



AFSC West Region News – April 2025

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.

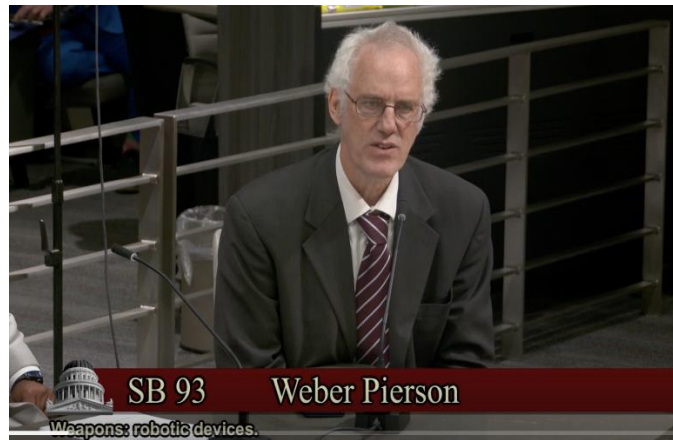


People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Annual farmer gathering celebrates the people who grow our food

The New Mexico program recently convened our 12th annual [Farmer Gathering](#) at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque. More than 30 farmers from Albuquerque, Espanola, Chimayo, Taos Pueblo, Acoma Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo and Zuni Pueblo gathered for two days to share about their farming practices, discuss the impact of climate change and how they are adapting, and build relationships with each other. “One of my favorite farmer gatherings every year – it’s so impactful to learn from other people stewarding the land,” said a farmer from Chimayo.

One session, “Working Toward a New and Universal Solidarity,” acknowledged our new reality and what we need to do in our communities to take care of ourselves. We presented a couple of queries for folks to sit with. We also toured the new Indian Pueblo Entrepreneurial Complex, which can provide a commercial kitchen and cold storage to process their crops.



California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Killer robots reprise

The California legislature's bills continue to swing towards more prison and more power to police. One example is the dangerous SB 93, which authorizes police to weaponize robots. John Lindsay-Poland of AFSC (above) testified at the California Senate hearing to point out the dangers of passing such a law -- especially given many law enforcement agencies fail to comply with state law on transparency around such weapons. Among those that do comply, most give full discretion to police on when and why and how to use such weapons. All Californians deserve due process, and police should not be given the legislative authority to kill anyone by remote-control robot. Please [reach out](#) if you, your organization, or your Meeting want to help stop this dangerous bill.



Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Spring Break Freedom School wraps up three-day gathering

LA Roots for Peace just completed our latest Freedom School April 16-18. The three-day, in-person, intensive, fun and free social justice training involved high school youth in South Central LA. The training explored the roots of oppression as it relates to issues like racial and migrant justice, and militarization in our communities. Stay connected with RFP via [Instagram](#).



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Mother's Day event to celebrate Indigenous Mexican culture

PVI is pleased to announce the 4th Edition of Nu'u Yavi Celebrating Cultural Heritages -Flavors with Love: A Mother's Day Celebration with the Women of the Nu'u Yavi Culinary Heritages Project! The event is set for Friday, May 9 in Madera. People will celebrate the rich flavors and cherished traditions of Indigenous Mexican culture. People will savor delicious, traditional dishes prepared by ancestral Mixtec and Triqui cooks. Events like this create vital public spaces where immigrant communities can build connection, purpose, and a deep sense of belonging. Learn [more](#).



Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Building immigrant power through education

No one should fear being detained or deported. But right now, immigrants across the U.S. face that threat every day in their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. To help people understand and defend their rights, AFSC is holding “Know Your Rights” trainings in many states, including Oregon. In this [interview](#), AFSC's Alonso Oliveros explains how these workshops are equipping immigrants and allies with vital information and building community power.



Photo: Jordan Garcia, AFSC Colorado

Immigrant Rights Program, Denver

Colorado faith leaders release statement on immigration

Colorado interfaith leaders and supporters held a press conference on April 16 to publicly release the [Faith Leader Statement: Truths About Immigration](#). Over 230 interfaith leaders across Colorado -- compelled to speak and promote the truth and counter dehumanizing falsehoods that lead to and foster prejudice, injustice, and oppression within our communities--signed the joint statement proclaiming truths about immigration.



At a press conference denouncing the [El Cajon workplace raid](#) Photo: Pedro Rios

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Speaking truth to power via the media

AFSC staff in San Diego are trusted sources for stories about human rights and self-determination for migrant communities. Recent articles include comments from Benjamin Prado on the [terror faced by immigrant communities](#); Adriana Jasso on the need for people to have a [safe way to present themselves](#) for an asylum claim; and Pedro Rios on the [dangers of sea crossings](#).



A youth works on a lino block print.

67 Sueños, Oakland

Youth examine the power of art for liberation

From [Facebook](#): “Recently our HYPHY (Heal Your People Heal Yourself) Youth learned about the power of Art. We discussed different ways in which Art supports the movement to Liberate Our People and to express our truths. Whether it be stories about our struggles, issues, fights, and wins, Art speaks in all languages. It tells stories without having to use words. After, we ended our session with making Lino Cut prints.”

Portland Friends to screen film on Palestine

[Multnomah Meeting's](#) Quaker Palestine Israel Network (QPIN) is sponsoring a screening of *The Palestine Exception* on Thursday, May 29 at 7 pm at the Clinton Street Theater in Portland. Tickets are \$10 available at the door. Online ticketing information is forthcoming. *The Palestine Exception* tells the story of the largest anti-war movement since the 1970s as students, faculty and staff on campuses across the US demand divestment from companies doing business with Israel and an end to the war on Gaza.

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AFSC Mission Statement: *Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.*