

Quaker Action

A CENTURY OF WORKING FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE



**American Friends
Service Committee**

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Quaker Action

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WHO WE ARE

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

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Top: In 1932, Laura Ingalls flew a plane over Philadelphia for the Emergency Peace Campaign to urge a strong "peace plank" in the Democratic platform. Photo: AFSC. Above: In the earliest races of the 2015 presidential primary, AFSC's Governing Under the Influence project compelled candidates to take a stand on peace and justice issues. Photo: AFSC/Jon Krieg

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LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY

COMMON FOLK, not statesmen, nor generals, nor great men of affairs, but just simple plain men and women, can do something to build a better, peaceful world. The future hope of peace lies with such personal sacrificial service. To this ideal, humble persons everywhere may contribute.

—HENRY CADBURY, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF AFSC

My father served 20 years in the military. In World War II as a tail gunner, he did not see the faces of those he may have killed. In Korea as a forward observer calling in artillery targets behind enemy lines, his experience was very different.

Decades after he retired from the military, my father built a diorama of the night in Korea when—perhaps for the only time in his life—he killed a man face-to-face. He had taken a photograph from the dead man that showed him with his wife and a child about my age. He placed that photo on a shelf under the diorama.

I believe my father created the diorama as an act of healing and reconciliation for having taken another life, a life that the photo revealed to be much like his own. Like many soldiers who seem so tough, he was haunted by painful memories.

In the 1940s my father lied about his age, eager to join the Navy and defend his country. But the need for subsequent wars in Korea and Vietnam grew less and less clear to him. By the fall of 2002, he was vehemently opposed to the looming Iraq war.

My father died as the "shock and awe" attack on Baghdad commenced. In his memory, my mother donated his combat boots to "Eyes Wide Open," an AFSC traveling exhibit that displayed a pair of boots

for every soldier killed in Iraq and shoes representing the hundreds of thousands of civilians killed.

The physical wounds of war are easy to see. The psychic wounds can stay buried for years. In wars of counterinsurgency and occupation like Afghanistan and Iraq, many more veterans have looked into the faces of those they killed. As with my father, these experiences can leave deep scars. Today many join the military as a way out of poverty. But no one should have to choose between a decent livelihood and a career that requires one to take another's life or give up one's own.

My commitment to peace and justice began with my experiences as a child of a soldier. AFSC has always provided a community where I—and thousands of others—could put our beliefs into action. We went to Europe during World War I, "the war to end all wars," and quickly realized that binding the wounds of war is not enough. Ever since, we have been dedicated to rooting out the causes of war: poverty, racism, xenophobia, greed.

Our Quaker faith calls us to bear witness, however unpopular that may be.

In 1918, AFSC co-founder Henry Cadbury lost his position at Haverford College for speaking out against the anti-German sentiment that led to the draconian Treaty of Versailles. We helped war-torn Russians

in the 1920s amidst the first "Red Scare" in the U.S. We stood with Japanese-Americans interned during World War II, working to end their unjust detention during a time of fierce nativism.

With your help, we have made a difference in many, many lives and communities over the past century.

Today we stand for fair treatment of immigrants and their families. We stand with communities of color struggling against militarism, police brutality, and mass incarceration. We are guided by their leadership in setting priorities, leaning in where our efforts can have the most impact.

Today—as AFSC approaches its centennial anniversary—we are laying the ground for the next 100 years of courageous actions to address the root causes of war, violence, and injustice. Thank you for joining us as we work for a world in which every life is respected and every community can prosper in peace and justice.



In peace,

Shan Cretin
General Secretary



Willie Colón, senior editor with AFSC, has worked for news outlets and nonprofits in New York, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania. He teaches computer skills and conversational English to Latin American immigrants and volunteers with a Philadelphia nonprofit that uses media to amplify movements for social and economic justice. Profiles of Ann Tickner (page 30), Graciela Martinez (page 15), and Mahed Monem (page 22).



Don Davis has been the archivist for AFSC since 2006, responsible for the collection, organization, and preservation of AFSC records. Don works with scholars and students from all over the world who travel to Philadelphia to utilize AFSC records in their research. He has presented numerous talks on the history of AFSC to U.S. and international audiences. “Then and Now” (page 25).



Nathaniel Doubleday is AFSC’s digital archivist and videographer. Since 2013, he has worked to preserve and catalogue AFSC’s visual and written history for future use. Hailing from Vermont, he moved to Philadelphia after graduating from Bennington College with a degree in art history. “Then and Now” (page 25).



Greg Elliott is AFSC’s Friends Relations associate in Philadelphia. Born and raised in rural Northeastern Pennsylvania, Greg grew up attending North Branch Friends Meeting. He has facilitated workshops for activists and Friends on topics including anti-oppression activism, empire, and the “Inquirer’s Weekend” at Pendle Hill with Trayce Peterson. Profiles of Rufus Jones (page 12) and Clarence Pickett (page 23).



Tony Heriza got involved with AFSC as a campus peace organizer in 1972. He returned to work at AFSC in 2002 and is now director of media production. Tony lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Jane, two cats, and a dog. In his off hours, he produces independent documentary films. “Then and Now” (page 25).



Ilona Kassissieh is AFSC’s advocacy and communications coordinator in Jerusalem. Ilona has worked with the Palestinian NGO Project to empower civil society and has served as head of the Public Information Office at the U.N. Relief and Works Agency. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and three children. Profile of Mahed Monem (page 22).



Joyce Miller served as director of AFSC’s National Community Relations Division. At AFSC, she supported community members in Georgia in pushing school districts to follow federal rules under the Title I program. That work led Joyce to Harvard Law School and years of lawyering on the East Coast. Joyce taught at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and at Bryn Mawr College. Profile of Barbara Moffett (page 20).



Walter Naegle co-authored Friends General Conference’s “Bayard Rustin, The Invisible Activist,” a biography for middle- and high school students. In 2013, he was one of the first LGBT partners to accept a Presidential Medal of Freedom honoring their late partners. He lectures on Bayard’s achievements and values and now works for the New York Yearly Meeting. Profile of Bayard Rustin (page 13).



Mary Norris has worked for or volunteered with AFSC since 1973, when she was hired to direct the Women in Prisons Project for the Northeast region. Mary also served on the National Community Relations Committee, Affirmative Action Planning Task Force and Committee, among others. She and her partner, Joyce Miller, have been together for over 42 years and were married in 2013. Profile of Barbara Moffett (page 20).



Pedro Rios is director of AFSC’s U.S.-Mexico Border Program. He serves on the board of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium, a coalition of over 33 organizations working to support the rights of immigrants. A native San Diegan, Pedro has worked on immigrant rights and border issues for more than 20 years. Profile of Roberto Martinez (page 18).



Madeline Schaefer grew up attending Radnor Monthly Meeting near Philadelphia. Her experiences as part of that warm Quaker community have shaped her spirituality and her life. After five years of working in Philadelphia for various Quaker organizations, including AFSC, she moved to the island of Kauai, where she currently resides. Profile of Alice Resch Synnestvedt and Mary Elmes (page 17).



Wendy Univer is a writer, producer, and communications strategist who has worked with AFSC on the Human Face of War, Eyes Wide Open, and Peace Works. Her independent documentary work has addressed issues such as violence against abortion providers and barriers to dialogue in the American Jewish community regarding Israel and Palestine. “Then and Now” (page 25). ■

Share your AFSC story

Margo Mulvehill Culley traveled to North Carolina in the summer of 1965 to support voter registration drives with AFSC.

Cyrus Johnson served in an AFSC work camp in Mexico in 1983, following in the footsteps of his parents, who had worked in a camp in Peru.

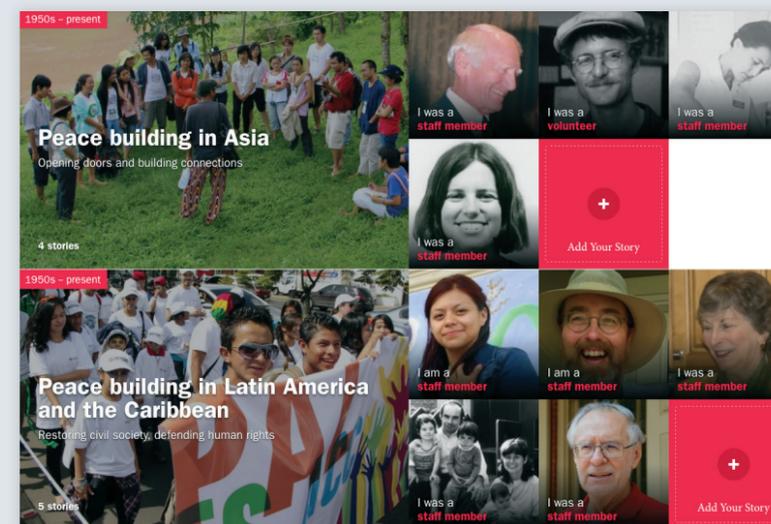
Patricia Long volunteered in 2004 with AFSC’s “Eyes Wide Open” exhibit, which traveled nationwide, reminding millions of people of the human cost of the Iraq war.

These are just a few of the stories of numerous volunteers, activists, supporters, staff, and others who have been part of AFSC’s work for peace and justice over the past century. And they are among dozens of people who have shared their stories on AFSC’s new website, “Peace Works” (peaceworks.afsc.org).

“Peace Works is an online space where anyone can share their stories and experiences with AFSC, whether it was 50 years ago, 20 years ago, or today,” says Tonya Hstand, AFSC’s centennial director.

“People are also welcome to add stories for their parents, grandparents, or others who played a role in AFSC’s history. Through this site, we’re recognizing the contributions of the many people who have made our work possible.”

Visitors to the Peace Works website can read others’ stories, explore AFSC’s history, and view rarely seen archival photographs dating from our founding in 1917 through the decades and social movements since. ■



Our new storytelling website peaceworks.afsc.org

GET STARTED

Adding your story to Peace Works is easy.

1. Visit: peaceworks.afsc.org
2. Click “Tell your story.”
3. Create an account with your name and email.
4. Follow the instructions to complete and submit your story for publication. You can fill out several, if your AFSC involvement spans different times or areas of work.

Want help? Contact peaceworks@afsc.org.



Celebrate with us!

AFSC’s 100th anniversary is coming up in 2017. We hope you’ll join us in commemorating this milestone.

