



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC Midwest Digest – May 2024**

*Stories of work from around the region*



Some cast and crew from the Michigan play *With Love, From Inside*

### **New play focuses on the need for Second Look legislation in Michigan**

Cozine Welch of the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program says that [With Love, From Inside](#) is a theater presentation that includes 11 vignettes compiled from folks inside prison. Theater students and Cozine put it together to get across the need for [Second Look legislation](#).

The play focuses on the narrative of a young man who is outside prison while his mother is inside, serving a long, indeterminate sentence. They're looking for and hoping for Second Look legislation to pass. Throughout the play, you hear more about both their struggles as well as her talents as a musician and poet. He shares some of her work. This is a production that's completely compiled of folks who are inside, currently and formerly. They wrote it and put it together. Cozine adds, "We're casting it and staging it in the way we believe it should be done."

Cozine says to stay tuned for an online version.



AFSC Chicago staff (from left) asia smith, Daniel Lakemacher and Destiny Harris

### **AFSC webinar series offers tools to Think Twice Before Calling the Police**

asia smith, Chicago Peacebuilding Program Director, is playing a key role in this four-part webinar series. Check out recordings for the first three: [Grounding](#), [Real Community Safety in Action](#) (which features asia’s work with Treatment Not Trauma), and [De-escalation training](#). The final webinar on May 8 will focus on Mental Health Crisis Response Training – register [here](#).

AFSC Chicago is very pleased to welcome Destiny Harris as the new Program Associate. Read [more](#) about her.



### **Twin Cities staff share exciting updates with local Friends**

The [Twin Cities Friends Meeting newsletter for April 2024](#) (page 7) includes updates from AFSC staff Brynne Crockett and Prescott Jones. “They described how their programs on systemic racism at North High School are so popular that they started a lunch club and now have their own classroom where kids can drop in during the day,” Friends write. Upwards of 80 students participate each week, and there’s interest in expanding the work.



Screenshots of a [video](#) showing Steve Tamari (in yellow coat) assaulted by police

## Midwest Program Group member assaulted at Wash U protest in St. Louis

Steve Tamari, a member of the AFSC Midwest Program Group, is “lucky to be alive” after police violently broke up a student encampment at Washington University in St. Louis. [Newsweek](#) quotes Steve’s statement, in part:

"Over the last seven months, I've been in agony watching my people in Palestine be slaughtered with U.S. bombs and funding. I joined the student-led protests on Saturday to stop the genocide and support and protect the students." Tamari said that during the arrest, he was "body-slammed and crushed by the weight of several St. Louis County police officers and then dragged across campus by the police. As a result of police brutality, I am now in the hospital with multiple broken ribs and a broken hand." Read more in [Riverfront Times](#) and the [Middle East Research and Information Project](#).

Steve’s wife, Sandra Tamari, and AFSC Organizing Fellow and WashU student Ti Dunigan were also arrested. Stay tuned for more from Ti and Alex Jones, AFSC Program Coordinator.

## Short takes

The deadline for [applications](#) for the AFSC St. Louis Program Director is May 6...On May 12, the AFSC Midwest Region is co-sponsoring a [luncheon](#) near Des Moines honoring Palestinian mothers and reclaiming the anti-war history of Mother’s Day...See photos of Iowans [demonstrating for immigrant rights](#) and [rallying and flying kites](#) for Gaza...Check out AFSC’s [8 ways to support student protesters](#) and our [resources for divestment](#).

## Get social

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