



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC Midwest Digest – August 2024**

*Stories of work from around the region*



### **At the DNC, AFSC to challenge the status quo, envision other worlds**

AFSC will have a presence at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next week to directly challenge the status quo. This activism speaks back to the power structure of the DNC, demanding accountability and justice for the communities politicians represent. Here is a [list](#) of AFSC and partner activities and events to engage with, including two marches on the DNC and an interfaith vigil to mourn all people killed in the genocide in Gaza.

AFSC Chicago Peacebuilding staff are organizing an August 23 [writing workshop and open mic](#) designed for BIPOC youth from across Chicago. Follow on [Instagram](#).



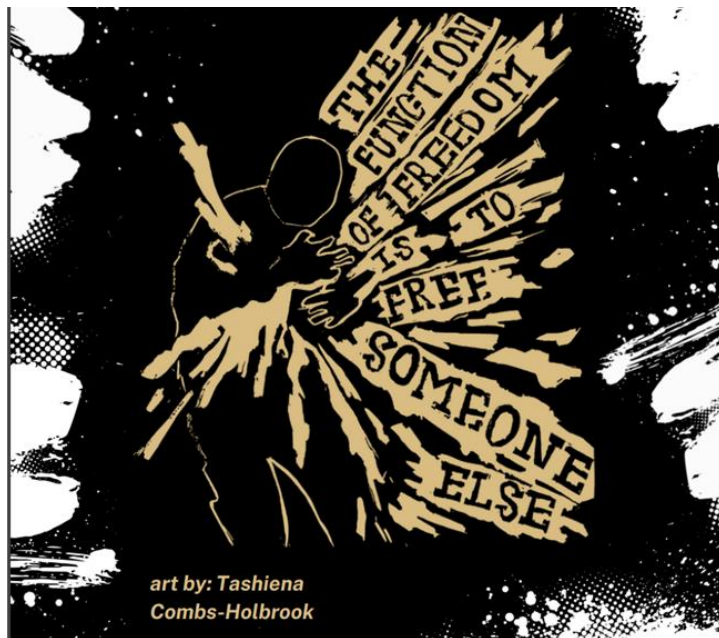
## Twin Cities hosts Midwest Youth Summer Intensive

Youth connected with AFSC programs in St. Louis and Chicago joined Twin Cities young people in Minneapolis July 28–August 3 for our first-ever [Midwest Youth Summer Intensive](#). Black and Palestinian youth gathered to learn more about the work of making positive change in our communities. "I feel like this opportunity was one of the best of my life, and I would recommend it to anyone looking to make a change," said Eisha Aly, a Chicago youth. Stay tuned for photos from the Intensive!



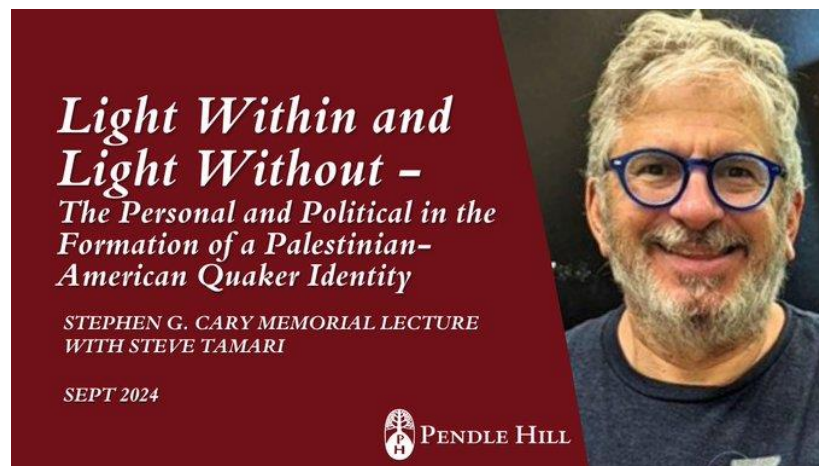
## Barbara Gunn Lartey now leading AFSC peacebuilding work in St. Louis

AFSC is very pleased to welcome Barbara Gunn Lartey as the new Program Director in St. Louis, joining our team of Alex Jones and Ti Dunigan. Barbara describes herself as “an eclectic, expressive social justice emissary and non-profit executive with a lovingly disruptive message: everyone deserves an autonomous, authentic, dignity-centered life. Period.” Read [more](#) about Barbara.