Save the date for:

All of Us United: AFSC’s Summit for Peace and Justice

April 20–23, 2017, Philadelphia
This summit will include workshops for activists, live performances, a gathering for young leaders, an academic symposium on peace and justice movements, and events to bring together alumni of AFSC. All are welcome!

“Waging Peace: 100 Years of Action” traveling exhibition 2017–2018, cities throughout the U.S.

Our new traveling exhibition demonstrates the effectiveness of nonviolence to build justice, overcome oppression, and prevent violence—as told through the powerful stories of those who have confronted injustice over the past century. The interactive exhibit will premiere at the African-American Museum in Philadelphia in January and run through April 2017.

LEARN MORE: afsc.org/100

Supporting the next generation of peacemakers



Twin Cities Freedom School participants in St. Paul, Minnesota. Photo: Nancy Wong

In 2013, AFSC launched Courageous Acts: The Campaign for AFSC's Next Century, a major fundraising effort to strengthen key areas of our work and help to ensure ample resources for peacemakers in generations to come.

"Thanks to generous donors, the campaign is on track to reach our goal of \$40 million by the end of this year," says Shan Cretin, AFSC's general secretary. "It's exciting to see how their support has already helped to make our work more effective and far-reaching."

Funds raised are giving young people more opportunities to develop as social change leaders; supporting innovative projects to promote peace, justice, and security; and growing our endowment to ensure longevity for our work.

Already, the campaign has helped AFSC's Youth Undoing Institutional Racism project expand from Seattle, Washington to St. Louis, Missouri; Charleston, West Virginia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and St. Paul, Minnesota—helping hundreds of youth hone

their anti-racist organizing skills.

And in the lead-up to the first presidential primary races, the campaign helped AFSC's Governing Under the Influence (GUI) project train more than 1,200 volunteers to question presidential candidates about corporate influence on immigrant detention policies and military spending. GUI earned extensive media coverage and compelled candidates to take a public stand, influencing the national conversation on issues of peace and justice.

Support for the endowment means that for decades to come, campaign funds will help new generations of activists expose the social and economic costs of militarism and demonstrate the effectiveness of nonviolent action in securing peace. We are grateful to all of our supporters who have helped to advance this vision through their contributions to AFSC. ■

LEARN MORE: afsc.org/courageousacts

QUIZ

Who said it?

Match the quote to the historical figure and AFSC ally who said it.

- "The American Friends Service Committee has been a source of strength and support to the farm workers' movement for many years and has added to our determination to carry on our struggle for justice."
- "I realized that the American Friends Service Committee was doing work of the type which I was most interested in. ... Their programs of long-time rehabilitation seems to me to fit with a philosophy which I have always held, namely, that while charity may be necessary, our aim should be to get people back to a point where they can look after themselves."
- "I wish I could convey to you the appreciation I have for the very human service which you have performed and the enormous benefits which come from it. I deeply appreciate your undertaking it and the manner in which it has been carried out."
- "Since being in India, I am more convinced than ever before that the method of nonviolent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity."



a. Eleanor Roosevelt



b. Cesar Chavez



c. Martin Luther King, Jr.



d. Herbert Hoover

Answers: 1.b. (in 1974), 2.a. (in 1935), 3.d. (in 1932, referring to AFSC's efforts to feed millions of children in Germany after World War I), 4.c. (in 1959, upon returning from an AFSC-sponsored trip to India to meet with followers of Gandhi)

PEOPLE

Q+A: Beth Hollowell

Communications research director

A cultural anthropologist and self-proclaimed "data nerd," Beth Hollowell conducts research to understand how people view the issues that AFSC works on as well as how they're covered in the media.

Q: Tell us about what you do and why AFSC is interested in communications research.

A: As a peace-building organization, we're constantly challenging narratives that justify war and violence around the world. In the U.S., we're bombarded daily with violent news stories and images. At the same time, public opinion about important issues—like war in the Middle East—often mirrors what we see in the news or on TV. For example, with increased coverage of violent acts by ISIS, we've also seen increased support in public opinion polls for "doing something" militarily in the Middle East. Our goal is to understand U.S. media and public opinion landscapes around AFSC's issues so that we can change those environments for the better.

Q: What have you learned from your research?

A: Here's one example: Last year, we did a study to understand how North Korea was covered in U.S. media. The coverage was terrible. Overwhelmingly, U.S. media outlets portray North Korea as a joke, as a threat, as insane, as the "bad guy" in a "good guy vs. bad guy" drama, as a nation that victimizes people, and as a nation that can be saved by capitalism. What was surprising, however, was how much worse the coverage of peace advocacy around North Korea was. Peace advocates, including partner organizations that AFSC works with, were depicted as misguided and treacherous.

Q: How does AFSC use that kind of knowledge to change the narrative around issues like North Korea?

A: Fortunately, our research on North Korea also showed some opportunities. We found outlets that portrayed North Koreans as humans, and that were open to telling a different kind of story. That information has helped AFSC staff further develop their media strategy. We also used a similar approach to evaluate how effective our communications were during AFSC's Governing Under the Influence project, which raised awareness about corporate influence on public policy early in the presidential primaries.

Q: Recently, you led the research for AFSC's new report "Mixed Messages: How the Media Covers 'Violent Extremism' and What You Can Do about It." What were the findings?

A: We found that 90 percent of the time, news stories about extremism mention Islam, even in several cases when Muslims aren't involved. They cover violent responses to conflict five times more than they cover nonviolent responses. This means that media coverage paints a picture for U.S. news consumers that links Islam to extremism—and extremism to violent conflict and military intervention. If this is the story that people see every time they turn on the news, it's no wonder that Islamophobia and support for military intervention in the Middle East are both on the rise, as we've seen in public opinion polls.

Q: What can people do to reverse the trend?

A: Our report offers concrete recommendations for journalists and advocates who want to work together to change this narrative, from telling stories that highlight the humanity of individual Muslims to providing substantive news coverage of peace-building efforts. ■

SEE THE MIXED MESSAGES REPORT: afsc.org/mixedmessages



Photo: AFSC/Carl Rouse

100 YEARS OF WAGING PEACE

OVER THE PAST CENTURY, AFSC has often been on the forefront of social change movements, carrying out work that many considered experimental and sometimes taking unpopular stands on controversial issues. We've joined communities around the globe in struggling against systems of oppression and in working for a world that respects the value and dignity of every person.

We've responded to violence by working with people on all sides of conflict, helping conscientious objectors uphold their commitment to nonviolence, and supporting community-led efforts to lay foundations for lasting peace.

Looking back on the work we have done together, we're proud to have stood on the right side of history through many difficult times. And we're ready to take on the challenges that the next 100 years will bring. ■



1917

AFSC was founded in Philadelphia in response to an urgent need for conscientious objectors to find alternatives to military service during World War I. Soon after, AFSC created a program to feed thousands of children in Germany and Austria.

1922

AFSC established a feeding program that would help thousands of Appalachian coal miners and their families as the need grew in the years ahead. AFSC also encouraged miners to take up furniture making and other trades, helping to create the Mountaineer Craftsmen's Cooperative Association.



1925

AFSC spoke out against the U.S. Immigration Act of 1924, a discriminatory policy that barred immigration from Japan. Our publication "Exclusion: Its Cause and Cure" outlined the roots of racism and the contributions that Japanese-Americans had made to the U.S. economy.



1933

In its earliest efforts to address racism in the U.S., AFSC started the annual Institute of Race Relations at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and created work camps, including several in the South, that were integrated.



1938

AFSC's efforts to assist the victims of World War II began when AFSC representatives traveled to Nazi Germany in an attempt to secure the release of persecuted Jews. The organization maintained offices in Europe throughout the war, eventually helping over 20,000 individuals and families make their way to safety.



1941

AFSC publicly opposed the U.S. internment of Japanese-Americans while visiting and providing material aid to people interned. The organization established two programs to get people out of camps, eventually securing the release of more than 4,000 individuals.



1944

As part of World War II relief and reconstruction in Europe, AFSC set up milk stations and provided food to orphanages, prisons, refugee camps, and homes for the elderly.



1947

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to AFSC and the British Friends Service Council, representing all Friends and their work worldwide to heal rifts and oppose war.

1948

In response to a United Nations request, AFSC began administering relief for refugees in Gaza, setting up clinics in refugee camps, supporting local hospitals, and starting a midwifery program to train dozens of women.



1952

As part of war relief in Korea, AFSC assisted in reconstructing homes and hospitals and feeding thousands of children.



1955

AFSC published "Speak Truth to Power: A Quaker Search for an Alternative to Violence," which called for peaceful solutions to end the Cold War.

1958

At the request of the United Nations, AFSC began working in Africa, providing aid to Algerian War refugees.

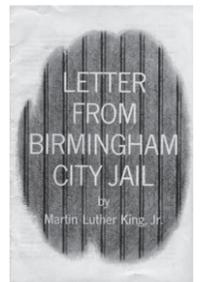


1959

AFSC sponsored the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King on a visit to India, which connected them with the people and places associated with Mahatma Gandhi and strengthened their commitment to nonviolent action.

1960s

AFSC operated halfway houses and pre-trial programs for people who couldn't afford bail, seeing firsthand how the criminal justice system inflicted disproportionate harm on the poor and people of color.



1963

AFSC published Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham City Jail."

1960

Rather than comply with a court order to desegregate public schools, Prince Edward County in Virginia shut down its entire school district and opened private schools for white children. In response, AFSC organized host communities willing to welcome displaced Black students into their homes and schools in other parts of the country.



1965

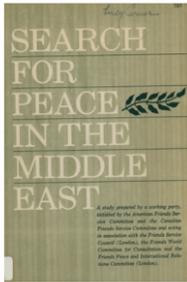
During the Vietnam War, AFSC began conducting fact-finding missions to Vietnam, sharing that information with the U.S. public and policymakers to build support for an end to the war. AFSC also provided medical aid and assistance to civilians on all sides of the conflict in Vietnam, and in the U.S., offered draft counseling to thousands of young men.





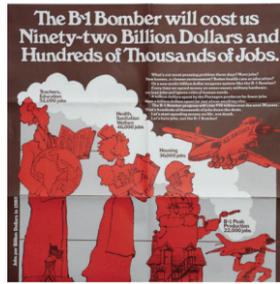
1970

During the fishing rights battles in the Pacific Northwest, AFSC published the book "Uncommon Controversy," which helped shift public opinion in favor of Native rights.



1970

In its publication "Search for Peace in the Middle East," AFSC established itself as one of the earliest U.S. organizations calling for Palestinian rights.



