

# AFSC Midwest Digest

Highlights of Recent Work from Around the Region — September 2, 2015

## Joshua Saleem reflects on one year since Mike Brown's killing

The media like anniversaries, but AFSC's work for peace and justice is year-round. Joshua Saleem, who directs AFSC's Peace Education Program in St. Louis, reflects on Freedom Schools and looks ahead in this [interview](#) with Midwest Executive Committee member Paul Ricketts and in these articles in [Public News Service](#) and [Think Progress](#).



Joshua Saleem

## Still time to support the Iran deal

AFSC staff throughout the region and across the country have been working with others to let their members of Congress know they should support the nuclear weapons deal with Iran. Staffer Erin Polley and Quaker [Jeff Kisling](#) recently led a group to thank their senator; Ira Harritt in Kansas City prepared this [handout](#); and AFSC has joined 51 other Christian leaders in [support](#) of the deal.



Hoosiers thank Sen. Joe Donnelly for supporting the Iran Deal.

## Dreamers "bird dog" presidential candidates

Hector Salamanca is acting on his dream of compassionate, humane immigration reform by challenging presidential candidates on the campaign trail in Iowa. Hector is staff with AFSC's [Governing Under the Influence](#) project and was recently featured — along with AFSC's bird-dogging tips — in this Des Moines Register [article](#). For a light-hearted look at the serious issue of corporate influence in politics, check out this [clown video](#).



## Sept. 16: "Buried alive: Solitary confinement in U.S. prisons"

In this one-hour live-streamed discussion, AFSC's Healing Justice staff, including Pete Martel from Michigan, will discuss the use of

solitary confinement in the U.S., its destructive psychological effects, and efforts to end this practice. Join us! Learn more [here](#).



Hector Salamanca is taking a message of justice to presidential candidates.

## Oct. 8: "We are all criminals"

If you're in the Twin Cities on October 8, check out this [presentation](#) and reflection led by Sharon Goens-Bradley of AFSC's Healing Justice program. More information [here](#).

## Iowans mark the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima-Nagasaki

In one of the longest running such vigils in the nation, Iowans gathered on August 6 both to remember and to commit to a positive future for our planet. Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie shared these [remarks](#). A [video](#) and these [photos](#) are also available.



Des Moines Friend Sherry Hutchison, 96, continues to lead Hiroshima vigils.

### **Pinwheels as symbols of children killed in Gaza**

AFSC's amazing group of interns with the Middle East Program in Chicago created this [video](#) of the [Gaza Pinwheel display](#) on the shores of Lake Michigan. In Des Moines, Katie Huerter organized a similar remembrance for the 521 Palestinian children killed during Israel's 2014 bombardment of Gaza. A [video](#) and [photos](#) tell more. Learn more the [BDS campaign](#), and find out how you can make a difference regarding Israeli detention of Palestinian children by visiting [No Way to Treat a Child](#).

### **Iowans unite for immigration discussion**

Sandra Sanchez of AFSC's Immigrant Voice Program in Des Moines joined two presidential candidates and others on a recent #Unitelowa panel [discussion](#) on immigration. Sandra also helped organize a [rally](#) for a group of [Minnesotans](#) who traveled across Iowa pushing for humane immigration reform.

### **Can commerce and compassion co-exist?**

Yes, according to Migwe Kimemia, who directs AFSC's fair-trade program in Dayton. Read [more](#) about Migwe's participation in the recent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and an Earlham School of Religion program on compassionate commerce.

### **What's monetary literacy?**

Greg Coleridge of AFSC's Northeast Ohio program tells you all about it in this [video](#) from an Iowa City symposium sponsored by AFSC, Move to Amend and others.

### **More bits and peaces**

Paul Ricketts writes about his experience with African American Quakers [here](#).... Brant Rosen, Regional Director for AFSC's Midwest Region, [joins](#) other clergy in supporting school hunger strikers in Chicago.... Friends in Iowa and beyond remember [Wilmer Tjossem](#), a fundraiser for AFSC for 38 years....If \$400,000 sounds like a lot for a [helmet](#), you'll likely [agree](#) that the F-35 jet is a boondoggle we need to scrap.

### **Thank you!**

If you would like to make a gift to support the AFSC Midwest Region or a specific program, please click [here](#). Your gift will help support AFSC's work for peace with lasting justice in the region and around the world.

Please share this [subscription link](#) for the Midwest Digest with anyone you think might like to keep up with AFSC's creative work in the Midwest. And to share your ideas for future Midwest Digests, please e-mail [Jon Krieg](#).



*Placing a flower by a pinwheel in remembrance of a child killed in Gaza*



*Sandra Sanchez, in pink coat, joins other panelists for a #Unitelowa on Immigration discussion sponsored by the Des Moines Register.*



*From left, Migwe Kimemia, AFSC Program Director in Dayton; author Vanessa Julye; and Elle Roberts, an intern with AFSC's Peacebuilding Program in Indiana.*