

## Windows And Mirrors

A provocative exhibit on the human cost of the war in Afghanistan, "Windows and Mirrors," comes to San Francisco and Oakland, October 6-30<sup>th</sup>. Each location will feature a different set of murals created in response to the war. Please visit both, and for a preview, visit "Windows and Mirrors" at [www.windowsandmirrors.org](http://www.windowsandmirrors.org).

The exhibit opens on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the University of San Francisco, in Kalmanovitz Hall, at 2130 Fulton Street. Join us for an Interfaith Peace Vigil at 5 pm in the Kalmanovitz Amphitheatre (near St. Ignatius Church) followed by an Opening Night Reception in 251 McLaren Hall.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold a reception at Oakland's Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California (1433 Madison Street between 14th and 15th near 12th St. BART). The reception will begin at 5p.m. and will feature Matt Southworth of the Friends Committee on National Legislation and Iraq Veterans Against the War. Matt will also speak at the University of San Francisco location on October 13th.

And on October 20<sup>th</sup> (SF) and October 22<sup>nd</sup> (Oakland) Suraya Sadeed of Help the Afghan Children will speak on her experiences as part of the U.S. diaspora's response to the war in Afghanistan. She'll share from her new book *Forbidden Lessons in a Kabul Guesthouse*. AFSC partnered with Help the Afghan Children in 2001 to provide relief in Northern Afghanistan as the bombs were first falling. We also work with them through the afghans for Afghans knitting project.

Finally, on October 29<sup>th</sup> in Oakland there will be a program on art and social change, with the Oakland forum featuring youth activists.

Please contact Adam Barrett at [barrettah@gmail.com](mailto:barrettah@gmail.com) to make arrangements for group visits, and remember these exhibits feature different artworks on the same theme. Visit both to get the full impact!



afghans for Afghans knitting at Philadelphia Windows and Mirrors photo by Terry Foss



**American Friends Service Committee**  
**Pacific Mountain Region**  
 65 Ninth Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94103

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 925

Visit the Pacific Mountain Region on the web at [www.afsc.org/pacificmtn](http://www.afsc.org/pacificmtn), where you can see a listing of our upcoming events, descriptions of our current programs, and media from some of our recent projects.

You can also friend us on Facebook by searching for AFSC SF.



## Pacific Mountain News

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
 PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION (N. California, Nevada, Utah)  
 FALL 2011

### No Human Being is Illegal y Cada uno Tiene un Sueno

*No Human Being is Illegal y Cada uno Tiene un Sueno* (Each One has a Dream) is the theme of a new mural gracing the wall of the San Francisco Friends Meeting, where AFSC has its regional office. Pablo Paredes, youth outreach coordinator, has been working with a group of high school students who have dedicated themselves to bringing the voices of undocumented youth into the debate on immigration reform. The group calls itself "67 Suenos," after the 67% of migrant youth whose dreams are not reflected in any of the common narratives regarding immigration reform. This mural, with its indigenous



symbols, crosses of those who died while trying to cross the border, and a vibrant central image of youth leading, is a passionate statement that neither politicians nor allies can ignore.

On August 26th, the mural was unveiled to over 200 allies, well



wishers, friends and families. The "67 Suenos" youth were radiant as they stood in front of the crowd describing the process, their purpose, their work, and their dreams. They knew that they were instrumental in creating a piece of art that is not only beautiful but carries a strong message that every politician needs to hear and that has already uplifted the neighborhood - NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL- CADA UNO TIENE UN SUENO

Above: Picture of Mural  
 Right: Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez Cross

### From the Interim Regional Director



Above: Interim Regional Director Laura Magnani. Testified about torture in U.S. Prisons

"We've had an exciting few months in the Pacific Mountain Region of AFSC. Thank you to each and every one of you for supporting this work!

Since I last wrote, a mural has miraculously taken shape on the side of our office in San Francisco. The mural is a product of one of our youth programs – 67 Suenos – and is inspiring related youth projects across the country. Thanks are due especially the San Francisco Friends Meeting, which partnered with us on this. Please come see it if you are in the area!