1973

AFSC and other faith groups led a high-profile nationwide campaign to stop the development of the B-1 bomber system, engaging hundreds of volunteers and putting immense public pressure on elected officials. The campaign had a small period of success in 1977 when President Jimmy Carter canceled production of the B-1 bomber.



1980

AFSC played a lead role in creating the Nuclear Freeze Campaign, a massive nationwide movement that demanded an end to the development of nuclear weapons. The movement mobilized millions of people and moved government officials, including President Ronald Reagan, to call for arms control.

1985

As part of the movement to end apartheid, AFSC's Atlanta office launched a nationwide boycott of Coca-Cola.



1986

The Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject was awarded to "Witness to War," a film produced by AFSC. The film told the story of Dr. Charlie Clements, who, after being discharged from the U.S. Air Force for reasons of conscience, went on to work as a physician in the midst of El Salvador's civil war.

1986

AFSC established its first LGBT program in Seattle. The office later created the Bridges Project, an informational clearinghouse for LGBT youth and the organizations that served them.



1987

AFSC's Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Program became one of the first efforts to address human rights abuses by the U.S. Border Patrol.



1995

In southwest Haiti, AFSC constructed the area's first health clinic, which served 40,000 people.



1997

In the midst of a famine in North Korea, AFSC began working with farmers in the country to help them learn sustainable agricultural practices and increase food production.

2001

AFSC responded to the 9/11 attacks with the No More Victims campaign, which called for justice, not retaliation.



2001

AFSC's Tyree Scott Freedom School was launched in Seattle, educating youth in anti-racist frameworks and preparing them to take action for social change in their schools and communities. The model has since expanded to multiple U.S. cities where AFSC works.

2002

AFSC's immigration programs across the U.S. came together as Project Voice, laying out a strategy and principles for achieving immigration reform that recognized the dignity and equality of all people.



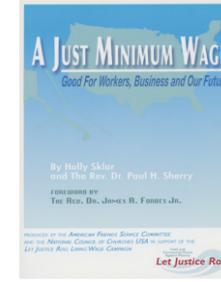
2003

AFSC's "Life Over Debt Campaign" mobilized activists across the U.S. to demand that nations cancel the debts of struggling African nations without harmful requirements.



2004

Drawing millions of visitors, AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" traveling exhibit illustrated the human cost of war in Iraq by displaying a pair of combat boots for U.S. service members and civilians killed.



2009

"Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign," a coalition effort co-founded by AFSC, played a significant role in raising the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.



2011

As people in Burundi struggled to heal after a civil war that ended in 2005, AFSC supported local leaders and communities in creating a truth and reconciliation commission.



2013

In California, 30,000 prisoners took part in a hunger strike in protest of solitary confinement, following earlier hunger strikes at Pelican Bay State Prison. AFSC's Laura Magnani helped represent prisoners in negotiations with the state. The strikes led to improvements at state prisons, and in 2015, California announced that it would overhaul its use of solitary confinement.

2015

In the earliest races for the presidential primaries, AFSC launched the Governing Under the Influence project, which trained more than 1,200 volunteers to question candidates about key peace and justice issues—earning extensive media coverage and compelling candidates to take a public stand on the issues.



COURAGE & CONSCIENCE

It takes tremendous courage to stand up for peace, justice, and equality. Throughout AFSC's history, countless individuals have taken risks—sometimes facing public censure, prison time, or even personal harm—to overcome injustice through nonviolent action. Here are just some of the people who have shaped—and continue to influence—AFSC's legacy.



RUFUS JONES

Laying the foundation for the Service Committee

BY GREG ELLIOTT

Rufus Jones holds a singular place in the history of the Religious Society of Friends, which he preferred to call a “movement” rather than a religion. Words have been written about him that seem almost implausibly lofty – “the greatest spiritual teacher ... since William James,” “the greatest Quaker since the founders of our Society,” and “one of the greatest men of his time.”

Looking at his resume, one begins to understand the praise—author of over 50 books and numerous articles and pamphlets, 41 years as a professor at Haverford College, and the co-founder of Five Years Meeting, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the American Friends Service Committee. He was a “teacher, preacher, lecturer, organizer, world traveler, author, statesman, and diplomat.” Rufus can even be credited with the popularization of the now famous George Fox quote that there is “that of God” in

everyone—now a central tenet of North American, liberal Quakerism and one of the spiritual foundations of AFSC.

But it was not Rufus' intention to play such a major role in AFSC when he originally accepted the position as its first chairman in 1917. It was only three weeks after the start of World War I, and Rufus was a full-time professor at Haverford College. He agreed to serve as chairman, “providing it did not demand too much of his time.” Later, his daughter, Mary Hoxie Jones, commented, “The condition of his acceptance is amusing for there was hardly a day for many years when he was not involved in some service for the AFSC.”

With Rufus' persistent efforts, he was able to convince the U.S. military to recognize AFSC as an alternative to military service in World War I for conscientious objectors. AFSC sent its first group of conscientious objectors and volunteers to France to do relief work related to food, housing, and medical care.

Throughout his tenure as chairman and honorary chairman,

Rufus also oversaw and initiated relief work in Russia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Germany, China, Palestine, Spain, Mexico, and also domestically through the work camp program. He was a consummate statesman, and he gave the fledgling Service Committee a level of credibility that it otherwise would not have had. Rufus' approach to relief work and alternative service laid the foundation for AFSC's current international programs and built trust across the globe for AFSC as a steadfast partner for peace and justice.

With all the great writing that Rufus did in his lifetime, it only makes sense to give him the final word: “Someday—not too far off, I hope—the storms of battle will be over and the fogs of hate will pass, and then there will come the most important world-building tasks we have ever known for a restored humanity, relighting the lamps that have gone out. It will call for faith and hope and love as well as wisdom, and it will call for persons who can be to the Eternal God what a man's hand is to a man.”

BAYARD RUSTIN

Struggling for civil and human rights for all people

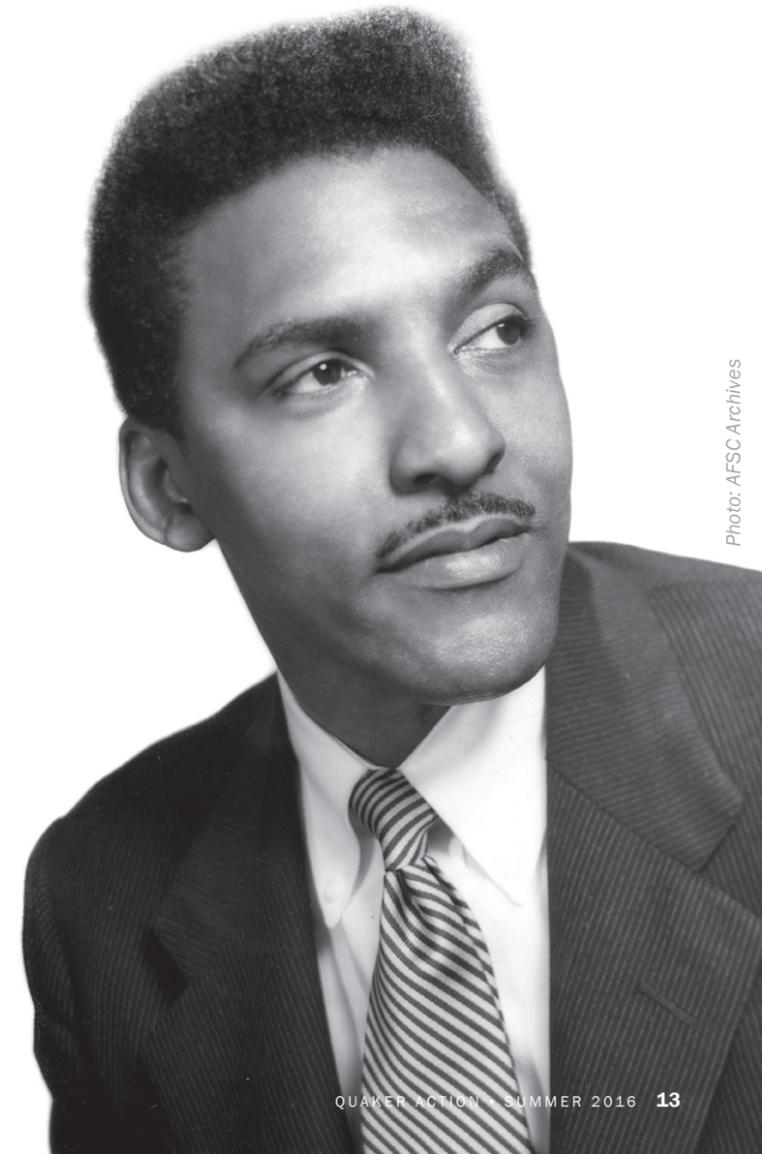
BY WALTER NAEGLER

The summer of 1963 was a tense and brutal time in the deep South. Protests against racial segregation were widespread, and NAACP leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi.

A serious and religious teenager in suburban New Jersey, I was intrigued by the nonviolent African-American struggle and sickened by images of people—some my own age—being arrested, beaten, and even killed merely for exercising their right to peaceful protest. A week before I started high school, an event occurred that restored—at least momentarily—the hope that our nation could overcome its racial divisions.

That event was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and it was the first time I'd heard the name Bayard Rustin, who was instrumental in organizing this historic event. I couldn't know that 14 years later, Bayard and I would become life partners, sharing much happiness rooted in the values of our early religious training.

As the Aug. 28 march approached, I remember seeing Bayard appear frequently in the press—handsome, harried, and



articulate. He was usually identified as the “genius” behind the march, but he was also attacked publicly by such figures as Sen. Strom Thurmond and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Although an important leader in the movement for civil rights and peace, he was often marginalized because he was a gay man, unashamed and open at a time when same-sex relations were criminalized and classified as a psychological disorder.

A young organizer influenced by Friends and AFSC, Bayard’s unwavering commitment to nonviolence and equality can be traced to his childhood in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was raised by his grandparents. He was profoundly influenced by the values and activism of his grandmother, Julia Davis Rustin, who had attended a Quaker school and whose mother was employed by a Quaker family. Bayard’s own journey as a nonviolent activist began as a high school student, organizing local protests against segregation.

Bayard became involved with AFSC in 1937, when he took part in an AFSC-sponsored activist training at Cheyney State Teachers College. The training broadened his worldview as participants from around the country discussed economics and class—in addition to racial or ethnic differences—as roots of conflict. That summer, he served as an AFSC “peace volunteer” in central New York, spending his days working with farmers, and his evenings and weekends speaking on behalf of peace. In 1941, he was the sole Black member of an AFSC delegation investigating the plight of conscientious objectors in Puerto Rico.

