



## AFSC West Region News – December 2020

*Highlights of work from around the region*

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



*Immigrant Rights Program, Denver*

### **Virtual concert aspires for a world where all people are free**

Join AFSC in Colorado for [Imagining a World Without Cages](#), a virtual concert set for Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 pm MT (5:30 pm PT). "We've heard from you, our community, a yearning to be invited into believing and imagining the next level of being human - a world we can touch and live into, one without jails, prisons and detention," organizers write. "There'll be creative calls to action throughout the night, so be ready to participate!" The event is part of AFSC's national [#FreeThemAll Days of Action](#) from December 10-18.

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

# Countering ICE's Abusive Practices with Community Resiliency

Testimonies from San Diego December 2020



American Friends  
Service Committee

*US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego*

## **New report looks at community resilience to ICE practices**

The current administration's relentless efforts to attack migrant and border communities has resulted in the further militarization of border communities, contributing to an increase in the number of migrants detained at ports of entry, on public streets and highways, at court, and while working. AFSC has compiled a **[new report](#)** that analyzes the way in which ICE officers identify, arrest, and detain migrants in San Diego County.

The report also discusses the resiliency of migrant workers and looks at how community organizing and advocacy can be cathartic and provide relief from the trauma of having gone through a violent immigration enforcement experience. The recommendations in the report provide guidance on how to move away from an enforcement-only approach to migration and migrant workers.

A new in-depth guide from WITNESS, **[Video as Evidence: U.S. Immigration](#)**, is designed for immigration attorneys and community members looking to better utilize video as a tool in their legal cases. A recent launch event featured Benjamin Prado of AFSC, who also shares this **[video from community partner Unión del Barrio](#)**, which organizes community patrols in San Diego. The video portrays successful work to save a family from the grips of Border Patrol and ICE agents.



*67 Sueños, Oakland*

### **New staffer joins organizing work against state and police violence**

Ericson “E” Amaya Bonilla recently joined the 67 Sueños team as a lead organizer. Born in El Salvador, he was raised in Deep East Oakland and joined 67 Sueños as a high school intern in 2013. During his time at 67, “E” discovered poetry as a tool that allowed him to express himself and take control of his life. While getting himself through college, he has continued to mentor and organize over 100 Oakland youth each year. Learn more on [Instagram](#) about the dynamic young people involved with 67 Sueños.



*Art: @67 Sueños*

*Healing Justice Program, Oakland*

### **Webinar looks at student safety and police-free schools**

The safety of students of color is jeopardized by use of police in schools—and across the country, students and allies are working for police-free schools. In this recent AFSC [webinar](#), we heard from young organizers in Oakland, St. Louis and Chicago about both successful strategies and stumbling blocks in their work. Whether you are already engaged in a campaign locally or just want to learn more, please listen as young people envision a future that invests in school safety through student wellbeing, not policing.



*A shed converted to a walk-in cooler (photo: Patrick Jaramillo)*

*People of the Land Program, Albuquerque*

## **Building very cool infrastructure in New Mexico**

“One of the ways AFSC works in New Mexico is by helping to develop needed infrastructure on farms and in communities,” **writes** Patrick Jaramillo of AFSC. “We work with small scale farmers, community members and organizations who grow food to increase access to healthy, local food by those who need it in our communities.”

Patrick explains how innovative cold storage is a viable, low-cost option for small-scale farmers. Join **[AFSC-NM's year-end celebration](#)** on December 17.

JOIN THE ZOOM WEBINAR

# SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

**From Public Office to Sustainable  
Community Upliftment**

**Monday, Dec 14, 2020**  
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

**CENTRAL VALLEY  
POLITICIANS**  
SHARE THE ROADMAP THEY  
HAVE FOLLOWED TO BECOME  
ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE  
CHALLENGES THEY OVERCAME

**ArteVism**  
Fellowship Program

Coordinated by the  
American Friends Service Committee  
Pan Valley Institute  
in partnership with Fresno State's  
Department of Theater and Dance

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_O9zZ0daTSPsd197LEIG6A](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_O9zZ0daTSPsd197LEIG6A)

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*Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno*

## **Webinar to look at Social change in the Central Valley**

“Noteworthy changes have swept across the Central Valley's political landscape over the past 10 years as an increasing number of women, younger Latinx and people of color run for public office,” **writes** Myrna Martinez Nateras of AFSC. The ArteVism Fellows have been busy organizing a **[webinar on December 14](#)** to dialogue with some of the people shaping the new political fabric and what role young adults can play in increasing their active citizenship.



*Roots for Peace (R4P) Program, Los Angeles*

## **Tending to what matters the most**

Roots for Peace people are “tending after the land, our communities, and ourselves. Thank you to the little critters and all other life forms who have blessed us with their medicine. Honoring the grief, uncertainty, joy, and everything else in between that folks have been experiencing. Transformative shifts are coming in the garden and beyond.” Visit [R4P on Instagram](#) for more beautiful photos and videos about their work.



*Economic Activism Program, Oakland*

## **Turning up the heat for Palestinian rights**

Can what you bake make a difference? AFSC encourages you to join our [No Dough for the Occupation](#) campaign to hold Pillsbury and its parent company, General Mills, accountable for manufacturing products on occupied Palestinian land. We ask that you post a picture of a baked good on social media using this caption: “I made this without any @Pillsbury products. BoycottPillsbury.org #BoycottPillsbury.” If you want, add more information about why you’re boycotting Pillsbury and tag AFSC’s social media accounts.

## Las migraciones en el circuito Centro-Norte América Dialogando desde distintas perspectivas y geografías

### Panelistas:



**Michael Cardien**  
Director Programa de Estado de Derecho Peter D. Bell  
Colegio Interamericano, EEUU



**Eduardo Núñez**  
Director Residente Instituto Nacional Democracia  
en Guatemala y Programa Regional de NOR para  
Centroamérica, Guatemala



**Martha Rojas Wisner**  
Profesora e Investigadora  
El Colegio de la Frontera Sur  
Estado de Chiapas, México



**Pedro Sosa**  
Director Programa de Derechos de los Inmigrantes  
American Friends Service Committee  
Estados de Oregon y Washington, EEUU

*Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington*

### Webinar looks at migration in Central and North America

Pedro Sosa of AFSC recently participated as a panelist in a webinar entitled “Migrations in the Central-North America Circuit,” organized by the [Central American Institute for Social Studies and Development](#), part of the Group for the Promotion of Applied Research in Human Rights (PIADH). The webinar looked at many topics, including how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting migration. Follow Pedro’s work on [Facebook](#).



*Arizona Program, Tucson*

### AFSC urges action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and save lives

In light of the largest known outbreak of COVID-19 inside Arizona state prisons, AFSC-AZ is renewing its call for immediate action to protect incarcerated people. On December 8, under pressure from families across the state who have demanded truth and transparency, Arizona’s prison authorities revealed that, of 1,066 people incarcerated inside the Yuma state prison complex’s La Paz Unit, [655 tested positive for COVID-19](#). It is the largest outbreak since the beginning of the pandemic. With additional upticks at other facilities, we fear that, without immediate intervention, this trend will continue. [Read more about the measures AFSC is urging to save lives.](#)



## **María Jiménez, Rest in Power**

María Jiménez, a former AFSC staff member and human rights trailblazer for border communities, passed away recently. She directed AFSC's Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project (ILEMP) from 1987 until 2003. To learn more about María's life, read this [article](#) from 2015.

## **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](http://afsc.org), and support the AFSC West Region by [donating](#) today. Please share this subscription [link](#) for this newsletter with others. Thank you!