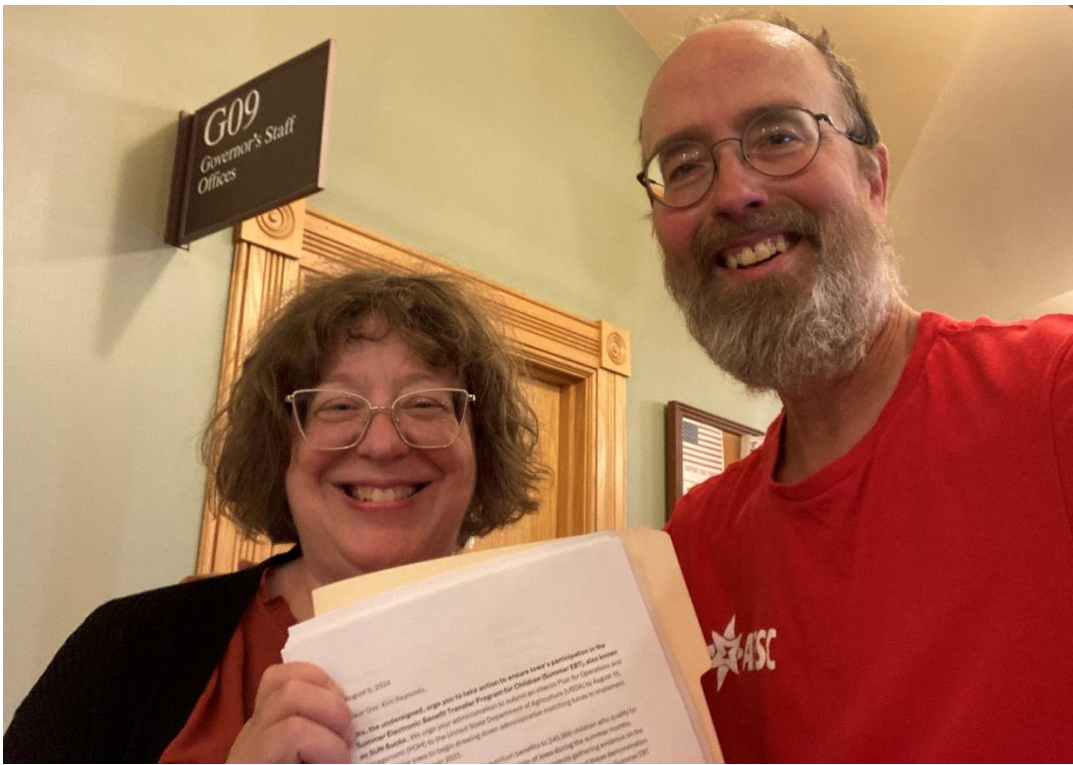
## In Michigan, promoting Second Look and clemency recommendations

The AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program continues to organize for liberation, [using our freedom to free others](#). Along with partners, AFSC is pushing for the legislature to adopt Second Look legislation, which would give people serving life and long sentences an opportunity to be reviewed for possible release by their sentencing judge. In July, staffers Natalie Holbrook-Combs, Claudia McLean and Pete Martel published [Recommendations for Clemency Process: A Community-Centered Approach](#). Here's their brand new report: [Second Look Update: The 20-Year Compromise](#).



## Midwest Regional Group member to give Cary Lecture on September 9

Midwest Regional Group member Steve Tamari will give the Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 pm CT. He says the four years he lived, studied and worked at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa were pivotal in shaping him as a Quaker. A Palestinian-American, Steve is Emeritus Professor of Middle East and Islamic History at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. [Click to learn more and register online](#).



Anne Discher, left, of Common Good Iowa and Jon Krieg of AFSC Midwest Region deliver Summer EBT petitions to Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds.

## **Thanks to pressure from Friends and others, Iowa to feed more hungry kids**

AFSC is very pleased to share the [news](#) that Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has heard the call from Iowans – including many Friends – to do more to feed hungry kids during the summer months. Jon Krieg, AFSC staff in Des Moines, wrote this [op-ed](#) and helped [deliver a petition](#) to the governor’s office from over 3500 Iowans calling for the state to join the federal SUN Bucks program (formerly known as Summer EBT.) The work in Iowa is part of AFSC’s national [No Hunger Summer](#) campaign.

## **Short takes**

Check out the [July edition](#) of AFSC’s Acting in Faith newsletter.... Learn more about [police repression in the US](#) and how we can speak out against it.... Join AFSC in [calling on your representatives](#) to support an arms embargo against Israel and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza....Read AFSC alum Rabbi Brant Rosen’s latest [blog](#) on protesting genocide at the DNC....Register for a Thursday, Sept. 5, 6 pm CT call with Joyce Ajlouny of AFSC on [Building a Just & Lasting Peace: Perspectives & Experiences of Palestinian Quakers](#).

## **Get social**

Check out AFSC Midwest on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [X](#), formerly known as Twitter. *Thank you!*

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