Working with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and AFSC in the 1940s, Bayard traveled around the country to address racism, colonialism, and conflict, joining campaigns to protest the internment of Japanese Americans and support India’s struggle against British rule. As a conscientious objector, he spent two years in prison for refusing cooperation with the Selective Service Act. Soon after his release, he returned to the road, sharing accounts of his prison experiences and addressing the new threat of atomic annihilation.

In 1954, as the Cold War escalated, Bayard was among a group of men who authored AFSC’s influential document “Speak Truth to Power,” which called for nonviolent alternatives to end the crisis. Although Bayard was an important member of the group, he

asked that his name be omitted from the publication, fearing that his recent arrest on a morals charge would be used to discredit the document and its message. It wasn’t until 2012—the year that Bayard would have turned 100—that AFSC restored his name to the publication, issuing an apology for its original omission.

Nonviolence in the struggle for civil rights

In 2013, on the centennial anniversary of the March on Washington, numerous articles lauded Bayard as a key strategist in the Civil Rights Movement while acknowledging how he had been “kept in the background” because of his sexual orientation and his radical beliefs.

But in his decades of activism, Bayard was a powerful voice for equality that moved audiences. He often led them in local protests and deliberately courted arrest through nonviolent direct action. In 1947, for instance, he helped organize the “first Freedom Ride”—challenging segregation on interstate buses over a decade before the term was ever used—and served 22 days on a North Carolina chain gang.

“We need in every community a group of angelic troublemakers!” he once said. “The only weapon we have is our bodies, and we need to tuck them in places so that wheels don’t turn.”

In 1956, Bayard traveled to Alabama to work with organizers of the nascent Montgomery Bus Boycott. His experience mounting nonviolent protests made him a close and influential adviser to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also served as a liaison between the movement’s leadership and the Quaker community, arranging Dr. King’s first meetings with Friends.

Following the successful civil rights legislation of the ’60s, Bayard devoted more attention to issues that he had worked on in the 1940s: human rights and economic justice for all people.

His activism would remain inextricably linked to his Quaker values and upbringing. Speaking at a rally for gay rights

not long before his death, Bayard said, “We are all one, and if we don’t know it we will learn it the hard way.”

Walter Naegle was Bayard Rustin’s partner and co-author of “Bayard Rustin, The Invisible Activist.”

“We need in every community a group of angelic troublemakers!” he once said. “The only weapon we have is our bodies, and we need to tuck them in places so that wheels don’t turn.”

GRACIELA MARTINEZ

A lifetime of support for farmworker rights and dignity

BY WILLIE COLÓN

For more than 50 years, Graciela Martinez has supported efforts to uphold the rights and dignity of farmworkers. She ranks the years she spent with AFSC’s Proyecto Campesino (Farm Labor Program) in Visalia, California, among the most important in her life.

In 1997, Graciela was looking for a full-time job after years of running a paralegal business. Her search led her to Proyecto Campesino, which from 1955 to 2015 provided direct services to farmworkers as well as helping them advocate more effectively for better work and living conditions.

“I picked up the newspaper and opened to the help-wanted section,” Graciela remembers. “I felt like something grabbed my neck and took me straight to an ad for a program assistant for Proyecto Campesino. I got an application, and I knew that job was mine.”

Graciela had actually worked with Proyecto Campesino over 30 years earlier, and knew firsthand about the struggles of farmworkers and their families.

As a girl, Graciela spent summers as a farmworker alongside

her mother. When she graduated from high school in 1964, she joined Proyecto Campesino. There, she helped establish AFSC’s Self-Help Housing Program—which worked with low-income farmers to develop a sense of community and construct their own homes—as an independent organization.

At that time, AFSC was also supporting the struggle to establish the United Farm Workers (UFW), and Graciela was introduced to influential labor leaders and civil rights activists Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. In 1965, Graciela went to work for the UFW, providing administrative support to the legal department and Cesar Chavez.

“Their work to make the life of farm workers better resonated with me since I come from a family of farm workers,” Graciela says. “I saw firsthand the type of abuses that occur out in the fields and even as a very young child I didn’t like to see my mother humiliated in front of me, because to me she was my God, my world revolved around her.”

When Graciela returned to AFSC in 1997, one of her first assignments was to assist with a taskforce focused on relief efforts for farmworkers left jobless by a devastating freeze that year. “AFSC’s role was to make sure that undocumented farmworkers were covered by relief efforts, too,” she recalls.

Several years later, she became the program’s first female director. In that capacity, she led local efforts to support AFSC’s nationwide No Human Being Is Illegal campaign, which pushed for comprehensive immigration reform. The program also expanded its citizenship classes and responded to almost daily requests for help from farmworkers as they struggled to overcome language and economic barriers to access services and deal with harassment by local law enforcement.

Today, Graciela serves as clerk of the Visalia Friends Meeting. She’s also a member of the AFSC Corporation and sits on the board of Self-Help Enterprises—the organization she helped establish in the 1960s.

Looking back, Graciela says she feels blessed to have worked with Proyecto Campesino in support of farmworkers’ rights. “It was,” she says, “the most meaningful job of my career.”

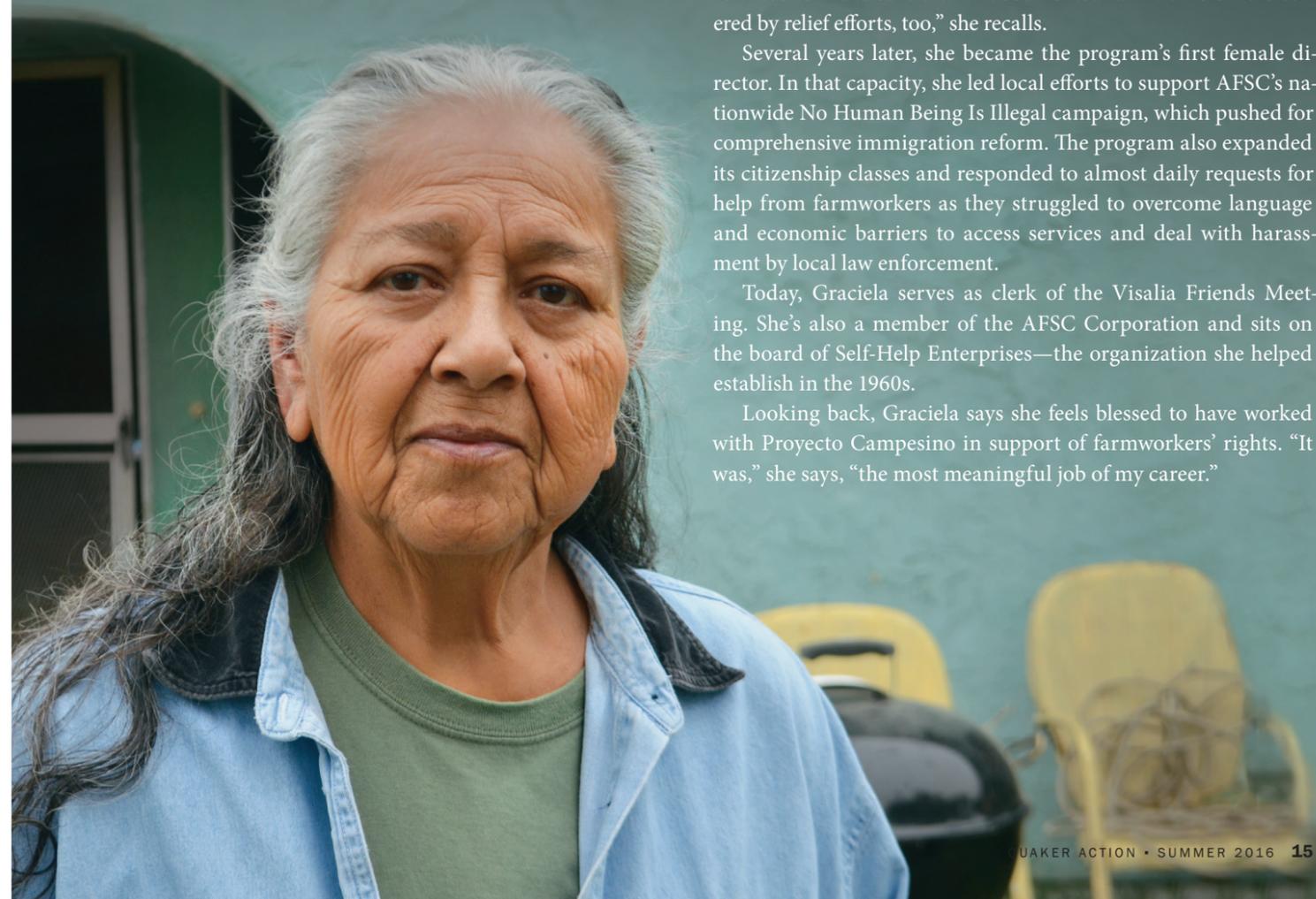


Photo: AFSC/Eduardo Stanley

MARJORIE NELSON

Showing compassion and humanity in war

BY RONNA BOLANTE

During the Vietnam War, Marjorie Nelson—a 28-year-old doctor from Indiana—worked at AFSC’s Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center in Vietnam. The facility provided physical therapy and prosthetics to people in the community, as well as day care for refugee children.

In the course of her service, Marjorie was taken as a prisoner of war. But the accounts she shared of her experience in captivity reminded U.S. audiences of the value of recognizing the humanity in all people, even in times of conflict.

It happened in late January 1968, when Marjorie took a much-needed vacation to the city of Hué during the Tet holiday. Soon after her arrival, Marjorie and the teacher she was staying with, Sandra Johnson, disappeared. They had been caught in the U.S. bombing of Hué, taking refuge in a bomb shelter in Sandra’s house during the first few days of the Tet Offensive.

When National Liberation Front soldiers arrived at Sandra’s home, they told the women, “When there is peace, you will be returned to your families.” The soldiers took them into the mountains west of Hué, where they joined other POWs, both American and Vietnamese, in prisoner camps.

The two women were released on March 31. Marjorie and Sandra had to endure some cold, rainy nights sleeping outside and trekking through the jungle with little food or water, but they were never harmed during their two months in captivity. And despite U.S. news stories reporting their inhumane capture and treatment, Marjorie made it known publicly that they had been treated with kindness by the soldiers.