I'm also happy to announce the launch of our new fellowship program, out of AFSC's Fresno office, which will train ten cultural organizers over the next 18 months. The selected fellows are a cross-generation group representing Indigenous Mexican (Otomi, Mixteco, Zapoteco and Purhepecha), Asian and Southeast Asian (Hmong, Khmer, Punjabi) and Iranian communities. Each fellow will complete a public project, to demonstrate the skills they are learning, and to connect their cultural work with civic engagement in their communities. In addition to the fellows, we also have youth apprentices. (See inside for details).

I had the honor of serving as a mediator for the hunger strike called by prisoners in solitary confinement. As we went to press, many prisoners had resumed the strike because they did not feel agreements were being met. Now the real work begins, as AFSC and other groups try to assure that real change happens.

Enjoy this update, and thank you again for your help in making the work possible. Please let me know if you have questions, or would like to get more involved with our work."

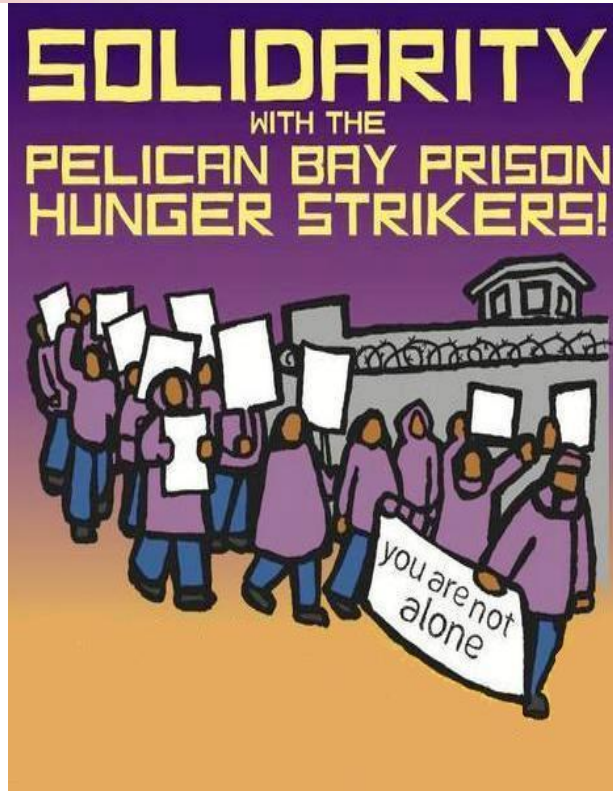
*Laura Magnani*

## Hunger Strike

History was made by prisoners in solitary confinement at Pelican Bay, when they went on hunger strike in July to protest the conditions under which they live – many for decades – and the questionable practices that put them in “security housing units,” (SHU), as they are euphemistically called. 6,600 prisoners joined the strike at one point or another, at 13 prisons around California. A large coalition, of which AFSC was a part, formed in solidarity. Hundreds remained on strike for three weeks, after which some small concessions were made, and a number of promises to change some practices. The challenging part is for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to actually implement these changes.

AFSC was involved from the beginning, receiving the information from those inside, joining the coalition, and then serving on the mediation team for the strike. After it was over, Laura Magnani, interim regional director, was asked to testify at legislative hearings, to speak to the ways that solitary confinement qualifies as torture under United Nations definitions. Assembly member Tom Ammiano, chair of the committee, promised to introduce legislation.

The greatest success of the strike was that prisoners focused national and international attention to an issue AFSC has researched and spoken about for years. The Department has had to respond, albeit reluctantly and slowly. The prisoners chose a non-violent approach to bring about change, and they worked across most cultural and ethnic groups to reach agreements and make decisions. There was media coverage of the strike in the *NY Times*, including an editorial, NPR, Democracy NOW, *LA Times*, *Sacramento Bee* to name a few.



## Speaking Truth Changes Policy

AFSC's homeless newspaper, *Street Spirit*, has filled its pages in recent months with the unfolding story of the SIT/LIE ban in Berkeley, CA. Originally before the City Council, the proposed ban was considered a “done deal” by many as a result of intense behind-the-scenes tactics by business people. However good social policy requires transparency, which is precisely why AFSC has published *Street Spirit* since the mid-nineties. Often the mainstream press ignores people at the bottom of the economic ladder and life gets worse for them under such invisibility.

