



**American Friends
Service Committee**

AFSC West Region News – April 2021

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.

Repairing the Breach
Songs for the Journey
with Annie Patterson & Peter Blood
SAT, MAY 15TH 7PM PDT
BENEFIT FOR:
PROJECT VOICE
Immigrant rights program of AFSC
Online via Zoom

Annie Patterson & Peter Blood are the creators of the popular songbooks *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again*. Join us for an evening of singing that will lift our spirits and give us hope for the work ahead in the fight for justice. This concert is part of a tour that was inspired by the prophetic vision of Rev. Dr. William Barber II and the Poor People's Campaign. His moving homily at the National Inaugural Prayer Service was on the subject of "Repairing the Breach", based on Isaiah 58:3-2.

Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington

Concert to benefit AFSC's work with immigrant communities

Folksingers Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, creators of the songbooks *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Up Again*, are doing a "tour" of virtual singalong concerts inspired by the Poor People's Campaign. AFSC's Project Voice will be the beneficiary on Saturday, May 15 at 7 pm PT. All are invited to join in song and spirit while supporting the work for immigrant rights. During this time of COVID, Pedro Sosa, director of Project Voice, has continued to build leadership and resiliency in rural immigrant communities through virtual education and training. Please [buy your tickets](#) and share this [FB event post](#).

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.



New Mexico's Great Carrot Crunch

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Kids win when farmers and schools work together

Building on the past successes of the Great Carrot Crunch and the Cherry Tomato Chomp, AFSC's Farm to Early Childhood Education Program is working with farmers and schools to plan this year's work. "When we reimagine our food system, we envision small, local farms supplying nutritious produce to neighborhood schools," [writes](#) Angelina Lopez-Brody of AFSC. "We show that it is not only possible, but also fun and empowering."



Immigrant Rights Program, Denver

Listening to community members on federal immigration bills

Jennifer Piper of AFSC recently [joined colleagues](#) to talk about immigration bills pending in Congress and "measure them against what we've heard from our community to determine what's most needed for an effective, humane, and transparent system for immigration." Based on that feedback, the US Citizenship Act of 2021, the most inclusive of all the bills pending in Congress, gets a "B." The Citizenship for Essential Workers Act earns a "B --", the American Dream and Promise Act a "C", and the Farmworker Modernization Act a "D". Join a [Phone Zap for Citizenship for All](#) on April 15, 12 noon MT.

Restorative Community Conferences, Oakland, CA

- ❖ Young people 18/under
- ❖ Low-level felony and high-level misdemeanor charges
- ❖ Have not yet gone through the judicial process

- Cases diverted from District Attorney
- Youth meets with person harmed to address the harms and make a plan to meet the needs
- Evidence based practice reduces recidivism

Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Promoting restorative justice to address harm

Fatimeh Khan moderated this [AFSC Restorative Justice Community Conversation about Accountability and Healing](#), one in a series of webinars looking at reallocating money away from police and to community programs. On Wednesday, April 14 at 5 pm PT, Fatimeh will lead a [workshop on restorative justice](#) in connection with AFSC’s annual Corporation meeting. She says, “It is essential that we learn new ways to address harm, hold people accountable for the harm they cause, and promote healing.”



Pedro Rios on cbs8.com

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Standing up for all people coming to the border

"I don't think that people should be sent back, especially if they are coming to the U.S. seeking asylum," says Pedro Rios of AFSC in this local [TV interview](#). "The United States needs to abide by its international obligations of providing people an opportunity to file for asylum, and that’s not happening." In another [interview](#), Pedro notes that Border Patrol facilities are ill-equipped to handle any type of medical emergency...or treat anyone with any serious illness." Visit this [AFSC action page](#) to get involved.



67 Sueños, Oakland

A call for action in support of unaccompanied children at the border

From [Instagram](#): Hoy en Noticiero 67 “Noticias sin Fronteras” — We continue to see #46 administration struggle to address the rapidly growing number of unaccompanied minors arriving at the border. Ideas like converting prisons, abandoned NASA facilities, and other unsuitable “solutions” are on the table--except the release of the children. Many have been held longer than three days, which is a longstanding law that continues to be violated. DEMAND that your local leaders, officials and people in high places RELEASE the CHILDREN to their families!



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Art and Activism – Why Do It?

PVI recently hosted a [webinar on art and activism](#) featuring Agustín Lira, NEA National Heritage Fellow and co-founder of El Teatro Campesino, and artist Patricia Wells. Both talked about their roles with El Teatro Campesino and the importance of using all kinds of art to create a more humane and caring society. Art can expose the injustices and disparities experienced in disenfranchised communities of color.