“The night before [we were released], the soldiers had a farewell party for us where we ate peanut brittle and drank tea,” Marjorie says. “They had many questions about what life was like in America. ‘What crops do you raise there?’ ‘Do you mainly cook with wood or coal?’” Upon her release, the soldiers even returned her purse to her.

During Marjorie’s detention, AFSC had paused its work in Quang Ngai but resumed it in May of that year. Marjorie flew home to the United States soon after her release, but just six-and-a-half months later, returned to Vietnam, finishing out her two-year commitment in Quang Ngai.

In addition to her work at the rehabilitation center, Marjorie started a ward in the hospital for patients with spinal cord injuries. She also paid weekly doctor’s visits to a local prison. Many people in the facility were Vietnamese political prisoners and their family members, including women who were pregnant and needed prenatal care.

Today—nearly 50 years later—the impact of Marjorie’s work with AFSC is still apparent in Quang Ngai.

“After the war, the new government offered our local staff jobs in the Qui Nhon Rehabilitation Center [about 100 miles away], which most of them accepted,” she says. “Two of them later opened a branch center back in Quang Ngai province, where they could continue to serve our former patients. I was delighted to find when I visited in 2008 that they were in turn training a young man in the making of prostheses and braces. The service goes on.”

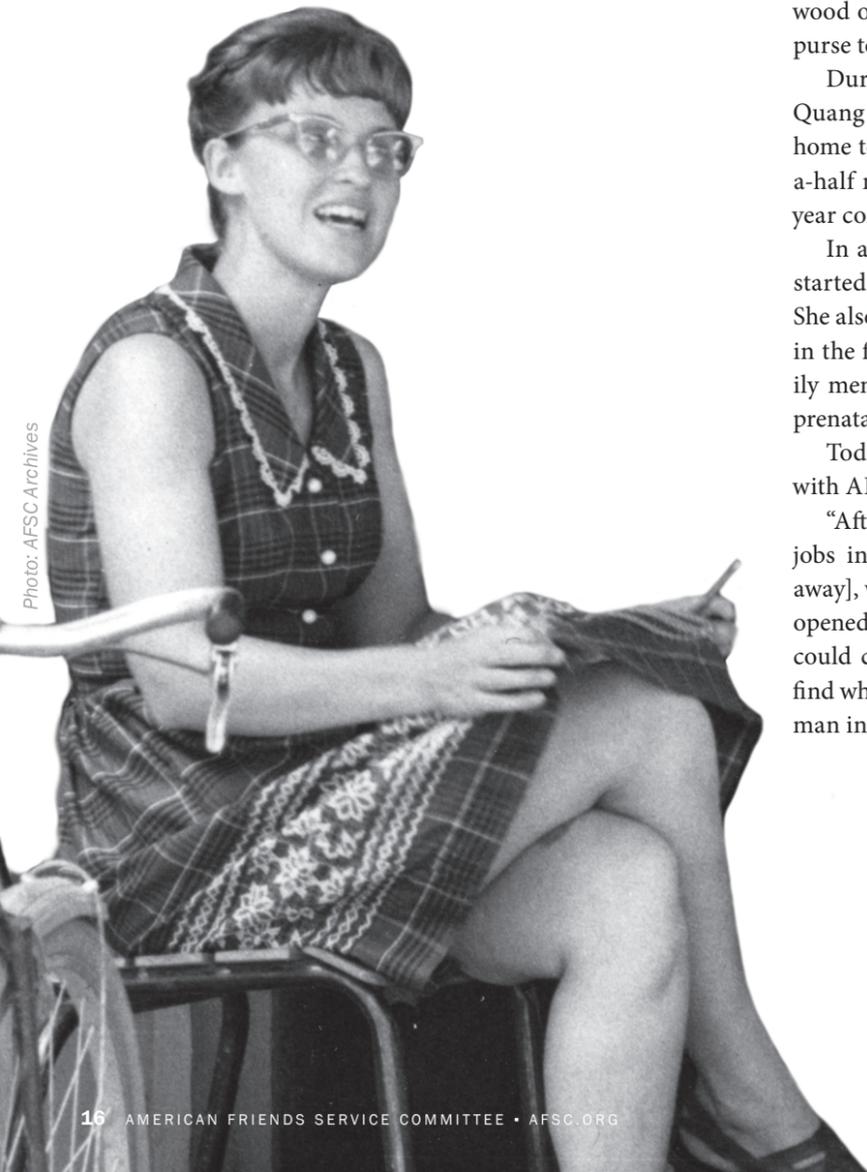


Photo: AFSC Archives

BILL SUTHERLAND

Building support for the African countries struggling for independence

BY RONNA BOLANTE

For over 50 years, Bill Sutherland was an activist for African liberation struggles, building international support for ending apartheid and serving as a critical link for people in the U.S. to those movements. Born in New Jersey, Bill spent much of his life living in Ghana and Tanzania, dispatching frequent reports and speaking to crowds across the United States.

As a conscientious objector during World War II, Bill was sentenced to four years in prison for refusing military service. After his release, he traveled through Europe speaking out against war.



Photo: AFSC Archives

His interest in the African liberation movement was sparked during this time, when he met young African students who were passionate about the cause.

As AFSC’s South African representative from 1975 to 1982, Bill shaped AFSC’s response to the needs of countries struggling to break free of colonial rule. His highly publicized speaking tours across the United States drew attention from across racial and ideological lines, fostering solidarity with South Africans working to end apartheid. He also connected AFSC to anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who received the Nobel Peace Prize after being nominated by AFSC in 1984.

Bill also served, in his own words, “as a bridge between the African American movements and the African movements.” He was instrumental in bringing the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., to Ghana upon its independence and in encouraging key organizations in the African liberation movement to support the March on Washington, which was organized in large part by his friend and fellow conscientious objector Bayard Rustin.

In 2000, Bill authored the book “Guns and Gandhi in Africa: Pan-African Insights on Nonviolence, Armed Struggle and Liberation.” In the book’s foreword, Desmond Tutu wrote: “Bill has distinguished himself as a vital ally to our cause, and as a friend. In his capacity as an expatriate, living all these years on the frontlines in Tanzania, Bill has provided hospitality, support, and encouragement for untold numbers of people the world over, demonstrating the truest of African spirits.”

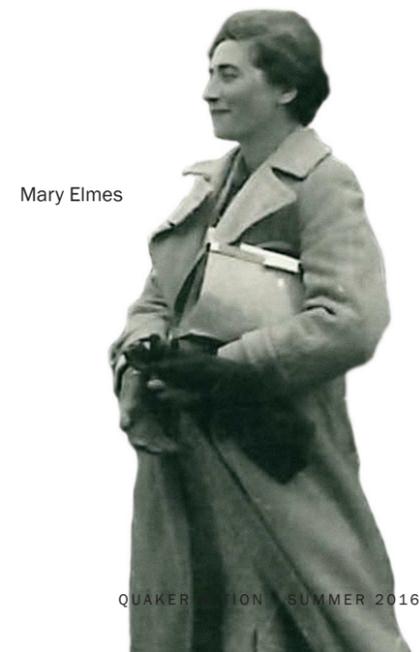
ALICE RESCH SYNNESTVEDT & MARY ELMES

Rescuing countless children during World War II

BY MADELINE SCHAEFER

Both born in 1908, Alice Resch Synnestvedt and Mary Elmes grew up in different worlds but later established a close correspondence of service and resistance.

In a time of increasing European tension, both women felt the call to protect the lives of children threatened by oppressive regimes. Alice, who spent most of her childhood in the Norwegian countryside, became a nurse after visiting the American Hospital



Mary Elmes

Photo: AFSC Archives

of Paris. Mary, who grew up on the Cork coast of Ireland, joined the University of London Ambulance Unit in war-torn Spain.

AFSC had established itself as a nongovernmental organization in Germany and France while doing relief work after World War I, and was able to provide support to prisoners at the start of World War II. Alice joined those AFSC efforts in France, working with the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children (USCOM), which was founded by AFSC Executive Secretary Clarence Pickett in 1940.

With USCOM, Alice worked to improve living conditions in the Gurs internment camp in southern France. While providing medical support to the prisoners, Alice would send covert buses filled with Jewish children to another nurse—Mary Elmes—in a neighboring town, where Mary would gather the papers and coordinate the evacuation of those children to safety in the United States.

Over the course of their working relationship in the early 1940s, Alice and Mary exchanged numerous letters, primarily about the fate of the children under their care. “Dear Mary,” Alice wrote in 1942, “One seems to swim in USCOM children just for the moment.”

Despite concerns for their own safety—including Mary’s brief stint in Fresnes prison near Paris where she was suspected of assisting escapees but was never charged—Mary and Alice worked tirelessly to ensure the survival of dozens of children.

Decades later, several of those survivors searched for and found Alice and Mary, eager to thank them for aiding them in escaping an uncertain fate. “What you did was indeed such a heroic act that words alone are not enough,” wrote one survivor, Al Sperber, to Alice in 1998. “The Talmud says that those who save one life save the world. And you and your organization did just that.”

Alice Resch Synnestvedt



Photo: “Over the Highest Mountains: A Memoir of Unexpected Heroism in France during World War II”

ROBERTO MARTINEZ

Pioneering human rights advocacy in U.S.-Mexico border communities

BY PEDRO RIOS

Roberto Martinez was a trailblazer in his uncompromising dedication to protecting human rights for the most marginalized members of border communities in the U.S. As director of AFSC’s U.S.-Mexico Border Program, Roberto set a precedent for many working to address systemic flaws in how governments interact with civil society.

Soon after joining AFSC in 1983, he transformed the U.S.-Mexico Border Program from a research center to an office that actively monitored law enforcement agencies and documented civil and human rights abuses in immigrant and border communities. Under his leadership, AFSC in San Diego became known for its relentlessness in holding law enforcement agencies, with their often unchecked power, accountable for their actions.

I met Roberto at a San Diego conference on immigration in 1994. During this tense time in California, voters were considering the anti-immigrant Proposition 187, which sought to deny

health, social, and educational services to those “suspected” of being in the country without legal status. Roberto and I presented together on human rights and justice, and as a student, I admired his humble but steadfast disposition in such unsettling times.

