



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

AFSC West Region News – June 2026

Stories of work from around the region

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region newsletter.
Please send feedback to WestNews@afsc.org.



Love as Action event in Berkeley (photo: John Lindsay-Poland)

Declaration of Resistance set for July 4 – Join us!

On July 4, AFSC invites people of faith and conscience across the country to take part in a coordinated national day of action: a Declaration of Resistance. Together, we will commit to protect people and communities, resist authoritarianism, and build an equal and just future.

Each gathering will include a physical Declaration of Resistance—an art piece that participants can sign as part of the event. Together, these signed Declarations will form a visible, collective expression of resistance across the country. [Friends in Seattle](#) are already planning to gather at the Federal Office Building at 11 am.

On June 13-14, AFSC's monthly Love as Action events will include [Reno](#), [San Francisco](#) and [Berkeley](#). For more information or to host your own event, visit [Love as Action](#).



Rose petals top this year's dry acequia (at left) and during a normal year. (photos: Sayrah Namaste)

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Beautiful synchronicities mark San Ysidro Day celebration

A circling eagle, rose petals on baklava, and (ultimately successful) prayers for rain to fill a dry acequia marked this year's celebration of San Ysidro Day in Albuquerque. "Experiences like these fill my heart with gratitude for synchronicities – and a beautiful community to share them all with," [writes](#) Sayrah Namaste of AFSC. Sayrah helps organize this celebration every year.



Delivering flowers and handmade letters to mothers in detention at Otay Mesa (photo: Adriana Jasso)

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Victory! Court rules that detention center must be open to inspections.

A federal judge has ruled that San Diego County officials must be able to inspect the Otay Mesa Detention Facility for health and safety. "This is absolutely a victory not only for immigrants who are detained at this facility, but also for the state of California and potentially for other states as well," [said](#) Pedro Rios of AFSC. Up to 1400 people are detained in the private, for-profit facility run by Core Civic.



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Community gatherings focus on exploration of identity and culture

PVI continues to offer creative workshops and community gatherings to explore identity, belonging, culture, and the personal experiences that shape our relationship with America. “Through storytelling, writing prompts, conversation, movement, and creative activities, participants have the opportunity to reflect, connect, and engage with others in meaningful dialogue,” says Joshua Slack, PVI ArteVism Cultural Organizer. Follow [PVI on Instagram](#).



Oregonians march at the State Capitol in support of immigrants. (photo: Gabriela Flora)

Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Oregonians rally in Salem support of immigrants

Oregon Project Voice and partners joined over 1,500 people at the State Capitol to celebrate International Workers Day (aka May Day) and the Day Without An Immigrant. “People were encouraged to not go to work, school or shop to show the important contributions immigrants make – and that immigrants should not be used as scapegoats for the current US economic landscape,” [writes](#) Alonso Oliveros of AFSC.

Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

Workshop to focus on surveillance and deportation

Join AFSC Colorado on Tuesday, June 23 at 5:30 pm MT/4:30 pm PT for their virtual June *Spotlight On*. The focus will be on the surveillance companies that control the deportation machinery and violate the privacy of all people. The goal is to learn what we can do—and what we have already achieved in Colorado—to protect ourselves as individuals, as a community, and as a state. Register [here](#).



(photo: 67 Sueños)

67 Sueños, Oakland

Youth cohort explores creative spaces

On Facebook, 67 shares this [reel](#) recapping their three-day trip to Santa Cruz that wrapped up their most recent Heal Your People Heal Yourself (HYPHY) experience. The cohort saw beautiful art made by people who are incarcerated. “Education, struggle, love, joy can all exist at the same time,” 67’s organizers say. “We need to continue creating spaces and lifting each other up.”



Roots for Peace staff and allies at their Open House (photo: Jayrol San Jose)

Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Open House builds connections

Roots for Peace hosted a beautiful Open House on May 28 at our community farm. Attendees, including a number of local Friends, shared in the spirit of social justice as it's shown in our youth organizing. People's financial contributions will help Roots for Peace continue this important work in South Los Angeles and beyond. Check out these [photos](#), and stay in touch on [Instagram](#).



Wilson Riles, far left, with AFSC staff and Program Advisory Committee (photo: AFSC)

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Wilson Riles, Jr., Rest in Power

Wilson Riles, Jr., a lifelong advocate and activist for justice, died May 5. Wilson served as regional director of the AFSC Pacific Mountain Region in the 1990s. As *The Oaklandside* [reported](#), “Riles worked to establish a West Oakland credit union, a youth program for Asian girls, and programs for Central Valley farmworkers.” A new book quotes Wilson when he was on the Oakland City Council in 1981 and opposed a new tax for police: “They are beefing up the militaristic police locally, while Reagan is beefing up the military--as if this is the answer! Those who are victims of inflation and crime are those with the heaviest burden to pay under these plans.” (Stuart Shrader, *Blue Power*)

Three actions to take

Tell Congress: [Fund human needs, not war](#)

Tell your Senator: [Pass a Farm Bill to reduce hunger](#)

Tell Congress to [demand lifesaving aid for 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.*