



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

AFSC West Region News – December 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.



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

PVI announces new ArteVism cohort

We are pleased to announce the fellow and interns for the fourth cohort of the Pan Valley Institute ArteVism Fellowship Program 2023-2024. Please join us in welcoming (from left) Joshua Slack, Natalie Moreno-Aguilar, Shane Lara Jr., and Tsim Nuj Vang.

The ArteVism Fellowship program provides unique opportunities for Central Valley youth of color to exercise their artistic and creative expression, meet new people, build new community connections, and gain a deeper understanding of the sociopolitical dynamics of the region, as well as the value and challenges of its multiculturalism. Read [more](#) from Myrna Martinez N of AFSC.



Graphic from [Initiate Justice](#)

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Celebrating California legislative wins in 2023

AFSC and our partners been working on two California legislative bills over the past year. Earlier this fall, they were signed into law. AB 1118, the Racial Justice Act 3.0, will provide implementation details to ensure the appeal process provided by the previous two Racial Justice laws can run smoothly. Under AB 60, victims of crimes must be notified of the availability of restorative justice programs. Read [more](#) from Fatimeh Khan and Jennifer Tu of AFSC.



Immigrant Rights Program, Denver

Report highlights AFSC work to welcome newcomers

From Jennifer Piper of AFSC: Our organizing to prevent GardaWorld from coming into Denver as a shelter contractor is highlighted in this new [report](#) from the Women's Refugee Commission. The report also details some of our partner's best practices and challenges in the welcoming and integration of newcomers across Denver and beyond.



People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Unique wellness celebration helps farmers unwind

As the harvest season came to an end and farmers prepare for the winter, the AFSC New Mexico program created a unique celebration to show our appreciation to the local farmers in our network. We organized a wellness celebration dubbed “Farmer Unwind” intended to care for farmers’ wellbeing. Read [more](#) from Sayrah Namaste of AFSC.



67 Sueños, Oakland

Oakland youth explore the work of legendary Chicano artist

From [Facebook](#): We took our H.Y.P.H.Y. (Help Your People Help Yourself) Youth and Homies 4 Justice to the Malaquias Montoya exhibit at the Oakland Museum. Their [website](#) notes that “Montoya’s legacy as a public-serving artist, activist, and community leader serves as inspiration for younger generations within the Chicano community and beyond.”



Border Patrol agent questioning migrants at Whiskey 8 in San Diego (Photo: Adriana Jasso)

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Showing humanity through the border walls

Since September, Border Patrol has held migrants for days in open-air detention sites without access to basic services. AFSC and partners are advocating to end this inhumane practice. But as officials allow it to continue, we're providing humanitarian aid through the border walls. Every day, we ensure migrants have access to water, hot meals, and medical attention. Read [more](#) from Adriana Jasso of AFSC.



Roots for Peace Program, Los Angeles

RFP joins call for a ceasefire in Gaza

Roots For Peace (RFP) youth took part in a November rally aimed at educators to join the call for a ceasefire. They applied pressure on the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for a resolution calling for the same. RFP youth and staff shared powerful testimonials in support of Palestine. Cindy Alonso, shown above, said, "As a Mexican, as a Chicana, I am proud to say that I STAND with Palestine." Read [more](#) from Adalberto Rios of AFSC.



Protesters in Eugene, Oregon ([KTVL](#))

Report from AFSC's No Tax Dollars for War Crimes National Day of Action

On November 13, hundreds of people took part in AFSC's [NO Tax Dollars for War Crimes](#) day of action. In more than 20 communities around the U.S., we demonstrated in front of our senators' and representatives' offices, built memorials for all who have died, and demanded a cease-fire for Gaza and an end to U.S. military aid for Israel. Actions in the West included [Phoenix](#); [Eugene, OR](#); and Longmont, CO. Please [contact your members of Congress today](#).

Human Rights Week of Action set for December 10-18

On December 10 (International Human Rights Day) through December 18 (International Migrants Day), AFSC and partners will host actions across the country to demand that the right to migrate be respected. We'll hold vigils, pack food bags, and much more. Join us as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognize the rights of all migrants to be treated with dignity and respect. Visit our [webpage](#) to take part. Actions in the West include San Diego, Denver and Ft. Morgan, CO.

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