Roberto was already organizing against police brutality when he joined AFSC. In eastern San Diego County, he challenged sheriffs and hate groups who terrorized Mexican families. Through AFSC, Roberto continued to bear witness to the impunity of law enforcement, at times bringing unwanted attention, even risk, to himself. Roberto once said: “Human rights work is still very dangerous. I have received death threats from the Ku Klux Klan, the White Aryan Resistance, from the militia. I’ve had my office broken into. I’ve had to move my office twice, my home once.”

In addressing the growing militarization of border communities in the 1980s, Roberto ensured that the voices and concerns of affected community members were brought into discussions on

Through AFSC, Roberto continued to bear witness to the impunity of law enforcement, at times bringing unwanted attention, even risk, to himself. “Human rights work is still very dangerous. I have received death threats from the Ku Klux Klan, the White Aryan Resistance, from the militia. I’ve had my office broken into. I’ve had to move my office twice, my home once.”

policies and responses. This was especially true in his work with farm workers and day laborers, who were commonly seen as a disposable work force and easily exploitable. For example, AFSC’s Migrant Outreach Project, which Roberto spearheaded, included former farm workers who shaped how AFSC responded to the needs of these communities.

Roberto was instrumental in developing a systematized human rights monitoring project that elevated concerns over abusive Border Patrol practices to the international level. This methodology was replicated across the U.S.-Mexico border, later becoming AFSC’s nationally recognized Immigration and Law Enforcement Monitoring Project. In 1992, Roberto became the first U.S. citizen to be honored as an International Human Rights Monitor by Human Rights Watch for pioneering human rights advocacy in border communities.

Throughout the 1990s, Roberto continued to address problems with policies that increasingly led to hundreds of migrant deaths at the U.S.-Mexico border. Roberto testified before the U.S. Congress on violence at the border, and he insisted on the need to address the economic root causes of migration. In 2001, Roberto retired after 18 years of service with AFSC, and he passed away in 2009.

AFSC’s U.S.-Mexico Border Program continues to advocate for transparency and accountability in immigration and border enforcement policies. It’s a powerful testament that Roberto’s legacy lives on in the hundreds of advocates who assert their dignity in immigrant and border communities across the U.S.

Pedro Rios is director of AFSC’s U.S.-Mexico Border Program.



Photo: AFSC Archives

BARBARA MOFFETT

Supporting struggles for justice

BY JOYCE MILLER AND MARY NORRIS

For nearly 40 years, Barbara Moffett was the director of AFSC's National Community Relations Division, shaping much of the organization's work on civil and human rights and economic justice until she died in 1994.

We had the good fortune to work with her as AFSC staff members in that time.

Under Barbara's leadership, the division supported local leaders and people in poor and marginalized communities throughout the U.S., serving as a resource in the movement for civil rights as well as in struggles for the rights of Native Americans, immigrants, prisoners, farm workers, LGBT people, and the list goes on. These struggles often overlapped, and the need for economic justice pervaded many of them.

Barbara was key in developing AFSC's approach to all of this work. During her tenure, AFSC defined itself as an organization that didn't lead movements against oppression but rather quietly

supported individuals and communities in their struggles. She ensured that AFSC's advocacy work grew from the needs and experiences expressed by community members—helping to strengthen AFSC's reputation for respecting local people and their efforts, embodying integrity and consistency, and often affecting broad public policy.

A former newspaper reporter, Barbara was skilled at building relationships with a range of coalitions, organizations, and individuals, which were critical to AFSC's contributions to movements and communities.

In 1963, Barbara was instrumental in one of the major events of the Civil Rights Movement. Andrew Young, a leader in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, asked Barbara if AFSC would print a letter written by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was in jail in Alabama. A group of white clergymen had openly criticized his controversial tactics, and, in response, Dr.

King had written a letter that outlined why nonviolent direct action was often the only way to open hearts to change.

At Barbara's urging, AFSC's board agreed to print 10,000 copies of "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," which became a seminal document in the Civil Rights Movement and galvanized the religious community to action.

With Barbara's guidance, AFSC also supported labor leader Cesar Chavez and the formation of the United Farm Workers; deepened its work with Native tribes and people in the U.S.; and provided resources to the Poor People's Campaign, organized by Dr. King to gain economic justice.

There are hundreds of other examples of Barbara's influence on AFSC's social and economic justice work in the U.S. as well as

on the internal workings and governance of the organization.

In talking with some of our former colleagues about Barbara, one former AFSC staff member told us, "Above all, Barbara knew her staff and her colleagues, knew our strengths and foibles, and let us know her. She knew she had privilege and power and did not shrink from that knowledge. Instead she learned how to use it to forward justice and support the struggles of many individuals and groups as they organized for change."

"Barbara was a wise, funny, strategic-thinking, warm, strong woman. The world needs more like her."

She knew she had privilege
and power and did not
shrink from that knowledge.
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to use it to forward justice
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for change.



Photo: AFSC Archives

GORDON HIRABAYASHI

Challenging the internment of Japanese-Americans

AFSC STAFF

During World War II—when the United States issued a military decree to intern tens of thousands of Japanese Americans on the U.S. West Coast—Gordon Hirabayashi took a courageous stand. Instead of registering for evacuation to an internment camp, Gordon surrendered himself to the district attorney, submitting a letter that stated:

"If I were to register and cooperate under these circumstances, I would be giving helpless consent to the denial of practically all of the things which give me incentive to live. I must maintain my Christian principles. I consider it my duty to maintain the democratic standards for which this nation lives. Therefore, I must refuse this order of evacuation."

Gordon's deep convictions made him an outspoken advocate against racism and injustice during one of the most shameful times in U.S. history. He spent over two years in prison for violating exclusion and curfew orders on Japanese-Americans—but he also appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gordon, who was born and raised in Seattle, had become a Quaker in 1941 while attending the University of Washington. He started working with AFSC the same year, helping families manage their affairs before internment.

AFSC helped fund his legal battle, creating the Gordon Hirabayashi Defense Committee and garnering support from Friends, ministers, professors, businessmen, and a state senator.

As his case wound its way through the courts, Gordon was released on bail and permitted to go to Spokane, where he again worked with AFSC. There, he helped relocate families once they were released from internment—even cutting the grass for one

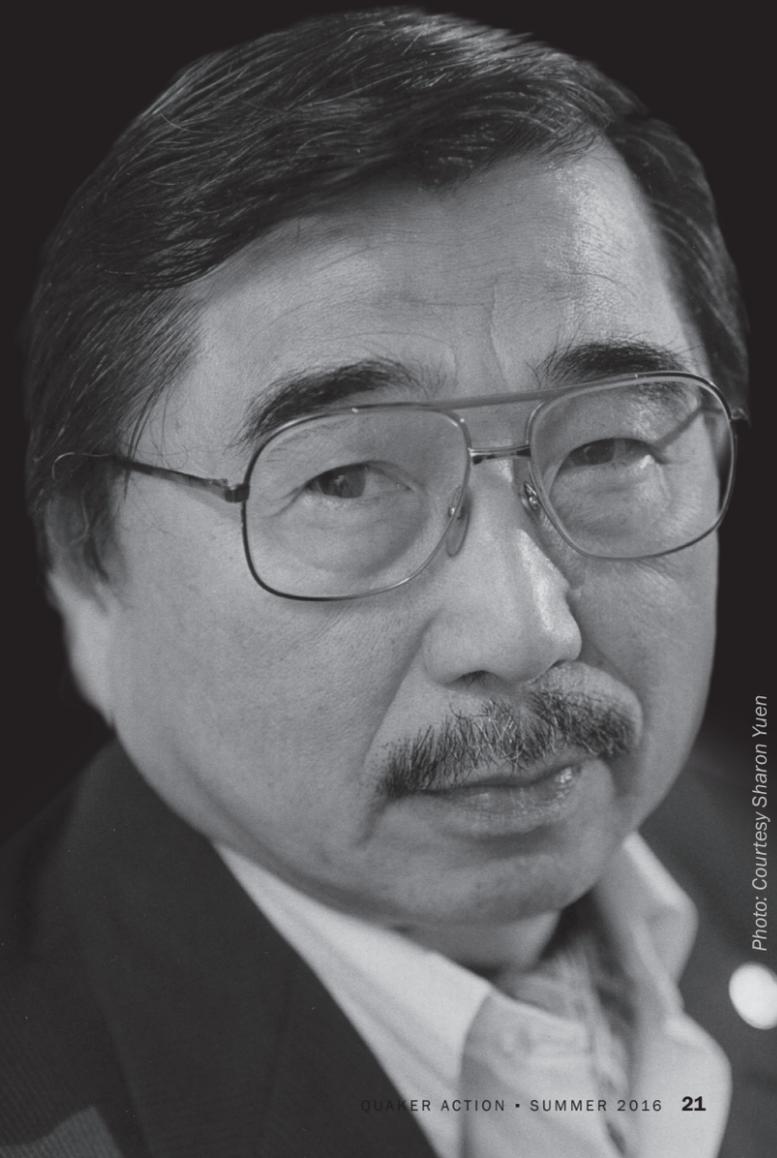


Photo: Courtesy Sharon Yuen

family before they moved into their new home.

“When my case was before the Supreme Court in 1943, I fully expected that as a citizen the Constitution would protect me. Surprisingly, even though I lost, I did not abandon my beliefs and values,” he is quoted as saying in the book “The Courage of Their Convictions: Sixteen Americans Who Found Their Way to the Supreme Court.”

It wasn't until September 1987 that a three-judge panel of a federal appeals court in San Francisco unanimously overturned

Gordon's conviction for failing to register for evacuation and for ignoring a curfew. Four decades after his 1942 arrest, his name was finally cleared. In the process, he helped prove that the U.S. had given false reasons for the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans.

“I never look at my case as just my own, or just as a Japanese-American case,” said Gordon. “It is an American case, with principles that affect the fundamental human rights of all Americans.”

MAHED MONEM

Putting an end to Palestinian fragmentation and division

BY WILLIE COLÓN AND ILONA KASSISSIEH

Mahed Monem is from Beit Anan, a small Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank. He grew up in a time that saw the start of construction on the Israeli separation wall—now over 400 miles long—which cut off his community from others and severed access to jobs, services, and other places vital to everyday life.

Now 23 years old, Mahed has a clear vision of the world that he could live in. A world without walls and military checkpoints that restrict Palestinians' freedom of movement and divide them from each other. And as part of AFSC's Palestinian Youth Together for Change (PYTC) program, Mahed is committed to creating that new future through nonviolent resistance.

The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory has had a devastating impact on many levels, including the fragmentation of Palestinian society caused—at least in part—by geographic boundaries and severe restrictions on movement. That lack of

unity and cohesion among Palestinians is a significant barrier to effecting social and political change in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, Mahed says.