However our editor, Terry Messman, who has been at the forefront of economic justice issues for decades, jumped into the fray with multiple front page expose's about what the proposed ban would mean for the homeless. He attended many community meetings and hearings and reported on different groups that were organizing against the measure. Telling the story of these groups stepping up is how movements are built and nurtured. Terry quotes in the June issue from the students who stepped up to oppose the ban: “We knew we couldn't sit idly by and watch while the rights and well-being of the homeless were assaulted.”

In the end we tasted victory, along with the students, the disabled, and many other homeless advocacy groups when the City Council dropped the measure. AFSC will continue its vigilance in the coming months. Please watch our website for updates. Go to: [www.thestreetspirit.org](http://www.thestreetspirit.org) for updates, and while you are there you will see the new, vastly improved website, the work of a talented intern this summer!



Above: "Sitting is a human right." Scores of protesters brought chairs to downtown Berkeley and held a sit-in in solidarity with homeless people. Photo: Lydia Gans

## Secure Communities dividing families

Life for Daria and her family changed drastically in just a matter of days. The resident of Lindsay, a small town in Tulare County, was another victim of the US Secure Communities program, after her brother was deported for a minor traffic violation

After coming to this country for a better life, Daria, who has three children said “They deported {my brother} for no reason.” Earlier this year her husband was also deported after Immigration and Customs Enforcement received information about his immigration status through the fingerprints shared by the California Highway Patrol. In his case, he was stopped on suspicion of driving under the influence.

“He passed the sobriety test,” Daria said, “Then they asked him for a license and since he doesn't have one, he showed the officer a Mexican ID,” she narrated. “They took him into custody... took his fingerprints and told him he was going to be deported.”

Daria's brother was the primary financial support for the family. Now Daria, a farm worker, has to not only provide

for her three kids but also take care of her grandmother, who is under dialysis treatment, and her mother, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. They were both under her brother's care before he was deported.

The practice of Secure Communities is becoming a heavier burden for a lot of families. Even though President Barack Obama announced recently that his administration will use “prosecutorial discretion” and concentrate efforts on higher-priority cases that involve criminals, this announcement came too late for families like Daria's.

In Tulare County alone, a total of 283 people have been deported through this program between October 2008 and February 2011, according to statistics by Immigration Advocates Network. “It is a difficult situation,” said Daria. “Sometimes I wonder what's going to happen with my kids if one day they come and deport me,” she said.

AFSC offices around the country are monitoring cases like Daria's and exploring ways of challenging the enforcement practices.

## Young Organizers Connect in CA Central Valley

“José Chavez, Minerva Mendoza, and Juan Santiago are energetic young leaders, dedicated to working for immigration justice and widening horizons for their families and neighbors. (They were also the first three students to complete AFSC's newly inaugurated year-long apprenticeship program.)

Working with staff mentors, Jose, Minerva and Juan followed a curriculum developed by AFSC staff in Fresno. Through the program they learned Quaker history and values, AFSC history and organizational structure, popular education theory, and the methods of participatory research. They also chose a hands-on project closely related to the cultural organizing work practiced by AFSC's Fresno program, contributing their own insights along the way.

Each apprentice then chooses a hands-on projects closely related to the cultural organizing practiced by the Fresno program, contributing their own insights along the way.

José and Juan took the lead on organizing the annual Day of the Dead celebration in Fresno, a well-loved and festive tradition. They dedicated it to the memories of international leaders who gave their lives to nonviolent struggles for human and civil rights. These leaders included Mohandas Gandhi, Bert Corona, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Emma Tenayuca, and Susan B. Anthony. They also built into the event an opportunity for immigrants to publicly share their own stories, aware of the importance of such first-person testimonies in the struggle to overcome anti-immigrant propaganda.

Essential to AFSC's cultural organizing approach is that no one comes to this country empty-handed; we all have things to contribute. This has been essential in building trust among the Central Valley's farm worker population, which includes immigrant groups from many countries and cultures

All three apprentices were involved in forming a new cross-cultural youth organization in the Central Valley. Inspired by an interfaith youth event at which she represented the Fresno program and learned about the First Amendment, Minerva is working to organize follow-up opportunities for youth to continue gathering and taking actions together.

Having completed the program, the apprentices have remained in close contact with their AFSC mentors -- a great benefit for them and for the Service Committee.



Picture to the right: Day of the Dead altar in Fresno, CA