



## AFSC West Region News – June 2023

*Stories of work from around the region*

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. Please send feedback to [WestNews@afsc.org](mailto:WestNews@afsc.org).

**Celebrate, dance, sing!**  
**VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING CONCERT**  
supporting Oregon Project Voice

7-8:30 PM  
June 14, 2023

Los JORNALEROS DEL NORTE

Human is Being  
Linea Para Reportar Robos  
888-621510

AFSC Oregon

**GET YOUR TICKETS:**  
[bit.ly/ProjectVoiceConcert](https://bit.ly/ProjectVoiceConcert)

TICKET

*Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington*

### **Join us on June 14 for music and celebration**

From Pedro Sosa: We would like to invite you to our online [annual fundraiser](#) on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm PT, to recognize our work and impact with our community partners. Music by Los Jornaleros del Norte, a group of day laborers based in Los Angeles playing *cumbias* and *corridos* about the plight of workers. Invited speakers include community partners who will highlight our work and share their experiences as participants of popular education and leadership development. Please register [here](#). Any donations will be greatly appreciated but not required for virtual attendance.

*Roots For Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles*

### **Freedom School to offer free social justice training June 28-August 11**

RFP's 8th Annual Freedom School is a 14-day in-person, intensive, fun, and FREE social justice training for young people of color ages 15-22. Together, we'll grow in our leadership capacity and build community while engaging in community organizing activities/events that push for change on important justice issues affecting our communities in South Central LA. We are looking for the next generation of change makers and organizers and invite all young people of color who are interested. The deadline for [applications](#) is Sunday, June 18.

*US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego*

### **Flouting of asylum laws and migrant protections causing suffering**

Although Title 42 has ended, the U.S. continues to harm migrants and undermine the right to asylum, [writes](#) Pedro Rios of AFSC. Today, the U.S. must "recommit to respecting asylum laws, to protecting those seeking safe harbor, and to increasing accountability and oversight measures so that suffering ends when interaction occurs with U.S. border agents."

Read more about how the US-Mexico Border Program staff [responded](#) to an urgent need to provide humanitarian relief to migrants forced to wait for days between 30-ft border walls.

*67 Sueños, Oakland*

### **Youth of the Land podcast launched**

Since 2010, 67 Sueños youth have reclaimed their power and narratives through storytelling. Our [latest podcast](#) showcases our current youth cohort adding to the growing legacy of 67 poets. It is filled with rich testimonies, raw emotions, and hope for the future. OUR YOUTH ARE POWERFUL! We appreciate y'all tuning in! And we hope you enjoy it as much as we did making it.

*Immigrant Rights Program, Denver*

### **Month of actions to Build a Longer Table, Not a Higher Wall**

In Denver, our ally project launched a month of actions calling on Congress and the president to demilitarize the US Mexico border and restore asylum. The [event on May 25](#) also drove home that regardless of what laws are on the books, we keep each other safe. AFSC Colorado seeks to build a longer table in community every day, building relationships and solidarity across identity. Actions to come in Fort Morgan, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs throughout June! If you're interested in hosting your own, sign up [here](#) to receive our toolkit.

*California Healing Justice Program, Oakland*

## **Trainings provide tools to Think Twice Before Calling the Police**

California Healing Justice, along with other programs in AFSC's national Community Safety Beyond Policing project, held a series of four webinars and trainings in May to give attendees tools to Think Twice Before Calling the Police. Click "[SEE MORE THINK TWICE VIDEOS](#)" for the full list of all four recordings—then [take the Think Twice pledge](#).

*People of the Land Program, Albuquerque*

## **Gathering honors patron saint of farmers and includes prayers for rain**

Sayrah Namaste of AFSC [writes](#) that community members recently gathered to honor the patron saint of farmers, San Ysidro, and to pray for rain with the patron saint of drought, Santa Maria de la Cabeza. The four-centuries-old tradition comes from Spain, but the celebration AFSC NM helps organize in the South Valley includes indigenous peoples' prayers and interpretations of the celebration.

*Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno*

## **ArteVism Fellows address pressing issues in immigrant community.**

Myrna Martines Nateras of AFSC writes that, through the PVI Artevism program, we continue offering spaces for dialogue and analysis of the most pressing issues impacting immigrant communities. We have facilitated meetings, discussions, and educational opportunities to get information and identify strategic actions toward addressing the closure of the only hospital in the neighborhood of Madera. The closure of this hospital is having and will have a tremendous impact on the farmworker community of not only the city but the county of Madera. Access to healthcare is a constant challenge for immigrant farmworkers due to their migration status. To receive emergency care, these families must travel about an hour.

## **Short takes**

Congrats to Dov Baum and Noam Perry of the Economic Activism Program following a [major divestment win](#)....Learn more about AFSC's new [Apartheid Free Campaign](#)....Share this [Pride month graphic](#) in solidarity with trans people.... A warm welcome to Edith Sargon, Leadership and Planned Giving Officer.

## **Your support matters**

Your gifts of time and money make a real difference. Please be in touch with any West Region program by visiting our newly redesigned [afsc.org](#), and support the AFSC West Region by [donating](#) today. Please share this subscription [link](#) for this newsletter with others. Thank you!

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