“Palestinians inside Israel live under different cultural, social, and political conditions than the ones living in the West Bank or Gaza, for example, but it is important to understand that we are all Palestinians in the end,” says Mahed, who is now a sociology student.

Mahed became involved with PYTC in 2012, taking part in workshops on nonviolence and communication skills. Despite severe travel restrictions and other risks, he and other young Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel regularly come together for face-to-face meetings to develop a mutual understanding about issues of national importance. And they plan projects that enhance their Palestinian identity, breaking down stereotypes that Palestinians have about each other while addressing their biggest concerns.

In 2013, PYTC launched its Mutaharkeen (Movers) campaign to advocate for the right of free access and movement while countering the fragmentation of Palestinian identity and society. Through that effort, Mahed and other organizers developed an effective campaign to boycott Hewlett-Packard, which sells the software and hardware that track and restrict the movement of Palestinians.

“In the past, people were working individually without believing or having faith in the capacity of others,” Mahed says. “Now, we believe in the importance of our identity, working collectively, standing firm with our principles, and putting an end to Palestinian fragmentation and division.”

CLARENCE PICKETT

Creating a vital force for peace and justice

BY GREG ELLIOTT

Before becoming AFSC's executive secretary in 1929, Clarence Pickett was an Earlham College professor and pastor whose views on racism, capitalism, and the Christian Gospel were considered too radical by many Friends of the time. When Earlham hesitated on whether to keep him on staff, Clarence answered the call to become the next executive head of AFSC.

AFSC was in a time of transition in 1929. After its work during World War I and in the years that followed, the Service Committee considered laying down its activities until a new military conflict presented itself. Instead, AFSC opted for a total reorganization, and its new board chairperson, Henry Cadbury, chose Clarence to succeed outgoing Executive Secretary Wilbur Thomas.

Although Clarence had worked with AFSC over the years, when he began his 22 years as executive secretary—the longest tenure of any executive (or general) secretary—he had no administrative experience. He was chosen because of his deep religious and moral convictions on racial injustice, capitalist exploitation, and warfare, and his extensive work with young adults at both the Five Years Meeting and at Earlham College.

Under his leadership, AFSC grew in ways that would have seemed unimaginable to the previous generation. The organization went from being a small, mostly Quaker, mostly volunteer organization to one of the leading voices on peace and social justice around the world. During his tenure, AFSC worked in more than 20 countries, providing direct aid, organizing refugee resettlement, and addressing the effects of war, while domestically focusing on labor rights, housing, discrimination, and a myriad of other programs, including generations of work camps that were transformative experiences for many participants. Clarence also sought to influence world leaders toward peace and justice and counted Eleanor Roosevelt as a close personal friend.

Through all this, he remained humble. Somewhat famously, after AFSC and its British counterpart were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1947, Clarence faced his excited staff and asked for some silent worship to reflect on the phrase, “Beware when all men speak well of you!”

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy invited all the Nobel Prize winners from the U.S. and Canada, past and present, to the White House for a gala affair. On the morning of the event, a group of Quakers marched in front of the White House, demanding an end to the nuclear arms race. Among them was Clarence. Later that evening, when Clarence joined other invited guests at the White House event, the significance of his protest was not lost on the president. It was this level of integrity and willingness to “speak truth to power” that guided Clarence's actions throughout his life.

Clarence positioned AFSC to be a vital force for peace and justice through embracing youth leadership and development, collaboration with partner organizations, valuing collective wisdom, addressing the root causes of war, and living out the radical roots of Quakerism. It was his vision, conviction, and leadership that laid the foundation for the AFSC that we know today.

Under his leadership, AFSC grew in ways that would have seemed unimaginable to the previous generation.

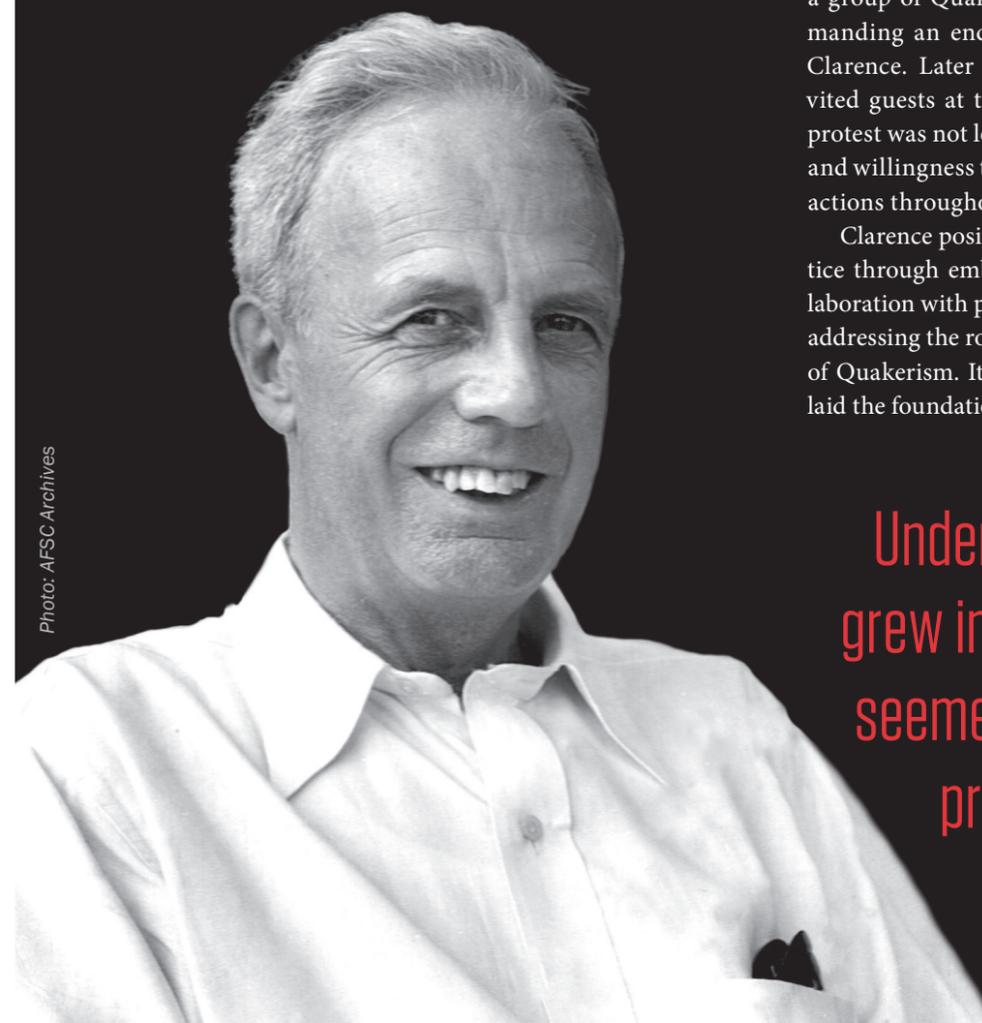


Photo: AFSC Archives

ARDO HERSI

Organizing against institutional racism and youth incarceration

BY RONNA BOLANTE

When Ardo Hersi was growing up, she probably never imagined she would one day help reduce youth incarceration in Seattle. Her family came to the U.S. from Somalia in the 1990s, and she was born in California before they moved to Washington.

There, Ardo found a home in activism. In high school, she helped spread awareness about Muslim refugees displaced from Myanmar. Later, she became interested in environmental justice, including promoting local composting. Last year, as a student at Seattle Central College, she helped organize a rally demanding justice in the death of Hamza Warsame, a Somali-American teenager whom many feared was the victim of hate-fueled violence.

Ardo, now 20, says her faith plays a big role in her efforts. "It's important for me that people know I am unapologetically Muslim," she says. "There's a lot of Islamophobia—with people saying things like 'all Muslims are terrorists'—but our faith teaches peace, fairness, and justice. It motivates me to help others."

Ardo attended AFSC's Tyree Scott Freedom School in Seattle in 2014. Offered throughout the year, AFSC Freedom Schools help young people analyze the systems that perpetuate violence and injustice, learn about social change movements, and discuss ways to promote racial justice and human rights.

"Although I had been organizing in high school, my first AFSC Freedom School put words to things that I was feeling in my community but didn't know how to describe," Ardo recalls. "Institutional racism. Overcoming oppression. It all struck a chord with me."

Since then, Ardo has helped plan and facilitate AFSC Freedom School workshops for other young people. She now teaches a section on media justice, guiding participants in conversations about how the media has depicted people of color throughout history and the consequences of those portrayals.

She is also completing a two-year internship with AFSC's Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) program, which gives young change makers a place to build on their AFSC Freedom School experience by deepening their knowledge about social justice issues, honing their organizing skills, and implementing projects that challenge racism.

"While Ardo is clearly brilliant and a natural leader in YUIR, I'm most impressed with her desire to learn and grow as an anti-racist organizer," says Dustin Washington, director of AFSC's Community Justice Program. "She carries herself with a spirit of

inquiry and humility that is unique and inspiring."

One of Ardo's most significant achievements at YUIR came through her participation in a youth-led campaign against the building of a youth detention center in Seattle. Ardo and other YUIR participants canvassed neighborhoods, held protests, and attended public hearings to stop the city from constructing the facility.

In response to public pressure from YUIR and their partners, the Seattle City Council announced last year that it would downsize plans for the facility and stop locking up youth for minor offenses. The city council also passed a resolution that endorsed "zero-percent detention" of youth and put resources behind their commitment—a half-million dollars to community alternatives to incarceration. YUIR members will help direct how to spend the fund.

"For young people, that was so affirming," Ardo says. "Now I tell this story all the time to others—it's an example of what can happen when young people organize and stand up to make a change." ■

"My first AFSC Freedom School put words to things that I was feeling in my community but didn't know how to describe."



Photo: Michael Maine

Then & Now

A look back at how AFSC's work has evolved over the decades

BY DON DAVIS, NATHANIEL DOUBLEDAY, TONY HERIZA, AND WENDY UNIVER



Photo: Russell Jorgensen



Photo: AFSC/Kathryn Johnson

DEFENDING IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

From our origins during World War I, AFSC has been committed to opening hearts and communities to refugees and migrants. Decades of work in regions plagued by war, drought, famine, and economic oppression have given us an up-close view of the factors that drive people to leave their home countries.

