



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC Midwest Digest – June 2024**

*Stories of work from around the region*



Alex Jones (left) and Ti Dunigan

### **St. Louis staff describe brutal repression of peaceful encampment**

Alex Jones (they/them) is the Program Coordinator and [Ti Dunigan](#) (he/him) the new Organizing Fellow for the AFSC St. Louis Healing Justice Initiative. A student at Washington University in St. Louis, Ti was one of 23 students and 100 people in total arrested by police following a peaceful encampment at WashU on April 27, 2024. AFSC Midwest Region Program Group member Steve Tamari was brutally [assaulted](#) by police during the arrests.

Ti says the zip ties used by police “cut off my circulation.” He added, “My hand actually went pale, which is very hard to happen. As a Black person, I don’t usually go pale in that way.” In this [interview](#), Alex and Ti share more of what they saw and experienced.



## Chicago highlights abolition work

The latest [newsletter](#) from asia smith of the Chicago Peacebuilding Program promotes a June 12 screening of Mariame Kaba’s *One Million Experiments*. The documentary “explores how we define and create safety in a world without police and prisons.” Check out these recordings from AFSC’s recent Think Twice webinar series:

- [Webinar #1: Grounding](#)
- [Webinar #2: Community Alternatives in Action](#)
- [Webinar #3: De-escalation Training](#)
- [Webinar #4: Mental Health Crisis Training](#)



The Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse

## Twin Cities Friends join other Minnesota Quakers in peace vision

The latest newsletter of the Twin Cities Friends Meeting includes news of their endorsement of this [vision](#) for peace in Palestine and Israel as shared by AFSC and other Quaker organization. Other endorsing Friends meetings in Minnesota include Minneapolis, Rochester and Winona. Over 90 Quaker organizations have signed on.



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### Training to support emerging leaders

Are you formerly incarcerated? Justice-impacted? Or know someone who is? According to AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program alum Ron Simpson-Bey, “It will be well worth the effort if you can make it to this JustLeadershipUSA Emerging Leaders leadership development [training event](#) in Michigan!” AFSC MI is pleased to be a partnering organization for the June 21-22 gathering.



## **Iowans reclaim the anti-war history of Mother's Day**

The AFSC Midwest Region was pleased to co-sponsor a [Mother's Day peace luncheon](#), organized by Iowa Christians for Palestine. Chicago-based Palestinian American attorney and mother [Rima Kapitan](#) (above) gave the keynote. Over 100 people attended to honor Palestinian mothers and reclaim the anti-war history of Mother's Day. People also supported [AFSC's Emergency Response for Gaza](#).

## **Short takes**

Check out [AFSC's statement](#) on President Biden's new cruel and ineffective border order....Double your gift today in support of [AFSC's Refugee Response Fund Matching Gift Challenge](#).... Check out Joyce Ajlouny's [visit](#) with Pope Francis at the Vatican....AFSC's Action Center for Corporate Accountability calls on all universities and institutions to withdraw their support of Israeli human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Check out their [new resource](#)!....And celebrate one year of AFSC's Apartheid-Free Communities work on Friday, June 7 at 11 am CT. Register [here](#).

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