Jose State sociology class of Prof. Claude Settles about his work organizing Mexican Americans in LA. At that class he met a number of students who got excited and encouraged him to organize in San Jose, and one of the students connected him with Cesar Chavez, who was then a part-time lumber handler who lived in the Eastside barrio of Sal Si Puedes.

The students, including important figures like Herman Gallegos, formed the backbone of the organizing campaign, from which Chavez emerged as a gifted organizer. From there, of course, history was made. So SJSU Sociology classes seem to have a good track record in stimulating social change, continuing on with the very important work you've helped encourage.

Anyway, just wanted to say hello and say that I'm wishing you the best.

Good luck!

Gabriel

--

Gabriel Thompson

On the web: [www.gabrielthompson.org](http://www.gabrielthompson.org)

On twitter: [twitter.com/g\\_thompson1](https://twitter.com/g_thompson1)

Newest book: [workingintheshadows.wordpress.com](http://workingintheshadows.wordpress.com)