We have also confronted the abuse of people migrating across borders. In the late 1970s, AFSC began work at the U.S.-Mexico border, and in 1987 our Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Program became one of the first efforts to address human-rights abuses by the U.S. Border Patrol.

Today, AFSC has several active immigrant rights programs across the U.S., documenting abuses, providing legal services, accompanying immigrant rights movements, and building alliances with others who share our vision.



PROMOTING HEALING IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

AFSC has provided support to people in prison for nearly 100 years, working to promote healing—rather than punishment—in the criminal justice system. In the mid-1940s, AFSC began encouraging Friends meetings around the country to visit and help people in prison. By the 1960s, the organization operated halfway houses

(above left) and pre-trial programs while speaking out against the disproportionate harm inflicted by the justice system on communities of color.

Today, AFSC continues its support through programs for people in prison as well as through research and advocacy efforts focused on ending mass incarceration,

abolishing solitary confinement, stopping prison privatization, and opposing immigrant detention. And in Seattle, St. Louis, Atlanta, and other cities, young people are taking the lead on projects to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.

CALLING FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

In the 1920s, AFSC established a feeding program for coal miners and their families across parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky while seeking long-term solutions to the region's reliance on coal mining. Need grew in the following years as the Great Depression left thousands of miners unemployed and more families hungry and desperate. While helping them

meet their basic needs, AFSC supported miners and their families in taking up other trades (above left)—especially furniture making—and helped start the Mountaineer Craftsmen's Cooperative Association.

Today, AFSC's West Virginia Economic Justice Project works on issues affecting low-income and working families, and young people from coal-mining communities are

a critical part of that advocacy work (above right). AFSC has successfully pushed for changes to increase coal mine safety, expand Medicaid to cover the uninsured, provide childcare subsidies for working families, improve access to school meals, and raise the minimum wage. The program also works to oppose racism and increase youth civic engagement in the state.



BUILDING PEACE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Latin America and the Caribbean, AFSC has helped convene people with disparate views, even in violence-torn nations. During the tumultuous 1980s in El Salvador (above left), AFSC kept lines of communication open with all sides, becoming one of the most trusted influences in the region. In

several countries, AFSC provided funding and technical assistance to help restart civil society after years of conflict and assisted with relief efforts after natural disasters.

In recent years, AFSC has helped hundreds of young people and other residents to establish local peace networks

in Guatemala (above right), El Salvador, and Haiti. As part of these peace networks, members work together to reduce violence through dialogue, organizing, and community projects from creating murals to making parks cleaner and safer.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA

AFSC's advocacy for the rights of Africans started in the 1930s, but we didn't have a presence on the continent until 1958, when we provided aid to refugees from the Algerian War (above left). By that war's end, AFSC had shifted from emergency relief to long-term projects to support community problem solving. As nations broke free

from colonial powers in the 1960s, AFSC supported their independence. Our quiet diplomacy—including behind-the-scenes work in Zambia and during the Nigerian Civil War—has often played an important role alongside education and housing projects.

AFSC has long practiced the philosophy of strengthening local capacities to solve

local problems. Today we have programs in Zimbabwe, Burundi (above right), Somalia, and Kenya, working with people as they heal from trauma, overcome political and ethnic divisions, and find ways to support themselves and their families.



Photo: AFSC Archives



Photo: AFSC/Iloina Kassissieh

MIDDLE EAST PEACE BUILDING

As in many parts of the world, AFSC began working in the Middle East in the wake of war and has stayed to help build justice and peace. Throughout our history, AFSC has coordinated humanitarian relief and other assistance to communities impacted by war in Gaza (above left), Jordan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and, more recently, Syria.

Since 1948, AFSC has worked with

Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community to realize a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Today, AFSC advocates for an end to the Israeli occupation, equality for all, and justice for past wrongs. Through our Palestinian Youth Together for Change program (above right), we bring together young Palestinians from the West Bank, Israel, and Gaza to

counter Palestinian fragmentation and support their nonviolent change initiatives. In Israel, AFSC supports groups challenging militarism and violence. And in the U.S., AFSC educates the public about Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and works to change government policies and corporate and institutional practices that support the occupation.

“Do You Mean to Say I’ve Got To Raise a Family on This?”



DISARMAMENT is THE REMEDY

Photo: AFSC Archives

ILLUSTRATING THE COST OF WAR

In AFSC’s history of raising awareness about the cost of war, we’ve used a range of tools—speaking tours, publications, demonstrations, exhibits—to demonstrate the toll that war takes on communities across the United States.

At left, an AFSC poster from World War I emphasizes how waging expensive wars prevents communities from funding social services, education, and other needs. And our current exhibit, “Humanize Not Militarize,” features works from dozens of artists (including the one pictured on the right) that portray the effects of militarism on communities across the U.S.

FOR MORE, VISIT: humanize.afsc.org.

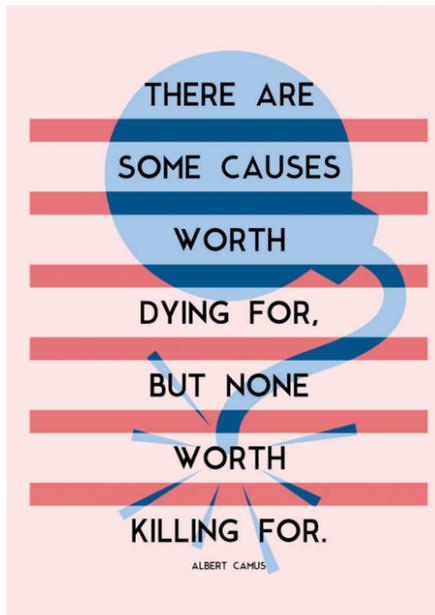


Image: Tyler Heston



Photo: AFSC Archives



Photo: Kyle Depew (Peace and Planet mobilization)



Photo: AFSC Archives



Photo: AFSC Asia

STRUGGLING FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD

Within days of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, AFSC and other organizations called on President Truman to ban nuclear weapons. Since then, tens of thousands of people have worked with AFSC to halt weapons testing and the spread of nuclear technology.

One of the earliest and most influential organizations calling for a nuclear-free world,

AFSC helped launch large-scale campaigns in the 1950s by focusing popular energy on a test ban treaty. Through research, advocacy, and public education projects, we continued to fuel anti-nuclear efforts, which peaked with the No Nukes and Nuclear Freeze movements of the 1970s (above left) and '80s. Over time policymakers responded to public pressure. In the 1980s, cities

passed local freeze resolutions, and the Reagan administration began disarmament negotiations with Soviet President Gorbachev.

Today, however, nine nations still have arsenals with an estimated 17,000 nuclear weapons, many of them magnitudes more powerful than the original A-bombs. The struggle for a non-nuclear future continues.

CREATING CONNECTIONS IN ASIA

For decades in Asia, AFSC has worked to foster understanding and reconciliation and alleviate the suffering resulting from war and disaster. AFSC began working in China in World War II, training people in affected communities to provide emergency care through the Friends Ambulance Unit (above left). When war devastated countries in Southeast Asia, AFSC responded with

humanitarian relief to people on all sides of conflict and supported community-led efforts to build peace in Vietnam, Cambodia, and other Mekong region countries (above right).

Today, AFSC continues to open doors and connect people in Asia. We build international cooperation with China by promoting conflict-sensitive development, partnering on research to build peace, and

other efforts. We provide resources and technical assistance to teachers in Myanmar and farmers in North Korea. In Indonesia, where extremism threatens religious and gender minorities, AFSC assists young organizers and others working for tolerance and inclusion. And across the region, we continue to create opportunities for reconciliation and hope. ■

Ann Tickner

BY WILLIE COLÓN

Ann Tickner has been an AFSC donor for some 50 years. That steadfast support, she says, is inextricably linked to her Quaker beliefs and the feminist approach to international relations she has spent most of her adult life teaching.

“I see all these threads as intersecting,” says Ann, who taught at the University of Southern California and is now a distinguished scholar in residence at American University in Washington, D.C.

Born in London just before the start of World War II, Ann grew up in war-torn England with nightly bombing raids, driving bans, fuel shortages, blackout curtains, gas masks, and sirens warning of raids.

Ann’s family moved to the United States in 1952, when her father, Frederick James Tickner, began working at the United Nations. Ann continued to study in England. She followed later and attended graduate school at Yale, where she met her husband, the late professor Hayward Alker. She would later receive her Ph.D. from Brandeis University.

“I didn’t know anything about AFSC before I met my husband,” Ann says. “When he was an undergrad at MIT in the late 1950s, he went to an AFSC work camp in Italy. He talked about that a lot—about the rebuilding after World War II.”

She credits her experiences during World War II, along with



Photo: Courtesy Ann Tickner

her family’s connection to the U.N., for propelling her to study and eventually teach and write about international relations with a focus on peace and women’s issues. “In the 1950s, there was lots of idealism around the U.N. and efforts to promote world peace,” she says. “This is why I’m a Quaker and support AFSC.”

Ann’s approach to international relations is similar to the concept of shared security that guides AFSC’s peace-building efforts today. “When I teach about peace, I approach it as a struggle for justice,” she explains. “A lot of the books I’ve written are framed around the concept of security not just as the absence of war, but the presence of economic security and justice.”

“In international relations, we teach and write about how wars start and end and about peace treaties,” she adds. “Feminists reject this. A feminist approach to war talks about how individuals, both women and men, are affected. We talk about how wars do not have defined beginnings and endings. And we talk about how, as a consequence of wars’ brutalities and economic dislocation, there’s a continuation of violence experienced especially by women and families.”

In honor of Courageous Acts: The Campaign for AFSC’s Next Century, Ann recently established the Hayward Alker Fund, which supports AFSC’s international conflict resolution work. “I did it because AFSC is an organization Hayward and I both believed in and it was a way to honor him and his life work as a peace researcher,” she says.

It’s just the latest expression of Ann and Hayward’s commitment to AFSC, and it underscores the emphasis that, as a Quaker, Ann places on “doing good work here and now.” ■



Photo: © yayracrickbelle.com



COURAGEOUS ACTS

The Campaign for AFSC’s Next Century

It takes courage to work for peace.

Make a gift to AFSC today, and your support will help us build on our first century of work for a just and peaceful world.

To join our Courage Acts Campaign, visit afsc.org/courageousacts.



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Thank you
for 100 years of working with us
toward peace with justice.

These photos are some of the thousands of images taken by Terry Foss, who was AFSC's staff photographer from the 1970s to 2009. Terry passed away in January 2016.

