

## **AFSC West Region News – November 2019**

*Highlights of work from around the region*

*Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. We look forward to connecting with you regarding our shared work for peace and justice. Thanks for your interest and support. Please send feedback to [WestNews@afsc.org](mailto:WestNews@afsc.org).*



*"The New Story" mural by 2018 R4P Farmtternship youth*

*Roots for Peace Program, Los Angeles*

### **A love across borders**

"I like to think that my grandma is proud of the person I am becoming," writes Brenda Verano, an intern and program facilitator with AFSC's Roots For Peace (R4P) program in Los Angeles. "I've dreamed of a borderless world, where my family and I are able to grow old together." Read [more](#) as Brenda shares her dreams and explores youth leadership, food sovereignty and finding a place of belonging.

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*Founded in 1917, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is an international Quaker organization that works on many social justice issues, including immigration, mass incarceration, youth civic engagement, and human rights in Palestine/Israel. With programs in 24 states and 15 countries, AFSC engages communities experiencing marginalization in the pursuit of shared security, based not on arms or coercion, but rather on creative nonviolence, sustainable economics and respect for all peoples.*



*People of the Land Program, Albuquerque*

### **Making sure kids win**

“Some students had never tasted a carrot before,” a Head Start cook told AFSC recently. Her school participated in the Great Carrot Crunch Campaign in October, an idea director Sayrah Namaste created after being inspired by the Great Lakes Apple Crunch in the Midwest. The campaign connects small scale organic farmers with preschools, mostly Head Start programs, as well as elementary schools like the Native American Community Academy. Our motto is *Kids Win When Farmers and Schools Work Together*. Read [more](#).



*Arizona Program, Tucson*

### **You still think voting doesn't matter?**

Tell that to Joe Watson of AFSC-AZ, whose vote for president in 2008 as a pretrial detainee from inside a Phoenix jail meant everything to him. Read his latest [blog](#), published on Election Day, November 5. And check out Episode 10 of AFSC-AZ's ReFraming Justice Podcast featuring AFSC's director of Economic Activism Dalit Baum and Alex Friedmann, an activist shareholder and associate director of the [Human Rights Defense Center](#). They discuss big banks divesting from private prisons. Hear the podcast on Spotify, Apple Music, or by clicking [here](#).





*US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego*

### **Border Patrol denies delivery of flu vaccines to detained migrants**

AFSC staff from San Diego joined nurses and health professionals who attempted to deliver flu vaccines recently to the Border Patrol station in San Ysidro. Pedro Rios [explains](#) that CBP continues to spend millions on bullets and that we should [take action](#) for an immediate end to the funding of ICE and CBP's abuses. Pedro's colleague, Adriana Jasso, is featured in this AFSC Changemaker [video](#).



*67 Sueños, Oakland*

### **Marking Indigenous People's Day**

67 Sueños folks held a sunrise ceremony to mark Indigenous People's Day and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the occupation of Alcatraz. For their #DiaDeLxsMuertxs altar, people made a paper mâché coffin and oak tree, which represents Oakland and all its native life. Follow 67 Sueños on [Instagram](#) to catch more of their creative work.



*Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington*

### **Community forum on immigration issues**

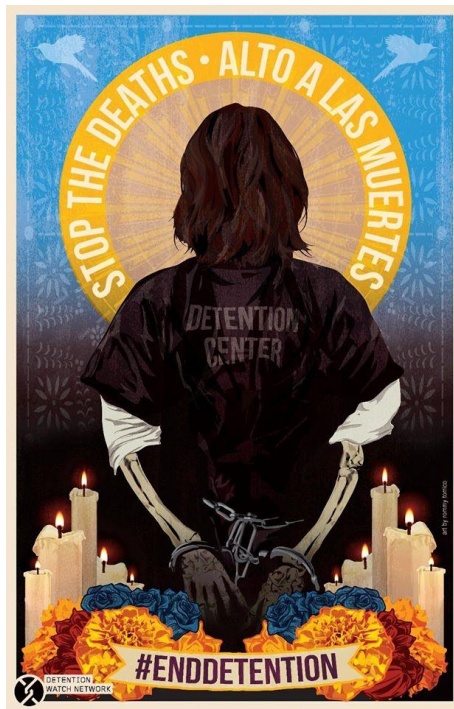
Pedro Sosa (above, third from right), who directs AFSC's Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program in Oregon and Washington, served on a panel at a community forum on Immigration issues with US Senator Jeff Merkley (standing). The forum was organized by [UNETE](#) and the community of Medford. Follow Pedro's inspiring work on [Instagram](#).



*Healing Justice Program, Oakland*

### **Wins for Healing Justice in California**

California Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed two bills into law that AFSC lobbied for. SB 136 (Weiner) repeals a mandatory one-year sentence enhancement added for each prior prison or jail sentence. AB 965 (Stone) allows incarcerated people who were under the age of 26 when they were incarcerated to benefit from educational programs and good behavior credit to earn the opportunity to move their parole hearing date sooner. Read [more](#).



*Immigrant Rights Program, Denver*

## Supporting people in deportation and detention

AFSC's new [Crossing South](#) resource was profiled recently in the [Boulder Weekly](#) and [Latino Rebels](#). Click [here](#) to donate in support of updating and distributing this valuable resource for people facing deportation. AFSC and Coloradoans for Immigrant Rights continue to hold monthly vigils at the for-profit GEO Detention Center. This month, people called upon "our ancestors to guide us as we continue to cast light on and end expanding for-profit detention." And Renato Fierro, a leader in AFSC's Not1More Table, has written this [op-ed](#) on DACA.



*Economic Activism Program, Oakland*

## "Investigate" database adds companies

Check out the latest companies added to the [Investigate](#) database: [Cisco](#) and [Microsoft](#) for their involvement in the Israeli occupation, and [Target Hospitality](#), which specializes in setting up temporary workforce housing camps for fossil fuel companies and also owns ICE's largest [youth and family detention](#) center. AFSC staff Dalit Baum (shown above with colleague Noam Perry) was recently quoted in this [article](#) about GEO Group's efforts at "net widening."





*Pan Valley Institute, Fresno*

## Panelists share stories of migration and belonging at national event

“Like my father I have a dual sense of belonging,” said Minerva Mendoza of PVI at Imagining America’s 20<sup>th</sup> annual gathering. “I have love, concerns, hopes and care for the wellbeing of my communities on both sides of the border. I am equally invested in what happens here, where I have lived for more than half of my life, and in the land where I was born and raised.” Read [more](#).

## Bits and Peaces

Religious leaders who took part in last December’s Love Knows No Borders action [found not guilty!](#)...The [fall issue](#) of Quaker Action includes AFSC Changemakers from Arizona and Colorado....December 3 is Giving Tuesday; please [share](#) your AFSC story and check out AFSC’s updated [Alumni page](#)....Incorporate spiritual practice into your social change work by checking out AFSC’s [Quaker Social Change Ministry](#)....Take action to [cut Pentagon spending](#) and [end felony disenfranchisement](#).

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