

tor of the 2019 Family Farm Breakfast at the Capitol. During the 2020 election, she worked as an organizer for LSP's sister political advocacy organization, the Land

Stewardship Action Fund.

Schreiber is focusing on state policy organizing for LSP, and can be reached at [lschreiber@landstewardship-project.org](mailto:lschreiber@landstewardship-project.org).

**Borrud** worked for many years as a physician and served on LSP's Healthcare Steering Committee

as well as the organization's board of directors. She has spoken and written extensively about the need to provide quality, affordable healthcare for rural residents. As an LSP



**Laura Schreiber**



**Aleta Borrud**

organizer, Borrud is focusing on healthcare issues and she can be contacted at [aborrud@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:aborrud@landstewardshipproject.org).

**Goldman** has a degree in environmental studies from Carleton College and has worked extensively in food and farm policy. She mostly recently worked as a senior research program coordinator for the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, where, among other things, she was the lead author of the report, "Essential and in Crisis: A Review of the Public Health Threats Facing Farmworkers in the U.S."

She also led a team of researchers in investigating policy that supports sustainable livestock production and worked for the National Farm to School



**Sarah Goldman**

Network, the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, and Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore.

Goldman is focusing on local foods and farm transition issues and can be contacted at [sgoldman@landstewardship-project.org](mailto:sgoldman@landstewardship-project.org).

**Maura Curry** has joined LSP's Bridge to Soil Health team. Curry has a degree in geology and biology from Brown University, and has worked as a farm bill specialist for the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, an assistant farmer at Aurora Farms, and a policy and political intern for Food Policy Action. Curry, who is working with LSP's



**Barb Sogn-Frank**

Soil Builders' Network and helping disseminate information about soil health to farmers, can be reached at [mcurry@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:mcurry@landstewardshipproject.org). She previously worked for the organization as an organizer. In her new role, Sogn-Frank is working with Soil Builders' Network members. She can be contacted at [bsognfrank@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:bsognfrank@landstewardshipproject.org). □



**Maura Curry**

## Get Current With

**LIVE  WIRE**

Sign up for the **LIVE-WIRE** e-letter to get monthly updates from the Land Stewardship Project sent straight to your inbox. Details are at [www.landstewardship-project.org/signup](http://www.landstewardship-project.org/signup). □

## LSP Fact Sheets

Want a quick primer on everything from regenerative farming techniques and the negative repercussions of factory farming to how to write a letter-to-the-editor and make sure a lease agreement meets your stewardship goals? Check out LSP's collection of fact sheets at [www.landstewardshipproject.org/about/libraryresources/factsheets](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/about/libraryresources/factsheets). □

## Jo Ann Thomas: 1953-2021

In the mid-1980s, a new organization called the Land Stewardship Project hired organizers to travel to counties in the Upper Midwest that were suffering the worst farmland erosion. Their job was to facilitate meetings where farmers and other rural residents could talk about the impacts of this erosion as well as possible solutions. One of those organizers was Jo Ann Thomas, a native of Missouri who had already worked as an organizer for Minnesota COACT (Citizens Organizations Acting Together). After a long battle with cancer,



**Jo Ann Thomas**

Thomas passed away Feb. 19 on her farm near Winona, Minn., surrounded by her family. She was 67.

A few years after its founding, LSP hired Thomas, as well as Doug Nopar, to organize community meetings. Nopar and Thomas were later married, and raised two daughters, Elizabeth and Sylvia, on their farm. While at LSP, Thomas also organized the initial performances of *Planting in the Dust*, a play written by Nancy Paddock for LSP that featured a woman discussing her concerns about farmland stewardship. The popular play went on to serve as a major organizing tool for LSP in rural communities and was performed internationally.

After leaving LSP in 1985, Thomas was extremely active in various community projects in southeastern Minnesota. She served as the director of Houston County Women's Resources and co-director of the Women's Resource Center in Winona, and eventually opened up a homeopathy practice. No matter what endeavor she was involved with, she was known for demanding justice in a straightforward, loving way.

Nopar, who went on to work for several decades as an LSP organizer before leaving in 2020, says even after she departed the organization, Thomas continued to show an intense devotion to its principles of stewardship and justice on the land. □