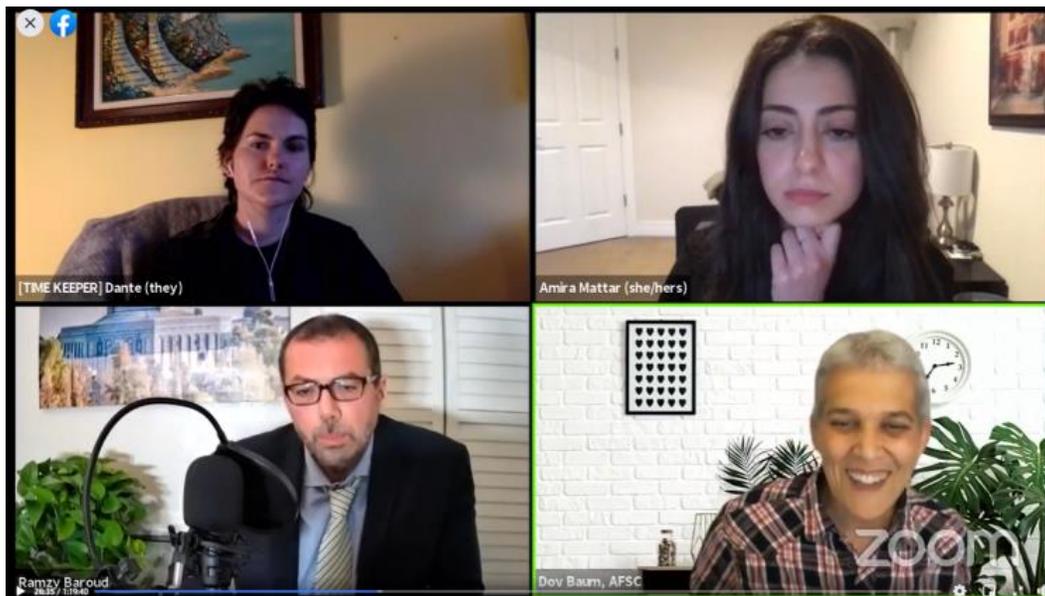


State Sen. Kirsten Engel reads AFSC's RFJ postcards.

Arizona Program, Tucson

ReFraming Justice Day gets across the need for change

Arizona state Sen. Kirsten Engel recently [read](#) postcards from AFSC's [ReFraming Justice Day](#) on the Senate floor, urging lawmakers to address oversight, earned release credits, dignity for women in prison and more. Becca Fealk of AFSC is quoted in this [article](#) and [interview](#) regarding the perils of prison privatization, including the critical problem of incompetent health care.



Economic Activism Program, Oakland

Webinar goal: “End the Deadly Surveillance State”

Dov Baum of AFSC (lower right) recently [joined](#) with others to discuss the surveillance state and how technologies and ideologies of total control can move from “the belly of one beast to the belly of another.” Dov shared about [Investigate](#), AFSC's human rights action and research tool on state violence. AFSC is currently searching for an [Investigative Research Intern](#) (the deadline in April 16).



Roots for Peace (R4P) Program, Los Angeles

Planting seeds for rebirth, renewal and transformative justice

From [Instagram](#): Gratitude to the abundant food and medicine the Earth offered us this past season. We offered the soil some nitrogen to restore and rest before we plant our seeds for the warmer months ahead of us. As new buds grow and flowers blossom, we save seeds, and we compost—welcoming rebirth, renewal, and transformative justice for our communities this season and beyond.

Short takes

John Lindsay-Poland [writes](#) about the deadly effects of the US gun trade....Learn about the work of Larry Licker, a [farmworker advocate](#) who began his work with AFSC....AFSC staff [weigh in](#) on Biden's budget....AFSC is looking for a [Leadership and Planned Gift Officer](#), a position that could be located in Oakland or Denver....Read Lucy Duncan's [Quaker Call to Abolition and Creation](#), check out the AFSC's [plenary session on abolition](#) with Nyle Fort set for April 15, and invite AFSC to present a [workshop](#) at your yearly or monthly meeting or church

Your support matters

Your gifts of time and money make a real difference. Please be in touch with any West Region program by visiting [afsc.org](#), and support the AFSC West Region by [donating](#) today. Please share this subscription [link](#) for this newsletter with others. Thank you!